

TO YOUR *Pet's* *Health*

KEEPING PETS SAFE *around Fireworks*

Dr. Nicole Porter, DVM



It's almost Independence Day! What a great time to celebrate our freedoms with family and friends, good food, and yes... fireworks. As much as many of us love our fireworks, a lot of our pets do not. Here are some things to think about to keep your pet safe during the firework season.

Some pets don't seem to mind the pop and bang and are in fact overly curious or even take the offense when it comes to fireworks. Some try to investigate what is happening by sniffing at the firework, or worse yet, they try to put it in their mouths. This could cause a variety of injuries to the face and mouth, or other parts of the body. It is never a good idea to have an exploding firework near your pet.

Other pets are downright terrified of the loud pops and bangs and try to find a good place to hide. If they are outside or in an unfamiliar environment, this could result in running off and becoming lost. Some are so terrified that even in the house they are trying to find a place to hide. This can lead to destruction and injury as well.

Here are some suggestions to help keep your pet safe during the firework season. Put your pets away - this can be in your house or in an enclosed kennel in a garage or outbuilding. Even if your pet seems to tolerate the fireworks, they

do not get the same type of enjoyment as we do from them. At best they are just enjoying spending time with you. By putting them somewhere enclosed, you are ensuring they are somewhere safe and do not unexpectedly run up to investigate an exploding firework.

If your pet falls into the category of being uneasy or terrified around fireworks, it is especially important to put them somewhere safe and enclosed. This will prevent them from running away, and hopefully prevent them from hurting themselves or causing destruction in your home. Find a nice quiet room and turn on some background noise to help drown out the sounds of the fireworks. If the pet is kennel or crate trained, this is an excellent place to put them. Sometimes dogs are so terrified they need some medication to help calm their fears. This is something to discuss with your pet's veterinarian.

The most important thing to remember is to use common sense when it comes to your pet. Think of them as a small child that does not really understand the dangers fireworks can potentially cause. By keeping your pet somewhere safe, you can then enjoy the fireworks and celebration without any worry. Have a happy and safe Fourth of July!



Blue River Veterinary Clinic, P.A.

Small Animal Veterinary Clinic

104 E. Commercial, Waterville
785-363-2222 | bluerivervetclinic.com
info@bluerivervetclinic.com