



PRESS RELEASE

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Please Keep Your Pets Safe and Protected this Independence Day!

LONG BEACH, Calif. – The Fourth of July is one of the busiest times for the County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC). DACC would like to remind pet owners that extra precautions are necessary in order to protect pets during Fourth of July celebrations. “Fireworks can be terrifying for many pets, who may panic, harm themselves, or run away said Marcia Mayeda, Director of DACC, which counts the 4th of July and the days that follow as the busiest days of the year. “Pet owners are not always aware that their pets may react to the sounds and bright flashes of fireworks. This can trigger the fight or flight instinct.”

To ensure the safety of your pets, here are a few tips:

- Make sure your pet has a collar with an ID tag on it. Include a phone number where you can be reached. Get your pet microchipped so if they do get out and a vet clinic or animal shelter picks him/her up, they can contact you. Make sure you have a current picture of your pet in case they are lost or separated from you.
- Your pets may want to hide; allow them access to a room away from windows.
- If your dog is outside, make sure all gates are closed and locked and fencing is secure. Your dog may try to escape if they become startled.
- Do not take your pets to community fireworks events. Most events do not allow pets. The noise and other activities at these events can easily surprise and frighten your dog or cat.
- If you are leaving town for the weekend and cannot take your pets with you, make sure you leave them with someone who will be cautious during the Fourth of July celebrations.

If your pet does get out of the yard or is lost, post flyers in your neighborhood and check all nearby shelters. For more information and details about what to do if your pet is lost, please visit our website at animalcare.lacounty.gov/tips-about-lost-found-pets.

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