


Common Pet Problems: Suggested Solutions

Problem: *Barking Dogs*

Solution:

1. First determine the cause (boredom, intruder, pedestrian traffic, other animals) and eliminate the cause.
2. Training, using “positive reinforcement” or the “water method,” works in 99% of the cases.
3. If you think your dog is bored, turn on a talk radio station while you are gone.
4. Spend quality time with your dog when you are home.
5. The Hawaiian Humane Society enforces the Animal Nuisance Law which defines an illegal disturbance as one lasting for ten minutes without stopping or for a half hour intermittently.

Problem: *Stray Cats*

Solution:

1. Those who feed stray cats should take full responsibility for their care, including identification tags and neutering; or bring them to the Humane Society.
2. Humane cat traps are available free of charge at the Humane Society.
3. Neuter & Release program available free of charge at the Humane Society for cat colony caretakers.
4. Associations should require that all resident cats be kept indoors, or if allowed to roam, require neutering and identification tags.

Problem: *Fleas*

Solution:

1. Treat your home, pet and pet’s sleeping areas with appropriate flea killing products.
2. Consult a veterinarian or professional exterminator for recommendations on flea control.
3. Flea comb your pet regularly.

Problem: *Damaged Landscaping*

Solution:

1. Adopt a NO-ROAMING policy in your association’s house rules; cats must be kept

- indoors and dogs, when outside, must be on a leash and in the company of a responsible caretaker.
2. Spraying a dog or cat with water may discourage them from coming into areas where they are not welcome.
3. Certain kinds of plants will repel cats. They include marigolds, marjoram, rosemary, and basil.

Problem: *Odors*

Solution:

1. Securely wrap pet waste and place in agreed upon disposal locations.
2. Remove solid waste from cat litter daily; litter should be changed once a week.
3. Groom your pet regularly.
4. Neuter your male cat to reduce chance of spraying.

Problem: *Neighbor complaints*

Solution:

1. Start with a friendly attitude; most people want to be good neighbors.
2. Include an enforcement clause in your association’s house rules establishing a fair and expeditious due process.
3. Sample “warning letters” to pet policy violators are available from the Humane Society.

Problem: *Pigeons*

Solution:

1. Do not feed pigeons - it only causes overpopulation! (There is enough food in the environment for them.)
2. For pigeon control, contact:

*Department of Land and Natural Resources
Division of Forestry & Wildlife – 973-9786*

For more information on any of the above suggestions, please call the *Hawaiian Humane Society* at 946-2187, extension 222.