

Your best friend  
is waiting!



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Safety first even on July Fourth!**



What better way to celebrate our nation's independence than with summer fun, friends, food and, most importantly, fireworks!

Pets, however, may not find the fun in the Fourth celebrations. Dogs will howl, pace, jump fences and run long distances out of fear of the loud sounds. Some dogs become so fearful and anxious over fireworks that they can cause harm to themselves.

Each year the day after the Fourth of July Holiday, the Humane Society of Southern Arizona receives an increase of lost dogs and cats. A few preventive measures can prepare you and your pet for the celebration, and keep them in your home and safe.

### **Preventive Tips**

Here are some tips that all pet owners should follow this time of year:

- Keep your pet indoors! For pets with extreme sensitivity, create a den-like environment such as a crate, room or walk-in closet free of windows.
- If at all possible, remain home with your pet to provide comfort and security.
- Turn on a TV or radio to provide soothing sounds that will distract your pet from outside noises
- Spray some pet-friendly aromatherapy to calm your pet's nerves
- Invest in a Thundershirt, used to treat anxiety in pets

The Humane Society of Southern Arizona is the oldest and largest nonprofit animal welfare organization in southern Arizona helping pets and the people who love them. The HSSA is a private 501(c)3 organization, is not funded by the government and is not affiliated with any national or state animal welfare groups.

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- Pets that are extremely sensitive to noise may benefit from the use of veterinarian-prescribed sedatives
- Be sure to keep a well-fitted collar and identification on your pet
- Have your pet microchipped

The HSSA recommends microchipping because it helps immediately identify a lost pet and locate its owners. Microchipping is available at the HSSA for \$25. If your pet becomes lost, immediately call the HSSA's Lost & Found Department at 327-6088, ext. 111, and the county shelter, Pima Animal Care Center, at 793-5900 to file a lost report and get information on conducting an effective search. Visit [found-pets.org](http://found-pets.org) and be sure to visit each facility at least every other day to look for your pet in person.

The Humane Society of Southern Arizona's main campus will be closed July 4, but PAWSH stores at La Encantada (327-6577) will be open from 10 a.m.- 6p.m. and Park Place (881-7406) will be open from 10 a.m.- 5p.m. The main campus will reopen July 5 at 11 a.m. The HSSA will have \$15 adult dogs and cats and \$50 puppies, kittens and purebreds. Promotions will be extended to both PAWSH and PetSmart locations.

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