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## MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release please!

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### Summer Pet Safety- it's all in the "d' Tails!" AnimalAidPDX.org

Animal Aid is actively fundraising to increase support for vital community programs offered for over 40 years: spay/neuter programs, foster and adoption services for cats and dogs, The Animal Aid Fund for Veterinary Care, education and outreach events and the free-roam cat shelter in Portland. Donations are needed to ensure Animal Aid may continue serving pets and their people into the next 40 years! [www.AnimalAidPDX.org](http://www.AnimalAidPDX.org). Attached is the Summer Events calendar.

The Fourth of July- Ahhh, the harbinger of summer days and time to relax and celebrate with good friends and family— including the four-legged members of the household. While it may seem like a great idea to reward your best friend with scraps from the grill and bring him along to watch fireworks, in reality some festive foods and products can be potentially hazardous to your pets. Animal Aid in Portland- a local, long-standing no-kill animal rescue organization wants to remind us of the following tips (as suggested and adopted from the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center communications).

- \* **Never leave alcoholic drinks unattended!** Pets are attracted to almost anything you leave within reach. Alcohol has the potential to poison them. Animals can quickly become intoxicated and severely weak, resulting in coma, respiratory failure or even death.
- \* **Only apply sunscreen or insect repellent products to pets that are approved for use on animals.** Ingestion of sunscreen products can result in drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive thirst and lethargy. The misuse of insect repellent that contains DEET can lead to severe neurological problems in pets.
- \* **Always keep matches and lighter fluid out of pets' reach.** Matches can contain chlorates, which could damage blood cells and result in difficulty breathing or kidney disease. Lighter fluid can be irritating to skin, and if ingested can produce gastrointestinal distress and central nervous system depression. If lighter fluid is inhaled, aspiration pneumonia and breathing problems may occur.
- \* **Keep your pets on their normal diet.** Any change, even for one meal, can give your pets severe indigestion and diarrhea. This is particularly true for older animals who have more delicate digestive systems and nutritional requirements. A good rule of thumb is that foods such as onions, chocolate, coffee, avocado, grapes & raisins, salt and yeast dough can all be potentially toxic to a pet. Keep a handful of healthy pet treats on hand at the BBQ.
- \* **Do not adorn your pet with glow jewelry or allow them to play with it.** While the luminescent substance contained in these products is not highly toxic, excessive drooling and gastrointestinal irritation is possible with ingestion, and intestinal blockage from swallowing large pieces of the plastic containers is a danger.
- \* **Keep citronella candles, insect coils and oil products out of reach.** Ingestions can produce stomach irritation and possibly even central nervous system depression. If inhaled, the oils could cause aspiration pneumonia in animals.

\* **Loud, crowded fireworks displays are no fun for pets**, so please resist the urge to take them to Independence Day festivities. Instead, keep furry friends safe from the noise in a quiet, sheltered and escape-proof area at home. You'll have a better time at the holiday celebration, and they'll be better off at home!

\* **Never leave your pet in the car**. One of the biggest summer no-nos! With only hot air to breathe inside a car, your pet can suffer serious health effects, even death, in a few short minutes. Partially opened windows do not provide sufficient air, but do provide an opportunity for your pet to be stolen.

\* **If you know that your pet is seriously distressed by loud noises** like thunder, consult with your veterinarian before July 4th for ways to help alleviate the fear and anxiety he or she will experience during fireworks displays and the days prior to, during and after this holiday, when extra noises and sounds are more prevalent.

\* **Unattended outdoor pets are at risk**, even in a fenced yard or on a chain. In their fear, pets who normally wouldn't leave the yard may escape and become lost, or become entangled in their chain, risking injury or death.

\* **Make sure your pets are wearing identification tags** or have an ID chip, so that if they do become lost, they can be returned promptly. Animals found running at-large should be taken to the local animal shelter, where they will have the best chance of being reunited with their owners.

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