



**SEAACA** is releasing a helpful list of tips for pet owners to keep their pets safe this 4th of July and all summer long. The fireworks extravaganzas and daylong celebrations are summer highlights, but they can also pose serious problems and threats to dogs and other pets. With the holiday just around the corner, here is some smart and practical advice from SEAACA for the upcoming holiday and all summer long:

**1. Beware of fireworks:** Fireworks are no blast for many pets, with many cats and dogs becoming easily frightened by the deafening roar of rockets bursting in air. The best option is to leave your cat or dog indoors (not leashed in the yard) during the holiday weekend (July 3-5) in a safe, secure, escape-proof room of the house with comfy bed, food and water. Also consider leaving a TV or radio on to drown out the sound of the fireworks and to provide familiar noises while you're out.

**2. Confirm your pet's collar and I.D. information:** This effort is your dogs "Call Home". Dogs and other pets can become easily frightened by loud celebrations on the 4th of July. Make sure your pet is wearing a properly fitted collar with a current license in case he or she runs away from home. Micro-chipping also another method of identification, and verify information is up to date.

**3. Have pet records and I.D. information handy:** If your pet does go missing you want to be prepared. Having photos, vaccination records and micro-chip information easily accessible will help during your search process.

**4. Be careful with 4th of July decorations:** Remember that your pet may easily mistake your red, white and blue decorations and glow sticks as chew toys; cats can even become tangled in streamers and ribbon. Make sure to pet-proof your home and keep fun decorations out of a paw's reach.

**5. Call your vet:** If you think your pet needs to have a sedative to handle the fireworks noise and celebrations, contact your veterinarian.

**6. Watch the alcohol:** Alcoholic beverages have the potential to poison pets; never leave your beverage unattended. If alcohol is ingested, your pet could become very intoxicated and weak.

**7. No picnic table and grill scraps:** Always be aware of what friends and family are sneaking to your dog under the table. While tempting on such a festive occasion, human food (bones, onions, avocado, grapes and raisins) should be off limits at all times to your dog. Some human food may be toxic or dangerous if ingested and cause stomach upset.

**8. Never leave animals tethered or chained outside:** Pets can injure themselves if they jump around or leap over a fence while trying to run from the noises. Cats should stay indoors.

**9. Stay in the shade** Like humans, dogs and other pets can suffer from heatstroke. Keep your pets in shaded areas on very hot and warm days.

**10. Stay hydrated:** Dehydration is the #1 concern and danger during those long summer heat waves. Make sure you have a generous amount of fresh water on hand to quench your dog's thirst.