

Nashville Humane Association Offers Tips to Keep Pets Safe This Fourth of July

With the Fourth of July just around the corner, Nashville Humane Association would like to remind pet owners to take a few holiday safety precautions.

To protect your pet this Fourth of July, Nashville Humane Association recommends the following:

Resist the urge to take your pet to fireworks displays. Many pets become frightened and anxious because of loud noises or crowds.

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

Talk to your vet. If you know that your pet is seriously distressed by loud noises like thunder, consult with your veterinarian before July 4th to discuss ways to alleviate the fear and anxiety your pet may experience during fireworks displays.

Do not leave pets unattended outside under any circumstances. In their fear, pets who normally wouldn't leave the yard may escape and become lost.

Keep food and alcoholic beverages out of your pet's reach. Alcohol and certain foods and drinks – onions, chocolate, grapes, raisins, coffee, and others – can be extremely dangerous when ingested by pets.

Make sure your pets are wearing identification tags so that if they do become lost, they can be returned promptly. Be sure to check that your pet's tags include your correct contact information. Animals found running at-large should be taken to the local animal shelter, where they will have the best chance of being reunited with their owners.

In addition, the Nashville Humane Association would like to remind all pet owners not to leave pets unattended in cars for any period of time. With only hot air to breathe inside a car, your pet can suffer serious health problems, even death, in just a few short minutes. Partially opened windows *do not* provide sufficient air, but *do* provide an opportunity for your pet to be stolen.