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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

Renowned Dog Whisperer Cesar Milan has some tips for pet owners when it comes to dogs and fireworks.

More dogs run away on the Fourth of July than on any other day of the year. The sounds of fireworks - the artificial squeal followed by the giant burst of explosives and subsequent whimper - drive dogs nuts! For many, it triggers their innate flight instinct so many dogs are reported lost over the patriotic holiday.

Milan said dogs experience the world through their nose, eyes and ears so sudden loud booms, flashes and the smell of something burning can traumatize them. The Dog Whisperer advises dog owners to keep their pets away from areas where fireworks will be set off. If you leave the dog at home, try a travel kennel. If you can't be there, ask someone to check on your dog every four hours. And, be sure to treat your pet to a long walk before you leave so they might be more inclined to sleep through the patriotic celebration. For more from the Dog Whisperer, go to <http://www.cesarsway.com/>.

Before July 4th arrives, stop by the Burleson Animal Shelter and get your pet microchipped. The fee is \$15, regardless of where you live. You have to provide proof of rabies vaccination to get the microchip. Microchips are typically implanted just beneath the surface of the skin, between the shoulder blades. Every chip has a unique identification number that links a pet to the owner's personal information so if a dog or cat is lost, chances of reuniting are good.

A veterinarian, animal shelter or humane society can use a scanner to read the pet's chip. The staff then calls 24PetWatch Lost Recovery Service with that registered chip number. 24PetWatch gives the staff the owner's information and the staff contacts the owner. The microchip is the only permanent way of identifying a dog or cat and it lasts the lifetime of that pet.

If a pet gets lost after it has been implanted with the microchip, call 24PetWatch at 1-866-597-2424. You should also go to the City website, www.burlesontx.com/reportconcern to fill out a lost pet report, and contact the shelter at 817-426-9283 every day to find out if your pet has been found. The Burleson Animal Shelter is located at 775 S.E. John Jones Dr. Hours of operation are 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Tuesday-Friday and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday.