

# KEEP PETS SAFE THIS 4th of July

The 4th of July is a time to celebrate America's independence with family and friends. What better way to welcome summer than with good food, fun, and fireworks. However, it can also be a potentially scary and dangerous time for pets. Here are a few things to keep in mind to ensure this year's celebration is one that keeps your pets safe!

**Keep pets that are sensitive to loud noises and flashes of light away from windows.** Play soothing music, or other continuous white noise, throughout the house to help drown out the sound of fireworks.

Prevent burns by keeping pets away from fire. In addition to the burn risk, certain lit objects are also extremely toxic.

- ★ Charcoal Grills (including the charcoal, lighter fluid, matches)
- ★ Sparklers
- ★ Fireworks
- ★ Citronella candles

**Keep pet-friendly treats on hand.** To help minimize the temptation to snatch human foods, or for your guests to give "a little something extra" to your dog, keep a supply of dog treats on hand. Consider a food enrichment toy (such as a Kong) to help keep your pet safely occupied.

**Avoid feeding your pet human food.** Human foods have the potential to cause your dog to become sick and require medical attention. Be aware of:

- ★ Barbecued meats with bones, skin, or rubs containing garlic or onion
- ★ Chocolate
- ★ Any foods containing Xylitol (artificial sweetener), including gum and candy
- ★ Melon rinds, grapes, fruit with pits (ex. peaches)
- ★ Alcohol

**Keep dogs on a leash at all times and make sure they wear identification.** For their safety, dogs should be on a short but comfortable leash at all times. Even the best-behaved dogs can get distracted during social gatherings and wander off or jump up on grills and food tables. Fireworks and other loud noises may also cause a nervous pet to run and hide.

### Other Hazards

Be sure to keep these out of your pet's reach also:

- ★ Insect-repellent (candles and sprays)
- ★ Sunscreen
- ★ Swimming pool chemicals

