



Tips to Keep Your Pet Safe on the Fourth of July

More pets go missing on the fourth of July than any other day of the year. As much as we enjoy getting together with friends and family and attending fireworks displays, our furry friends may find these things very scary. Below are some safety tips to ensure your pet is safe and comfortable during the festivities.

- Be sure your pet is microchipped, has a secure fitting collar, and identification tags with up to date information. This is the best way for your animal to find their way back home if they do get lost. Having a plan in place of what you will do is also very helpful, so you can spring into action if the situation arises.
- Create a safe spot for your dog to hang out during festivities and fireworks. Do not take your dog to fireworks displays or large gatherings. They will likely be much more comfortable at home.
- Keeping the television or radio on, and providing some yummy enrichment can be a good distraction to the lights and sounds of fireworks. If your dog is especially sensitive to loud noises, consult with your veterinarian about the use of anti-anxiety medications. Some dogs respond well to Adaptil calming collars, or calming treats which are available over the counter.
- Keep your pet indoors as much as possible. Dogs who don't ordinarily try to escape may suddenly spook and jump the fence. Walking them on a secure collar or harness is another good option to ensure safety.
- Ensure your dog does not have access to items that may be dangerous to them such as alcoholic beverages, matches, lighter fluid, bug spray, and glow jewelry. All can be toxic to your pet if ingested.
- Should your pet begin to show signs of illness, consult your veterinarian immediately.

Wayside Waifs wishes everyone a safe and happy Fourth of July!

If, after trying these suggestions, you are still experiencing undesirable behaviors in your dog, SUBMIT QUESTIONS by clicking the link under Ask A Trainer on the Behavior and Training page of the Wayside Waifs website: www.waysidewaifs.org.

Written by the Wayside Waifs Canine Behavior Team
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