



False Alarms: Pets and Rodents

Cat Burglars on the Prowl?



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

Many times a day the police department dispatches an officer to an alarm triggered by a family pet moving throughout the home. Rodents, spiders and even geckos climbing on the sensor can also trigger motion detectors. As an alarm user, what can you do to reduce your risk of a false alarm without giving up the comfort and security you enjoy by having an alarm system?

There are steps you can take to avoid false alarms created by pets, rodents, spiders, and yes, even geckos.

- 1 Talk to your alarm company about installing pet friendly devices or changing your system design to accommodate pets. Often times upgrading your sensors can be less expensive than a fine imposed by your municipality for a false alarm.
- 2 Check with your alarm company to determine if another option would include cross zoning – your monitoring center will not dispatch on motion alarms unless they also receive an entry alarm. For example, a motion alarm received with a door or window alarm.
- 3 Another option is to try second call verification. Provide your monitoring center with an off site number where you can be reached before dispatching the police. You can decide if the police need to be dispatched based on the signals the alarm company received.
- 4 Contact your alarm company; they'll be more than happy to work with you to provide a solution to reduce your risk of false alarms.

