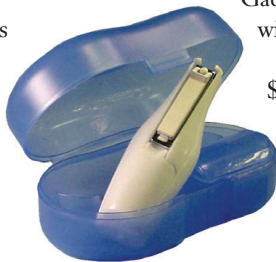




BABY BITS

A Safer Baby Manicure

A newborn baby's fingernails grow quickly, so parents become manicurists as a regular part of baby care and maintenance. It's hard to see where to cut, you may cut the nails too short or worse, nick



the fingertip with the clippers.

Mom Laurie Gadbois encountered all of these problems during her own baby son Tor's manicure sessions and was driven to create a solution. Now Tor is 6 years old and that solution, Baby Light & Clip lighted nail clippers, has hit store shelves.

The clippers feature a tiny light bulb to illuminate the fingernail and safety guards for the finger tip. "The guards stop the fingertip from going between the clipper jaws,"

Gadbois says. They come equipped with a standard AA battery.

The clippers are available for \$14.99 at www.babylightandclip.com, where you can also find a demo video and list of stores that carry the product.

— Caitlin Adams

Get (the Dog) Ready For Baby

When the family dog is an "only child," couples often spoil and pamper the pooch. But what happens when a human baby comes along?

Penny Scott-Fox, a dog trainer and behavioral specialist at the Pasadena Humane Society, saw many couples leaving dogs at the shelter because they were afraid their pet would be jealous of the new baby.

In reality, Scott-Fox says, the dog will want to meet the baby, not be

resentful of it. But owners who try to keep baby and dog apart can make the dog feel that something is wrong. "What will happen is the new parents will be super nervous and that will freak the dog out," Scott-Fox says.

When Scott-Fox became pregnant

with her son, she realized that her two beagles had never been around infants and knew it was "only fair" that they be prepared.

Drawing from her experience, Scott-Fox wrote *And Baby Makes Four: A Trimester-by-Trimester Guide To a Baby-Friendly Dog* (TFH Publications, 2007; \$9.95).

Scott-Fox stresses that the family dog should not be left behind on the "To Do List" of preparing for a baby. "People don't really think about it till the last minute," she says, but the extent of change a baby will bring into the dog's environment makes a month-by-month approach necessary.

The book also offers tips on teaching a dog to distinguish between his toys and baby toys, and strategies for familiarizing him with new smells and sounds so that even a bawling infant will not faze him.

— C.A.

