

# FEET & PAWS' FIREWORKS PET SAFETY GUIDE

**More pets get lost and end up in shelters on July 4th than any other time of year.**

Summer is full of BBQs, outdoor concerts, and, unfortunately for many pets, fireworks. It's because of this that so many pets get scared and run under, out, or over any door, window, or fence. They become lost and possibly end up in a shelter. However, with a little planning, you can protect your pets and keep them SAFE!



## #9 KEEP PETS INDOORS

Whether you're going out or staying in, keep pets in a safe, enclosed room, preferably one **without windows**. If you're having guests, keep pets in a room that's off-limits to them.

## #8 CREATE A CALMING ENVIRONMENT

Provide your pet with important essentials like plenty of food and water, as well as their favorite toys, bedding, and other comforting objects, like articles of your clothing. Minimize the sound coming in from outside by closing all doors, windows, and blinds/curtains.



## #7 PROVIDE AMBIENT NOISES

Turn on other sounds to help drown out the fireworks. Loud fan, music (with some bass) or a (disaster) movie, and the AC on are all a good start. You could even try putting a tennis ball with a few towels in your dryer.

## #6 MEDICATIONS, CHEWS, & OILS

After researching the options, consider using CBD oil, calming chews, and talking to your vet about prescription anti-anxiety medications.



## #5 THUNDERSHIRT

The patented design of this vest applies a gentle - constant pressure that can have a dramatic calming effect for over 80% of dogs. Your dog should be desensitized to wearing it **PRIOR** to fireworks season.

## #4 SHARE WITH YOUR GUESTS

If you have guests, let them know in advance where your pets will be and that that room is off-limits. Put up applicable signs on all gates and doors reminding your guests not to enter or to close the gate or door behind them (get both sides!). It just takes one guest opening the wrong door for your pet to get out!



## #3 SKIP THE PARTIES, STAY HOME

Skip the parties and stay home with your pets. Stream a movie and hang out together in a closet or bathroom. Extra tip: Be present for them without reinforcing/coddling their fears.

## #2 PRECAUTIONS & FIRST AID

- A) Not all pets are frightened by fireworks. However, they can still get hurt by them. Avoid potential burns, injuries, or possible ingestion by keeping all pets out of the vicinity of fireworks, both while and after they are set off.
- B) Pets should be with microchipped, licensed, and always wear a collar with tags that include your current address & phone number.
- C) Have a pet emergency kit on hand in your home and when traveling with your pet, like on vacation or to a friend's house.



**AND MY #1 FIREWORKS PET SAFETY TIP IS..**

## DESENSITIZE

Play videos of fireworks at a low enough volume that your dog shows **NO** signs of stress. Praise and treat your dog. Over time, increase the volume, only so much that your dog remains relaxed and begins to think, **'Yippee, that sound (and my calm behavior) means I get a reward!'**

**YIPPEE!**

Eventhough you may take every precaution, accidents happen. If your pet becomes lost, hang posters, post on 'Lost Pet' forums, look at your local shelters, and bike and/or drive around your neighbor.

**Need help with any of these tips?** Feet & Paws would love to help. I offer **private and group dog training classes**, as well as pack walks, personal training, & workout classes with your dog.

Find out more at **[www.feetandpaws.com](http://www.feetandpaws.com)**