FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fourth of July - Your Pet’s Least Favorite Holiday

The 4th of July is just around the corner and your Suncoast Humane Society wishes to remind pet owners that it is not all fun and games for many of our furry friends. The fireworks that many people find so thrilling can drive pets, especially dogs, into a state of panic. Explosions from fireworks can often be felt and heard for miles. Kids screaming, high-pitched swooshes of rockets, and the bright flashes of light can all be overwhelming for many of our pets. Some pets can become so frightened that they even run away.

Days following the 4th of July holiday can be very busy ones at animal shelters. Many experience an increase of lost pets and while that may cause us to think about dogs becoming frightened, please know that cats can panic and run off as well.

By following some simple safety precautions, you can easily keep your pet from becoming lost. The best way a lost pet can be found is through their microchip. This microchip can only be scanned at veterinary clinics and animal shelters. Make sure your pet is wearing a collar with proper identification. You should walk and exercise your dog early in the morning and afternoon before the fireworks begin. During the evening, keep all pets inside in a familiar area where he/she feels secure. Remember to turn on a TV or radio for distractions. If your pet suffers with extreme anxiety, please check with your veterinarian about tranquilizers. Most of all DO NOT take your pet to the community fireworks display.

If your pet DOES become lost, please visit Suncoast Humane Society’s Lost and Found page at www.humane.org or call 941.474.7884 for information on how to find your pet.
To learn how you can support Suncoast Humane Society’s mission to “reduce the number of homeless animals and improve the quality of life”, call 941-474-7884, visit www.humane.org or stop by the Adoption Center at 6781 San Casa Drive in Englewood.

**Suncoast Humane Society has been serving animals and people since 1971.** Founded as Englewood Animal Aid Society, the organization’s services and programs were soon challenged to meet the demands placed on them by the pet over-population crises.

Expansions to their facility in Englewood during the 1980s and 1990s helped the Society to more effectively provide for a growing service area. To reflect the changes, the organization became Suncoast Humane Society. **Today their service area includes Charlotte County, most of Sarasota County, and the Boca Grande portion of Lee County, a total of over 450 square miles.**

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