

We Take
Them In.
You Take
Them Home.



Fourth of July and Inclement Weather Tips

This Fourth of July, many of us will celebrate the Holiday by taking to the roads or at home with friends and family. Many of us will also include our four-legged members in the celebrations. Instinctively, many of us may think it is a good idea to reward “Spike” with scraps from the grill or bring him along to watch fireworks. Let’s all practice pet safety this coming Fourth of July. ADL offers the following tips:

- **Do not use fireworks around pets:** Exposure to lit fireworks can severely burn or cause trauma to the face and paws of pets. Due to toxic substances found in fireworks, unused fireworks also pose a danger to pets if ingested. Be sure to keep your pets away from both lit and unused fireworks.
- **Fireworks displays are no fun for pets:** Resist the urge to take your four legged members to fireworks displays. We recommend that you keep them at home in a quiet area that is safe from the noise, sheltered and escape-proof. Many pets become startled and scared by the loud noise fireworks produce.
- **Bring “Fido” inside on the 4th or on any inclement weather days:** ADL always recommends that all pets be kept indoors, but in cases where this is not possible, be sure to bring your pet indoors on the 4th of July to avoid him or her going through undue stress due to the noise and this should be practiced in any inclement periods during the year (like hot/cold weather, thunderstorms, etc.).
- **Pets and Heatstroke:** Dogs are particularly vulnerable to heat stroke and should never be left outside in the hot weather for extended periods. Always provide your pet with plenty of good ventilation, fresh water and toys.
- **Never leave your pet in your vehicle:** Resist the urge to take your pet on errands. In the San Antonio heat, temperatures can reach triple digits in a matter of minutes, even if you park in the shade. Police and Fire personnel will break vehicle windows to rescue pets left in vehicles and pet owners can be charged with animal cruelty. Play it safe, leave your pet in the comforts of your home.
- **Keep alcoholic drinks away from pets:** If ingested, alcoholic beverages have the potential to poison pets. In severe cases, your dog or cat could become very intoxicated, weak and respiratory failure is also a possibility.
- **Keep Fido and Fluffy on their normal diet.** Resist the urge to give your pets items from the grill. Slight changes to their normal diet can give your pets indigestion and diarrhea. Older animals are more at risk to these dangers due to their delicate digestive systems. As a reminder, foods such as chocolate, coffee, and others can be potentially toxic to companion animals.
- **Sunscreen or insect repellent products not made for dogs and cats should not be used on animals.** Sunscreen products can produce drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, and lethargy to your pet. Insect repellents that contain DEET are also toxic to pets.

As a reminder, ADL recommends that your pet always wear a collar, identification tags and be sure to have your pet microchipped. These simple things may be their tickets home if they ever become lost or separated from you. Please consult your veterinarian if you have any other questions.