

FIRST AID: BROKEN NAIL

Your dog's toenail is shaped like a curved cone. The outside layer and narrow tip are made of hard keratin. This material contains no blood vessels and cannot sense pain. Into the center of the cone projects the "quick." This pulp-like material contains a bundle of blood vessels and nerves that nourish the perpetually growing nail. If an injury or a short nail trim traumatizes the quick, the nail will bleed, and the injury will be painful.



01



Apply a properly fitted muzzle for your safety. Allow them time to relax before examining the foot.

02



Clean dirt from the foot with lukewarm water and mild soap.

03



Trim loosely-attached portions of the nail using clean nail trimmers.

04



Rinse the affected area with Betadine or Chlorhexidine antiseptic (found in your first aid kit).

05



Use gauze or a clean cloth to apply pressure to the end of the nail for 2-5 minutes.

06



If bleeding continues: Apply stypic powder or cornstarch or press the end of the nail into a bar of soap.

07



Dry the foot thoroughly and use a light bandage or bootie to keep the area clean.

08



Prevent licking or chewing with a cone collar.

09



Contact your veterinarian for additional advice.

Visit your veterinarian for urgent care if:

- Your pet appears to be in pain.
- You notice limping, swelling or discharge around the broken nail.
- Your pet becomes anxious, aggressive or does not allow you to handle the affected foot.
- Your pet's nail bleeds excessively or if you cannot stop the bleeding.
- The wound is severe or the broken end of the nail cannot be trimmed or removed easily.



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