

Media Release

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DoveLewis



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DoveLewis Doctors Prepare for Fourth of July Weekend

We're gearing up for our busiest weekend of the year at DoveLewis. The Fourth of July holiday is always a scramble for our medical staff to save the lives of pets who have gotten into trouble. Here are some tips to help keep all of our pets safe this time of year:

Protect Your Pets at Home, Inside & Out

Keep all of your pets inside when unsupervised. Even in a fenced yard, our doctors see patients who have jumped the fence, ripped up their paws trying to dig through wooden ones, or torn nails trying to dig under them. If pets successfully escape the yard, they risk being hit by cars, getting in a fight with other animals, or simply ending up lost, alone and afraid. Cats are also often targeted for abuse with fireworks. Make sure your pets have proper identification in the form of ID tags or microchips, so if they escape, you can be quickly contacted when they are found.

Even when they're inside your pets aren't 100% safe. Every year we treat patients who have jumped right through glass windows, or second-story screen windows and doors. A radio or fan can provide soothing background noise to drown out the sound of fireworks.

Firework Dangers

Fireworks in shiny packages can look like an appetizing snack and can be poisonous to animals. Also, although the risk is usually small, pets can be burned from falling fireworks and sparklers. Keep both used and unused fireworks away from pets.

Mild Sedatives

If you know your pet needs sedatives to get through the traumatic firework season, plan ahead and talk to your regular veterinarian about sedation, and get the proper prescription. If this is the first time you are using a sedative, you will want to work with your regular vet to test the dosage that works best for your pet.

Over-the-Counter Drugs

A lot of people ask us if they should give their pets Benadryl to sedate them. Just like people, Benadryl can either slow pets down, or make them hyperactive. You don't know how your pet will react to any drug until you test it on him/her. Ask your regular vet first.

Founded in 1973 as a non-profit organization, DoveLewis 24 Hour Emergency and ICU hospital treats nearly 15,000 animals each year and is supported by treatment fees and donations. The hospital is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year in NW Portland, as well as evenings and weekends at Plaza 205. Celebrating the human-animal bond, DoveLewis is known for its unique community service programs including the Stray Animal and Wildlife Program, Blood Bank, Animal Assisted Therapy and Education, and Pet Loss Support.