

Tips to keep pets safe during fireworks

As public fireworks displays begin thundering on the Fourth of July, the phones start ringing at Regional Animal Services. Every year, animal services sees a sharp increase in stray dog calls during the 24-hour period around July 4-5 as dogs attempt to flee from the noisy fireworks.

Fourth of July fireworks are no fun for dogs. Some will go to extreme measures, such as jumping through open windows, in their effort to escape the noise. Once out, these dogs may wander many miles from home, or hide themselves under decks or sheds for days. This includes cats as well.

To help keep pets home and safe over the Fourth of July holiday, Washoe County Regional Animal Services offers the following tips:

- Before the fireworks start, bring and keep your dog inside.
- Keep windows and doors closed.
- Take steps to lower outside noise such as leaving a radio, television, fan, or air conditioner on.
- If you know your dog does experience extreme anxieties to loud noises, it may be worthwhile to contact your veterinarian to see what recommendations they may have.
- If you're going to a firework display, the best way for everyone to get the most enjoyment is to leave your pets at home.

Regional Animal Services staff also encourages pet owners to make sure their pets have identification tags and are microchipped just in case they do get lost. This will expedite getting pets and their families reunited.