

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

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Pets + July 4 Fireworks=Tragedies

There are two very good reasons to keep your pet indoors and calm this Fourth of July, says the Placer SPCA. Number one is the sad fact that dogs and cats become terrified and disoriented from the loud noises and flashes. “We expect an increase in lost dog and cat calls after every Fourth,” says PSPCA Chief Executive Officer Leilani Vierra. “The calmest animal goes berserk with fear, runs away from the source of the fireworks, and may not come back soon, if ever.”

The second reason to keep animals inside during this fireworks season is more sinister: Several years ago, the Placer SPCA was successful in aiding in the conviction of two juveniles who strapped fireworks to a young cat, blowing a large hole in its neck. The cat, with immediate veterinary care, survived. “Fortunately, our hotline and reward helped catch and convict the guilty” said Vierra. “But we don’t want any other animals exposed to that kind of risk again, and it happens across the country each year” she added.

The Placer SPCA offer ideas on some things you can do to make the Fourth a pleasant day for your animals are: Make sure your dog or cat has an ID tag and collar. Microchipping is also recommended, the Placer SPCA offers low cost microchipping services to pet owners. Bring your animals inside for several days before the 4th of July and especially that day. "Put them in a quiet room, with some of their familiar toys or beds. Soothing music helps, too. It seems to tell the animal that all’s well, despite the occasional loud noise,” said Vierra.

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