

## 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY - YOUR CAT AND FIREWORKS

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Four of July is fast approaching and we know for a fact that a great number of cats are scared and can get easily spooked and startled by the noises of fireworks. The cat sense of hearing is much more acute than ours. So what do we need to do to help our little friend?

Make sure your cat does not have access to the outdoor on the evening of the fireworks. Check windows and flap doors.

If your cat is not microchipped, please make sure he is wearing a collar with some sort of ID tags. If your cat escapes, he will probably be very frightened and most likely to get lost.

Most cats will crawl into a **SAFE SPACE**; it could be under the bed, a cabinet, the bathroom or the closet. Whatever your cat chooses, let him be and do not try to pull him out of there. Your cat is trying to find safety and should not be disturbed.

If your cat is in the bedroom, draw the curtains or the blinds closed to reduce some of the bright flashes and noises from the outside.

Turn on some soothing relaxing music. Turn the volume up a bit so it can mask a little bit of the noises from the outside. Do not turn the TV on (some will do that). They might be showing fireworks on TV and that will not be very helpful in calming your cat.

Ignore fearful behavior. Do not try to hold your cat. Cats that are afraid and are restrained (held) at the same time, can easily become aggressive and turn on the owner.

If you are not going to be home during the fireworks, leave behind a T-shirt/sweatshirt or any piece of clothing with your scent on it. The scent will be comforting to your cat, even though you are not there with him.

You can give the cat some natural calming flower essence drops starting 30 minutes before the fireworks

Stay calm and act normally. Talk calmly and gently to your cat, even though he is hiding. If the cat sees that you are not scared and you are calm; it will know that he doesn't need to be afraid. Give praises only to calm behavior.