



Holiday Weekend Hazards for Pets

Protecting Your Pet's Brain, Spine, and Nerves This Labor Day

Labor Day weekend is a time for fun, but celebrations can bring hidden dangers for your pet's neurological health. At SCAN, we want to help you keep your furry family members safe from emergencies involving the brain, spinal cord, and nerves.

Fireworks & Loud Noises

Sudden booms can cause anxiety and stress in pets. For pets with seizures or other neurological disorders, loud noises may trigger dangerous episodes.

What You Can Do:

- Keep pets indoors in a quiet, safe space.
- Use calming wraps or vet-approved medications for noise-sensitive pets.
- Never leave pets outside during fireworks—they may panic and injure themselves.

Holiday Food & Toxic Substances

Many holiday foods can affect the nervous system and overall health.

Avoid giving your pets:

- Onions, garlic, chives → Can cause weakness and lethargy.
- Alcohol → Can cause disorientation, tremors, and seizures.
- Xylitol (found in sugar-free gum & desserts) → Can cause severe low blood sugar and neurological collapse.
- Fatty meats & bones → May lead to pancreatitis, which can affect the brain.

SCAN Tip: Stick to pet-safe treats and keep human foods out of reach.

Heatstroke: A Neuro Emergency

Florida's Labor Day weather is hot and humid.

Overheating can cause:

- Brain swelling
- Seizures
- Confusion or collapse
- Permanent neurological damage

Watch for these warning signs:

- Excessive panting
- Trouble walking
- Lethargy or collapse
- Seizures

What to Do:

- Move your pet to a cool area immediately.
- Offer small amounts of water.
- Seek emergency veterinary care right away.

Travel Stress & Motion Sickness

Road trips and holiday travel can stress pets with neurological conditions.

Tips for safer travel:

- Talk to your vet about anti-anxiety or anti-nausea medications.
- Use secure carriers or harnesses to prevent injury.
- Never leave pets in parked cars—even for a few minutes.

When to Seek Neurological Care

Seek immediate care if your pet experiences:

- Seizures
- Sudden weakness or paralysis
- Loss of balance or coordination
- Disorientation or abnormal behavior

At SCAN, our board-certified neurologists are here to help with advanced diagnostics and treatments, including MRI, spinal surgery, and seizure management.

Labor Day weekend should be a time for celebration, not emergencies. By staying mindful of potential hazards, especially those that can impact your pet's brain, spinal cord, and nervous system, you can help keep them safe, happy, and healthy.

Your pet's brain, spine, and nerves are safe in our hands.

Contact Us

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