**Why do dogs have “dew” claws?**

“The dewclaw is considered a vestigial thumb that is located one to four inches above the dog’s foot on the dog’s leg” (sarahsdogs.com). Ironically, many dog owners and veterinarians remove the dew claw when the dog is a puppy (that will be an additional “Google That” entry). The dew claw on a dog allows the dog to grab a hold of things and helps them climb. According to some sources, the dew claw evolved from dogs who used to have five toes (Davison). Through evolution, the toe moved up on the leg to help the dog improve its running ability. The dew claw has to be trimmed just like any other nail on a dog, as it can get over grown and cause irritation or get caught on something and tear. With proper grooming, a dog’s dew claw can provide little to no problems and help them adapt to grabbing and holding certain items. Consider it…the “thumb” of the dog.

**Bibliography**

Davison, Kathy; “Why do dogs have dew claws?” <http://ezinearticles.com/?Why-Do-Dogs-Have-Dew-Claws?&id=4317404>

[www.sarah’sdogs.com](http://www.sarah’sdogs.com/)

