

Washoe County Regional Animal Services Bulletin

August 2014

Coprophagia

is the term for a dog's tendency to eat their own waste. Many experts believe that there are several reasons and that different dogs do it for different reasons.

The Possibilities

Deficiency in the Diet

Some dogs might eat their own waste because there are vital nutrients missing from their diet. They seek out the nutrients they need by eating waste, and might also eat dirt, rocks or vegetation.

Boredom

Dogs who don't have enough to keep them busy, or who do not get enough exercise might eat their waste for novelty's sake. This can happen to dogs who are stuck outside all the time, chained up, or left home alone for long periods of time without ways to entertain themselves or release their extra energy.

Protection

In the wild, predators can find animal's dens by their smell. Some believe that domesticated dogs have maintained the urge to protect their living space by removing waste so that a predator will not smell it and track his family.

Parasites

Parasites rob your dog's bodies of vital nutrients. As mentioned before, dogs craving nutrients might eat their waste.

Hot August Days and Nights

August in Reno is packed with old cars and loads of entertainment during Hot August Nights, but it is also one of the hotter months of the year for your pet.

With all the events that are going on, it appears that people like to take their dogs with them believing that they will enjoy the festivities as much as they do.

Although your pet adores being with you, it may not take pleasure in riding around in a car that does not have air conditioning, or sitting in the car while you enjoy the nostalgic sights and sounds.

Even August nights are very warm and can place your dog in distress if put into certain situations. During the day the asphalt and the bed of a pick-up truck is extremely hot and your pets paws can be seared in a matter of seconds. You

Hunger

Dogs who do not get enough to eat might eat their waste to satiate their hunger. This can also happen in dogs who are being fed enough, but only once a day. Their nutritional needs are being met, but they feel the need to eat again, so they eat their waste.

may not be able to see the damage at first, but the following are some signs of burned pads:

1. Limping or refusing to walk
2. Licking or chewing at the feet
3. Pads darker in color

Friends Don't Make Friends... Wait in Hot Cars



4. Missing part of pad
5. Blisters or redness

Let's make sure that everyone gets to enjoy all of the wonderful celebrations of Hot August Nights. Leave your dog at home where it is cool and comfortable.

Some Solutions

- See your vet
- Get a higher quality dog food
- Add vitamin supplements
- Feed twice a day
- Exercise
- Keep waste picked up

Getting To Know Us

Shannon Arnett

Kennel Assistant



Shannon began her love of animals as a kid surrounded by dogs, cats and a couple of horses that she loved to ride.

After working for a couple of veterinary hospitals, she decided to be a volunteer at Animal Services beginning in 2005. She applied for a position as a Caretaker and was hired by Animal Services in 2007.

Shannon loves working with all the diverse animals we have here at Animal Services. She works with local rescue groups to find homes for some of the challenged animals that we may get in and has assisted in many of our evacuations and microchip campaigns.

Besides her full time position at work, her home life is filled with a great husband and three wonderful teenagers that keep her running. Her oldest son just graduated high school, her middle daughter is a senior this year and her youngest daughter is excelling in softball. Shannon is also an ordained minister. Could she be any busier?

Next month we will be highlighting ACO, Oscar Tejada

DISASTER PREPARATION

Planning ahead can save your pet's life in an emergency!

Emergency situations can happen at any time and although we can't always be fully prepared for every emergency, we can prepare an emergency kit to help your pet through a disaster. Some suggested items include:

- First aid kit
- Portable radio, flashlight & extra batteries
- Vaccination records
- Veterinarian's information
- Medications & dosage instructions
- Pet carriers & cages
- Leashes/non-nylon halters/leads or rope
- 2 weeks supply of food/water
- Can opener
- Non-spill food/water bowls
- Cat litter & box
- Newspaper/paper towels
- Plastic bags
- Duct tape
- Permanent marker
- Bleach/disinfectant solution
- Water buckets

Always be prepared for any disaster that could arise

You never know what a day can bring

