



Fourth of July Tips to Keep Your Pets Safe!

Fourth of July as we all know it is the official start of summer and is probably one of the most fun and favorite American holiday for most humans.

For our four legged children however is a whole different story as this particular Holiday is nothing but fun and favorite to them, to the opposite is quite stressful, terrifying and dangerous.

Below are some tips to keep your pets safe this 4th. Of July:



Do not take your pet to Independence Day festivities.

Cats and dogs get terrified by the loud sound of fireworks.

Pets have very sensitive hearing and can hear sounds that we humans even with perfect hearing cannot even dream of hearing.

Dogs can hear ultrasonic sounds, frequencies higher than humans can normally detect, this is why dog whistles can be silent to humans.

Cats have 32 muscles that control the outer ear alone, when humans have only 6!

Cat's hearing stops at 65khz, human's hearing stops @ 20khz!

That said, imagine how much louder fireworks are to our 4 legged children.

Please resist the urge to take your pets to Independence Day festivities.



Keep your pets inside and safe.

Keep your four legged children safe in a sheltered /escape proof quiet room inside your house.

The farther away from noise and commotion the better.

Leaving a television on or radio on in the room for your pet is a good idea.

Classical or mellow tunes on the radio, or a pet sitting DVD on the TV will help with the stress to some degree.

Even if you are staying home confining your pets to a room or crate is a wise idea.

If you do not have a spare room a crate will do the trick.

If you are having guests put a big sign on the door of the room where your pets are confined that reads: 'PETS INSIDE DO NOT OPEN THIS DOOR' this will prevent guest and children from entering the room and leaving the door open when exiting.

If you can lock the door even better.

DO NOT take your pet for a walk either until things have quiet down..



Consult with your veterinarian.

If you already know that your pet is seriously distressed by loud noises such as gun fire, thunder or in this case fireworks, please call your vet before the fact (before the 4th) to discuss the use of mild stress medications to keep your pet calm and to alleviate stress.

For mild cases HPR recommends the use of Rescue Remedy which is a natural stress reliever that can be purchased over the counter at any health food store.



ID Tags and Microchips.

Too many animals escape from homes during this particular holiday, resulting in loss of life or severe injuries to their little or large bodies, because when running scare from the sound of loud fireworks many get struck by cars.

Accidents do happen, holiday guests coming and going, the front door will be opening and closing more than usual, this is why we mentioned above that even if you are staying home confining your pet is your best bet.

Be sure your pets have collars with identification tags and that they are wearing them at all times.

If your pet is microchipped, please make sure the microchip is registered with the appropriate microchip company.

Even if the pet is microchipped HPR recommends that the pet be wearing ID tags as well.

For cats HPR recommends the use of breakaway collars.

If your pet is not microchipped, this will be a good time to get him/her microchipped.

HPR offers microchipping for \$ 40.00.

Please contact us if you are interested in microchipping your pet @: HPRESQ@aol.com

If your pet escapes by accident, resist the urge to chase as it will turn it into a game.

Instead, encourage him to come back to you by enticing him with a favorite treat.

As an additional safety measure HPR recommends Scat Mats to prevent your pet from escaping,

Put a Scat Mat at each possible exit in your home.

Scat Mats can be purchased at most pet stores.



Educate your guests.

If guests do not have pets, they may not know about cautions that seem like common sense to you. Make sure that they know how your pets should be handled, and what needs to be kept out of reach.

It will only take one well-meaning relative to feed your dog dark chocolate to cause a trip to the veterinary emergency room.



Food, treats, and alcoholic beverages.

4th of July picnics are great fun but many human foods are potentially toxic to pets.

Foods such as: onions, chocolate, coffee, avocados, grapes and raisins are potentially toxic to animals and can sometimes cause death.

Feed your pets their regular diet.

Limit treats to pet treats ONLY.

Warn family members and guests not to feed holiday foods to your pets.

Instead, have a supply of your pets' favorite treats on hand.

Any change in diet can give your pets indigestion and diarrhea, specially if you have older pets as they have a very delicate digestive system.

Alcoholic beverages can easily poison pets, if ingested they can become weak and intoxicated causing severe depression, coma and respiratory failure causing death in some cases.

Keep alcoholic drinks out of reach of pets!



Holiday costumes.

