



# NEWSLETTER

February 2009

January was an exciting month. We started new classes and were able to get the small and medium dog play groups together again. Our Hiking Club made the front page of the newspaper! Jennifer and Amy brought in a nice donation selling first aid kits and fleece toys at the Spayghetti Dinner fund raiser for the Safe Harbor Humane Society while Kerry and I served food. We are looking forward to new adventures in February.

We have been training out of Woofman's Lodge for four weeks now. It has been great working with the owners and their staff. Woofman's is the only boarding facility in the area that has heated floors and is air conditioned for the summer. You may want to remember that when summer comes and you need to board your pets. My dogs were never boarded; if we didn't have someone to come in and take care of them, my husband, George, or I stayed home. I would not hesitate to board my pets at Woofman's. For more information about Woofman's Lodge, visit their website at [www.woofmans.net](http://www.woofmans.net).

As promised, the focus of this month's newsletter is nail filing. We'll start out with Megan Perri's product review of the PediPaws, followed by Jennifer's review of Dremels and PediPaws, my own experience using a Dremel, some basic instructions on filing your dog's nails and a product comparison of various nail grinding tools.

-Laura Yurchak

## **New classes starting mid- to end of February:**

- Agility Beginner & Intermediate
- CGC class and testing
- Canine Freestyle (dancing with your dog)
- Manners & Obedience I & II

Level III will be an outdoor class starting the end of March. Some of you are already on the waiting list for these classes. If you have not told me that you are interested in something (and you are) please tell me to put you on the list.

## **Spayghetti Dinner was a Paw Raising Success!**

The Spayghetti Dinner benefit for the Safe Harbor Humane Society was a smashing success. Food ran out at 6:30. They never anticipated more than 500 people showing up. The cook had more food rushed over but it just wasn't enough for all of the people who came. My apologies to anyone who didn't get a full dinner and to those who waited a long time to get their food. This was the first Spayghetti dinner benefit Safe Harbor held so now they know what to expect for next time. Thank you to everyone who attended!

## **Mark Your Calendars:**

- The biggest dog show in the area will be on February 21 and 22<sup>nd</sup> at the McCormick Place in Chicago. For more information go to [www.ikcdogshow.com](http://www.ikcdogshow.com). Park Shore Kennel Club is sponsoring on the 19<sup>th</sup> and the Blackhawk Kennel Club is sponsoring the 20<sup>th</sup>. You can see more about these two day by going to [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org) click on events and then click on Illinois. We will be there on Sunday!!!!!!
- St. Fair Park will be also holding a dog show on Feb 28<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>. For more information to go [www.wisconsinkennelclub.org](http://www.wisconsinkennelclub.org).
- Daylight savings time starts March 8<sup>th</sup>!!!!!!

## **Lost & Found**

I have a couple of items that were in the lost and found at the old building. Please contact me if these are yours.

1. Disposable Camera. This was left in the summer some time ago. I took it in last week to get the pictures developed. The pictures are of a zoo. I am not sure which one; it's been a long time since I was at a zoo.
2. Pair of gloves. Knit, black and white.

# PediPaws Product Review

By Megan Perri



Recently I received PediPaws as a gift. This tool, similar to a Dremel, claims to gently file dogs' nails. With three dogs, each with different size nails, I put this product to the test.

First I had to find batteries since they are not included with the product. I briefly looked at the papers, but I've been taking care of dogs since I was very young and

cutting (or filing) nails is nothing new to me. I turned PediPaws on and immediately two of my dogs began running around the living room in what is affectionately known as the zoomies. I looked at the papers again and nowhere did it indicate dogs would act like complete goofballs. My third dog hid, more from the two younger ones playing than from the product's noise.

As excited as I was to try out the product, this wasn't the right time.

Later in the week I was grooming my shih tzu. Jake is 12½ years old and, at times, is not very fond of grooming. In the five years he has been a part of my life, Jake has come a long way, but will always be sensitive to having his front legs handled. He was abused as a puppy and his front legs endured some injuries.

