



4TH OF JULY

Safety Tips

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. You might also think about obtaining a **GPS collar** for your dog. This will allow you to actively track and find him in the shortest period of time.
- Make sure you have a **recent picture of your dog**. If he does get out, this will help identify him on neighborhood posters. You can also show it to people as you are searching the area.
- **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. Your dog could also start to show increased levels of separation anxiety whenever left alone.
- **Consider hiring a pet sitter** to stay with your dog while you are away from home.
- One last comment about food. If you are having a barbeque, pool party, etc. with guests and a lot of good, summer food, **do not feed your dog your party food**. This will encourage begging and he might choke on a bone. The spicy sauces could cause diarrhea or vomiting.