

## September Tip of the Month

September marks the back-to-school season and the beginning of Fall. We have come up with tips so that pets can be safe and happy.

Do not let pets go back to school with the children. Many dogs will want to follow children walking to school. Make sure the family pet is secure in the yard and don't bring him with the kids. Dogs at school can be dangerous.

If a loose dog is seen, don't approach it. Contact Animal Control immediately. If the dog approaches you, stand still, don't look directly at the dog. He will probably sniff the body or clothing and move on. If he does try to bite, give him a purse, bag, anything available, and as soon as possible call Animal Control!

We cannot stress enough how important it is to have the family pet spayed or neutered. Every year millions of unwanted cats and dogs are put to death in shelters across the country. This is due to overpopulation and accidental litters. Not only does it help the animal population, it may make male cats and dogs calmer and not so tempted to get out and roam. Also, it costs less to license spayed and neutered dogs. There are low cost spay/neuter and vaccination clinics in the valley, so don't delay-neuter/spay today!!

Since Fall is right around the corner, now is a good time to make sure the family pet will have warm, adequate shelter this winter. A sturdy doghouse with old blankets work best, and will ensure your dog stays warm and dry.

Does the dog dig in the yard? Dogs dig for coolness in the summer months, boredom and smells. In the Summer, make sure the dog has a cool shady place to lay down. Try giving the dog more exercise. If he has less energy, he will be less likely to dig out of boredom. Also try dog and cat repellents to put in the hole. This unpleasant smell may deter his digging. If repellents are not readily available, try using the dog's own feces and covering them up. The dog may then find this site undesirable as a dig site.

Are loose cats overrunning the neighborhood? Animal Control has a program where we loan cat traps. We require a \$60 deposit check that is held (not cashed), until we get the trap back. The trap can be set up easily by baiting it and Animal Control will pick up the captured animal. We generally loan traps for two weeks at a time, but can give an extension if necessary.

