

# Options for Paw Traction on Slick Surfaces

This handout was created by Dr. Erica Kirsch with Head2Tail Mobility. There are many products on the market, but the products recommended below are the ones I have found most effective. For an in depth physical therapy evaluation and individualized plan for your pet, please reach out to [Head2Tail Mobility](https://www.head2tailmobility.com).

## General Tips:

1. Keep the hair around the paws trimmed short. When hair grows long between the paws pads and around the paw it can cover the paw pads and reduce friction. This can lead to slipping.
2. Keep nails trimmed. When a dog's nails are overgrown it changes the mechanics of the toes and doesn't allow the paw to effectively grip the floor. This can lead to increased slipping. [Click here](#) to learn how to cut your dog's nails to allow the quick to recede if they are overgrown.
3. Consider using area rugs, yoga mats, or other floor coverings with good grip around your house. We recommend using non-slip treads on any hardwood stairs to prevent falling on the stairs.

## Products for Increasing Traction on Paws:

1. [Dr. Buzby's Toe Grips](#) These rubber rings slide over your pet's nails. They make contact with the floor to provide traction on slick surfaces. It is very important that your pet's nails contact the floor when they stand for toe grips to be effective. These are nice because you don't have to put them on and off everyday.
2. [Tiger Toes Socks](#) These socks have grippy rubber to prevent slipping. The rubber is on both sides so even if they twist on your pet's paw they should still work. Consider if your pet will tolerate socks on their feet before trying this option.
3. [Anti-Slip Paw Pads](#) These are adhesive pads that stick to the bottom of your pet's paw pads to provide traction. These work best for dogs who don't go on walks outside and are mostly sedentary. They will fall off easily if your pet walks on concrete or asphalt a lot during the day.

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