

# 4th of July Safety Tips

July 5 is often one of the busiest days of the year at animal shelters due to pets that run away because they are scared of fireworks.

To increase its chances of being returned home safely, make sure your pet always wears an identification collar and/or is microchipped or tattooed.

The 4th of July is a time for picnics, family gatherings and fireworks. However, activities like fireworks are not always fun—or safe—for the family pet. Here are some simple tips to help keep everyone safe this Independence Day:



- Keep pets inside during the festivities and consider moving them inside for the days leading up to the holiday as fireworks are often set off before the 4th. Talk to your veterinarian about crating your pet or other options that will keep your pet—and your home—safe during the 4th.
- Don't leave pets in a yard, even a fenced yard, during fireworks season as they may become scared and run away. When frightened, even a normally well-behaved animal may chew through a rope or tether or jump a fence to get away from the source of their distress.
- If your pet is normally anxious or is predisposed to stress, you may want to consult with your veterinarian about possible treatment with a sedative or anti-anxiety medication during the holiday period.
- Keep pets away from all fireworks to prevent burns, hearing loss or eye damage. Safely dispose of spent fireworks. If eaten, they may cause digestive problems.
- Make sure your pet (even your indoor-only cat) is microchipped, tattooed and/or wears an ID collar. In the event that your pet runs away or is lost, such identification will increase its chances of being returned to you.
- If your pet does become lost, check with your local animal control, animal shelters and veterinarians. Carefully search your neighborhood, as pets have been known to be found close to home even several days later.



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