



DR. G'S
ULTIMATE GUIDE TO A
SAFE AND FUN
FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY
FOR YOU AND YOUR PET



The 4th of July is approaching! Bringing your pet along? Leaving him or her behind? Dr. G's Ultimate Guide to a Safe and Fun Fourth of July holiday for You and Your Pet includes ALL the tips and tricks you need to know to make sure your pet is comfortable and enjoys the holiday as much as you do!

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1

LEAVING YOUR PET BEHIND QUESTIONS TO ASK BOARDING FACILITY

It's important to know exactly what your pet's routine will be while you are away. With so many options available now, you can find a great place for Fluffy and Fido while you are on vacation.

I personally enjoy vacation much better when I know that my pets are having fun and being pampered. Here are some questions to ask a boarding facility to ensure they're a good fit for your pet and family.

1. How many minutes will my pet allowed playtime each day?
2. Can I pay for extra sessions?
3. Can I pay for one on one time with a caring staff member?
4. Do you offer treats during the day?
5. Can I bring his special toys/blankets so he can have familiar smells with him
6. Can a team member take a picture of him and text me each day?
7. Do you have video cameras that I can log on to and watch my pet?
8. Is there someone who is in the yard supervising the potty breaks and play-time?
9. Who is in the facility overnight with my pet?
10. What time is the last walk? Often the last walk is at 6 pm and then morning walk is 7 am. This is too long for your pet to hold his bladder.

Always make sure your pet has an evening walk (between 8-9 pm). So while you are enjoying the beach and soaking up rays, make sure your pet is happy too.

2

BRINGING YOUR PET ALONG? DON'T ACE THEM!

Fourth of July may be scary for your pet, but don't "ace" them.

Acepromazine is a chemical restraint... BUT IT DOES NOT RELIEVE ANXIETY. So your pet will still be fearful or anxious while unable to move. Remember, to your dog, the experience of fireworks is different than other natural loud noises, like thunder.

Fireworks are closer to the ground, more vibrant, and are accompanied by sudden booms, flashes and burning smells. The typical July 4th celebration can be overwhelming to them.



3

FIND A FAMILIAR PLACE TO MAKE YOUR PET COMFORTABLE

If your dog does react badly to fireworks, try to arrange to keep her in a place where there won't be any loud displays, such as at a friend's or relative's house, or at a professional dog boarding facility with which your dog is familiar.

If the place is unfamiliar, Try to take your dog there a few times before the holiday so it won't be a big surprise when you leave her there on the day of.



4

EXERCISE BEFORE THE FOURTH OF JULY FESTIVITIES

If you can't arrange for your dog to be in a safe place away from the fireworks, then take him on a long walk before the festivities start in order to drain his energy, making him less likely to become excited when the fireworks go off.

By doing this, you will help decrease rapid brain movement so he will not be as concentrated on the noise

