



CHICO POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

530-897-4900

For Immediate Release
July 1, 2016

Fourth of July Pet Safety

Fourth of July is a time for celebration, barbeques and fireworks, but the loud noise and flashes of light from fireworks, and the commotion of celebrating people can be frightening for your pet. Besides fireworks, there are other hazards to watch out for.

Here are some tips to keep your pet safe this holiday:

1. Give your pet a safe haven – it's less stressful and safer to leave your dog home rather than bring them to a Fourth of July celebration. Keep cats and dogs indoors where they will be cool and in a familiar environment. Leave the radio or television on to mask the sound of fireworks. Left outside a frightened pet may jump over or dig under a fence, or get hurt trying to hide or get away. Cats may run and become disoriented and lost, or hide somewhere for days. If you know your pet might become anxious, ask your veterinarian for medication to keep them calm. You may have to start the medication in advance, so plan ahead. Exercising your dog before you go may help tire them out and make them less anxious.
2. Make sure your pet has a collar with an ID tag – a dog license is important, and can be traced back to you, but for a quick return of your pet without a stop at the shelter, an ID tag with your contact information is the best. For permanent identification, don't forget to have your pet microchipped. The Chico animal Shelter offers microchipping including lifetime registration for only \$26.00, no appointment needed. This way even if the tag falls off or your pet won't wear a collar, you will still have a way to get them back home. If your pet is already chipped, don't forget to keep your contact information current. Have an updated picture of your pet in case you have to put up signs.
3. Hazardous items – When celebrating, remember that items such as alcoholic beverages, lighter fluid, matches and citronella products can be harmful if ingested or inhaled, and should be kept away from pets. Some foods, such as chocolate, onions, garlic, raisins, grapes, some nuts, avocados, and caffeinated drinks are also harmful to pets. Avoid giving your pet bones which can splinter or cause blockage, and table food in general which can cause intestinal upset or

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**Prepared By: Tracy Mohr, Animal Services
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pancreatitis. If your pet needs sunscreen or bug repellent, use products specifically for pets. For your pet's safety, keep them away from areas where fireworks will be used.

4. Vehicles – As a reminder don't leave your pet in a vehicle, even for just a moment, even with the windows cracked. Even on a relatively mild 72 degree day, the temperature inside the vehicle can soar to over 110 degrees, and an animal can suffer irreversible brain and organ damage after only 15 minutes. A dog in the bed of a pickup truck can become overheated as well, and the hot metal or even a rubber mat could burn your dog's feet. If you're going out onto the lake, fit your dog with a life preserver in case they go overboard.

The City of Chico Animal Services would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Fourth!

For more information, or to contact Animal Control call 897-4960. To contact the Chico Animal Shelter call 894-5630. Visit our website at www.chicoanimalshelter.org, and friend us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ChicoAnimalShelter

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