

CLIPPING TOENAILS

Clipping toenails may also require two people. As above in the wing clipping the bird will need to be held to allow the clipping. Before you begin to clip the toenails have either, "Quick Stop", a styptic pencil, flour or cornstarch handy if you need to stop any bleeding. Show birds, pets and breeder Cockatiels all will need their toenails clipped periodically.

Pets may need their toenails clipped more regularly to make handling possible. Show Cockatiels should have their toenails clipped before the beginning of show season, breeding cockatiels should have their toenails clipped prior to pairing to avoid the cock from cutting the hen with his sharp nails and both birds from puncturing eggs or scratching newly hatched babies. Care should be taken not to clip the nails too far back to avoid bleeding (see the diagram below).

To clip Cockatiel toenails use a human toenail clipper, often clipping off the sharp point is all that is necessary, if the toenail is allowed to over grow it is likely that the vein will become extended and some bleeding will occur. The normal toenail should be turned down and complete a full right angle. The vein or "quick" is the living part of the nail and extends $\frac{2}{3}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the length of the nail. The quick supplies blood and the nerve to the toe, this can be seen easily on clear nails but is not visible on dark nails.

