



11 Park Place Suite 805
New York, NY 10007
www.nycacc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 4TH CAN BE ONE OF THE MOST STRESSFUL DAYS OF THE YEAR FOR PETS IN NEW YORK CITY

AC&C WARNS OWNERS TO PROTECT THEIR PETS DURING THE HOLIDAY WEEKEND

New York- June 29, 2012 – Animal Care & Control of New York City (AC&C) today released tips for a safe July 4th holiday for New Yorkers and their pets. Pets can become stressed from fireworks associated with the July 4th holiday and crowded events may also cause stress to pets, increasing their chances of fleeing and being lost.

“July 4th is a time for summer fun with family and friends, but it can be a time of stress for companion animals,” said Julie Bank, AC&C executive director. “With a little planning, pet owners can enjoy the festivities and be reassured that their companion animals are kept safe and stress-free.”

AC&C offers the following tips to keep your pets safe and ready to celebrate.

- Setting off fireworks is illegal in New York City, so enjoy them as a spectator. If you are going to see live fireworks displays, leave pets at home. The crowds, commotion, and thunderous sounds can be stressful for even the most fun-loving pets. Dogs in stressful situations may also bite.
- Make sure your pets are safely at home in a quiet, secure area and provide them with familiar toys, blankets or beds. A crate or a room will help keep dogs and cats who want to be left alone happy.
- Never leave dogs outside unattended, even in a fenced yard or on a tie-out. A fearful dog may become entangled, risking choking or death. In their fear, pets that normally wouldn't leave the yard may escape and get lost.
- Always ensure that your pets have appropriate current identification so if they do get lost, they can be returned promptly. All dogs in NYC are required to be licensed. For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/health.

What to do if your pet gets lost:

- You should file a lost report with the new lost-and-found program to ensure that lost dogs and cats are returned to their owners. This innovative program harnesses the power of trained volunteers and technology to track down lost pets and speed their return to anxious owners. You can do this by filing a report on-line at www.nycacc.org
- If you found a pet you can also file a Lost Report on-line at www.nycacc.org .

- Visit the AC&C website at www.nycacc.org for tips on what to do if you lost your pet or found one.
- Visit an AC&C shelter to check for your animal. We recommend that you check with the shelter in person every 48 hours or more often if possible.

Manhattan: 326 East 110th Street

Brooklyn: 2336 Linden Blvd

Staten Island: 3139 Veteran's Road West.

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About Animal Care & Control of NYC

Animal Care & Control of New York City (AC&C) is the largest animal organization in the Northeast, rescuing nearly 34,000 animals each year. As a non-profit organization since 1995, AC&C rescues, cares for and finds loving homes for homeless and abandoned animals in New York City. AC&C facilities operate in all five boroughs to service all NYC communities. Visit AC&C's website at www.nycacc.org for more information.