

For Immediate Release  
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**It Can be Dangerous! Don't Ignore New Year's Eve Safety for Pets.**

Encinitas, CA -- **Whether you got a new puppy or kitten for Christmas, or you want to protect your current dog or cat, your Rancho Coastal Humane Society (RCHS) in Encinitas is sharing a few rules to help keep them safe on New Year's Eve.**

"More pets run away on New Year's Eve than any other time of the year, except the 4<sup>th</sup> of July," says RCHS spokesman John Van Zante. "With the commotion, guests, and midnight commotion, pets look for a safe place. That could be under the bed, or out the door and down the street, where they just find more noise, so they keep running until they don't know where they are."

**Tips to keep your pets safe (and home) on New Year's Eve include:**

- \* Provide them with a crate or other safe place away from the party.
- \* Make sure they have food and water....and NO table food.
- \* Remind your guests NOT to feed your pets.
- \* NO ALCOHOL!
- \* Keep pets away from the holiday decorations.
- \* Even during the party, dogs need "potty breaks."
- \* Don't put them in the yard and forget about them.
- \* Watch out for "door dashing" as guests come and go.
- \* If you're going to go out on New Year's Eve, leave the TV or radio on.
- \* Have your pet micro-chipped so it can be identified if it escapes.

Families that got new pets for Christmas have been trying to get them into a routine with consistent behavior. Van Zante says New Year's Eve can jeopardize the training. "Your guests will be there for a few hours, but your pet will be with you for the next 10 to 15 years. Ignoring your pet's routine or allowing guests to teach it bad habits could impact the rest of its (and your) life. Keep your best friends...animal and human...safe this New Year's Eve."

The adoption kennels at RCHS, 389 Requeza Street in Encinitas, are open by appointment everyday from 11 to 5, but will close at 3:00 on New Year's Eve and be closed New Year's Day. For more information call RCHS at 760-753-6413 or log on to [www.sdpets.org](http://www.sdpets.org).

## **New Year's resolutions for you and your dog**

### **During the coming year I resolve to:**

- #1: Make an appointment for a veterinary exam
- #2: Make sure that my pet has been spayed or neutered
- #3: Make sure that my pet has a microchip identification
- #4: Check the condition of my pet's toys for safety
- #5: Check the condition of my pet's bed
- #6: Determine whether my pet (and ME) need obedience training or a "refresher"
- #7: Check the condition of my pet's leash and collar
- #8: Check to see if my pet's identification tag can still be read
- #9: Make sure the information on my pet's ID tag and microchip registry is accurate
- #10: Update emergency contact information with my family, my vet, and my neighbors
- #11: Confirm that my pet will be cared for if I am unable to do so
- #12: Make sure my house, yard, garage, etc. are safe for my pet
- #13: Take my dog for at least one more walk per week
- #14: Investigate "pet health insurance"
- #15: Start a "pet emergency fund" then only use it for "emergencies"
- #16: Take more pictures "of" my pet and "with" my pet
- #17: Hire your dog as a "personal trainer" and exercise partner
- #18: Spend more "snuggle time"
- #19: "Pay it forward" by volunteering or supporting a shelter or rescue group
- #20: Remember that every day with my pet is a blessing....and enjoy it while I can