Prevention – Barking, Mouthing, Counter Surfing and Digging

Chewing	Puppies go through 2 stages of teething. The first, teething is from 3 to 6 months and this is when they lose their baby teeth. Their gums itch which causes a need to chew. The next stage is 6 to 12 months as the jaw and face are growing and their new adult teeth are settling in their jaw. With the teething, puppies need to chew and its good from them to chew. Have may safe toys available for them to chew. If they are chewing something inappropriate, do not chase and create a fun game but instead grab one of their toys for a trade. Also, if your puppy's gums are sore it may be hard to chew kibble. If you notice your puppy is having a hard time chewing hard kibble soak it in warm water prior to feeding to soften the kibble.
Barking	Barking is self-reinforcing. Dogs like to hear themselves bark and they get rewarded just by barking. The best way to decrease barking is through management. Through management, when your note available to train, control the environment so your dog can't practice the behavior you want to decrease. For instance, block windows, restrict access to fence lines, etc. When you are around, when your dog barks, disrupt the behavior by asking for a known behavior (come, touch, watch, sit, etc.) Reward the quiet behavior .You can also practice throwing a handful of kibble on the floor (making noise) when there are no distractions and say find-it. Then when there is a distraction do the same thing and your dog will learn to investigate something else and stop the barking. You can also sit in front of the window with your dog and when your dog looks out and doesn't bark, say your dog's name and good quiet or click and treat. If your dog barks, say his name and when he looks at you click and treat. Once your dog predictably offers to stop barking say "good quiet" and treat.
Digging	Digging is a normal dog behavior. They did for insects and other smells. Digging is also self-rewarding. To problem solve use an attention getting when you see your dog digging such as clapping your hands together. Then redirect your dog to a digging area allowed or to another activity. Never punish your dog for digging, then your dog will just dig when you are out of sight. To manage, prepare a digging spot for your dog and let your dog see you burying things your dog will like and always redirect to your dog's digging hole. You can also bury your dog's feces into the hole as most dogs will no longer want to dig there.
Counter Surfing	Dogs are opportunistic so if there is something great on the counter you might have a counter surfer. Start by managing the area. Block access, send them to a settle place, teach drop, use an attention getter such as clapping your hands, or use leave-it.