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More American Pets Run Away on the 4th of July than Any Other Day

Encinitas, CA – **There's nothing independent about Independence Day for a family whose pet has run away. Your Rancho Coastal Humane Society reminds owners that more American pets run away on the 4th of July than any other day.**

“The solution is prevention,” says RCHS spokesman John Van Zante. “Pets don't like fireworks, even if it's neighborhood firecrackers. It's loud and confusing. It echoes. No matter where they run, there's more noise...so they keep running.”

Van Zante cautions people NOT to leave pets outdoors...even in a fenced yard. “A small dog can climb a tall fence if it's scared enough. Leave pets indoors in a secure area. Turn on the radio or TV. Some pets need medication to deal with the stress.”

Many pets escape by pulling out of their collars. If they don't have a microchip, they have no identification. Use a collar AND a microchip with current, accurate information.

If your pet does run away on the 4th of July, Van Zante says, “In the city of San Diego, call the San Diego Humane Society. If your area is not served by them, contact the County of San Diego Department of Animal Services. Be patient. It's their busiest day of the year. Post a notice with photo on Craig's List, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. Give enough, but not too much information.”

Be careful if you FIND a lost pet. It's probably scared. If it has a collar and identification, contact the owner. If not, get it into an enclosed area and contact County Animal Services or San Diego Humane Society.

“4th of July picnics can be dangerous for pets,” adds Van Zante. “It's hot, they beg, and they bark. People put them in a hot car or tie them to a bumper. Emergency hospitals treat dogs who burn their paws on hot coals, touch their noses to grills, choke on chicken bones, and swallow kebab skewers. Leave them home.”

RCHS warns owners that dogs can burn their paws on hot sidewalk, pavement, or sand and that a dog can over-heat at the beach, as well as anywhere else. Make sure that your dog has access to shade, something safe to stand or lay on, and plenty of water.

For more information about keeping pets safe during the 4th of July log on to sdpets.org.