

MAY TIP OF THE MONTH

May marks the beginning of spring. This is a good time to make sure your pets' vaccinations are current as well as ensuring your animal has adequate shelter for the upcoming hot summer months. Here are a few ideas and tips to make this spring a great one!

Springtime is usually the time when kittens and puppies are arriving by the truckloads. If you do get a new pup or kitten make sure it gets off on the right foot. Make an appointment with your vet for a checkup and shots if they are old enough. Make sure you have plenty of kitten or puppy chow on hand, as they have a ravenous appetite. Handle and groom them often, and clean their ears and trim toenails when necessary. Also make sure you have plenty of toys available!

This time of year we normally have mild weather and that means lots of people outside with their pets. Remember we have a leash law for ALL animals in our city. That means your pet has to be restrained by you or on your property. So if you plan on walks or hikes with your four legged friends...don't forget your leash!

If you plan on going on vacation this summer, here are a few travel tips for your dog. Have your dog travel in his crate. It's a safe and secure place for him to ride. Covering the crate with an old sheet may help calm excitable dogs. If you don't have a crate, at the very least use a doggie seat belt to keep your pet safe. Try feeding your dog a gingersnap before traveling. Ginger helps calm some dogs. Give your dog something to do inside his crate, that's fun and distracting, like working some cheese whiz out of a hollow bone.

If you happen to come across a stray dog running loose, here is the safe way to handle the situation..

- Never approach a stray dog, the animal may injure you.
- Walk away from the dog while keeping an eye on it. Never run away from the dog, running may cause it to chase and attack you.
- When a stray dog you cannot avoid approaches you, never look directly into its eyes. A dog may interpret your stare as a challenge and it may respond by attacking. Watch the dog indirectly, looking only at its head, not into its eyes.
- Smile..dogs recognize a smile.
- Talk to the dog in a happy high-pitched voice.
- Always ask the owner's permission before petting their dog.
- Remember when petting an animal, always slowly offer your hand first for scenting, bringing your hand up under the dogs head.
- Pat the dog rather than stroking it. Pats may make it feel more secure.
- Aggressive animals and animal bites should be reported to animal control immediately.