

Media Release

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(please tell our front desk staff you're a member of the media)

DoveLewis

#1 CHOICE FOR ANIMAL EMERGENCIES



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 14, 2011

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DoveLewis Medical Staff Preps for Busiest Time of the Year

As fireworks go on sale, the DoveLewis medical staff braces for a spike in emergency cases. **The weeks surrounding the Fourth of July holiday are always our busiest.**

Here are some tips to help keep pets safe this time of year:

Protect Your Pets at Home, Inside & Out

Loud noises can be very stressful on animals. Keep all of your pets inside when you can't watch them. Our doctors see patients who have jumped fences, ripped up their paws trying to dig through wooden slats, or torn nails trying to dig under them. If pets successfully escape the yard, they risk being hit by cars, getting in a fight with other animals, or simply becoming lost, alone and afraid. Cats are also often targeted for abuse with fireworks. **Make sure your pets have proper identification in the form of ID tags or microchips, so if they do get loose, you can be quickly contacted when they are found.**

Even inside your pets aren't 100% safe. Our doctors have treated patients who have jumped right through glass windows, or second-story screen windows and doors. A radio or fan can provide soothing background noise to drown out the sound of fireworks. **If your pet is sensitive to firework sounds, it is best if you do not leave them unattended for long periods of time.**

Firework & Food Dangers

Fireworks in shiny packages can look like an appetizing snack and can be poisonous to animals. Even though the risk is usually small, pets can be burned from falling fireworks and sparklers. Keep both used and unused fireworks away from pets. And **avoid sharing your picnic with your pet** – human food can easily create pet stomach problems!

Mild Sedatives

If you know your pet needs sedatives to get through the traumatic firework season, **talk to your regular veterinarian about a prescription.** If this is the first time you are using a sedative, you will want to test the dosage that works best for your pet well before you predict your pet will be exposed to noisy fireworks. A lot of people ask us if they should give their pets Benadryl to sedate them. Just as with people, **Benadryl can either cause a pet to become sleepy or become hyperactive.** You don't know how your individual pet will react to any drug so be sure to try it before it is really needed. **As always, talk to your regular vet before giving your pet any medications.**

The staff of DoveLewis wishes all of you a safe and fun holiday weekend!

DoveLewis is Portland's non-profit 24-Hour Emergency and ICU Animal Hospital, offering advanced veterinary care. DoveLewis also shares several 100% donor-funded programs with the community including one of America's largest volunteer-based animal blood banks, an award-winning animal assisted therapy program, a nationally recognized pet loss support program offering four free group therapy sessions each month, 24-hour stabilizing care for lost, stray and wild animals and financial assistance for qualifying low income families and abused animals. DoveLewis is also **now open nights and weekends at the Oregon Coast**, providing emergency and urgent care to residents and tourists.

DoveLewis NW:

Open 24 hours, every day
1945 NW Pettygrove
503.228.7281

DoveLewis Oregon Coast:

Open throughout the holiday
6:00PM July 1 – 8:00AM July 5
4090 NE Hwy 101, Lincoln City
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www.dovelewis.org