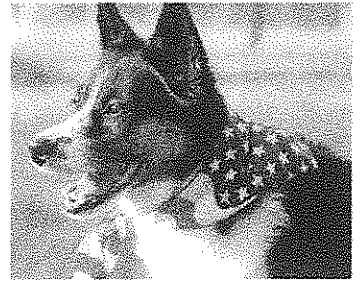


July 4th and Your Dog's Safety



July 4th is a proud day for America. Losing your dog on this day would surely make it unforgettable but in the worst way! Each year, animal shelters report they are flooded with lost dogs in early July. These are dogs which have run away, fearful of the loud noises, sights and sounds from fireworks.

My goal is to help prevent your dog from being one of those statistics. These safety tips can be useful throughout monsoon season, too, when scary weather can cause a dog to run away.

- Make sure your dog always wears ID tags. If your dog is microchipped, that's great, but it's not enough. The tags can be seen and read immediately after your dog is found. That can get your dog home faster!
- Keeping your dog inside your home is always best this time of year – this keeps him safe from both frightening fireworks and the intense heat.
- Keep your dog away from open doors, unless the door leads to a fenced area.
- Turn on some background noise such as soft music or TV to help distract your dog from outside sounds.
- Close windows, curtains and blinds to help block bright flashes and sounds.
- Have a safe place, den-like area in your home where your dog can retreat. Some dogs use a covered crate, while others may go behind the couch or under the bed to feel safe.
- In extreme cases, your dog may need medication to help him during scary times. Consult your veterinarian to discuss the best options for your dog.
- Do not take your dog with you to events or parties where there will be fireworks displays. For most dogs, it's just too stressful. If you can't stay home with your dog, have a family member, friend or pet sitter stay with them.