

# 4TH OF JULY

## WARNINGS

### 4TH OF JULY JITTERS



The booms and pops of Independence Day fireworks may be dandy to Yankee Doodle, but they're terrifying to most cats and dogs. The holiday thunder sends them diving under the bed - and sometimes diving out the nearest open door.

Though most humane societies don't delineate whether their foundlings after the Fourth are strays or runaways, owners can help pets cope with the noisy holiday:

- \* If your pet is frightened by thunder, it's also likely to be scared of fireworks. Keep your pet indoors and away from loud noises.
- \* When the booming starts, try to distract your pet with a favorite toy or activity.
- \* Make sure your pet has proper identification at all times. Even the most carefully watched pets occasionally can get away - including indoor only cats. Up-to-date identification dramatically increases the chances of a lost pet and owner being reunited.
- \* Stop the noise. Drown out fireworks by closing the windows and leaving the radio or air conditioner on.
- \* Let your pet skitter under the bed, into a closet or wherever else it feels safe. Don't drag it out, saying "It's OK." Your attempt at reassurance may be a first step in creating a serious phobia.
- \* In severely nervous pet cases, consider letting your pet spend the holiday at a quiet, secluded pet hotel.

If you live in an area where fireworks are allowed, or plan to take your pet to such an area, remember: Fireworks themselves pose a serious danger to pets. While this goes without saying, it does bear repeating. A simple spark from a sparkler can cause a pet's fur to catch fire. A pet isn't going to say "Hey, I'm being burned", they will simply run away from site. You won't know the damage until later, and that may be too late. Fireworks that spin across the ground are an invitation to play-chase to pets, until their noses are burned off.

Be mindful of those barbecues, shish-ka-bob sticks, flaming roasted marshmallows, matches & unlit fireworks. Matches, new or used, are poisonous to pets. Fireworks contain the same deadly ingredients.

**TAKE PRECAUTIONS THIS HOLIDAY**  
**WHILE YOU CELEBRATE OUR INDEPENDENCE**

