

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Patriotic Pets: Keeping Furry Friends Safe During July 4th Festivities

Pet sitters offer safety tips to pet parents

MOUNT LAUREL, N.J. June 14, 2011 – As July 4th quickly approaches, individuals are preparing to gather with friends, family and neighbors – and, of course, their furry friends – for festivities and fireworks. While July 4th can be an oasis of relaxation with loved ones, the day presents many serious risks to pets. To help families celebrate safely, the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters (NAPPS) is providing tips and recommendations for a pet-friendly day.

“July 4th is a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time with humans and pets alike,” explained John D’Ariano, President of the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters. “Pet parents might think letting their pet eat or do things ‘once in a blue moon’ isn’t harmful, but in fact, small actions can cause serious injury. It’s vitally important for pet parents to take proper precautions to ensure a smooth and worry-free holiday.”

NAPPS recommends the following guidelines to keep pets healthy and safe throughout the July 4th holiday.

Don’t:

- Never leave alcoholic beverages unattended around pets.
- Glowing holiday ornaments may seem harmless, but consumption can cause intestinal irritation and blockage if the substance and plastic is swallowed. Do not let your pet wear the ornaments or chew on them.
- Pet parents may take a break from their diet on holidays, but pets cannot. Keep the burgers and hot dogs away to avoid causing your pet indigestion.
- Don’t leave your pet out for the grand finale this Fourth of July. The loud noises fireworks make can disturb your pets and if close enough, could injure them. Keep pets indoors at home in a quiet area during fireworks ceremonies. The loud noises can cause trauma, so consider leaving a television or radio on to provide familiar noises while you’re attending Fourth of July picnics, parades, and other celebrations. If you know that the pet is seriously distressed by loud noises like thunder, consult with your veterinarian for ways to help alleviate fear and anxiety during fireworks displays.

Do:

- Make sure pets are wearing identification tags or are microchipped so that if they do become lost, they can be returned promptly.
- Make sure the sunscreen and insect repellent you use on your pet is “animal friendly.”
- Keep citronella candles or any other oils out of reach of your pet, as ingesting these can cause stomach irritation.
- If traveling over the July 4th holiday, consider hiring a professional pet sitter to care for your pet daily and maintain a proper diet and exercise routines in your absence.

To assist pet parents in the process of finding a professional pet sitter, NAPPS offers the following recommendations:

- Develop a set of questions and conduct a thorough interview
- Ask for multiple references
- Request proof of bonding and liability insurance coverage
- Make sure he/she interacts well with your pet

The NAPPS website offers a nationwide referral network as a valuable online resource for locating professional pet sitters across the country. Accessible directly from the NAPPS Web site, www.petsitters.org, this free service provides contact information for all NAPPS member pet sitters and pet sitting companies in the area. With one simple search, pet parents can learn all about the services provided, and even details regarding the sitter's experience and expertise.

About NAPPS: NAPPS is the only national non-profit trade association dedicated to serving the needs of professional pet sitters. The Association aims to help the pet owning public, those interested in pet sitting, and professionals engaged in the in-home pet care industry by fulfilling its vision statement, serving as "the most respected authority in professional pet sitting." It does so by providing the tools and support to foster the success of its members. Additionally, pet parents can benefit from NAPPS' free resources including a disaster preparedness guide, tips on how to select a pet sitter, and a nationwide referral service,. To find a pet sitter in your area, check out NAPPS' nationwide "Pet Sitter Locator" at www.petsitters.org. For more information on NAPPS, please follow [@TheNAPPS](https://twitter.com/TheNAPPS) on Twitter or join us on Facebook at facebook.com/TheNAPPS.

###

Media Contact: Liz Cies
856-380-6811
ecies@ahint.com