Jake has both black and white nails that are thick (for a small dog), grow fast and close to the pads. With traditional nail clippers, I felt I wasn't clipping his nails as short as they could be. I turned PediPaws on and Jake didn't react at all. Slowly I tried PediPaws on him. I started with the nails on his hind legs, but was also able to trim his front nails. PediPaws lived up to what it claims; it gently filed his nails. The product allowed me to file under his nails ultimately trimming where traditional clippers couldn't reach without taking multiple clips that eventually a dog gets tired of.

Next up was Jasper, one of my dogs that got the zoomies when he first heard PediPaws. Jasper is a 6½ -year-old cockapoo. His nails are all black and thin. Generally with all the running around he does, his nails rarely need to be clipped. However, in winter they tend to stay a decent length but usually are

sharp and need the point filed down. Jasper isn't too fond of having his nails done. PediPaws allowed me to quickly file the nails down, an easier chore than trying to get clippers positioned right.

Finally it was my big boy's turn. Alex is a 22-month-old German shepherd. He also got the zoomies when I first turned PediPaws on. Alex's nails are big, thick and black. With all the running around he does, he too keeps his nails a decent length but they tend to get rough and need to be smoothed down. When Alex was younger (and smaller) he didn't mind getting his nails clipped, but as he grew and his nails became bigger, nail clipping wasn't as much fun. The pressure from the clipper was uncomfortable.

Alex is slowly getting used to PediPaws. He doesn't mind the filing; I have a file I use to smooth out his nails. The problem is the noise. To Alex, this is a new toy he wants to play with and when the product turns on and it's his turn, he begins to jump around like a goofball. Gotta love young dogs!

Overall I was impressed with PediPaws. There is a guard that keeps dust from flying in your face and protects your pooch's hair from getting caught, but I took that off so I could get the difficult-to-reach spots on Jake's nails. If nails are too long, it may be easier to trim with traditional clippers first and then keep up with routine filing using PediPaws.



**UPDATE:** A big thanks to everyone who voted for Comiskey! He won 3<sup>rd</sup> place for Voting Period 2 in the Bissell MVP Pet contest! He will advance to the semi-finals and will compete with 59 other animals for a chance to win a cash donation for a pet charity of their choice. Bissell will select 5 winners and should Comiskey win, the donation would go to Safe Harbor Humane

Society, which is where he was adopted from. For more information about the contest you can visit:

<http://www.bissell.com/MVP09/Prizes.aspx>

-Amy

# I Still Love My Dremel

By Jennifer Lueck

I've been using a Dremel to file my dogs' nails for several years. I use a cordless MiniMite most of the time, but I also use my corded model when I need to do both dogs or if I forget to charge the cordless. I prefer the cordless because it is smaller, lighter, more comfortable and I can use it anywhere (the backyard is great!). The drawback with it is that I can only do about 1.5 dogs before the battery dies. The corded model is heavier and has a relatively short cord, so I'm restricted to using it near an outlet.

Despite how easy my Dremel makes nail filing, the PediPaws infomercial at Walgreen's made it look like such great product I almost bought one. The screw-on guard was the key selling point for me. No more stinky nail dust flying in my face! After seeing that it uses two C batteries, I decided to do a little research before buying to see what other people thought of it. I try to be environmentally friendly so I would want rechargeable batteries and, since I don't have a charger that can charge C's, I would also need a new charger. The \$20 tool would have ended up being a \$50 purchase! A quick glance at Amazon.com's customer reviews was enough to convince me to stick with my Dremel.

When Laura decided to review nail grinders for this newsletter, I decided to borrow Amy's PediPaws and test it myself. I tried to be open-minded, but it was exactly as I expected. The motor isn't strong enough to really grind my dogs' nails. I tried pushing the nail harder against the sanding wheel, but that engages the safety feature and it stops. My dogs are fairly patient, but I don't think they'd sit still as long as it would take to do any kind of serious filing. On a positive note, I do like the guard!

As I was researching the different models for the chart, I kept coming across another nail grinder, the Peticure, which appears to have a stronger motor than PediPaws and is rechargeable. I've never used a Peticure myself, but it got much better reviews on Amazon.com than the PediPaws.

Personally, I'll stick with my Dremel. Not only does it work great for filing my dogs' nails, but I can also use it to plane my sticky bathroom door, sharpen my lawnmower blade, drill tiny holes in my polymer clay beads, clean the rust off my garden tools, sharpen my mom's sewing scissors and engrave new rabies tag numbers on my dogs' ID tags. I love my Dremel!

