

Hello! Greetings from Central Utah Wag-N-Train Dog Rescue and Training, Inc. We wanted to find an easy, inexpensive way to provide our adopters, supporters, friends, and family with valuable training tips and safety tips information that can help you enjoy your dogs more.

One of our Mottos here at Wag-N-Train is: ***A Well Behaved Dog = Happy Dog. A Well Behaved Dog = Happy Owner*** Is that the truth or what? We all enjoy being with our dogs when they behave well, but when they are naughty, they aren't so nice to be around. Our dogs want so much to please us, but many times we send the wrong messages, or the wrong signals or worse yet--we never taught our dogs *properly* what we expect of them so our constant reprimands for poor behavior are just plain confusing to them. So with this Newsletter each month we hope to provide you with some helpful tips and advice so you *and* your dog can be HAPPY together!

November's Training Tip:

Does your dog turn into Kujo when it comes time to clipping his nails? Here are some helpful training tips to help turn nail clipping time into a *smooth operation* instead of a disaster waiting to happen!

Dr. Pamela Reid, Ph.D., Animal Behaviorist, advises to do the following: "Two or three times a day, play "air" nail clipping. Have your puppy or dog sit and stay. Lift one paw and pretend to clip all the nails but just clip air! Do the same with all four feet. Once a day, clip ONE nail (only if they need it). Intersperse treats throughout. If you do this religiously, your dog will be well mannered and calm during nail clipping. Now, I don't continue to do this throughout my dog's life. Once you've established a solid foundation, your dog will only need occasional practice.

If your dog is already averse to nail clipping, you'll have to break the procedure down to minuscule steps. You may have to start by just holding your dog's paw and touching each nail, with the nail clippers sitting on a nearby table. Treat frequently. Once the dog is comfortable with this, hold the nail clippers in one hand, while holding the dog's paw with the other. Next, "air clip" only one nail, give an amazing treat, and quit. Resist progressing until the dog is completely comfortable with the step you're working on. Be patient - it can take months to reform a stubborn nail "clippee". If all else fails, trot your dog on pavement every day and your nail clipping activities will be restricted to his dewclaws!"

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