



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2006

FLEA & TICK SEASON

One of our customers has already found a tick on his dog. Now is the time to prevent both fleas and ticks using natural products instead of toxic chemicals. We have herbal sprays, collars and shampoos available as well as brewer's yeast, diatomaceous earth and devices for removing ticks.

Prevention is much less time consuming than the work it takes to eradicate a flea problem once it has occurred. Ask us which products would be right for your pet.

PETS HELP HUMANS WITH DEMENTIA

According to a study from Wake Forest University, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, pet therapy is recommended for calming patients with dementia. It was recommended in the study that doctors should prescribe pet therapy before prescribing drugs.

More than 15 drugs commonly prescribed for dementia symptoms were studied. Twenty-nine studies found that most of the drugs were ineffective or had unhealthy side effects.

In addition to pet therapy, music therapy and aromatherapy were found more effective in calming the dementia patients than drugs were.

GOT A BAD DOG STORY?

The author of "Marley & Me", John Grogan, invites owners to share their bad dog stories at www.marleyandme.com. After he published the story of his own bad dog in a Philadelphia newspaper, he received an overwhelming number of stories from dog owners whose pet's antics they described as worse.

CAN PETS BE ALLERGIC TO MEAT?

Very often we hear that someone has been told their cat or dog is allergic to chicken, or beef, or another source of meat. Considering that cats and dogs are carnivores (meat eaters), this is very puzzling.

What we do find is that these animals who have been "diagnosed" with an allergy are often not allergic to the chicken, or beef, or other meat, but rather they are reacting to a chemical within the

food – a drug given to the cow or chicken while it was alive, a drug used to euthanize the animal, a chemical preservative added to the food, etc.

If this same animal is given an organic source of meat, without any antibiotics, growth hormones, steroids, or chemical additives, the animal will do fine. The animal's body was in fact reacting to a foreign substance the system was trying to eliminate it and showing symptoms such as skin problems, vomiting, diarrhea, etc.

AMBITIOUS BIRD STORY

A man in Yorkshire, England sold his parrot to another man who lived about 200 miles away. Within weeks, "Lucy", an African grey, flew home to her original home in Yorkshire.

FEEDING MULTIPLE ANIMALS

Animals are territorial, especially cats, and particularly regarding their food. If they feel that they have to compete for food, they can become more aggressive, or sometimes submissive, allowing the other animal to eat first.

This often happens when people try to feed more than one animal (especially cats) from the same bowl. The dominant cat will eat first while the shy cat will hang back and wait for the leftovers.

Then what happens is that the dominant cat becomes overweight, while the other cat becomes thin. It is very hard to monitor what is happening when two cats are sharing the same bowl.

If you are feeding more than one animal, offer them the same courtesy as feeding two different family members and give them each their own bowl or plate. This will avoid the issue of overeating or under eating as well as food related aggression.

PREVENTING DOG BITES

There is a potential for aggression and bites when children and dogs are interacting. In an article "Dogs and Kids – How to Prevent Bites", the following advice was offered:

- Remain in control of all interactions between dogs and children
- Expect children (and teach them) to receive parental permission before petting any dog
- Young children or overly enthusiastic ones should be carefully monitored at all times
- Always approach a dog with a closed fist and allow them to sniff the fist
- If the dog approves and appears calm, teach the child to pet the dog under the chin
- Never approach or touch a dog from behind, or over the head
- Groups of children should take turns patting the dog and not encircle the dog (dogs need an escape route if they feel frightened)
- Some dogs perceive prolonged eye contact as a challenge
- Teach children never to put their face close to a dog
- A dog that appears anxious or watchful around children is not comfortable with them
- Dogs that are high activity, easily wound up or motivated into chase games are at higher risk of biting children
- Do not assume that your dog's past behavior predicts his future behavior with children and always supervise the situation

In good health, Mike, Lee, Jayne & Moxy

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