

The Hoof Print

Set Off Fireworks, Not Your Pets!



Fireworks can be fun for us, but pets rarely agree. If you think your pet may struggle with anxiety during your neighborhood's celebration, read these guidelines for making your pet more comfortable.

- **Be sure your pet has up-to-date identification.** Tags should have your last name and phone number including area code. Microchips are a more permanent form of identification that you should discuss with your vet (and it's also a great idea for hurricane season too!).
- **Exercise is key.** If your dog is nervous about loud noises, prepare by taking several long walks during the day, before the action begins. Take a trip to a park, spend a few hours in the pool, any fun activity that your dog enjoys. This will ensure that your pet is in a positive mental state, tired out, and has plenty of opportunity for nature to call, instead of on your bed (whoops!).
- **Provide a safe place.** Whether it's a kennel, a bathroom, or even a towel to lay on in the bedroom, allow your pet to have somewhere secure and quiet to escape. If you're hosting a party, make sure kids know to leave the pet alone when he/she is in "the safety zone." *Never force a frightened pet into this area!*
- **Keep your pet distracted.** Leaving a television or radio on may cover some of the scary booming noises outside. If you aren't participating in festivities, toss a ball around the room for your pup, or engage a playful kitty in a game she loves. Find something that your pet will find far more interesting than what's going on outdoors, and try to minimize noise by keeping doors and windows closed.
- **Give your pet some space.** If your pet is nervous, the least helpful thing is to spend extra time petting and comforting. While it may seem difficult to let your pet sweat it out themselves, as long as he isn't being destructive to himself (or your home), what we see as comforting will only reinforce the frightened behavior. Keep the routine as normal as possible, and try not to let on that anything is different. Staying calm will help keep your pet's stress lowered.

Above all else, keep your pets secured at all times! Make sure that indoor pets cannot gain access to the outdoors. If you feel the need to have pets outside, keep them leashed and know where they are at all times. *Never* let a pet too close to a bonfire or explosives. Prevent tragedy and keep your pet from becoming a statistic. After all, the Fourth of July is supposed to be a time of fun and celebration!

Important Dates for July

Friday, July 4th is Independence Day! Celebrate safely!

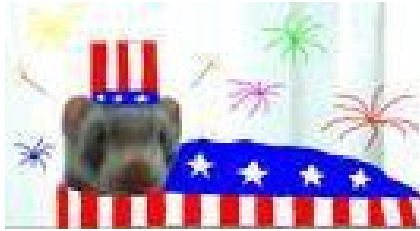
A Plus Pet Nanny will be unavailable from July 30th through August 1st. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Brandi. Thank you for your understanding!

Animal Heroes of American History

Animals have long played an important role in the way the USA has developed. Countless animals have served in wars, saved lives, and become well known American icons. Just for fun, here are some you may have heard of:

1. **Comanche** – The first horse to be buried with Full Military Honors was a mustang horse who served bravely in several battles, most famously, under General Custer’s command at the Battle of Little Bighorn. Comanche was one of several surviving horses from the battle, and was retired and made honorary Second Commanding Officer of the 7th Cavalry.
2. **Figure** – Figure was a small, hardy little horse born in the late 1700s, and known for his tenacity and athletic ability. From racing to hauling, this Jack-of-All-Trades in the horse world became the founding sire of a new American breed, which we know today as the Morgan (named for one of Figure’s owners, Justin Morgan).
3. **Cher Ami** – A homing pigeon by the name of Cher Ami became a hero during World War I when he helped to save the Lost Battalion in the Battle of Argonne. When the battalion of 500 men became surrounded by both enemy and friendly fire, Cher Ami was sent with a letter to notify allies of their location. His mission succeeded, and he was awarded with several medals upon his return.
4. **Sergeant Stubby** – The first dog to be promoted sergeant served 18 months in France during World War I was a pit bull by the name of “Stubby.” Sergeant Stubby served in the trenches, helping to boost morale, locating wounded soldiers, warning his unit of poison gas, and even warning soldiers to duck. Stubby returned to the US safely, and was the most highly decorated dog of World War I.
5. **Buddy** – In 1929, a young blind man named Morris Frank would make history with his female German Shepherd. Buddy was the first guide dog in America, and the inspiration for The Seeing Eye, the first U.S. guide dog school. Since then, approximately 14,000 dogs in America have provided more freedom for their human counterparts.
6. **Smokey** – Hotfoot Teddy is the original name of the black bear who inspired Smokey the Bear. Caught in a tree in the 1950 Capitan Gap Fire, Hotfoot Teddy was rescued and rehabilitated as a young cub, and his name was later changed to Smokey, making him the spokesperson of Forest Fire Prevention.
7. **Black Jack** – For 29 years, a Morgan-Quarter Horse cross served the United States carrying backward facing boots in honor of a fallen leader during over 1,000 military funerals in Arlington National Cemetery. He participated in the funerals for John F. Kennedy, Herbert Hoover, Lyndon B. Johnson, and Douglas MacArthur. When he passed away, he was the second (and last) horse to be buried with full military honors.

Pet of the Month
Patriotic Pet Photo Contest Winner!



Congratulations to Sinbad for winning the Patriotic Pet Photo Contest! Sinbad the Ferret had a bit of help getting into the holiday spirit, but makes for a great Uncle Sam! When he's not busy posing for photo ops, Sinbad enjoys finding buried treasure, being sure to tuck it safely away from any outside pirates!

If you would like your pet to be Pet of the Month, please send a photo and brief description of your pet to apluspetnanny@yahoo.com.

Honey, I'm Home!

As of July 1st, 2008, A Plus Pet Nanny requests a phone call or email upon your arrival home from vacation. If A Plus Pet Nanny does not receive a message, your pets will continue to be visited until one is received, and the extra visits will be billed to you. We want to ensure that your pets will receive the "A Plus" care that they deserve, even, and especially, in the event that you become delayed. Thank you again, for your cooperation in this matter!

New Key Policy

A Plus Pet Nanny will now be requiring two keys from all new and established clients. Backup entry keys are preferred, but a copy of the key A Plus Pet Nanny already has will suffice. If you are in an apartment complex, listing A Plus Pet Nanny on your complex's key list is highly recommended as well. The second key may be left during your next scheduled sit, or a copy of the one on file can be made for you for an \$8 fee. Please test **ALL** keys with the door **closed** to ensure proper function. Thank you for your cooperation!

Tip of the Month
Olfactory Stimulation

If you're looking to keep just about any mammal busy while you're at work, providing scent stimulation in the form of a food extract can help to keep their mind off of more destructive behaviors, like scratching up your favorite chair or chewing at table legs! Destructive behavior often indicates a lack of mental stimulation, and by awakening a seldom used sense, you may notice a happier pet and a more intact home!

To use this form of enrichment, rub some of the scent on your pet's toy or a piece cardboard (think empty paper towel rolls). A cat or ferret might enjoy a paper ball with a new scent. Some scents to try are lavender, orange, peppermint, vanilla, and rosemary. You may find that your pet is particularly attracted to one scent, but may loathe another. Experiment with a few to find some that your pet seems to enjoy, and rotate them out. You can even blend two scents together to create an all new scent!

Stick to food extracts versus essential oils. Be sure that the object you are "scenting" will not be able to be ingested, and supervise your pets with this activity before leaving them on their own!