



Fireworks and Georgia Law

By Claudine Wilkins and Jessica Rock, Founders of Animal Law Source™

Fireworks have long been a colorful way to celebrate holidays in America. In 2015, Georgia passed a law that allowed the public to set off fireworks on their own. The problem with the loud explosives is just that though; they are loud, explosive and frighten animals away from their homes.

Changes to the Law

Fortunately, the concern for frightened pets has led to the recent changes in the fireworks law in Georgia. The hope for new time limits is to reduce the stress of animals, thus reducing the number of animals that may go missing.



When are fireworks allowed in Georgia?

O.C.G.A. § 25-10-2 fireworks may used during the following times:

- Any day from 10 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Any day from 9:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m., if allowed by county noise ordinance or permit;
- On January 1, July 3, July 4, and December 31 from 9:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.; and
- On January 1 from 12:00 Midnight to 1:00 a.m.

How do I report someone using fireworks not during the time allowed?

Call 911. Animal Control can be contacted next to ensure there are no frightened wandering animals.

Why are fireworks bad for animal control?

Firework-heavy holidays such as July 4th and New Years Eve drive many animals away from home leading many animal shelters to become overcrowded in early January and early July. During these times, the number of frightened strays can increase beyond shelter capacity. Without space and staff, shelters may be forced to euthanize.

How do fireworks affect animals?

Fireworks can be harmful to animals in many ways. They can:

- Cause an animal to run away from home and/or into a dangerous situation;
- Cause fear and anxiety in an animal;
- Cause damage to an animal's ears;
- Burn an animal, if in close proximity; and
- Cause failure of internal organs if ingested by an animal

Regulation of Fireworks
O.C.G.A. § 25-10-2.b.3

(B) Except as provided for in subparagraph (D) or (E) of this paragraph and subject to paragraph (4) of this subsection and Code Section 25-10-2.1, it shall be lawful for any person, firm, corporation, association, or partnership to use or ignite or cause to be ignited any consumer fireworks:

(i) On any day beginning at the time of 10:00 A.M. and up to and including the ending time of 9:00 P.M.;

(ii) On any day after the time of 9:00 P.M. and up to and including the time of 11:59 P.M. if such use or ignition is lawful pursuant to any noise ordinance of the county or municipal corporation of the location in which such use or ignition occurs, except as otherwise provided for under this subparagraph; provided, however, that a county or municipal corporation may additionally require the issuance of a special use permit pursuant to subparagraph (D) of this paragraph for use or ignition;

(iii) On January 1, July 3, July 4, and December 31 of each year after the time of 9:00 P.M. and up to and including the time of 11:59 P.M.; and

(iv) On January 1 of each year beginning at the time of 12:00 Midnight and up to and including the ending time of 1:00 A.M.

