



LET'S TALK ABOUT

NIAMH'S NAIL CLIPPING

AN APH CARE GUIDE

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NAIL CLIPPING

Welcome to Niamh's Nail Salon

By now you will have watched some great hedgehog videos of an owner holding their hedgehog to their chest and easily snip their nails on each foot. So you have then followed their advice and easily replicated the video? Right ? WRONG!!!!

You see us hedgies DETEST our tootsies tampered with. Instead of being rewarded with nice nails, you are more likely to get a nice bite on your finger (it's not just pinky mice we like nibbling on).

How often should you cut your hedgies nails? It really depends on the hog and how fast they grow. Some need trimmed every two weeks, some monthly, just keep checking and make sure they do not curl under.

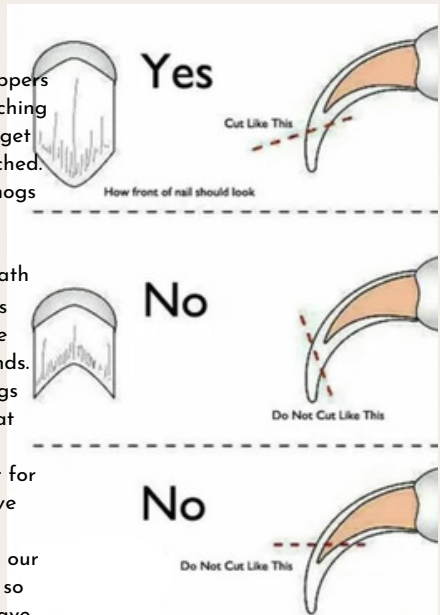
You don't need anything special to cut our tootsies, a normal nail clipper or baby nail clippers suffice. The best advice I can give is start touching and holding your hoglets feet as soon as you get them so they get used to their feet being touched. However, you need to face facts, some of us hogs just don't like our feet touched.

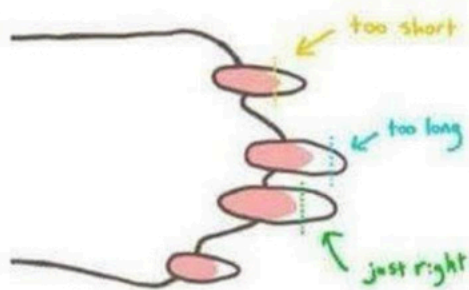
A good tip is to start with a nice warm foot bath to remove the poo boots. This softens the nails making it easier to trim, it also helps clean the nails so you can see where the blood vessel ends. Hogs do not curl up when put in water. Us hogs generally feel unsafe in the water, so hogs that normally curl up at trimming time are usually grateful to have a foot lifted out of the water for a quick trim as we think you have come to save us from the big bad waves & of soapy baths. Also putting a bit of fleece or a flannel under our feet in the water stops us losing our footing, so we are generally more stable and willing to have our feet touched. Please see illustration to show which direction to cut our nails.

So what happens when you accidentally cut too deep and cause our nail to bleed ? Even the most seasoned nail cutters will have accidents now and then due to jiggling and wiggling (aka hog trying to rip its leg off by running in the opposite direction to do anything other than getting nails cut). Always have some cornflour to hand, dip the nail into this and it soon stops bleeding.

It won't stop us holding a grudge against you forever, but it does stop the bleeding. Lastly do not stress out your hog. If you have to cut one

foot a night then that's what you have to do. It does not make you a failure, it just makes you have the patience of a saint (you are most welcome for us blessing you with this new ability).





If your hedgeie's nails haven't been cut in a long time, the quick might be overgrown too, you may have to only cut off little bits at a time, allowing the quick to recede back to a healthy length over a period of weeks.



Here are a few shots of hedgeie feet before and after nail trimming (the nails were not very long to begin with):



And here are a few more examples of too-long and just-right nails, if you aren't sure if your hedgeie's nails need trimmed:

