



Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter

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July 4th Safety Tips for People and Pets

How to Protect Your Pet, and Where to Turn if Your Pet Gets Lost

Every year fireworks cause an alarming uptick in lost pets, with runaways a frequent side effect of noisy 4th of July celebrations.

The Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter (1001 Rodriguez St., Santa Cruz) is the only open-admission, full-service facility set up to receive and care for lost pets at both its Santa Cruz and Watsonville shelters. We understand how stressful losing a pet can be and go to great efforts to return animals to their owners as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, many mistakenly turn to other respected organizations such as the SPCA that do not handle lost-and-found cases.

To facilitate a safe haven for lost pets and their return to their homes, the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter will be open on Thursday, July 4, 2019 for limited STRAY ANIMAL DROP OFF AND REDEMPTION ONLY, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The good news is that there are many things you can do to help ensure your pet's protection and make July 4th a great holiday for both you and your pet!

- **Don't take your pet to fireworks displays.** Fireworks are loud to the human ear. Imagine how loud it sounds to your dog, who can hear sounds up to 60,000 cycles per second -- three times greater than the human ear can even register.
- **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 a few short minutes. Partially opened windows do not provide sufficient air, but do provide an opportunity for your pet to be stolen.
- **Keep your pets indoors in a sheltered, quiet area.** Some animals become destructive when frightened, so be sure you've removed any items your pet could destroy or may be harmful to your pet if chewed. It's important that they have a safe, quiet "den-like" place to relax, such as a secure room of the house or blanketed crate. Leave a television or radio playing at normal volume to keep him/her company if you go out. Shut windows and blinds or curtains.
- **Exercise your pet.** Tire your dog or cat out with plenty of exercise early in the day.
- **If you know that your pet is seriously distressed by loud noises like thunder,** consult with your veterinarian before July 4th for ways to help alleviate the fear and anxiety he or she will experience during fireworks displays.
- **Never leave pets outside unattended, even in a fenced yard or on a chain.** In their fear, pets who normally wouldn't leave the yard may escape and become lost, or become entangled in their chain, risking injury or death.
- **Make sure your pets are wearing identification tags.** If they do become lost, they can be returned promptly. Animals found running at-large should be taken to the local animal care and control center, where they have the best chance of being reunited with their owners. Two forms of ID are always best when it comes to protecting your pet. If an individual finds your pet, the first thing he or she will look for is an ID tag. In Santa Cruz County, if your pet is taken to Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter, he/she will be scanned for a microchip, which is permanent identification. Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter offers microchips pets for \$15 everyday, no appointment necessary. Visit www.scanimalshelter.org for more.