



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Animal Safe 4th of July

The Santa Barbara County Animal Services Department wishes everyone a safe and happy 4th of July holiday, and reminds pet owners that many domestic animals are frightened by fireworks. Each year, hundreds of animals are lost as a result of noise related to Independence Day celebrations.

Below are some simple suggestions to help ensure the safety of your pets.

- **Do not bring your pet to a fireworks display.**
- **Keep them inside.** Bring indoor/outdoor cats and dogs inside. Set up a nice quiet spot in a windowless room, if possible, or keep them in a carrier or kennel. A frightened dog will find a way to escape and a tied up dog may strangle itself trying to get away.
- **Leave the TV or radio on to distract them;** soothing noise may help keep pets calm.
- **Walk Fido before the fireworks start.** If you must take your dog out during the fireworks, keep him on a leash, and avoid ground fireworks to prevent injury or fright.
- **If your dog or cat is especially noise sensitive,** consider having someone stay home with them, taking them to a boarding facility or discussing tranquilizers with your vet.
- **License and tag your pets** with your current address and phone number.

If your cat or dog does run away, there are several steps to take. Visit your local animal shelter in Santa Barbara, Santa Maria or Lompoc. County animal shelters will be open on Saturday, July 4th and they will be closed on Sunday, July 5th. If your dog or cat is not there, be persistent and keep checking back, it might take several days for them to arrive. Make and post flyers in your neighborhood with a current photo of your pet and a phone number where you can be reached and place a lost pet advertisement in the paper. Help make sure this 4th of July is a safe and fun holiday for both you and your pet.

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