

## Taking Care of Your Pets Before and During Fireworks Events

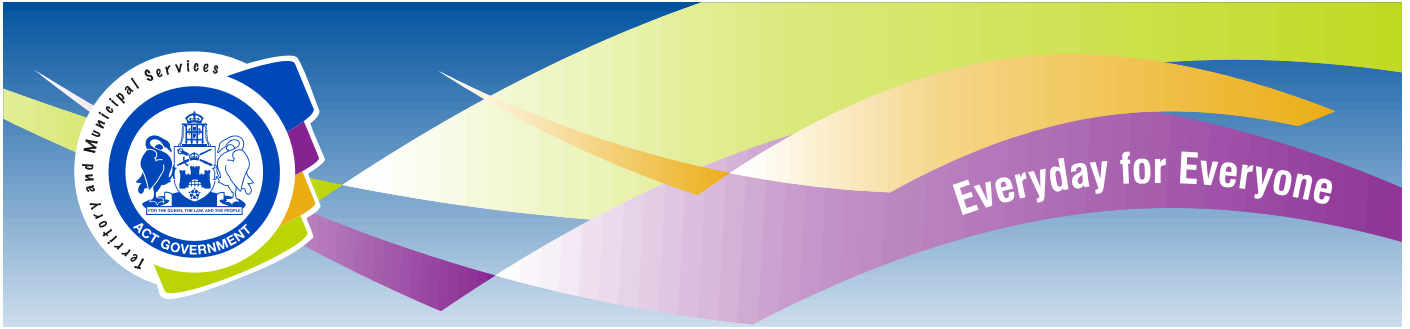
### Dogs

- Exercise and feed your dog prior to nightfall, as a well fed and tired dog is less likely to stress or injure themselves trying to escape.
- Dogs should be contained in the house or outdoor enclosure prior to nightfall, with all possible exits blocked, including windows.
- If you have to be away from your dog during firework activity, provide a safe space indoor environment with chew toys, bones and their normal bedding.
- You can also leave a radio on to give comfort.
- Ensure your dog is registered (this is the law in the ACT). TAMS encourages microchipping your dog as well.
- Ensure that your pet has identification of some form (this is also the law in the ACT).
- If you know your pet suffers from firework stress and you can't stay with your animal, organise a 'dog sitter' or enquire about medication from your vet.
- With the exception of the above, treat your dog the same as always. As head of the pack, your dog looks to you for stability.
- Don't give your dog any more attention than you would normally.
- Do not react to firework noise.

### Cats

- Cats generally will try and go underground and enter places such as drains at the first sign of fireworks.
- All cats should be brought indoors at nightfall regardless of firework activity, but especially on days when fireworks are to be held.
- You should feed your cats before nightfall.
- Ensure that your pet has identification of some form, (this is also the law in the ACT). TAMS encourages microchipping your cat as well.

Community Engagement



## Lost Dogs

If your dog becomes lost you should in the first instance contact the ACT Domestic Animal Services.

If they do not have your dog you should then contact the RSPCA. You can also contact local radio stations for inclusion in 'Lost and Found' broadcasts, and local veterinary surgeons in case it is an accident victim. Do not delay.

Should you find a stray, contact ACT Domestic Animal Services on 6207 2424 during business hours or call Canberra Connect on 13 22 81 after hours. A dog inspector will then collect the dog and transport it to the ACT Dog Pound. If the dog is registered and microchipped, the owners will be notified immediately.

Community Engagement