



Protect your pet during July 4th activities by taking precautions

Resist the urge to take your pet to fireworks displays. You're asking for trouble, as most pets have a very strong fear of loud, sudden noises which are like to evoke their "flight or fight mode." Fireworks can cause true terror in a pet.

Do not leave your pet in the car. With only hot air to breathe inside a car, your pet can suffer serious health effects, even death, in a few short minutes. Partially opened windows do *not* provide sufficient air, but *do* provide an opportunity for your pet to be stolen.

Keep your pets indoors at home in a sheltered, quiet area. Some animals can become destructive when frightened, so be sure that you've removed any items that your pet could destroy or that would be harmful to your pet if chewed. Leave a television or radio playing at normal or a slightly raised volume to keep him company while you're attending July 4th picnics, parades, and other celebrations.

If you know that your pet is seriously distressed by loud noises, consult with your veterinarian before July 4. For ways to help alleviate the fear and anxiety your pet will experience during fireworks displays talk with your veterinarian.



Never leave pets outside unattended, even in a fenced yard or on a chain. In their fear, pets who normally wouldn't leave the yard may escape and become lost, or become entangled in their chain, risking injury or death.

Make sure your pets are wearing identification tags so that if they do become lost, they can be returned promptly. Animals found running at-large should be taken to the local animal shelter, where they will have the best chance of being reunited with their owners.

If you plan to go away for the holiday weekend, ensure your pet's safety by boarding them with your vet's office or a boarding kennel. If you use a pet-sitter, be sure they also know how to protect your pet from escaping your yard or home, or becoming injured during July 4th activities.

Follow these simple precautions, and you and your pet can have a safe and happy holiday!