



## Keeping Pets Safe During the 4<sup>th</sup> of July

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend is one of the leading weekends for lost pets. Even if animals are not normally afraid of loud noises, it only takes one close boom or firecracker to cause an animal to bolt. This article will be about keeping pets safe while we celebrate the nation's independence, ways to help ease firecracker anxiety, and what to do if your pet does get lost.

### Safety First

- Ideally all pets should be kept indoors while you or those around you are setting off fireworks
- If you have to have your pet outside with you:
  - Keep them on a leash
    - Some dogs may see the rocket as a fun stick to run around with
      - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UR3lyhtrOfk> – everyone is laughing but not only is the dog in danger, several people and other animals were at risk of being hit by the firecracker
    - Some fireworks are duds and can shoot in any direction
    - Spent fireworks are still hot and can cause serious burns
    - The stuff in fireworks are toxic
  - Sit with them a good distance away from the fireworks
- Restraint and identification
  - Collar and leash – in case the animal bolts, having a long lead attached at all times makes it easier to catch them later
  - Identification tags
    - Rabies – the number on the tag is unique and associated with your animal through the clinic that vaccinated your pet
    - ID tag– a good way to list your contact information
    - City License – another tag that has a unique number that is associated with your pet through city license
      - Also some cities have fines for animals picked up without proof of registration
    - Microchip – just another way to help your dog find its way home if they get lost
      - Make sure to keep the information updated
  - Reflective gear (collar, vest, tags, etc) – makes the animal more visible at night

Ways to decrease anxiety when your pet thinks World War 3 has started outside:

- Keep pets in a room that is quiet and ideally free of windows
- Turn on music or a TV to help drown out outside noises



Missouri German Shepherd Rescue (MoGS)  
Doggie Health & Wellness Team  
**Wellness Wednesday Series on Canine Health**

- Thundershirts™ - these may not work on all dogs, and your pet should be introduced to the shirt prior to the event
- Essential oils and Calming scents (i.e. Adaptil) – provide soothing scents to calm nerves
- Veterinarian prescribed tranquilizers – for the extreme cases when the above options don't work
  - Have relatively few side effects and safe when used as prescribed
  - Please only use what is prescribed by your vet



What to do if your pet does run away

- Contact animal control, all local vets, and animal shelters
- Put up signs at well-traveled public places (pet stores, coffee shops, grocery stores, etc)
- Social media such as Facebook has helped reunite many lost pets
- Keep an article of your clothing outside to attract your furry kid home
- Look in places that provide shelter such as drainage ditches, cave like structures, old buildings, underneath cars, etc – it may not seem safe to you, but your pet may see something different in a panicked state

Other things to consider during the celebration

- Heat and watching for signs of heat exhaustion
- Watch what foods your pet can get hold of
- Keep alcohol out of reach
- Falling debris from other people's fireworks
- Please also look out for people who tie fireworks to animals – it happens and this is very cruel

<https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/fourth-july-safety-tips>

[http://www.pet360.com/dog/lifestyle/dog-safety-tips-for-the-fourth-of-july/ownB - HrTUKuqPe\\_xzuiuw?intcid=LINKART](http://www.pet360.com/dog/lifestyle/dog-safety-tips-for-the-fourth-of-july/ownB - HrTUKuqPe_xzuiuw?intcid=LINKART)

On a lighter note, check out this fun firecracker:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PCztMX8n-pA>

★ ☆ ★ Have a great Holiday Weekend, but please stay safe ★ ☆ ★