FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Fireworks prove hazardous for pets:**

**SHELTER NAME urges pet owners to make a safety plan**

City, State (DATE) – While Fourth of July fireworks displays are cancelled in many communities due to the pandemic, residents of many cities are reporting repeated fireworks being set off, prompting SHELTER NAME to urge the community to consider the impact of fireworks on animals. Fireworks and other commotion can be stressful to pets and can result in them getting lost. SHELTER NAME joins the [Humane Society of the United States](https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/what-do-if-you-lose-your-pet) in recommending the following steps to help keep pets safe:

* **Leave pets at home and inside.** Fireworks can be terrifying to pets, even pets who are accustomed to being around people and commotion.
* **Create a home sanctuary.** Secure your pet in an area of your home where he or she is safe, comfortable and sheltered from any outside noise and lights. An interior room without immediate access to the outside is preferred. Playing a radio with relaxing music may help mask the sound of fireworks.
* **Pet-proof your home.** When scared, some animals may become destructive so be sure to remove anything from reach that can become damaged or may harm the pet if chewed or eaten.
* **Identification is essential.** Pets may panic, escape and become lost. Updated identification is critical to ensuring lost pets are reunited with their families. Ideal identification is both a tag and microchip (make sure your chip is registered).
* **Consult a veterinarian for pets with anxiety.** Consult your veterinarian to seek out remedies to lower your pet’s stress level if this is a known issue.
* **Follow the advice of public health officials.** With COVID-19 cases on the rise in many states, the safest thing you can do for your pet is to follow the guidance of public health authorities by wearing face coverings, maintaining social distancing and staying home as much as possible. Keeping you and your family away from the virus increases your health and safety, and your ability to care for your pets.

QUOTE FROM SHELTER REPRESENTATIVE. This can touch on additional safety tips, the importance of keeping pets in mind with all plans, the direct impact the holiday has on the shelter, etc.

Residents are encouraged to consider celebrating the holiday without fireworks, which can frighten wildlife as well as pets, or with [quiet fireworks, as Jamestown, Rhode Island, did](https://www.southcoasttoday.com/news/20190628/quiet-fireworks-event-relief-for-some) last year. However, regardless of how your family celebrates, it is important to take steps to ensure the safety of your pet on a notoriously loud night. [Click here for tips on what to do if your pet becomes lost.](https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/what-do-if-you-lose-your-pet)

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SHELTER BOILERPLATE