



4th. Of July Tips for Keeping Your Pets Safe...

The 4th . .,

Fireworks going off all over the place, good smelling BBQ's, celebration gatherings and parties with great friends and family, etc. etc.

This is all great fun for us humans, but for our pets is indeed a traumatic day and true nightmare.

Below are some tips to keep your pets be somewhat comfortable and safe this upcoming 4th.

Fireworks

Never use fireworks around your pets, neither when lit nor un-lit.

The ONLY place for your pet to be is indoors in a quiet and safe room in the house during fireworks and parties; please resist the urge of taking pets to 4th. Of July festivities and parties, no matter if your pet is extremely easy going and laid back, these festivities are NO place for pets, period.

If you are having a party of your own, keep your pet confined to a room until your home is back to quiet – normal and all of your guest are gone.

Fireworks are not only loud, they are also dangerous and life threatening, there is just no other way to put it.

Fireworks contain chemicals and heavy metals such as chlorates, potassium nitrate and arsenic to name a few.

These chemicals and heavy metals if ingested can be harmful to your pets red blood cells, they can cause drop in potassium levels, serious gastrointestinal problems, seizures, kidney failure, jaundice, breathing problems, etc.

Aside from all of the above fireworks are very loud, this alone can put an enormous amount of stress on any animal, even the most laid back one will indeed be somewhat startled by the noise.

Aside from the noise fireworks pose a big risk of physical injury, burns, etc.

Having said all of the above, please put your pet in a escape proof quiet room on this day, shut windows and close blinds, turn a light or night light on, turn the music on, a little on the louder side, preferably tune the radio to a soft of classic tune, lock the room and throw away the key.

Just kidding, just hide the key in a place where you ONLY know where it is, so no other family member or guest will open the room and let your pet out accidentally.

Just do it, better to be safe than sorry.

Remember to put toys and familiar things to your pet in the room the pet is going to be in.

If your pet is very stress alcohol free rescue remedy may help cope with the stress, also a thunder shit could help too.

Alcoholic Drinks.

Keep alcoholic beverages attended and out of reach from pets. Pets and alcohol do not mix at all; alcohol is a poison for pets and dangerous.

Intoxicated pets can go into a coma, respiratory distress,

Animals can become very intoxicated, go into a coma and death can even occur when pets drink alcoholic beverages.

Some humans find it funny or cute when their pet gets into their beer or cocktail, some humans even try to encourage their pets to drink alcoholic beverages and even put these drinks in their pets water bowl for the pet to drink.

There is truly nothing neither cute nor funny about the above.

As in humans, when a dog or cat is exposed to alcohol, it causes depression of their central nervous system.

What happens when a dog or a cat is drunk: just like humans they become drowsy and loose coordination, if exposed to higher alcohol concentrations such as the levels found in hard liquor,

It will depress their nervous system causing the heart rate and breathing to slow down and the body temperature to drop.

Blood chemistry is also altered, leading to a dangerous condition called metabolic acidosis where the blood becomes too acidic. At this point, without treatment, death soon follows usually due to cardiac arrest. Even if a dog or cat doesn't die from the acute effects of alcohol poisoning, it can be harmful to their kidneys and liver.

Alcohol can also affect blood sugar in animals, blood sugar level can drop to dangerous levels, if this happens the pet will need glucose fast to avoid brain damage and or seizures.

So now that you know all of the above, keep those drinks off the floor, on the tables, off your pet bowl and far away from all pets.

Remember friends don't let pet friends get drunk. :)

Sunscreen and insect repellent.

Not matter how natural, these products are NOT for pets, even products that are specifically labeled for pets can be toxic to your pet.

Many products made for pets that the manufacturers claim to be natural and safe they are indeed toxic to pets.

Products contacting Citronella oil, Neem oil, etc. are indeed toxic to cats.

Check the labels, most OFF products, say clearly on the label TOXIC TO HUMANS AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS, I rest my ase.