# Dremel Tool For Nails

by Laura Yurchak

Some of you know that I groomed part time out of my home for 11 years. I took grooming school through Shel Ray and back then we only used a nail clipper to cut dog and cat nails. Today we have new tools to file the nails down. As a groomer I used a Dremel tool, an actual Dremel tool, to file the nails on most of the dogs I groomed. Some of them were afraid of the tool and others did well. Overview of the device.

I use the Dremel Multipro Cordless 7.2volt 2-speed model 770. The unit has two speeds, 7,500 rpm and 15,000 rpm. I always use the 15,000 RPM's. The Dremel Tools was easy for me to use but it is on the heavy side. It charges quickly when the battery is low and came with many attachments. Unless you are using the tool for other uses, this model is over kill. There is no guard on the grinding wheel so you must be careful not to catch the wheel in any long hair on the dog. The Dremel tool is made in Racine, Wisconsin.

Benefits: I love using the Dremel because I can grind my dog's nails down quickly and I am very used to the tool. If I get a bit too close to the quick (the blood vein in the nail), the speed of the grinding wheel cauterizes the quick. Filing the nails doesn't leave sharp edges that can scratch your arms or legs when playing with your dog or when they jump on you. Dremel tool products come either corded or cordless.

Drawbacks: You MUST be watching how much of the nail you are grinding off because you can GO TOO FAR! You can still cause the nail to bleed and then you may not be able to do this with your dog again. As mentioned before the model I use is heavy and it is also louder than others on the market.

Cost of device: You can purchase the Dremel tool products at Ace Hardware, Lowes, Menards, Target, and Wal-Mart. Prices will vary depending on the unit you buy.

Warranty and Customer Service: Most cordless units come with a 2 year warranty and most corded units come with a 5 year warranty. Each unit will specify the warranty period. I worked with the Dremel Company when I was employed by Snap-on Tools. The company's reputation is exemplary. They stand behind their products. There is a service center in Racine and you can speak with a customer service representative via a toll free phone number.

# Training Your Dog for Nail Filing

By Laura Yurchak

Before you can begin using a PediPaws or Dremel to file your dog's nails, he must be desensitized to touch and sound. The following steps will help you get your dog ready for nail filing with either a PediPaw or a Dremel tool. Your dog must be rock solid on each step before moving onto the next step. Work the step you are on each night for a few minutes. Your dog will let you know how much he can handle.

1. Pup must be able to have their paws touched without concern.
2. Pup must be able to have you touch between digits and between paw pads.
3. Pup must be able to have each nail handled.
4. Pup must be able to have each nail held individually with your fingers.
5. Purchase a 100 grit nail file (Sally's has nice ones).
6. Keep pup busy with a toy or chew toy.
7. Touch each nail with the nail file.
8. Start with pup's less sensitive paw; they normally have one very sensitive paw. The back paws usually are a bit easier to start with.
9. Hold a nail and touch the nail with the file, pup must be comfortable with this before continuing.
10. Hold a nail and lightly stroke the file on the tip of the nail. As long as pup is comfortable with this continue to move the file back and forth over the tip of the nail.

The steps above have to be "piece of cake" for the dog before going on.

Preparing your dog for a Dremel or PediPaw

1. Now that your dog is used to a nail file moving across the tip of his nail, you will begin to move the file quickly over the tip of the nail to mimic the feel of a Dremel or PediPaw.
2. As your dog gets used to this, continue to put more pressure on the file as it moves quickly over the nail.
3. Turn your Dremel or PediPaws on somewhere close where your dog can hear it but not so close that your dog is scared of it. File your dog's nails vigorously with the hand file.
4. When your dog can ignore the sound of the Dremel or PediPaws, move it closer as you continue to hand file your dog's nails.

