

## **DESENSITIZING TO NAIL TRIMMING:**

**\*\* You will need a "training clicker" (you can find this in pet stores or order on line), nail trimmers and high value treats. \*\***

- **Just click and feed!**

**How to?** Every day for two to four short sessions (2-5 minutes/session) you will click the clicker and feed your pets its food and treats without saying a word.

**Once you feel comfortable your pet understands that the click noise equals a treat then you can move to next step.**

- **Hold, click and feed!**

**How to?** Again keep to these steps daily and keep sessions short and end on a pleasant note.

Start by petting, holding and/or applying pressure to the hip and slowly move your hand down to the toes and do the same with front limbs; move from shoulder down to toes. As soon as your pet starts to stress/panic, in which case do not reward or say anything but simply return to the spot that was previously not a big deal and rewards there.

For example: you touch/hold your dog's elbow and he/she is calm but you get to the carpus (wrist) and he/she starts to wiggle/stress, you simply return to the elbow and click and feed at this relaxed point.

**Once you and your pet feel comfortable you can try the next step. Remember you can always go back. Each pet and owner is different so this will progress at your individual speed.**

- **More pressure, click and feed!**

**How to?** Repeat above but this time hold with more pressure but do not squeeze your dog's limbs.

**Once you and your pet feel comfortable you can try the next step. Remember you can always go back and each pet and owner is different so this will progress at your individual speed.**

- **Touching with nail trimmers, click and feed!**

**How to?** We will now replace your hand with the nail trimmers. So you will touch your dog with the nail trimmers and start at the hip or shoulder and move your way down to the toes.

***Once you and your pet feel comfortable you can try the next step. Remember you can always go back and each pet and owner is different so this will progress at your individual speed.***

- **Pressure with nail trimmers, click and feed!**

**How to?** Apply pressure with nail trimmers to your dog's limbs – always starting high and work your way down to the toes.

***Once you and your pet feel comfortable you can try the next step. Remember you can always go back and each pet and owner is different so this will progress at your individual speed.***

- **Try applying pressure to the toes, click and feed!**

**How to?** Now take your nail trimmers and apply a small amount of pressure to the toes – do not clip right away.

***Once you and your pet feel comfortable you can try the next step. Remember you can always go back and each pet and owner is different so this will progress at your individual speed.***

- **Cut, click and feed!**

**How to?** Once you and your dog feel comfortable applying pressure to the toes try clipping a small amount of nails. Click and feed every calm behavior.

Desensitizing can be used to get your dog used to ear cleaning, teeth brushing, putting on a muzzle and much more.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions and/or concerns.