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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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El Paso Animal Services Urges Pet Safety Amidst Fourth of July Festivities

EL PASO, Texas—As the Fourth of July approaches, the City of El Paso Animal Services wants to underscore the potential dangers that the holiday festivities can pose to beloved pets.

The celebration of Independence Day often includes fireworks, gatherings, and outdoor activities, all of which can be stressful and potentially dangerous for pets. To help pet owners prepare and keep their pets safe, El Paso Animal Services offers the following tips:

- **Keep Pets Indoors:** One of the most crucial steps to ensure a pet's safety is to keep them indoors during fireworks. The loud noises can frighten pets, leading them to run away. By keeping pets inside, in a quiet, secure area, pet owners are taking a proactive step to prevent them from escaping.
- **Create a Safe Space:** Provide a designated safe space for pets with their favorite toys, blankets, and a comfortable bed. Playing calming music or white noise can help drown out the sound of fireworks.
- **Updated ID:** Another essential precaution is to ensure a pet's microchip information and ID tags on their collars are up to date. This simple step can provide reassurance and preparedness. Owners can also register pets on PetcoLoveLost.org to further increase the chances of a safe return if lost.
- **Get Microchipped:** If a pet needs to be microchipped, visit ElPasoAnimalServices.org/calendar for upcoming free microchipping clinics.
- **Avoid Human Food:** Holiday foods and drinks can be harmful to pets. Keep them away from the barbecue, and make sure they don't consume any human food, especially items containing alcohol, chocolate, or other toxic ingredients.
- **Use Pet-Safe Insect Repellents and Sunscreens:** If spending time outdoors, ensure any insect repellents or sunscreens used on pets are specifically designed for them. Human products can be toxic to animals.
- **Be Mindful of Heat:** The summer heat can be dangerous for pets. Ensure pets have access to plenty of fresh water, shelter, and shade, and avoid prolonged exposure to the sun or walking pets during the hottest times of the day.
- **Watch for Signs of Anxiety:** Be aware of signs of stress or anxiety in pets, such as excessive panting, shaking, hiding, or whining. If a pet exhibits severe anxiety, consult a veterinarian.

"We want everyone to enjoy the Fourth of July while keeping their furry family members safe," said Terry Kebschull, Director of El Paso Animal Services. "By following these tips, pet owners can help their pets stay calm and secure during the holiday celebrations."

For more information on pet safety and other services offered by El Paso Animal Services, please visit ElPasoAnimalServices.org.

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Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**
Among All Members of the Community

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