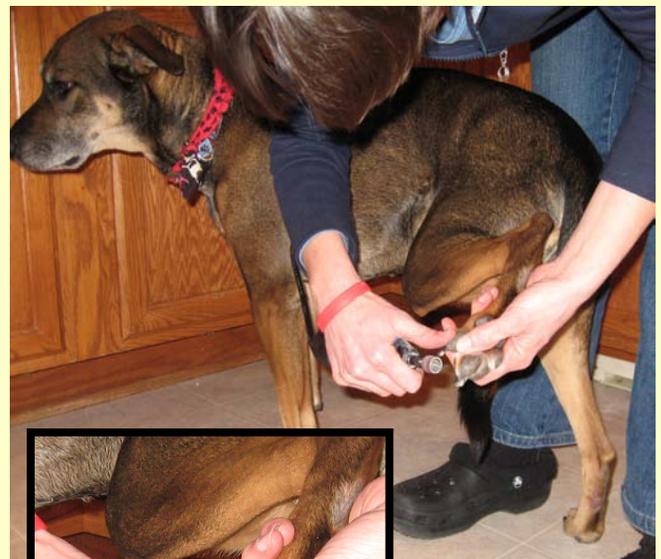
5. Continue until the Dremel or PediPaws can be right next to your dog while you are hand filing and he is not worried.
6. You are ready for the next step.

Preparing you to use a Dremel or PediPaw.

1. Take off any guards and turn the device on.
2. LIGHTLY touch your own fingernail to get a feel for the device.
3. File your own nail very lightly until you can do it without hitting your nail hard. Once you can do this, you are ready for your dog.

Now you will begin to file your pup's nails with the device of choice.

- Turn the device on, hold your dog's nail firmly and ever so very lightly touch a nail with the device.
- Reward your dog and repeat with a different nail.
- Take it slow and don't get upset if he resists. Just keep working with the hand file and the device until your dog is comfortable with it.



Gabe demonstrating a good position for grinding (or clipping). He is comfortable in this position and it's easy to see how much you're grinding. Notice how Jennifer is supporting the nail as she grinds.

# Nail Grinding Product Comparison

Below is a chart listing some of the items available for grinding dog (and cat) nails. For the sake of consistency, I used Amazon.com's pricing. You may find better (or worse) pricing at other on-line or local retailers.

-Jennifer

		Price*	RPM	Power source	Warranty	Available at
	PediPaws	\$14.95	not available	2 C batteries	none listed on website	Walgreens, Shopko, Petco, Pet Supplies Plus, <a href="http://www.pedipaws.com">www.pedipaws.com</a> , <a href="http://www.amazon.com">www.amazon.com</a>
	Peticure Petite	\$14.99	5000	Rechargeable	30 day money back**	<a href="http://www.peticure.com">www.peticure.com</a> , <a href="http://www.amazon.com">www.amazon.com</a>
	Dremel 761-03 Nail Grooming	\$16.87	7000 or 14000	4 AA batteries	2 year	<a href="http://www.amazon.com">www.amazon.com</a>
	Dremel 750-02 MiniMite	\$28.19, qualifies for free shipping	5000 or 10000	Rechargeable	2 year	Menards, <a href="http://amazon.com">amazon.com</a>
	Peticure Elite	\$39.95	8000 or 20000	Rechargeable	30 day money back**	<a href="http://www.peticure.com">www.peticure.com</a> , <a href="http://www.amazon.com">www.amazon.com</a>
	Peticure Power	\$59.99	not available	Corded	30 day money back**	<a href="http://www.peticure.com">www.peticure.com</a>
	Dremel 300-N/55	\$62.49, qualifies for free shipping	5000 to 35000	Corded	5 year	Menards, <a href="http://amazon.com">amazon.com</a>

\*Prices are from Amazon.com. Shipping and handling rates apply unless otherwise noted.

\*\*A 2-year warranty can be purchased from Peticure's website for an additional \$9.99.

## PediPaws Review

By Kerry Anderson

Charlie and I tried the PediPaws on Bear and Olive. Bear was very afraid of the tool and it was difficult to get his tiny nails in the right spot. We were able to work with Olive a little better. But, she did not like the grinding against her nails. In our opinion the tool is too big and clunky for a small dog. Plus, our dogs' long hair didn't make the task any easier. However, in all fairness, we didn't take the recommended time to get the dogs' accustomed to the tool. For us we plan to save the \$19.95 plus shipping and keep on clipping.

## Pill Pockets

by Laura Yurchak

Pill Pockets – Made by Greenies, manufactured in North Kansas City, Missouri.

