

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CHICAGO EMERGENCY VETS PROVIDE PET SAFETY TIPS  
FOR JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> HOLIDAY**

*Pet owners should plan an animal-friendly Independence Day.*

**CHICAGO, ILL., June 30, 2014...** The Fourth of July can be an overwhelming experience for animals, caution veterinarians at the Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center. It's one of the busiest days at Chicago's oldest and largest veterinary emergency hospital.

Crowds, loud noises and flashing lights can startle or panic even normally calm pets. It's best to keep pets at home and inside on July 4. If your pet is especially anxious about the noise from fireworks, pet owners should talk to their veterinarian now about the situation. Veterinarians can provide tips on keeping pets safe and calm, and if necessary, prescribe medication to help the pet through this holiday.

Other 4<sup>th</sup> of July dangers include:

- **Barbecues** are opportunities for pets to get into all kinds of unhealthy treats. To prevent stomach upset, poisoning or the onset of pancreatitis, pets should be kept on their usual diet. Human foods, especially fatty meats, bones, corncobs, chocolate, grapes and gum can cause serious health problems for pets. Many common barbecue spices including garlic and onions are also harmful to pets.
- **Keep pets on their leash if outdoors and under control when opening doors.** Frightened pets may bolt out an open door and run due to fear

from noises or crowds. This puts them at risk for being hit by a car or bitten by another dog.

- **Windows, balconies and decks** put pets at risk for “hi-rise syndrome” accidents. Both cats and dogs can jump or fall out windows or off balconies and decks. Even a fall from a one-story window can cause serious injury to a cat as they often hit their jaw on the ground causing damage to the jaw and/or teeth. Dogs can suffer broken bones and/or internal injuries as a result of falling from even a low-level floor. Pet owners should be sure to keep pets away from open windows – even if there is a screen. Pets should be on a harness leash under the control of a responsible adult when on a balcony or deck.
- **Heatstroke** is a threat on any warm day. Pets should never be left unattended in a car as car temperatures rise quickly. Whenever a pet is outdoors, their time in the sun should be limited. They should always have access to shade and plenty of cool, fresh drinking water. Too much exercise on a warm day can also lead to heatstroke, which can develop quickly. Heatstroke can lead to kidney failure, brain damage, and even death. Any pet suffering from heat stroke should be cooled with cool, damp clothes or cool, not cold, water. Immediate veterinary medical attention should be sought.

Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center is open 24 hours a day, every day of the year for all pet related emergencies. But with a little extra care and preventive measures, doctors hope you can keep your pets happy, healthy, and out of their hospital this Fourth of July!

**About Chicago Veterinary Emergency and Specialty Center**  
([www.ChicagoPetEmergency.com](http://www.ChicagoPetEmergency.com))

Chicago's oldest and largest pet emergency facility, the Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center provides advanced emergency, critical and specialty care for cats and dogs. Each year, the center treats more than 11,000 cats and dogs in its emergency room and thousands more are cared for by veterinary specialists.

Staffed by highly trained specialists and equipped with the latest technology, Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center is always open – 24-hours, every day of the year. In addition to emergency veterinarians and staff, the facility offers board-certified veterinarians who specialize in cardiology, dentistry, dermatology, diagnostic imaging, internal medicine, neurology, oncology, ophthalmology and surgery. This state-of-the-art facility includes ultrasound and MRI equipment, specialized surgical suites, a blood bank, specialized oxygen cages, heart monitors and more. A cancer and rehabilitation center is located across the street. Chicago Veterinary Emergency & Specialty Center has been providing emergency care for cats and dogs since 1978.

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