Holiday costumes for your pets may be cute at get-togethers or in family photos, but pet owners should be aware of costumes which have rubber bands to keep them securely in place on the pet. If rubber bands are accidentally left on the pet after the fun of dressing up is over, the pet could chew off and swallow them, causing choking and/or intestinal injuries.



Travel.

If you are planning to take your pet with you when visiting friends and relatives during the holiday, be sure to contact them in advance to find out if your pet is welcome. It might be best to board your pet or hire a reputable pet sitter as it all may be too stressful for your pet, especially cats that they do not take change very well. If you do board your pets for the please be sure that your pets is up to date on vaccines and that the pet has been vaccinated at least 2 weeks before boarding time. If traveling by car please remember to never leave your pet in the car alone, not even for 2 seconds.



Sunscreen and Insect Repellent

Do not apply any sunscreen or insect repellent to your pet.

Ingestion of sunscreen products can be very dangerous and cause all sorts of digestive problems such as: vomiting, loose stools, drooling, excessive thirst and even lethargy.



Matches and lighter fluid.

Some matches contain chlorates!

Chlorates if ingested can cause blood cell damage, difficulty breathing, even kidney disease in severe cases.

Lighter fluid is irritating to the skin, if ingested can cause gastrointestinal irritation and damage to the nervous system. If inhaled, it can cause aspiration pneumonia and breathing problems.



Do NOT leave dogs on chains.

As we mentioned above pets that are frightened by loud noises will panic and try to escape.

Don't leave dogs on chains where they could accidentally strangle themselves.

Chaining a dog is not only very dangerous for the animal but it is also against the law.



Water fun.

The Fourth of July is notorious for luring people to recreational water sources such as lakes, rivers, beaches and boating.

If your plans include being near water or on a boat, remember that although most animals naturally know how to swim not all are good at it.

Every year dogs drown, and it usually happens when they are in unfamiliar surroundings and cannot exit the water safely.

Please protect dogs with appropriate PDF water flotation devices that can be found at most pet stores and boat retailers.

Make sure your pet can get away from the sun , please provide a shady spot where your pet can cool off , as well as plenty of fresh water.



Keep citronella candles, insect coils, candles and oil products out of reach.

Ingestion can cause upset stomach and even central nervous system damage.

Oils when inhaled, can cause aspiration pneumonia in pets.

Please keep these products out of your pets reach, especially away from cats as these products are deadly for them.

Lit candles should be kept out of any pet's reach at all times.

Never leave lighted candles unattended and be sure they are securely anchored so they won't be dislodged by the swat of a paw or tail. Better yet, only use candles with domes or cylinders that enclose the flame.

You can secure candle holders by sticking up a little piece of double sided 3M tape.

HPR recommends using battery operated candles for festivities and holidays.



Fireworks..

Never ever use fireworks around pets.

Exposure to lit fireworks can result in severe burns and/or trauma to the face, paws and bodies of curious pets, even unused fireworks pose great danger.

Many types of fireworks contain substances that can be very dangerous and extremely toxic to pets, substances such as: potassium nitrate, arsenic and other heavy metals.



Plastic bags.

Plastic bags can suffocate your pets, DO NOT let them play in them or with them.



Senior and special need pets.

Please keep senior and special needs pets away from it all.

Whatever it takes, these pets need to be kept stress free and as calm as possible, too much stress can send these little ones over the edge.



Teach the children.

Many children specially little ones that open doors, tend to leave them open.

Give them the responsibility of closing doors all the way through and explain to them why!

“Because their beloved pet might escape if doors are left open.”

Candy, chocolate and human food are not to be share with Fluffy or Fido, they have their own candy.

Candy wrappers are for the garbage and no toys for Fluffy and Fido.

Collar with ID tags are not toddlers toys, they have to stay on Fluffy and Fido at all times.

Children are never too young learn, teach them well!

It will certainly ensure a better and brighter future for the animals.

Your pets maybe use to your toddlers but not your guest toddlers, please prevent guest toddlers from handling your pets.

Again keeping your pets confined is the best you can do for them.

Have a great time and enjoy the holiday festivities but while celebrating our independence and freedom of our country we should be respectful others, especially towards our family members that have no voice.



HPR wishes you and yours including all four legged ones a happy and safe 4th.of July.

Celene Albano

HPR Rescue CEO

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