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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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4th of July Fireworks Expected to Trigger Spike in Lost Pets Across Neighborhoods

El Paso Animal Services Encourages Early Preparation to Keep Pets Safe During America's 250th Anniversary

EL PASO, Texas—With Fourth of July celebrations less than a month away, El Paso Animal Services is encouraging pet owners to start preparing now for what is historically one of the busiest times of the year for lost pets.

Every Independence Day, shelters across the country see an increase in stray animals as fireworks, visitors, and open gates cause frightened pets to run from home. In El Paso, where more than 11,000 pets have entered the city shelter this year, even a small increase in lost animals can place additional strain on local shelter resources.

"Most animals are distressed by the sudden loud noises of fireworks. Likewise, most families do not expect their pet to suddenly run away until it actually happens," said Michael Wachsmann, Interim Director of El Paso Animal Services. "Taking a few minutes now to develop a plan for fireworks night can significantly increase the likelihood of your pet returning home safely."

One of the most important steps pet owners can take is making sure their pet's microchip information is current. A microchip is one of the most effective reunification tools available, but outdated phone numbers or unregistered chips can make it impossible to contact an owner. Residents can visit [PetMicrochipLookup.com](https://www.petmicrochiplookup.com) to identify their pet's microchip company and update their information. El Paso Animal Services also recommends creating a free pet profile through [Petco Love Lost](https://www.petco.com/love-lost), which uses photo matching technology to help reconnect lost pets with their families.

Pet owners should also start acclimating pets to spending time in a kennel during evening hours and identifying a quiet area where they can feel safe during fireworks. Ensuring collars and identification tags are secure and reminding guests to keep gates and doors closed can also help prevent accidental escapes during holiday gatherings.

If a pet goes missing, El Paso Animal Services encourages owners to search their neighborhood right away. Most lost pets are found within a mile of home and talking with neighbors, posting on community social media pages, and using reunification tools like [Pawboost](https://www.pawboost.com) can reconnect families before a pet ever enters the shelter.

Community members who find a stray animal are encouraged to file a [Found Pet Report](https://www.elpasoanimal.com/found-pet-report) and have the pet scanned for a microchip at any veterinary clinic, fire station, or El Paso Animal Services location. Those who can temporarily care for the pet while its owner is located are invited to participate in El Paso Animal Services' [Finder to Foster](https://www.elpasoanimal.com/finder-to-foster) program, which provides food, supplies, and ongoing support to help reunite pets with their families while preserving valuable shelter space.

For more information on Fourth of July pet safety, reunification resources, and upcoming free microchipping events, visit [EIPasoAnimalServices.org](https://www.elpasoanimal.com).

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