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## **Keep Your Pet Safe on the Fourth of July**

- ✓Fourth of July fireworks can frighten pets, and that fear can cause a dog or cat to panic and try to escape the confines of a yard or even the house. To help protect pets during the July 4 holiday, the Humane Society SPCA of Bexar County advises:
- ✓Keep your pet indoors on the Fourth of July in a quiet and isolated room with covered windows, or the basement where there are no windows, to help your pet feel safe and secure. Turn on a fan, a radio, or TV to muffle the sound of fireworks. They'll provide familiar indoor sounds and may help soothe your pet if it must be alone on this noisy holiday. Don't bring your pet to a fireworks display.
- ✓If your pet behaves nervously by pacing, whining, or crying, distract your pet by playing with him or doing something he enjoys. Don't stroke, pet, or reassure him by saying, "Don't worry. It's okay." This may actually reinforce your pet's nervousness or fright.
- ✓Make sure your pet always wears an appropriately- fitting collar (you should be able to slip no more than two fingers beneath your dog's collar; your cat should be wearing a stretch or safety collar) and an I.D. tag with your current phone number and address. Your pet should also be wearing a current license/rabies tag. You may want to talk with your veterinarian about also providing your pet with a microchip I.D. implant, too, in case your pet loses its collar and tags.
- ✓If your pet does stray away from home, immediately call Animal Care Services (Animal Control) at 207-6650. Please also call the Humane Society/SPCA of Bexar County at 226-7461, Animal Defense League at 655-1481, Man & Beast at 590-7387, and Pefinders at 1-800-666-5678 to file a lost report. You may also place an ad in the Express News. These steps will greatly increase your chances of finding your animal friend!
- ✓If you find a pet, you can also call the numbers listed above and file a found report. You can also place signs around your neighborhood.