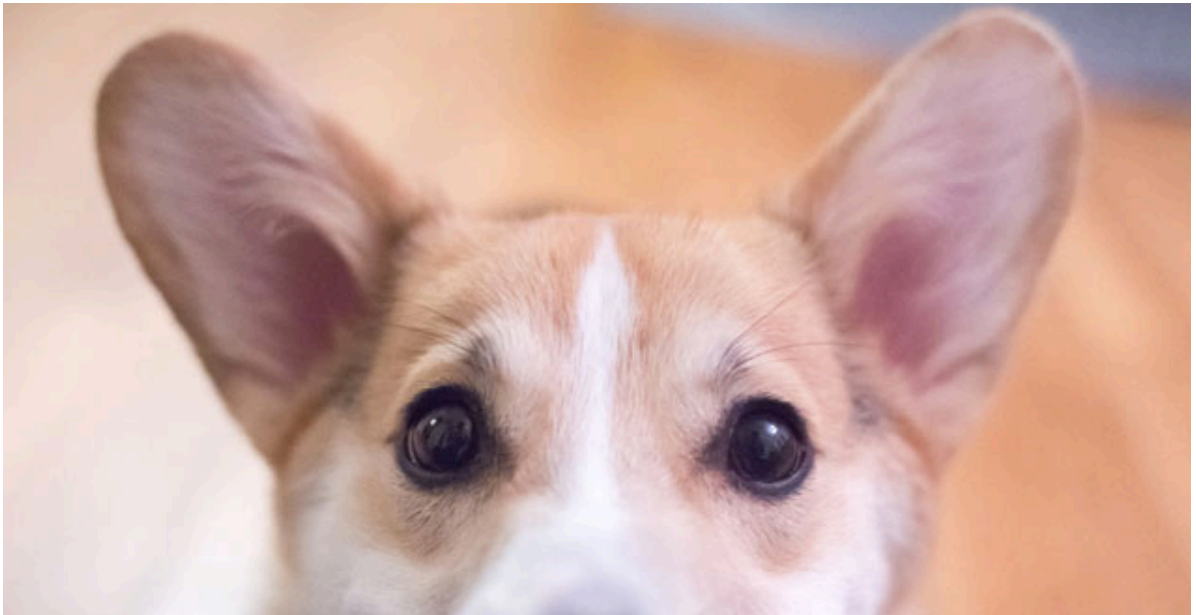


5

PROTECT YOUR PUP'S EARS

No, this doesn't involve putting a funny mask on your dog. Disguise the sound of fireworks by using dog-safe ear protection, like Mutt Muffs, which go over a dog's ears like headphones. Please do not use any kind of plug that goes inside of a dog's ear.

Since the openings are so much larger and deeper than in human ears, it would be very easy to lose an earplug inside, leading to a trip to the vet. Blocking the noise, though, may help minimize reactions to it. You can also try a noise machine (make several with calming spa music) or even just turning on the radio might help.



6

DISTRACT WITH TRICKS AND TREATS

When the fireworks go off, try engaging your dog in obedience behavior, having her do whatever tricks you've taught her for treats.

If you have a treadmill, now is a great time to have your dog walk on it — the forward motion will re-direct her brain away from the fireworks and focus it on the physical action.

Scent is another great way to distract your dog by engaging her nose.



7

STAY CALM LEAD BY EXAMPLE!

Most importantly, don't think of this in terms of your dog as your child who is missing out on a great, fun time. That's human guilt. Your dog won't know what she's missing. You're being a good leader by not exposing her to a situation that will trigger her flight instinct in a negative way.

When the booms and bangs of Fourth of July are over, your dog will be grateful to you for having made it a less stressful experience!



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Dr Ashley Geoghegan, affectionately known as Dr G, has spent a lifetime devoted to animal care. She graduated from LSU School of Veterinary Medicine and entered the U.S. Army as an officer. During her time in the military, she traveled the world while treating President Bush's guard dogs, bomb dogs, and search and rescue dogs. She believes these dogs are some of the finest soldiers in the military.

"My years in the military taught me invaluable lessons about treating acute (temporary) conditions, but it wasn't until I started my own mobile practice that I truly began to understand the need for alternative medical treatments for chronic conditions, especially in elderly pets," says Dr. G. This realization led her to Eastern veterinary medicine, and ultimately, her formal training at The Chi Institute under world-renowned holistic veterinarian Dr. Huisheng Xie.

Please visit www.vetnaturally.com and join the VetNaturally™ facebook page for innovative information about pet care. Although the VetNaturally™ clinic is located inside Mandeville Animal Hospital and works wonderfully with the MAH team, Dr. G welcomes referrals from all local veterinarians.

"Dr. G loves animals so much that she created VetNaturally™ and gives back to shelter pets in a big way. So, when you support VetNaturally, you're an advocate for shelter pets." - Jeff Dorson

"Dr. G and her team at VetNaturally™ are who I turn to when I want to ensure my pet's profoundly good health." - Julie Downing

"Find your pet's best health with VetNaturally™. Dr. G's unique approach to help my arthritic pets have kept them pain-free, without drugs." - Kendra France