



BRADSHAW ANIMAL SHELTER  
SACRAMENTO  
COUNTY

## Protect your pet during July 4<sup>th</sup> activities by taking these precautions

- **Make sure your pets are microchipped AND wearing identification tags so that if they become lost, they can be returned promptly.** Animals found running at-large should be taken to the nearest animal shelter, where they will have the best chance of being reunited with their owners.
- **Keep your pets indoors!** When possible, it's always best to be at home with your pets to calm their fear. If you cannot be with them, provide a secure, calm area, and leave a radio or TV on at a higher than normal level to help buffer the sounds and keep them company. Note that some may become destructive when frightened, so be sure that you've removed any items that your pet could destroy. Others may even break through windows to escape.
- **Never leave pets outside unattended, even in a fenced yard (or tied up).** Pets that normally wouldn't leave the yard may look for any means to escape out of sheer panic, risking injury or death. It is not uncommon for collars, chains or ropes to become entangled on or around fences or trees, resulting in hanging.
- **DO NOT take your pet to fireworks displays, big or small.** You're asking for trouble, as most pets have a very strong fear of loud, sudden noises which is likely to evoke a "flight or fight" response. Fireworks can cause true terror in a pet.
- **DO NOT leave your pet in the car.** With only hot air to breathe inside a car, your pet can suffer serious health effects, even death, in just a few short minutes. Partially opened windows do **not** provide sufficient air, but **do** provide an opportunity for your pet to be stolen.
- **If you know that your pet is seriously distressed by loud noises, consult with your veterinarian before July 4<sup>th</sup>** for ways to help alleviate the fear and anxiety he or she will experience during fireworks displays.
- **If you plan to go away for the holiday,** ensure your pet's safety by boarding them with your vet's office or a boarding kennel. If you use a pet-sitter, be sure they also now how to protect your pet during July 4<sup>th</sup> activities.



**Follow these simple precautions to ensure you and your pet have a safe and happy holiday!**