



## NEWS RELEASE

### Public Health

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## Pet safety during the Fourth of July begins now

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The Fourth of July holiday is nearly here, but the fireworks have already begun in neighborhoods throughout San Bernardino County. Therefore, San Bernardino County Animal Care and Control (ACC) advises that pet owners begin preparing now to help keep their pets safer. Fireworks can frighten pets, causing them to flee from their homes, but there are some basic steps that pet owners can take to help avoid it. ACC recommends that pets have the following:

- Identification tags on collar with CURRENT contact information
- A microchip (with updated information registered with the microchip company)
- A crate or small space inside a quiet part of the home
- A license tag (dogs over the age of 4 months only)

“Pets can get spooked around fireworks,” stated ACC Lt. Christy Hamrick. “When bringing your pets inside is not an option, ensure that their yard is enclosed, and there are no holes to escape through. If you will have visitors over during the holiday, remind them to keep gates closed, keep fireworks away from pets, and not to feed human food to your pets,” she added.

Fireworks combined with hot and dry conditions raises another local concern, wildfires. ACC reminds pet owners to include pets in their disaster planning. This includes having crates, harnesses, leashes, extra food, medicine, and comforting toys on hand, as well as identifying pet-friendly places to stay if evacuation is needed. Those with livestock should include trailers in their evacuation plans.

San Bernardino County ACC provides animal control services for most unincorporated areas of the County and the cities of Big Bear Lake, Highland, and Yucaipa. More information about area shelters and disaster preparedness can be found at [www.sbcounty.gov/acc](http://www.sbcounty.gov/acc). ACC can be reached 24/7 by calling (800) 472-5609.

Animal Care and Control is doing its part to help the community achieve the Countywide Vision by ensuring residents have the resources they need to provide the necessities of life to their families. Information on the Countywide Vision can be found at [www.sbcounty.gov](http://www.sbcounty.gov).

