

Pets and Rodents Can Cause False Alarms Cat Burglars on the Prowl?

Or was it just a cat that set off that motion detector?

Law enforcement is requested to respond to burglar alarms triggered by animals, birds, and insects many times per day. This response is costly and that cost, in many cases, is passed on to the owner of the alarm system through false alarm fees and fines. There are actions alarm users can take to reduce their risk of false alarms created by pets and pests.

These actions include:

1. Talk to your alarm company about installing pet friendly devices or changing your system design to accommodate pets. Often, upgrading your sensors can be less expensive than a fee or fine imposed by your municipality for a false alarm. It is important to know that depending on the size of your pet, some of these sensors may not function as intended. Be sure to discuss the height and weight of your pet before purchasing these devices.
2. Check with your alarm company to determine if another option, such as cross zoning, will work for you. In this case, your monitoring center will not dispatch on motion alarms unless they also receive a separate entry alarm.
3. Another option is Enhanced Call Verification. Enhanced Call Verification is an alarm monitoring procedure requiring that a minimum of two calls be made to two different alarm user telephone numbers prior to requesting public safety dispatch. Typically, one of the phone numbers is the alarm user's cell phone. Provide your monitoring center with a cell and work number where you can be reached, and request that they make a second call if the first call is unanswered. You can decide if a response is needed based on the signals the alarm company received.
4. If law enforcement has already responded and found no evidence of criminal activity, consider calling your monitoring center and have them disregard further motion alarms until you have determined the cause of the activations.
5. Contact your alarm company; they'll be happy to work with you to provide a solution to reduce your risk of false alarms.

