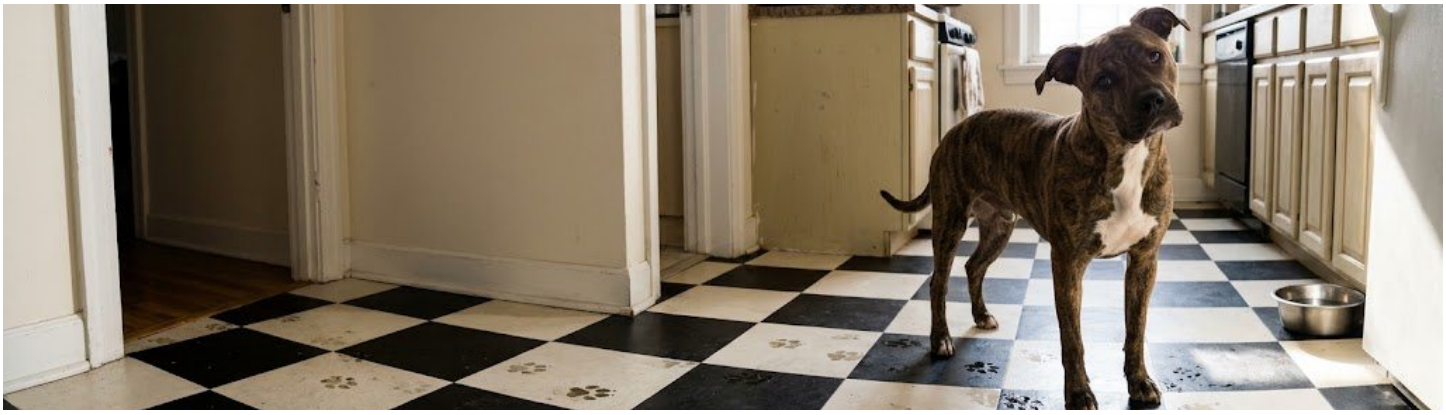
By Jeff Molitor

BEYOND THE SHELTER / TAKE-HOME RECAP

Dog Paw Facts: Your Weekly Paw Check



THE SHORT ANSWER

A dog's paws can show stress through sweaty prints, doubt through a lifted front paw and discomfort through licking or limping. Paw signals make the most sense when read alongside the ears, tail, mouth and posture. New paw habits, like constant licking or slipping, deserve a closer look and sometimes a vet visit.

FOUR THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. Damp prints can signal nerves. Read a lifted paw alongside posture: pause for uncertainty; a paw held up while walking may be pain.
2. Look between toes, check pads, nails and dewclaws, sniff the feet and watch for limping or slipping. Reward gentle checks with treats.
3. Build paw-handling trust slowly. Trim only nail tips without cutting the quick; ask a groomer or vet team for help if needed.
4. After salted winter walks, wipe and dry paws. Call your vet for limping, swelling, bleeding, persistent licking or a bad smell.

YOUR NEXT STEP

Spend two gentle minutes checking your dog's paws this week. Stop if your dog tenses up; seek veterinary advice for health concerns.

Read the full article and sources:

https://letthembedog.com/blog/dog-paw-facts

Independent volunteer resource. Not veterinary advice. Contact your vet for health concerns.