



July Safety Tips

July Fourth and Beyond

As you celebrate our country's independence this Fourth of July, make sure your pets don't become independent from you! More pets are lost in July than any other month of the year. A dog's hearing is ten times more sensitive than a human's and the loud noises can be especially difficult for them.

If you're thinking of taking your dog outside to watch the fireworks with you... **Think again!** You *and* your dog will have a much more enjoyable evening if you leave the dog at home. Aside from the danger associated with your dog being in the wrong place at the wrong time, the large amount of people, loud noises and repeated flashes of light are likely to have a traumatic effect on them.

Whatever you do, don't leave your dog in the car! Many pet owners think cracking a car window open or just running into the store for a minute is alright but it doesn't take long for your dog to become overheated. On a 78 degree day, temperatures inside a car parked in the shade can exceed 90 degrees -- a scorching 160 degrees in the sun.

Here are some tips for keeping your pets safe!

- Go for a long walk before celebrating. If you normally take your dog out for thirty minutes, take a two-hour hike instead! This way his brain will be so tired that he won't be able to concentrate on the fireworks.
- Keep your cat in a safe place indoors like a bedroom or bathroom with the door closed.
- Distract your dog. Once the fireworks go off, ask him to do obedience behavior and him focus on something other than the noise.
- Keep your dog on a leash. This will give you more control and help you prevent your dog from running off.
- Double check to make sure your pets have enough water during the hot temperatures.
- Make sure your dog has I.D. If your dog does become lost, tags, a license and microchips can get him back to you safely.