

My...What Pretty Nails You Have!

Nail Polish for Dogs

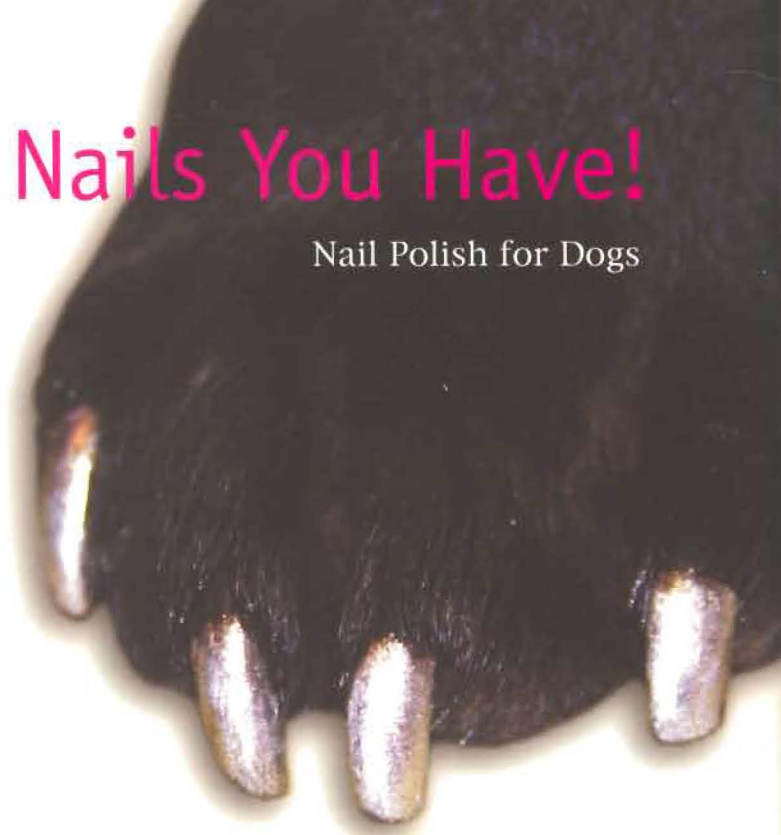
By Kimberly Gadette
Photos by Gina Stancel

SUMMERTIME IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA, 91 DEGREES—YET SOME DOG OWNERS WON'T ALLOW THEIR POOCHES OUT WITHOUT WEARING A COAT. A COAT? YES, A COAT...OF DOGGIE NAIL POLISH, PERFECT FOR POLISHING OFF THOSE OH-SO-DRAMATIC PAWS.

Sparkling, pearlized, or solid, available in a rainbow of colors, pup-friendly polishes are made without formaldehyde, dry faster, and are far more chip resistant than human nail polish. A variety of manufacturing companies are dogtrotting their product out to the quadrupeds.

A leader in professional nail care products, OPI Products, Inc. has thrown its world-famous hat into the ring with six bold and bright shades just for our furry friends. Per OPI: "Designed specifically for pets' nails, one-coat, fast-drying Pawlish® is safe, easy to use, fun—and tested on people, not animals." Known for having the wackiest color names in the lacquer industry (more than 1,100 shades since 1981), OPI is continuing the fun with these shades for the "litter"-ati: Poodle Pink, Bow Wow! (green), Mutt's New? (purple), Fire Hydrant Red, Yuppy Puppy (silver), and Doghouse Blues.

Also "nailing it" is Color Paw™ by Top Performance, sporting 27 colors of varying textures, sparkles, and swirls. Retailer Christopher Woodside, co-owner of the online and brick-and-mortar store Pretentious Pooch (www.pretentiouspooch.com) in Maryland, says that his biggest sellers in summer are Color Paw's lighter shades, particularly the pearls, shimmers, and opals (e.g., Fuchsia Opal, Lilac Pearl and Spearmint Pearl). He speaks from experience—his own two-year-old American Bulldog, Chai, is always fully dressed with a smile and a polish. Though some humans have been known to *figuratively* drool over beauty products, Chai *literally* drools over her polish—but just during the application. After her nails are done, she's back to posing in the display window, modeling the latest shade.



Ruby tries out a new color on a weekly basis...oh, the life!

Woodside has his own theory about the popularity of canine polish. He explains that if a dog happens to be female but looks a bit manly, instead of having to constantly correct strangers by saying "it's a girl," owners will put a noticeable pink hue on their giantess' nails... making it less likely that a Bullmastiff named "Barb" will be mistaken for "Bob." And let's not leave out the

boys—buff is buff, and they've got the nails to prove it!

Though pink is always a safe choice for summer, Salcs Manager Terrie Wellman of Davis Manufacturing predicts that with the company's recently unleashed line of five dazzling colors, Sparkling Blue is bound to be a big hit. "It's a bright blue, like the ocean," she says. Davis has also released a sparkling top coat that can be applied to any of their other shades. Like Color Paw, Davis goes to town with choices, currently offering 29 different shades. Because of the product's durability and chip resistance, Wellman admits she wears it herself. Which leads one to imagine dogs of all shapes of paws and claws, wondering who's been hitting on their bottles. Would they set a trap to catch their owners donning, say, Doghouse Blues? And if so, just who would end up in that doghouse? And that, as they say, is a nailbiter. **ND**



Kimberly Gadette's writing can be found in numerous publications, "en-tailing" a deep dismemberment of film, politics, male spectator sports, travel, dating, and dogs (though it's funny, dogs seldom date).

