

PETS



Caring for your faithful companions
by **Kathy Kemp**

All wired up

Used to be, the only electrical cords you had to worry about belonged to lamps and TVs. But today a single electrical outlet can look like a fountain of spaghetti, what with all those computer, scanner and printer cords, plus wires from charging cell phones and iPods.

Pets sometimes like to chew these cords, especially puppies cutting teeth. Cableorganizer.com offers a few tips on how to protect your pet from shock or worse.

► There are numerous products on the market today for covering household wires and outlets. An extremely inexpensive and convenient product to protect your wires is the split wire loom — flexible and durable plastic tubing with a slit down the side allowing for easy insertion of a cable bundle.

► You can also cover wires with spiral cable wrap — plastic wrap that keeps wires tightly bundled. It's available in many colors.

► For hiding excess cord length coming from your phone, computer mouse, or even window blinds, try the Cable Turtle. This nifty gadget protects wires from your cat or dog by letting you tuck the wires away neatly in a shell. The product is available in different sizes and various colors.

► If you have no other choice but to run a wire across an open floor, cord covers will allow you to eas-

ily hide and protect the cables from your cat, dog and others. They'll keep pets from chewing the wires, and also keep your floors safe and clear from tripping and tangling hazards.

► Keep cables off the floor and out of reach with adhesive-backed cord clips, which attach wires to furniture or wall surfaces.

► Hide wires in your home office with a concealed surge protector, which encloses plugs and excess cord length to keep them from becoming a distraction to your pets. These safety-minded surge protectors not only keep your computer and phone wires out of sight, but also provide protection in case of a power surge or lightning strike.

Water, water everywhere

More than 113 million Americans own aquariums, according to the American Pet Products Association. That means there's lots of slime-stinky water indoors, unless owners are diligent about cleaning.

Frank Greco — senior aquarist at the New York Aquarium, the nation's oldest continuously operating aquarium — says he uses the Python No Spill Clean and Fill Aquarium maintenance system. He says it's the best way to protect more than 350 species of aquatic wildlife that entertain visitors annually. The system's suction tube doesn't significantly cloud up the waters and is easy to use, he says. Greco also likes the Python ultrasonic fogger for reptiles.

Python products are available at most pet stores and at www.pythonproducts.com.

E-mail pet-related information, including pet-related events and pet photos, to kkemp@bhamnews.com. When sending pet photos, please include your name, address and daytime phone number, and your pet's name, breed and age. If your photo includes people, please include their first and last names and the ages of any children. If you prefer mail, write to Kathy Kemp, The Birmingham News, P.O. Box 2553, Birmingham, AL 35202. Photos will not be returned.



PETS ONLINE

► You can find more pictures from our readers and pet news on al.com, the online



Zeke is a playful, 3-year-old Shih Tzu, who weighs 15 pounds and may need to go on a diet. He's neutered and had all his shots. To adopt, visit www.littlebitsrescue.org.

home of The Birmingham News. Go to Kathy Kemp's blog, *Pets: Our Faithful Companions* at blog.al.com/pets