

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Have a Happy Fourth of July with Pet Safety Tips from spcaLA *Declare Independence from Missing or Injured Pets*

Los Angeles, CA – Firework displays and parties are American traditions on the Fourth of July, but pets can sometimes be startled by all the commotion of visitors and loud noises. Every Independence Day shelters fill with lost and injured pets. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles (**spcaLA**) recommends taking these simple precautions to keep your pet happy and safe this July 4th:

- Dogs and cats should be microchipped and wear current I.D. tags at all times. This is the best way to ensure a happy reunion if your pet goes missing.
- Are you planning on attending a fireworks display? Even if you're not, leave the family pet at home, where he will be safe, secure, and less-stressed. Loud noises from fireworks can cause a dog to jump a fence and run away from home, or a cat to hide for days. Keeping your pets indoors and secure will also keep them from dangerous roadways.
- If you're hosting a party, keep your pet in a cool, well-ventilated room with a radio playing softly in the background. Include your pet's favorite toys and pet bed for comfort. Do this as well if you are going out but your pet is staying in.
- Do not tie your dog up outside to keep him from escaping. The loud noises from the fireworks can frighten your pooch making him more likely to attempt to flee. Dogs can seriously injure themselves, or even die, trying to escape.
- Educate children to not scare pets with firecrackers or sparklers.

Backyard barbeques are fun for the family, but dangers lurk for curious pets. Keep alcoholic beverages, lighter fluids, matches, and insect repellents like citronella candles away from your pets; each can be toxic or deadly when ingested or inhaled. If your pet requires sun protection, only use sunscreens intended for animals. Some foods are toxic for dogs like chocolate, onions, tomatoes, avocados and grapes. Cooked bones can splinter and be fatal.

Follow these precautions for a festive Fourth of July!

For more information please contact Ana Bustilloz at 323.730.5300, x252 or cell 323.707.1271, abustilloz@spcaLA.com

Established in 1877, spcaLA is an independent, nonprofit animal welfare organization serving Southern California. There is no national SPCA, parent organization, or umbrella group that provides financial support. Donations run programs and services including Cruelty Investigation, the Disaster Animal Response Team, Humane Education and a variety of shelter services.

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