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June 30, 2011

Keeping your pet safe on the 4th of July

Fourth of July Safety for Pets

4th of July is a great time for celebration, but can be very terrifying for animals, particularly family pets. The sound of fireworks, an integral part of Independence Day can make animals very nervous and fearful, which can make them run away or hurt themselves in their efforts to find safety.

Keep your animals safe on the 4th with these tips:

- Keep pets indoors and away from crowds so that they feel more protected. The loud noise can make dogs try to dig out of their yards, so keeping them inside is recommended.
- Turning on the television or creating indoor noise might help as a distraction to mask the sound of fireworks.
- If you are traveling, you may consider boarding your pet in a safe place versus leaving them home alone.
- In severe cases, your veterinarian may choose to prescribe a sedative for your animal if it tends to become easily spooked by the fireworks.
- The 4th of July is also a good time to make sure that your pet is wearing an ID collar and is micro-chipped. Pets should always be wearing an ID tag, it is the easiest way to ensure your pet is returned to you should they become lost.
- Keep pets away from fireworks, matches, lighter fluid, as well as the food and drinks (including alcohol) that may accompany 4th of July celebrations.

If your pet does become lost:

- Check the neighborhood or area where the pet was lost. Pets have been known to be found close to home even several days later. Put up signs with your pet's photo and your phone number.
- Contact your local animal care services to complete a lost pet form.
- Contact your microchip registration company. Once notified, they may activate a lost pet recovery network and/or place your lost pet on a "hot sheet."
- Contact your veterinarian. If your pet is wearing a rabies tag, the number can be traced to your veterinarian.
- Contact animal control, shelters and the SPCA in your area to complete a lost pet form. Daily visits are recommended to see if your pet has been brought in. The regions shelters will be closed on the 4th and 5th, so make sure to check on July 6th in the event you lost your pet.
- Place a lost pet ad in your local newspaper and/or online.
- Check the paper daily for "found pet" ads.

Sacramento City Animal Care Services is conveniently located at 2127 Front Street, Sacramento, CA 95818. You can reach Animal Care 24/7 by dialing 311 or 916-264-5011 or Non-emergency email for shelter services is available by writing to: 311@cityofsacramento.org.

Customers interested in visiting our web site to search for lost pets or potential new pets should go to: <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/generalservices/animal-care/>

Shelter Hours:

Wednesday – Friday

12:00 – 5:30 pm

Saturday – Sunday

12:00 – 5:00 pm