

Keep your pets safe on the Fourth of July

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With the Fourth of July right around the corner, pet owners should be aware of the potential hazards to their pets over the holiday weekend.

Open doors at a backyard bar-b-que. Be sure that your pets are properly secured when you have guests in and out of your house so that your indoor cat or adventurous dog doesn't end up taking an unsanctioned tour of the neighborhood. To ensure that your pet will be reunited if he should escape, please make sure he is wearing a collar with tags and is microchipped and that your registration information is up to date.

Fireworks. Dogs, cats, horses, and even livestock can react to fireworks in ways that could potentially cause injury or even death. During the upcoming celebrations, keep small pets indoors. A good idea is to keep the pet in an interior room without windows. Turn on the TV or radio to provide some distraction. Never leave pets alone outdoors, even if in a fenced yard. It is not uncommon for dogs to escape or injure themselves in a frenzied attempt to escape. Again, make sure your pet has a collar with tags and a microchip identification, and the registration information is up to date, so that even if he does get loose, you are giving him the best chance of finding his way home.

Dogs at large. With all the activity of the holiday, it is possible that dogs will get loose from their leashes, homes, or yards. Please use caution with dogs at large as they could be frightened or stressed and may even bite. In a recent study of dog bites in Colorado, running at large was the single most common bite circumstance. Keep your family and pets safe and do not approach a dog running at large. (For more information about the study please visit www.livingsafelywithdogs.org)

Microchipping your pet is the best way to ensure you are reunited with your pet should he become lost this holiday weekend. Cats can be microchipped for FREE right now in the metro Denver area – visit www.chipyourcat.com to find out how. Dogs can be microchipped at your veterinarian's office or your local shelter.



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