



Fourth of July Pet Safety Tips From the City of Burien



Discharging of fireworks in Burien City limits is against the law. This helps protect people and pets. Despite the local fireworks regulations, animal shelters and veterinary clinics see a spike in lost and injured pets the days before, during and immediately following the July Fourth holiday. Animals are more sensitive to the sound of fireworks and can become stressed and disorientated when they are going off. If you're a pet owner, please follow these important safety tips and avoid having your pet become lost or injured!

- Make sure your pets are wearing identification tags so that if they do become lost, they can be returned promptly.
- Never use fireworks around pets! While exposure to lit fireworks can potentially result in severe burns and/or trauma to the face and paws of curious pets, even unused fireworks can pose a danger. Many types contain potentially toxic substances, including potassium nitrate, arsenic and other heavy metals.
- Keep your pets indoors at home in a sheltered, quiet area. Some animals can become destructive when frightened, so be sure that you've removed any items that your pet could destroy or that would be harmful to your pet if chewed. Play soothing music as a good distraction.
- Resist the urge to take your pet to fireworks displays. In some locations, pets may not be allowed and they really prefer to stay at home.
- If you know that your pet is seriously distressed by loud noises like thunder, consult with your veterinarian before July 4th for ways to help alleviate the fear and anxiety he or she will experience during fireworks displays.
- Never leave pets outside unattended, even in a fenced yard or on a chain. In their fear, pets who normally wouldn't leave the yard may escape and become lost, or become entangled in their chain, risking injury or death.



SUMMERTIME PET SAFETY TIPS From the City of Burien



For many people, nothing beats lounging in the backyard with good friends and family—including the four-legged members of the household. While it may seem like a great idea to reward Rover with scraps from the grill and bring him along to all the summertime events, in reality some festive foods and products can be potentially hazardous to your pets.

- Do not leave your pet in the car. Cars act like an oven, even with windows partially opened. With only hot air to breathe inside a car, your pet can suffer heatstroke or a heart attack—even death—in a few short minutes. Partially opened windows do not provide sufficient air, but they do provide an opportunity for your pet to be stolen.
- Never leave alcoholic drinks unattended where pets can reach them. Alcoholic beverages have the potential to poison and kill pets.
- Do not apply any sunscreen or insect repellent product to your pet that is not labeled specifically for use on animals. Ingestion of sunscreen products can result in drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive thirst and lethargy. The misuse of insect repellent that contains DEET can lead to neurological problems.
- Always keep matches, lighter fluid and citronella candles out of your pets' reach. Certain types of matches contain chlorates, which could potentially damage blood cells and result in difficulty breathing—or even kidney disease in severe cases. Lighter fluid can be extremely harmful if inhaled, put on the skin or ingested.
- Keep your pets on their normal diet. Any change, even for one meal, can give your pets severe indigestion and diarrhea. Human foods such as onions, chocolate, coffee, avocado, grapes, raisins, salt and yeast dough can all be potentially toxic to companion animals.

For more information regarding reporting lost or found pets after 7/1/10, visit www.burienwa.gov/animalcontrol