



FORT BRAGG POLICE DEPARTMENT

250 Cypress Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437-5437

FABIAN E. LIZARRAGA
Chief of Police

(707) 961-2800
Fax: (707) 961-2806

PRESS RELEASE

Releasing Officer: Sergeant Thomas N. O'Neal
Date/Time of Event: Saturday July 6, 2019
Location of Event: Fort Bragg, CA
Event: Pet Safety-Fireworks

CIRCUMSTANCES:

With the Saturday July 6, 2019 Fireworks Display approaching, the Fort Bragg Police Department would like to pass along some helpful information from the American Veterinary Medical Association regarding dangers related to the holiday and your pets:

- Make sure your pets – cats and dogs alike – have identification tags with up-to-date information. If you have horses, you might consider marking a safety (breakaway) halter with your contact information and leaving it on your horse during this stressful time.
- If your pets aren't already microchipped, talk with your veterinarian about microchipping. This simple procedure can greatly improve your chances of getting your pets back if they become lost. The cost of microchipping your pet at our local veterinarians is around \$40.
- If your pets are microchipped, make sure your contact information in the microchip registry is up-to-date.
- Take a current photo of all of your cats, dogs and horses – just in case.
- If your pet has historically been anxious on this holiday, it may be necessary to speak with your vet about medication to assist with your pet's anxiety.
- Leave your pets at home when you go to parties, fireworks displays, parades and other gatherings. Loud fireworks, unfamiliar places and crowds can all be very frightening to pets, and there's great risk of pets becoming spooked and running away.
- Consider putting your pets in a safe, escape-proof room or crate during parties and fireworks.
- Keep horses and livestock in safely fenced areas and as far from the excitement and noise as possible.

- If you're hosting guests, ask them to help keep an eye on your pets to make sure they don't escape. Placing notes on exit doors and gates can help both you and your guests remain vigilant.
- If you're travelling out of town for the holiday, consider leaving your pets at home with a pet sitter or boarding them in a kennel. If you need to bring them with you, be sure you know how to keep them safe.

During the Fireworks Display, and all other times, lost or found pets may be reported to our non-emergency number at (707) 964-0200. Please attempt to have all relevant information available when you call such as breed, sex, neutered/unneutered, color, tag information etc. We will also attempt to post any located pets on our Facebook page at City of Fort Bragg Police Department during the display so be sure to check often if your pet is missing. If you find a pet please start by ensuring that the pet is secured either by a leash or in an appropriate enclosure.

Questions regarding this press release may be forwarded to Sergeant O'Neal at (707) 961-2800 ext. 120 or to: toneal@fortbragg.com.

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