

False Alarms, Pets and Rodents Cat Burglars on the Prowl?



Many times a day the police department dispatches an officer to an alarm triggered by a pet or critter moving through the home or business. Rodents, spiders and even geckos climbing on the sensor can 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. If you have pets, talk to your security alarm company about installing pet friendly devices or changing your system design to accommodate pets. Oftentimes upgrading your sensors can be less expensive than a fine imposed by your municipality for a false alarm.
2. Check with your security company to determine if another option would include cross zoning – adding additional motion detectors so each area is protected by 2 detectors or devices. If cross zones the central station will not dispatch on motion alarms unless they also receive a second confirming alarm from a second device in the area. U.L. inspects and tests equipment for false alarm immunity to the CP-01 Standard. Burglar alarm equipment designed to meet the CP-01 Standard have a built-in feature called “cross zoning” which can be programmed to connect 2 detection devices in each area of your home or business. The panel will not send an alarm signal to the central station unless it gets an alarm condition from both devices in a given area. If rodents or birds are a problem, cross zoning may be your best solution.
3. Absolutely ask your alarm company or central station to provide multiple call or second call verification. Provide your security alarm company with a cell phone number or 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 that the central station received.
4. Contact your security alarm company. They will be more than happy to work with you to provide a solution to reduce your risk of false alarms.