

July 2, 2012

Sally Ellertson
Public Information Officer
141 West Renfro
Burleson, Texas 76028-4261
817-426-9622
F: 817-426-9390
sellertson@burlesontx.com
www.burlesontx.com

Pets and fireworks don't mix. No alcohol, glass bottles, pets, tents or canopies are permitted at the City's annual fireworks show at Chisenhall Fields Sports Complex on July 4.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal (ASPCA) advises never to use fireworks around pets. Fireworks can result in severe burns or trauma to the face and paws of curious pets. Even unused fireworks can pose a danger because some fireworks contain potentially toxic substances, including potassium nitrate, arsenic and other heavy metals.

Pets should be kept in a quiet, sheltered and escape-proof area at home on July 4th. Bring outside dogs in to keep them from bolting when fireworks are launched. The Burleson Animal Shelter gets several calls each year about pets that got lost after running away from home because they were scared by fireworks.

Make sure all of your pets have identification on them. A collar with a rabies tag and an identification tag are a must. A collar or harness with the rabies tag attached is required, by City ordinance, to be displayed on all pets. Having your pet implanted with a microchip is a good way to ensure that you will be reunited with your pet if it does get lost. A microchip can be read by a scanner that all animal control officers carry. Most veterinarian offices also have microchip readers. The staff at the Burleson Animal Shelter can microchip your dog or cat for only \$15. You do not have to live inside the city limits of Burleson to purchase a microchip.

Other Fourth of July holiday tips from the ASPCA include:

- Never leave alcoholic drinks unattended where pets can reach them.
- Do not apply any sunscreen or insect repellent product to your pet that is not labeled specifically for use on animals.
- Always keep matches and lighter fluid out of your pet's reach.
- Keep your pets on their normal diet.
- Do not put glow jewelry on your pets, or allow them to play with it.
- And, keep citronella candles, insect coils and oil products out of the reach of your pet.

For more information from the Burleson Animal Shelter, call 817-426-9283 or email animalshelter@burlesontx.com.