



Keeping Your Pet Safe and Secure on the 4th of July

As much as most humans enjoy fireworks and 4th of July parties, our pets do not. The Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center wants to make sure you know how to best care for your pets during what can be a very stressful time for them. They've gathered some tips from the Humane Society of the United States and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), that are dog-gone good to know:

1. Keep your pet away from fireworks.

Make sure you provide a quiet, low stress and secure environment.

2. Never set off fireworks next to or near your pet.

3. Don't leave your pet outside where it might be very loud, and don't leave your pet tethered with no where to go.

The combination of sound vibrations and restraint is very traumatic.

4. Never punish a pet for its reaction to fireworks; not only is this wrong but it will reinforce the fear.

5. Ask your veterinarian for help if your pet is scared by fireworks.

There are medications and techniques that might help alleviate your pet's fear and anxiety, not only for fireworks, but other loud noises like thunder.

6. Protect your pet from the dangers of heat during summer festivities.

You don't want your pet out in the hot sun all day as you stake out your spot on the Monument grounds (or anywhere else) to watch a public fireworks display.

7. Never apply sunscreen or insect repellent to an animal that is not specifically labeled for use by an animal.

8. Do not put glow jewelry on your pets or allow them to bite it.

The chemical inside is not highly toxic, but it can lead to gastrointestinal irritation and intestinal blockage if the plastic is swallowed.

9. Never leave alcoholic drinks unattended where a pet could get to them.

Alcohol has the potential to poison pets.

10. Your dog or cat should have a Montgomery County pet license.

That license is a great safeguard in case your pet gets scared, gets out and gets lost. The license tag will make it easier and faster for our Animal Services officers to return your lost pet home to you. Learn more at:

<http://bit.ly/1rGKVSx> .