



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA Offers Advice
to Keep Animals Safe on July 4th**

SAN MATEO, CA.— The Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA (PHS/SPCA) is urging pet owners to take precautions during the upcoming July 4th celebrations and offering tips to help keep pets safe and secure.

“Like many shelters across the nation, we receive numerous animals at our facility, especially dogs who become frightened by the sounds and sights associated with 4th of July fireworks and celebrations,” said Buffy Martin Tarbox, PHS/SPCA Communications Manager. “Dogs can become so scared they break through fences and gates fleeing their yards, become lost and are brought into our shelter as strays. They arrive scared and often with minor injuries such as cuts on their paws. Some simple tips can help prevent these tragedies from happening.”

PHS/SPCA urges people to consider the following tips to keep pets safe on and around the 4th of July:

- Don't take pets to fireworks displays.
- While at home, keep pets inside a room in the house and make sure blinds or drapes are drawn. Leave a TV, radio or fan on to help drown out the fireworks noise.
- Make sure pets have current identification and/or a microchip. This permanent form of identification -- implanted just under the animal's skin -- will insure the animal can be identified even if their collar is missing. Microchips are available at PHS/SPCA for a small fee, no appointment necessary.
- If you know from past experiences that your pet will have severe anxiety caused by fireworks, talk to your veterinarian about giving your pet a mild tranquilizer.
- If you lose your companion animal, please visit the PHS/SPCA on July 5th. This process must happen in person, as staff cannot positively identify animals over the phone.

“By following these common sense tips, pet owners can help keep their pets safe and out of harm's way,” said Tarbox.

In the event a pet becomes separated from his or her owner, PHS/SPCA asks the public to visit their Coyote Point shelter, located at 12 Airport Blvd in San Mateo. Hours are 11 am to 7 pm, Monday through Friday and 11 am to 6 pm on the weekends.

PHS/SPCA will be closed to the public on July 4th, although staff and volunteers will be providing animal care during the holiday.

About Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA

Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA is a private, open-door, not-for-profit animal welfare organization. Primary programs include animal adoptions; animal rescue and sheltering, including specialty care for domestic animals with medical and/or behavioral challenges; wildlife rehabilitation; animal cruelty investigation; community outreach and education; low-cost spay/neuter; and obedience classes. This vital work is made possible by volunteers and donations. PHS/SPCA receives no funding from national animal welfare organizations. Visit www.phs-sPCA.org to learn about all PHS/SPCA's programs and services, ways to help the animals and special events.