



July 4th is no blast for pets!

Tips for a safe holiday:

- **Loud, crowded fireworks displays are no fun for pets,** so please resist the urge to take them to Independence Day festivities. Instead, keep your little guys safe from the noise in a quiet, sheltered and escape-proof area at home.



- **Never use fireworks around pets!** While exposure to lit fireworks can potentially result in severe burns and/or trauma to the face and paws of curious pets, even unused fireworks can pose a danger. Many types contain potentially toxic substances, including potassium nitrate, arsenic and other heavy metals.

- **Never leave pets outside unattended,** even in a fenced yard or on a chain. In their fear, pets who normally wouldn't leave the yard may escape and become lost, or become entangled in their chain, risking injury or death.

- **Make sure your pets have a micro-chip and are wearing identification tags** so that if they do become lost, they can

be returned promptly. Animals found running at-large should be taken to Maricopa Animal Care and Control, where they will have the best chance of being reunited with their owners.

- **Keep your pets indoors at home in a sheltered, quiet area.** Some animals can become destructive when frightened, so be sure that you've removed any items that your pet could destroy or that would be harmful to your pet if chewed. Leave a television or radio playing at normal volume to keep him company while you're attending Fourth of July picnics, parades, and other celebrations.

- **Do not leave your pet in the car.** With only hot air to breathe inside a car, your pet can suffer serious health effects—even death—in a few short minutes. Partially opened windows do *not* provide sufficient air, but they *do* provide an opportunity for your pet to be stolen.

- **Never leave alcoholic drinks unattended where pets can reach them,** Alcoholic beverages have the potential to poison pets. If ingested, the animal could become very intoxicated and weak, severely depressed or could go into a coma. Death from respiratory failure is also a possibility in severe cases.

- **Do not apply any sunscreen or insect repellent product to your pet that is not labeled specifically for use on animals.** Ingestion of sunscreen products can result in drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive thirst and lethargy. The misuse of insect repellent that contains DEET can lead to neurological problems.

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