

False Alarm Prevention



Information for Alarm Users

Provided as a Public Service by the False Alarm Reduction Association- www.faraonline.org



False Alarms, Pets and Rodents 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 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 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 an entry alarm.
- 3. Another option is Enhanced Call Verification. Provide your monitoring center with an off site number where you can be reached before they request response from law enforcement. 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 an actual or attempted break in, consider calling your monitoring center and have them disregard further motion alarms until you have the problem corrected.
- 5. Contact your alarm company; they'll be happy to work with you to provide a solution to reduce your risk of false alarms.

