

media release

PROTECT PETS FROM AUSTRALIA DAY FIREWORKS

The RSPCA reminds pet owners to protect animals from fireworks noise during Australia Day celebrations.

Fireworks, many lit illegally in suburban backyards, can have a devastating effect on domestic animals and wildlife, causing panic and in some cases, injury or death.

RSPCA NSW Chief Veterinarian Dr Magdoline Awad said a lot of people are unaware of the effects sudden loud noises can have on animals.

“Dogs and horses are particularly affected by fireworks,” said Dr Awad. “Animals can break through fences, smash through glass doors or run onto roadways among traffic. Sadly, many die as a result of their injuries.”

Pet owners are advised to keep animals in a safe, secure environment during fireworks. Horses should be securely stabled or removed to a location away from the sounds. Motorists are urged to slow down in case of traumatised animals running onto roadways.

To give runaway dogs and cats the best possible chance of getting back home quickly, Dr Awad advises pet owners to ensure animals are wearing identification tags with current contact information.

Dr Awad said that RSPCA staff members are still working to reunite owners with lost pets that went missing as a result of New Year’s Eve fireworks.

If you find a lost animal without identification; do not keep it. Take it to your local council pound or the RSPCA so the animal can be scanned for a microchip. If the animal is injured, please contact your local vet or the RSPCA.

“You may think you’re doing the right thing by holding onto the animal, but it’s actually illegal,” said Dr Awad. “Every attempt must be made to contact the animal’s owner.”

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