



## JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> SAFETY TIPS

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Independence Day is always a great time of celebration, family and fun. We also want to make sure that our dogs stay safe and happy during this time. Please check out our tips below to make sure your dog has a happy time too!

- If you are going to a fireworks display, leave your dog at home where he will be the most safe and comfortable.
- If you go to a holiday event, never leave your dog in the car. A partially opened window does not supply sufficient fresh air, and it creates an opportunity for your pet to be stolen.
- Always keep proper identification securely fastened to your dog's collar in case he gets out. Talk to your veterinarian about implanting a universal microchip in your pet, and make sure that your veterinary clinic and animal shelter have your correct contact information in their database.
- Don't leave your dog outside. If you cannot bring him inside, cover his dog house with a blanket to protect him from the bursts of bright lights and loud bangs. A dog's sense of hearing is acute-over 10 times more sensitive than humans'.
- Create a special den-like area in your home where your dog feels safe. A properly introduced crate or kennel can be a calming refuge for him.
- Some dogs become destructive when frightened. If you don't use a crate, remove any items in the room which your dog could destroy or which could hurt him if he chewed them.
- Keep your dog away from the front and back doors. Your dog may be under significant stress, which could result in unnecessary injury to others or cause him to dart out the door and become lost.
- Keep windows and curtains closed to reduce noise and bright flashes.
- Turn on a TV or radio at normal volume to distract your dog from loud noises and help him to relax.
- If possible, stay with your pet during the majority of the fireworks. A dog often reacts more intensely to loud sounds and flashes of lights when you are not with him.
- Consider hiring a pet sitter to stay with your dog while you are away from home.