

For Immediate Release
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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 want to watch fireworks. 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. For the rest of the county, 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 visit Rancho Coastal Humane Society at 389 Requeza Street in Encinitas, call 760-753-6413, or log on to sdpets.org.

More American pets run away on the 4th of July than any other day.

- * Some find their way home. Many don't.

Keep your pets in a safe, secure place so they can't escape.

- * Dogs don't want to watch fireworks. Leave them home.
- * If YOU go...don't leave pets in the yard...even pets usually left outside need to go inside during fireworks.
- * Turn on the Radio or TV to mask the sound.
- * Some pets need medication to deal with the stress.

Identification:

Many pets escape on the 4th of July by pulling out of their collars.
If they don't have a microchip, they have no I.D.
Use a collar AND a microchip.

Picnic and Barbeque Safety:

Don't take your dog to your picnic. It's hot, they beg, they bark, they're not happy. People end up putting them in a hot car or tying them to a bumper with no shade. Leave them home.

Dogs are injured stepping on hot coals, touching noses to grills, eating chicken bones, swallowing kebab skewers, drinking beer, etc.

Still going to take your dog to the picnic? Make sure it has shade and water.

If your pet DOES get away:

Contact the Department of Animal Services. In the city of San Diego contact the SD Humane Society. (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 information, but not too much.

If you FIND a lost pet:

Be careful. It's probably scared.
If you can contact the owner, great!
If not, get it into an enclosed area and contact Animal Services or SDHS.

A couple other things to be aware of:

- * A dog can burn its paws on hot sidewalk, pavement, and sand.
- * A dog can over-heat at the beach, as well as anywhere else.

Your Rancho Coastal Humane Society will be closed on July 4th. Come visit our kennels and cattery when we re-open at 11:00 AM on Friday the 5th.

