
June Tip of the Month

June marks the beginning of summer here in the valley, and we have come up with a few tips for you and your pets!

As our city grows, and the number of dogs increase, we receive more and more barking dog complaints. Here are a few ideas to help alleviate this problem if your dog is barking excessively.

Generally, prolonged periods of barking are due to loneliness and can become an obsessive condition. If the barking does become an obsession, it is harder to stop. They would rather be with us all the time and when they are left alone all day, they go through separation anxiety. The barking becomes soothing to them. Try giving your dog treats that they have to work at and toys to play with when you leave. For example, fill a hollow toy or Kong ball with treats or peanut butter and let them figure out how to get it out.

Make sure your dog gets plenty of exercise...a sleepy dog is less likely to bark continuously. Go for a long walk or run prior to leaving the house.

Consider a bark collar for your dog. There are several different types and price ranges available. They have shown to be very effective for habitually barking dogs. Check at the local pet stores such as PetSmart or Petco, or check online for more information about how they work.

As summer approaches and temperatures warm up, your dog (if he has ears that stand up) may experience a common problem known as fly-bite dermatitis. The common stable fly causes damage to the edge and tips of the ears, producing bloody crusts and scabs. This can be controlled by applying medicated ointments and fly repellent to your dog's ears.

You may notice your dogs and cats have started shedding now that the weather is warming up. Shedding can be frustrating for a pet owner. Here are a couple ideas on how to reduce some of the shedding.

Feed a diet high in amino fatty acids and anti-oxidants. These are said to promote healthy skin, increase red cell production, and an efficient immune system process. Amino acids are usually denoted on the label as flower and plant oils. There is also a new product on the market called Shed-Stop by Farnam and it claims to reduce or eliminate excessive shedding. Check with your veterinarian or local pet store for this product.

Here is a recipe for a summer treat for your dog: Dog Pops

1/4 cup yogurt

1/2 cup milk

mix well and add cut up hot dogs, bologna, etc...

Freeze in ice cube trays and serve in a bowl.
