

Tips For Dog Paw Care.

It is easy to forget sometimes that your dog even has paws when you look at them. That's because their feet seem small compared to the rest of their body. But paws actually have numerous roles that they play to support your dog's happy and bustling life.

They support your dog's weight as well as their joints when they are moving or standing. This is very vital for balance and overall stature.

They are also used for digging, helping your pooch hold objects, and participating in needed joint exercise.

With that big of a job, healthy dog paws are a must for every canine. That is why dog paw care cannot be overlooked. This article will serve as an owner's guide to achieving better foot health, by giving you tips on how to keep your puppy's paws in top shape all year round.

Dog Paw Anatomy.

Like most if not all mammals, dog feet consist of bones attached to muscles by tendons and ligaments, layers of adipose tissue covering the bones, muscles, and a skin layer with keratin and collagen.

Each paw has three main parts and two additional ones. We say additional because they aren't found on all four of your pooch's legs. They are:

- Digital pads:

They are the four small pads on each toe crowned with a nail.

- Claws:

A dog's claws grow right from the bone in their foot and they have a bed of nerves and blood vessels called the quick. They are located at the end of each toe.

- Metacarpal or metatarsal pad:

This is the heart-shaped pad at the center of the foot. The ones on the front paws are called the metacarpal or palmar pads, and the ones on the rear paw are called the metatarsal or plantar pads. This pad supports most of a dog's weight because it covers more of the foot.

The additional parts include:

- Dewclaws:

The dewclaw is an additional claw usually located a little above the paw on the lower part of your pooch's leg. In most dog breeds, you can only find them on the front legs, but a few other breeds have them on both their front and hind legs.

- Carpal pad:

It is a small pad found above the dewclaw. It usually appears on the front legs of your pet.

How To Care For Your Pet's Paws.

Here are a few good tips specific to keeping your **dog's feet** healthy:

- Keep their nails short.

Nail trimming is so important because long nails can be dangerous for your pup. They could harbor germs, get torn off, and just generally cause your pooch pain.

Your puppy's nails shouldn't touch the floor when they stand, so whenever you hear their nails click-clacking on surfaces, you know it's time for another trim. You can use a [dog nail grinder](#) or clipper, whichever works best for your pet.

- Trim the hair between paw pads.

Neglecting the hair between your **puppy's paw** pads can cause it to become matted over time, store dirt, and can be quite painful. Use scissors or hair clippers to keep the hair trimmed to the level of the paw pads. It's important that you trim the hair and not shave it off.

- Wash your **dog's paws**.

Don't neglect your **puppy's paws** when you give them a bath. Carefully wash in between their toes and pads and rinse them thoroughly. You should also wash their paws when they get dirty from playing outside.

- Do regular paw checks.

The importance of checking your **pet's paws** constantly cannot be overemphasized. Look out for dryness, sores, blisters, or **cracked dog paws** so that they can be remedied.

Paw checks also help you spot a lot of diseases early and stop them from worsening. It is recommended that you check their feet as much as you can, preferably once or twice every week.

- Moisturize and massage their paws from time to time.

Moisturizing helps to prevent cracking and leaves your **puppy's paws** soft and properly hydrated. Pet massages not only feel good but also improve their blood circulation.

To massage, use a **dog paw lotion** or any pet-friendly moisturizer, apply onto their feet and rub into their paws gently in a circular motion for a few minutes.

- Take measures to protect their feet in winter.

The cold winter weather may be a different territory but you should also prioritize **dog paw care** during it. You can protect their paws by:

- Not letting your pup spend a lot of time outside or in the snow.
- Investing in booties to keep their feet protected from the cold ground and any other harmful substances.
- Wiping their paws with a washcloth to remove any ice and salt after they go outside.

- Take measures to protect their paws in summer.

The extremely hot weather during summer also comes with additional precautions to take like:

- Don't let your pooch step on the ground or a surface that is too hot. If it's too hot for your feet, it's also too hot for them.
- Take extra care to moisturize their feet during summer.

- In case of burns, apply an ointment and other first aid to the paws.

- Regulate their exercise.

Dogs who spend most of their time indoors have more sensitive feet than those who spend their time outdoors. To avoid blisters on their feet, regulate the amount of exercise they get outside. You can slowly increase the duration as their feet get tougher.

- Watch your dog for excessive chewing and licking.

If your pup begins to chew or lick his feet too much, it's almost always a sign of **irritated dog paws**. You can clean their feet and apply an antimicrobial gel to soothe the irritation. Prolonged licking and chewing can lead to dry or **cracked dog paws**.

- Take first aid seriously.

If your pet gets blisters, cuts, or injuries on their feet, proper **dog paw care** requires that you carry out first aid on the wound. Never make light of the situation. Rinse the wounded area, disinfect it with a wound care solution, apply an antimicrobial hydrogel, and bandage it if need be. If it is a serious injury, take your dog to the vet.

Conclusion.

Now you can look at your **puppy's paws** and appreciate the big part they play in helping your dog move, play, and stay happy. With this in mind, caring for them regularly should be your own way of showing that appreciation.

Proper **dog paw care** that gives and maintains **healthy dog paws** isn't difficult and this article shows you how easy it can get. It will require a lot of consistency. Don't forget to visit your vet if you notice disease symptoms or any abnormalities whenever you check your **dog's feet**.