Do you have a pet that you just hate to give pills to? Well fret no more. Greenies makes the Pill Pockets treat. The pill pockets contain a built-in pouch suited for hiding a pill/capsule. The pill pockets for dogs are chicken based and my Tasha loves them. The pill pockets for cats are either chicken or salmon based. They come in two sizes for dogs: pill size and capsule size. The pill size is perfect for pills the size of aspirin or smaller. The cost is \$11.99 for 30 pieces at Petco. The Capsule size is quite a bit larger and will work well for larger pills or capsules. The cost of this size is \$12.99 for 30 pieces. You can purchase these for much less going through the internet. I found them almost half the price at [www.entirelypets.com](http://www.entirelypets.com). Since they are chicken based I keep them in the refrigerator although the manufacturer doesn't state to do so.

# GRADUATES HIKING CLUB

Despite the arctic cold we experienced throughout most of January, the Hiking Club still managed to get in a couple of hikes at the marina. The January 18<sup>th</sup> hike was especially cold. So cold, in fact, Jennifer didn't want to take her camera out of her pocket to snap pictures. It's a good thing the Kenosha News photographer was there to immortalize our hike with a picture.



Freckles



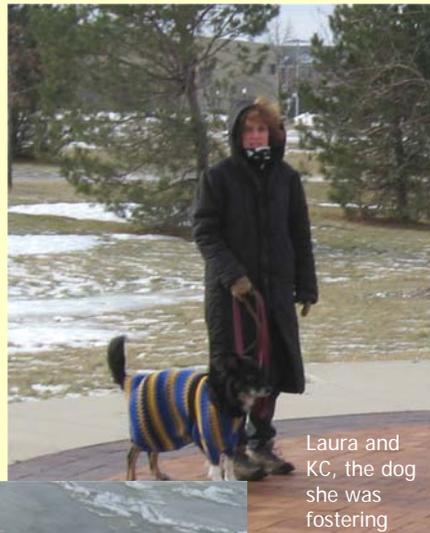
Comiskey is almost as tall as Amy!



Kiko



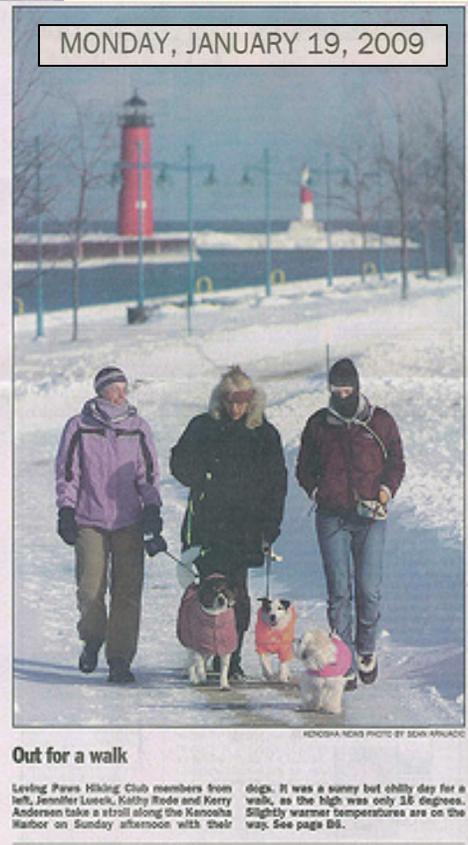
Bauer



Laura and KC, the dog she was fostering



Bear and Olive walkin' on the wild side



### Out for a walk

Loving Paws Hiking Club members from left, Jennifer Luseck, Kelly Rode and Kerry Andersen take a stroll along the Kenosha Harbor on Sunday afternoon with their

dogs. It was a sunny but chilly day for a walk, as the high was only 36 degrees. Slightly warmer temperatures are on the way. See page B8.



The Hiking Club is free for graduates of Loving Paws. If you're not already a member and would like to sign up, just email Jennifer at [jenn\\_web@lovingpawslc.com](mailto:jenn_web@lovingpawslc.com). Please include your name and your dog's name in the email. Invitations with the time and location for our hikes are sent out through [evite.com](http://evite.com).

-Jennifer & Casey

