

KEEP YOUR DOG SAFE ON JULY 4th!!!

Georgia Dog Gym knows that with the upcoming Independence Day Celebration, dogs across the country will react with fear and anxiety to all the firework celebrations.

The noise of fireworks can be extremely stressful for dogs. We recommend these top ten strategies to Georgia's dog owners, to help them through the Independence Day Holiday Weekend.

1. DO expose your dog to loud, unexpected noises on a regular basis, especially leading up to an event that includes firework celebrations. Drop pot lids, toss a soda can with a few pennies in it, slam a door: anything to get your dog accustomed to being startled, so he can practice recovering quickly.
2. DO NOT bring your dog with you to a fireworks celebration.
3. DO provide your dog with a safe, comfortable place that will help her feel more secure amid the scary sights and sounds. Close the blinds to keep out the flashes of color in the sky, and turn up the television or some music to help muffle the sounds.
4. DO NOT put your dog in a crate; a panicked, frightened dog can easily injure himself in a crate.
5. DO ask your veterinarian if an herbal remedy or prescription sedative may be appropriate for your dog.
6. DO consider giving your dog a highly valued chew toy before the fireworks celebration begins, which may help to keep her mind off the disturbance.
7. DO attach a "house leash" to your dog, to act as an extra long handle, should your dog try to escape or run away.
8. DO NOT comfort or "baby" your dog if he is afraid. Dogs take their cue of how to behave from their owners; if you are acting "strange" by offering soothing words and gestures, your dog may interpret your actions as praise for being frightened, or as confirmation that the fireworks are truly scary.
9. DO act as normal and as "matter of fact" as possible, to help your dog understand that there is nothing to worry about.
10. Most importantly, DO ensure your dog is wearing proper identification in case he manages to escape.

More dogs escape during holiday celebrations than at any other time. With a little preparation and an understanding of how to help dogs through their fears, dog owners can help prevent their pet from becoming a statistic this Independence Day weekend."



Georgia Dog Gym Class Schedule

Next **Basic Dog Training Class** Starts Monday, July 18th at 7pm. Cost is \$165.00

Next **Puppy Kindergarten** (Open to all healthy puppies less than 20 weeks old) starts Wednesday July 13th at 7pm. Cost is \$75.00

Dog Agility Class News

Georgia Dog Gym will soon launch a new dog agility program that will be bigger and better than ever! Right now curriculum plan changes are in the works and the new curriculum is designed to help students focus on their agility goals for their dogs. The courses that we will offer are designed to take students through more of a stepwise progression in offering the training required for their dogs to love and excel at dog agility. For the first time, we will be able to offer an Agility Foundation and Flatwork Class that will teach you and your puppy or young dog, all of the preliminary skills you need to know to be able to take on obstacles and sequences with ease when you move on up into more advanced coursework.

Course offerings and detailed information will be available on our website as soon as we have them.

Some examples of courses to look forward to are:

Foundation, Handling, & Flatwork- 8 Weeks

Jumping Training- 6 Weeks

Contacts and Weave Pole Training- 6 Weeks

Agility Sequencing Class- 6 Weeks

Agility Games- 6 Weeks

Rally Obedience

Our Rally Obedience Offerings will resume in the Fall and Winter. We will announce the dates for 6 Week Rally Classes soon and we will need at least 6 people in order to fill and run the classes.

