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1. Our Tip Section: Independence Day

Independence Day

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Ah, summertime! The aroma of hamburgers and hotdogs cooking on the grill and fireworks exploding in the background fill the air. The 4th of July can be a most festive time for family and friends to get together. However, one member of the family may not be quite as enthusiastic about this holiday; in fact, for most it can be fearful to say the least. Many pets can develop long-term and even lifetime phobias from the loud noise of fireworks associated with the 4th of July celebration. For these pets, this holiday turns into a nightmare. Many pets left outdoors will attempt to hide, jump fences and run to escape the noise. Depending on the community you and your pet reside in, there may not be laws governing how loud or high the fireworks may be. In fact, many pet owners find days before and after the celebration just as trying. While every dog's personality may be different, the pet owner should strive to make the pet as comfortable and safe as possible. Bring your pets inside. Look for creative ways in your home to drown out the sound from the outdoors. Playing the stereo or TV a little louder can help some pets. I have found even if the sound from outdoors can be dampened a little, the smell of the gunpowder is associated with this time of year for our one beagles, Penny. For this use a scented candle. Also, remember the curtains and blinds can be shut to block out flashes from the fireworks. Try to be calming to your pet, petting them and talking to them. Do not scold them for being scared. If your pet has a favorite place they like to go, let them go there to get away from all this as long as it is safely within your home, or create a safe haven for them.

If you would like to reprint this article for your newsletter or magazine, please contact us at [OurDogHouse](#)

2. Our Featured Product Section

The Custom Zone

This month we are featuring our custom zone. Thanks go out to OurDogHouse members, Riley and Theron and their humans for allowing us to show you some of the work we do. At the custom zone, our graphic designer can put your pet's image on any of the items that we sell. If you want a truly unique gift for that someone special, check out our custom zone today.

Link: <http://www.cafepress.com/ourdoghouse>

3. Dog-Gone Funny

Dog-Gone Funny

Do you have a funny story about your pet that you would love to share with the readers at OurDogHouse? If so, tell us all about it! Your work could be featured in an upcoming issue of News from OurDogHouse, plus you could win a mug with the breed of your choice on it. If you would like to send us your funny story, simply type it into an email. In the subject of the email, type pet story. No attachments will be accepted. Please provide us with your name and your pet's name. [OurDogHouse](#) Deadline for your funny pet story is July 20, 2005.

Thank you for taking the time to read this issue of our newsletter and for visiting with us. We appreciate your support. If you think this newsletter would be of interest to someone you know, please feel free to forward it along.

Have a safe and happy 4th of July holiday from OurDogHouse to yours!