



June 30, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WHATCOM HUMANE SOCIETY REMINDS RESIDENTS TO KEEP
PETS SAFE AT HOME ON 4TH OF JULY.**

The Whatcom Humane Society (WHS) is bracing itself for a large increase in stray animals during the upcoming 4th of July holiday. Animal shelters across the country are accustomed to receiving “July 4th animals”, many of whom become scared and run off during noisy fireworks celebrations.

WHS executive director Laura Clark says that preventing your companion animal from becoming lost on Independence Day is possible by planning ahead and taking some basic precautions. “Many animals, domestic, wildlife and livestock become absolutely terrified by the noisy neighborhood and community fireworks” Clark says. “With a little pre-holiday planning you can enjoy the holiday and have peace of mind that your companion animal is safe at home”.

To protect your companion animal during the 4th of July holiday, the Whatcom Humane Society recommends taking these precautions:

- ◆ **Do not take your pet to large or small fireworks displays or gatherings where fireworks are being set off.**
- ◆ Keep your pet indoors at home in a quiet area of the house. Leave a television or radio on while you are away to keep your pet company and mask the sound of fireworks outside. Leave your pet with his/her favorite toy, a chew bone or other item to keep them occupied.
- ◆ If you know that your animal becomes seriously distressed by loud noises, consult with your veterinarian BEFORE July 4th for ways to alleviate their fear and anxiety.
- ◆ **Do not leave your pet outside unattended, even in a fenced yard or in a kennel. Many dogs will dig or jump out of fenced yards or kennels in their attempt to escape the loud noises.**
- ◆ Many cats become victims of cruelty at the hands of people during the holiday. Make sure your cats are kept safe inside during this stressful and sometimes dangerous time.
- ◆ Make sure your companion animals are wearing collars, licenses and/or identification tags at all times. This is your pet's best chance at being reunited with you if lost. If your animal will not wear a collar, consider having them microchipped, a permanent form of identification. WHS offers low-cost microchipping services. Upload and register your dog and cats photo and contact information with lost.petcolove.org - a free pet facial recognition program that WHS partners with.
- ◆ Don't forget to take precautions to protect your horses, livestock and other outdoor animals who can become absolutely terrified by the noisy fireworks. Secure animals in a barn or paddock and reinforce fencing around your property.
- ◆ If you plan on going away for the holiday weekend, make sure your pet sitter has emergency numbers where you can be reached, the number of your veterinarian, information on the animal emergency clinic as well as directions to WHS and other area animal shelters in case of a lost or injured animal.

◆ If your animal goes missing, visit the Whatcom Humane Society and complete a lost pet report. Due to the volume of lost pets (including livestock) that WHS receives, we cannot identify lost pets over the phone, email or via social networking sites. You must visit our facility in person to complete a lost pet report, look through the stray animal kennels and also review the list of “found pets” that are on file with our agency. Visit www.whatcomhumane.org for more information and advice on what to do if your pet goes missing.

The Whatcom Humane Society is open to the public Wednesday – Saturday, 10am – 6pm & Sunday – Monday, 11am – 5pm. WHS is closed to the public on Tuesdays and on Major Holidays.

The Whatcom Humane Society is located at 2172 Division Street, off Hannegan in Bellingham.

To report a found animal, or an animal in need, contact the Whatcom Humane Society at (360)733-2080. For after-hour and holiday emergencies, contact 911 and a WHS on-call animal control officer will be contacted.

www.whatcomhumane.org