

SECTION SEVEN

Exhausted All Options

We are often asked what our recommendations are if someone feels they have exhausted all options and still can't trim their dog's nails:

-Check mechanics. The vast majority of people that think they're counter conditioning aren't. CCDS always works when done correctly.

-Take a look at the state of the dog. Is learning possible? Do we need meds on board?

-Look at other methods to get nails done in the meantime (scratchboard, fear-free groomer, filing, sedation).

-Feedback on training sessions through observing video. Post a short video in the group for feedback of your technique, or if you are not comfortable with that, email a short video of your session to nail.maintenance.videos@gmail.com for feedback.

-Refer to a trainer or groomer in the area, or an admin can suggest a good handling course to aid the person. www.fearfreepets.com is a good place to find knowledgeable groomers/vet techs.

SECTION EIGHT

Success Stories

Before & After

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nail.maintenance.for.dogs/permalink/592250284253239/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nail.maintenance.for.dogs/permalink/592370634241204/>

Little Successes

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nail.maintenance.for.dogs/permalink/591531120991822/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nail.maintenance.for.dogs/permalink/589716147839986/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nail.maintenance.for.dogs/permalink/587858601359074/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nail.maintenance.for.dogs/permalink/588367697974831/>

Big Successes

Mavi Michelle Sarandis-

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nail.maintenance.for.dogs/permalink/1268898929921701/>

Cara Moynes-

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nail.maintenance.for.dogs/permalink/586855478126053/>

Sheena Neil-

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nail.maintenance.for.dogs/permalink/575041112640823/>

Alex Walker-

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/nail.maintenance.for.dogs/permalink/929911030487161/>

Emilee Grace Michaud

[-https://www.facebook.com/groups/nail.maintenance.for.dogs/permalink/1139486312862964/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/nail.maintenance.for.dogs/permalink/1139486312862964/)

SECTION NINE

Recap

-Understand what threshold is, and what it looks like for your dog. Review the signs of a dog that is under, at and over threshold. This one thing can make or break your progress.

-Choose the tool you think your dog will be most comfortable with (Section 3).

-Review the pictures of the inside of nails (Section 4) or go watch a grooming session. You may not be ready to actually trim nails yet for your dog yet, and that is okay. You still need to know!

-Create your DS plan (Section 5). Separate sessions for handling and the tool until your dog has a +CER to both of those things separately, and THEN combine them together. Writing out your list is the most efficient way to think ahead and make sure you're staying organized, especially if you have multiple dogs. Even if you think your dog is "fine" with paw handling, start at the beginning. There's nothing more frustrating than being on step 15 and needing to go back to step 4 because you rushed something along the way.

-Understand what a +CER looks like (Section 5) and DO NOT PROGRESS to the next step until you have it. Just because your dog let you touch them somewhere does not mean you're ready to push to the next step. This takes patience. Slow is smooth, and smooth is fast. Rushing through steps is the quickest way to make a mess! My dog lights up when I pick up her Frisbee ... that is the EXACT look I want when I pick up the Dremel. Keep that image in your head for your dog!

-DO THE CCDS WORK (Section 5). There is no way around this - 1 session a day for 5 minutes using the good stuff (bacon, liver, cheese). Work on one step at a time, **with no**

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agenda. There is no catch. You're not using the food to placate your dog to trick them into clipping one nail. This is not a trick. You're not trying to sneak in a nail trim. This is a very transparent session where you clearly tell your dog that you are a predictable human that will showcase and communicate exactly what is going to happen. No surprises. Touch shoulder, feed dog 10 treats consecutively, stop touching shoulder, stop feeding treats. That can be your task every day for Week 1 until your dog lights up (like my Frisbee dog) when you touch his shoulder. You can create a weekly CCDS plan that works for you, or hire a professional to create one for your individual dog.

-Your practice sessions become real trimming sessions (Section 6). As you do the work from above, you'll notice that your pretend clips and your real clips begin to blend, and you actually trim the nail. It might just be one or two, but these sessions will become actual trimming sessions, while your focus is still CCDS, +CER and threshold. Before you know it, you're able to do all the nails during each of your "practice sessions".

- "But, it's not working for MY dog!" Then, you're probably doing something wrong or haven't worked the steps for a long enough period of time. Post a 60 second video of one of your sessions to the group for feedback on your mechanics. If you want admin to post your video anonymously and give feedback, email it to nail.maintenance.videos@gmail.com. Either way, it's human error, not dog. CCDS works on all animal species when it is being done correctly.

-And finally, post your happy stories so we can all love your post and tell you congrats :)

YOU DID IT! You made it through! Now, you are ready to go start the beginning steps of CCDS to create a +CER, and by using the ACL, you will have a Ninja Dog (one that doesn't click on the floor) some day!

