



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** June 30, 2020

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### **Kent County Animal Shelter Provides Guidance on Pets and Fireworks**

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (June 30, 2020)** – The Kent County Animal Shelter (KCAS) is advising pet owners to take precautions in the days leading up to 4<sup>th</sup> of July as fireworks may disrupt the behavior of animals. The KCAS has published a [video](#) with steps on how to help pets cope with fireworks.

“This can be a difficult time for pets and pet owners,” said Namiko Ota-Noveskey, program supervisor, KCAS. “We want to make sure pet owners know what to do in case their animal becomes anxious and who to call if they see stray animals who may have run away from home.”

Ota-Noveskey offers the following fireworks tips for dog and cat owners:

- Keep your pets indoors during fireworks to prevent them from running away.
- Walk your dog during the daylight hours so you can keep them inside at night when people are most likely to use fireworks.
- If you know your dog has a hard time with fireworks, talk to your veterinarian about medications that might be able to help with your pet’s anxiety.
- Make sure your pet has access to a comfortable place to hide and do not try to move them from their hiding space as this can cause additional stress.
- Muffle the sound of fireworks by closing all window and doors. You can also turn on music or the television to help soften the jarring noises.
- Consider staying indoors with your pets to offer them comfort and reassurance.
- Make sure your animals have an ID tag or chip in case they get lost and that the information connected to your pets’ microchip is up to date.

Pet owners can also register their pets for Finding Rover’s facial recognition software by uploading a picture of their pet to [www.FindingRover.com](http://www.FindingRover.com). A person who finds a lost animal can take a photo of them

—MORE—

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and three satellite clinics located in Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit [www.accesskent.com/health](http://www.accesskent.com/health).

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and the website will do a facial recognition search, showing owners the lost animals that look similar to their pet.

In Kent County, fireworks are generally allowed from June 29 to July 4 after 11 a.m. until 11:45 p.m. but local township ordinances may differ. To report a violation of the fireworks ordinance, residents should call the non-emergency number of their local police department.

For concerns regarding a loose animal or animal welfare during normal business hours, residents should call (616) 632-7310. For concerns after hours and on holidays, residents should call the non-emergency number of their local police department.

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