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Be Paw-triotic this Independence Day

[Editor's note: photos available upon request]

Roseville, Calif. – Fourth of July celebrations may be fun for humans, but many of the festivities can be terrifying or even dangerous for their furry friends. The Placer SPCA would like to remind all pet owners of the following tips to ensure that the holiday is fun and safe for all:

- **Beat the heat.** Summer is in full swing and the heat can quickly become too much for your furry friends. While you celebrate, make sure your pets stay cool inside or in the shade and have plenty of fresh water to drink. Exercise early in the morning to avoid the heat. Try a frozen toy to keep your pets cool and occupied.
- **Celebrate safely.** Many of the tasty treats humans enjoy during 4th of July festivities can be harmful to pets. Keep food and alcohol out of paw's reach. Ask guests not to feed table scraps and provide safe treats for them to give instead. Keep pets away from fireworks and sparklers.
- **Keep your pets inside where it is quiet.** Loud noises scare animals. The crackle, pop, and boom of Independence Day fireworks can be especially terrifying to your pets. Dogs and cats fearful of these noises may attempt to make an escape, potentially becoming disoriented and lost.

Keep your pets safe by creating a secure space indoors, especially in the evening and for several days before and after the holiday. You may choose to drown out the celebrations with low background noise such as a fan or calm music. Familiar toys and bedding or the scent of an article of clothing from your laundry may also help ease anxiety.

"We suggest that pets be kept in a quiet, familiar room in your home any time loud noises are nearby," says Leilani Fratis, Placer SPCA CEO. "Even a very mellow animal may panic and try to dart out the door if he or she is scared by fireworks booming."

- **Make it possible to find your pet.** If your pet does get lost, a tag and microchip may make the difference in getting him or her back home. Make sure all tag and microchip information is up to date. Also, take a current photo of your pet just in case.
- **If anxiety is severe, talk to your veterinarian.** Some pets may need a little extra help during this stressful time. Talk to your veterinarian about medications or products which may help.

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ABOUT THE PLACER SPCA

Founded in 1973, the Placer SPCA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of companion animals and supporting the human-animal bond. Today, we are the largest and most comprehensive nonprofit animal welfare provider in Placer County. In 2018 the Placer SPCA opened a best in animal welfare practices Adoption & Education Center and can house up to 4,000 animals annually. The Placer SPCA continues to grow and provide many innovative programs to enhance animal well-being and improve adoptability, such as: environmental enrichment and socialization strategies, behavior modification counseling and training, foster care, and mobile adoption. We also work closely with the community to provide adoption counseling, pet retention services, spay/neuter assistance and education, pet lost and found, humane education, collaborative rescue efforts, and volunteer opportunities.