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June 24, 2009

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Ease Your Pets' Fear of Fireworks**

While the Fourth of July is a time for fireworks and celebration, for many pets and their owners it can be a time of anxiety. The loud noises, flashing lights and smell of sulfur can cause excessive fear in pets.

Pets should not be included in celebrations that involve fireworks. Fireworks can cause injuries and burns in people as well as pets. For example, unsupervised pets can eat or chew unattended fireworks, causing injury and illness. Frightened pets may break leashes, jump fences, run away, or if too scared, may bite someone. Even if your Fourth of July does not include fireworks, pets may become frightened by noises from neighborhood celebrations.

Here are a few tips to keep your pet calm and safe this Fourth of July:

- **Leave your pets at home.** Do not bring pets to the party. They may become frightened and run away or cause injury to themselves and others.
- **Keep pets indoors.** Whether you go to a party or stay at home, bring pets inside away from loud noises. Turn on the television or radio to mask the noises. A quiet place, such as a carrier in the house, may provide your pet with a sense of security and comfort. Never leave pets unattended, even in a fenced yard.
- **Make sure all pets are wearing current and correct identification.** Pets should have proper identification tags in case they run away or get lost. This will be very helpful for local authorities.
- **Consult your veterinarian before the holiday for help and advice to keep your pet safe and calm.** If your pet trembles, drools, or displays other distressful behaviors during fireworks or thunderstorms, talk with your veterinarian.

- **Do NOT leave pets in a car at any time!** Even if you are in the shade with the windows open. The inside of the car can heat up very fast and the consequences can be disastrous.

Plan ahead, talk with your veterinarian and be safe this Fourth of July.

For more information, contact HCPHES Veterinary Public Health at 281.999.3191 or visit [www.hcphe.org](http://www.hcphe.org) or [www.countypets.com](http://www.countypets.com).