

# Make Sure Your Pets Are Safe



## Before You Celebrate Your Independence

### Remember That Stress Can Build Up Over Time

If your neighbors start with fireworks and other noisy things weeks before July 4, your pet's stressful reaction to it can build up over time so they react in ways they don't normally act. Watch them for signs of fear and stress.

### Make Sure Your Pet Has Identification

Prepare in case your pet does escape: take a recent photo, microchip your pet and make sure the microchip information is up to date, and/or add a collar with rabies and ID tags.

### Keep Your Pet Indoors

If you let your cat roam or let your dog out in an unfenced yard with no leash, keep them indoors for the duration of the festivities, including neighbors' fireworks. If you do take them outdoors, use a stout harness and leash and stay with them so that if they are frightened and try to run you can keep your hold on them.

### Be Careful Going In and Out Your Doors

Your pet's reaction to loud noises may be to run as far away as possible even if you think they feel safe inside your house, or they may be startled by a flash of light or a loud noise just at the moment you open a door. Watch their actions, keep them away from doors when you leave and enter.

### Set Up a Safe Place For Them

Using a room or space that you can keep quiet and calm and close off, place a bed, toys and familiar things and take them there when the noises start. If you have to leave, confine them to this space.

### Use Calming Devices

Use pheromone sprays, wipes, diffusers and collars, and even for cats use a pressure wrap device like a Thundershirt that helps them feel protected.

### Keep Flames, Sparks, Lighters and Grills Out of Reach

A fluffy tail can catch a flame faster than you can imagine.

### Don't Feed Them Party Food

Chocolate, grapes, onions, garlic and alcohol are just a few common foods that are toxic to pets.