If you use these products on you please wash your hands before petting any pet.

These products contain DEET, products containing DEET can cause neurological problems in animals.

If these products are inhaled (citronella candles and oils) it can cause aspiration pneumonia in animals.

We are HPR recommend Dryer Sheets for humans (not for pets) rub a dryer sheet on your skin, or keep one in your pocket, this will keep mosquitos away.

You can spray your pets with "Apple Cider" vinegar and water, this will keep mosquitos and fleas away for the time being.

One part of apple cider vinegar to ten parts of water, do not spray or rub on eyes.

Sunscreen product if ingested can cause vomiting, drooling, diarrhea, lethargy.

Please keep these products away from your pets at all times.

Heat Stroke.

NEVER EVER LEAVE AN ANIMAL IN A CAR UNATTENDED, even if the car is in the shade and even if it is just for a few minutes.

Cars can reach very high temperatures in a matter of minutes, this can be extremely life threatening for your pet.

Whenever outdoors always make sure to you place your pet in a shady spot with plenty of fresh water.

If a shady spot is not available be sure to bring with you and umbrella, small sun sail, etc. to provide shade for your pet.

If you are traveling by car and your pet is in a carrier please make sure that you always carry ice packs with you, so you can throw one in the carrier if the car becomes too hot.

Food.

Keep those table scraps away from your pet and instruct family and guests, to not feed your pet or pets no matter how cute their little faces get.

Keep an eye on little 2 legged human children, 9 out of 10 times, pet figure out that they are short people and that food is at good reach, also kids thrown most of their food on the floor and there is Fido to catch it.:(

Foods that your pet is not use to can lead to all sorts of digestion problems and some can be life threatening as some people food can be toxic to your pet.

Onions, grapes, raisins, chocolate, some nuts, avocados, coffee and foods containing a lot of fat can cause fatal pancreatitis and or be very toxic.

Corn cobs, bones, BBQ wooden skewers can cause obstructions leading and resulting in surgery.

Deserts made with Xylitol (sugar free sweetener) can cause acute drop in blood sugar levels, even liver damage.

Salt Water and Swimming Pool Chemicals.

Pool: Chlorine is safe at the levels used in swimming pools for humans, so yes your dog or cat can go for a swim if she or he chooses to do so, just make sure the chlorine levels are not high.

Having said that, when Chlorine is in the form of tables or powder, it can be very dangerous to not just pets, but to humans as well.

Chlorine in this form can cause corrosive injury, burns to the skin, mouth and eyes, etc. For that reason always keep your pool chemicals away and out of reach from your pets. Always rinse your pet with fresh water after a pool dip.

Salt Water: Make sure that if you are celebrating this 4th. On the beach or on the ocean (perhaps on a boat) make sure that you have with you plenty of fresh water to offer to your pet to drink.

If your pet drinks a lot of salt water a condition called hypernatremia can occur this is due to an elevated salt level.

Symptoms of hypernatremia are, diarrhea, excessive thirst, vomiting, lethargy, increased urination, seizures and even death can occur, if you see these symptoms occurring please take your pet to a vet as soon as possible.

Matches and Lighter fluid.

Keep these away from your pets at all times.

Most matches contain chlorates, as we mention above chlorate can damage red blood cells and respiratory distress as well as kidney damage in severe cases.

Lighter fluid, if inhaled can cause difficulty breathing and in some cases aspiration pneumonia, if ingested damage the nervous system can occur as well as gastrointestinal; distress.

Glow in the dark jewelry, candy and candy wrappers, etc.

Glow in the dark jewelry if ingested can cause intestinal blockage, gastrointestinal upset and excessive drooling.

Most pets are attracted to candy because it is sweet, but candy is loaded with sugar therefore it can cause gastrointestinal irritation.

Foil wrapping can also cause internal damage if ingested and sharp pieces of foil can cause serious damage to the esophagus and intestines.

Please keep all of the above away from all pets.

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