

# CITY OF MUSCATINE



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## KEEP PETS SAFE DURING FIREWORKS SEASON

**MUSCATINE, Iowa** – As Independence Day celebrations near, the City of Muscatine and the Muscatine Police Department's Animal Control Division remind residents to take extra precautions to protect their pets from the stress and dangers associated with fireworks.



While fireworks are a source of enjoyment for many people, they can be terrifying for pets. The loud noises and bright flashes can cause animals to panic, leading to increased risks of escape, injury, or destructive behavior.

"Every year around the Fourth of July, we see a spike in reports of missing pets," said Animal Control Officer Courtney Patel. "Dogs and cats may bolt through open doors, dig under fences, or injure themselves trying to escape the noise."

To help keep your furry friends safe, Muscatine Animal Control recommends the following tips:

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- Keep pets indoors during fireworks displays. Create a safe, quiet space away from windows, and consider using a crate or enclosed room where they feel secure.
- Turn on calming sounds, such as soft music or a TV, to help mask the noise from outside.
- Ensure pets are properly identified. Collars with ID tags and updated microchip information greatly improve the chances of a safe return if a pet does go missing.
- Avoid taking pets to fireworks events or displays, no matter how well-behaved they usually are.
- Speak with your veterinarian if your pet has extreme anxiety during fireworks. They may recommend medications or calming products.

If you find a lost pet or your pet goes missing, contact the Muscatine Animal Control Division at (563) 263-9922 ext. 229 or the Muscatine Police Department's non-emergency number. Photos and descriptions can also be shared on local lost-and-found pet pages on social media.

"We all want to enjoy the holiday, and that includes keeping our pets safe and stress-free," Patel added. "A little preparation goes a long way in preventing heartache."

For more information on pet safety or to report an animal concern, visit [Animal Control](#).

Find out more about protecting your pets during this holiday season by visiting the American Veterinary Medical Association by clicking on the following link [PET FIREWORKS SAFETY](#).