

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 1, 2011

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Summer Celebrates the “All-American Shelter Dog” and Also Ways to Protect Your Pets on July 4th & During the Summer Heat

Humane Society of Charlotte Offers July – August Promotion

Charlotte, NC – As the Humane Society of Charlotte heads into the summer months, the kennels are full and many dogs are still seeking their forever home. During the months of July and August, they are focusing on their All-American Shelter Dogs, which kicks off their July 4th promotion, along with educating the public on keeping their pets safe this summer.

Many times we hear the question, “what kind of dog is that?” With some dogs, it is obvious what breed they are, however with many, they may have the nose of the beloved boxer and the hair of a corgi. So what do we call that beautiful pup? Across the country, shelters have designated them as the “**All-American Shelter Dog**”. Many of these breeds are difficult to place simply due to the fact that they aren’t placed in a specific breed category, but the Humane Society of Charlotte hopes that people will visit the shelter over the summer months, meet some of these fantastic canines and see that an “All-American Shelter Dog” just might be the dog you are looking for.

As part of the “All-American Shelter Dog” promotion, designated canines are being featured at a reduced adoption fee of \$50 along with a free personalized pet tag, 30-day pet insurance, all vaccines and micro-chipping. It’s a wonderful opportunity to add one of these beautiful pups into your home.

Entering the summer months, there’s nothing more colorful than fireworks on the 4th of July for us, but before you head out to one of Charlotte’s many firework celebrations, think twice about taking your family pup along for the festivities. July 4th is actually the holiday that many pets fear and also escape the confines of their fenced in yard. The Humane Society of Charlotte hopes that you will heed these pet safety tips so you and your canine can enjoy the holiday:

- **NEVER leave your dog in an unattended parked car** – Please remember a car can reach high temps in minutes even with windows cracked. This exposure can result in organ damage, heart problems and sudden death. So leave your pup at home if you are considering locking them in the car.
- **Stay in the Shade** – Just like us, our dogs can suffer from heatstroke. So please avoid this by insuring that your pup is in shaded areas on very hot and warm days. **Recognize the signs of heatstroke:** Heavy panting, glazed eyes, a rapid heartbeat, restlessness, excessive thirst, lethargy, fever, dizziness, lack of coordination, profuse salivation, vomiting, a deep red or purple tongue, staggering and unconsciousness are all signs of heat stroke. If the animal shows symptoms of heatstroke, take steps to gradually lower their body temperature immediately and contact your veterinarian as soon as possible. Follow these tips, and it could save your pet’s life:
 - Move the animal into the shade, an air-conditioned area or a baby pool with cool fresh water
 - Apply ice packs or cold towels to the head, neck, and chest or run cool (not cold) water over them
 - Let the animal drink small amounts of cool water or lick ice cubes
 - Take them directly to a veterinarian

- **Keep Your Dog Hydrated** – Did you know that dehydration is the #1 danger during the summer heat waves. Leave plenty of fresh water on hand to quench your dog's thirst, especially if you are planning to have them outdoors. Keep a bowl filled with ½ water and ½ ice and place it in the shade.
- **Fireworks are Scary** – Dogs are very frightened by fireworks and loud celebrations. Leaving them indoor in a safe, secure, escape proof room with food, water and a comfy bed is the best way for your pup to spend July 4th. Many dogs shiver, cower and panic due to the festivities. Make sure that they are wearing their collar and tags in case they become scared and run away from home. Also, be sure and have your pet micro-chipped. There is always an increase in lost pets and strays so keep an eye your canine family member.
- **Beverages are Bad** – Be sure, if you and your family are invited to festivities, that you NEVER leave your beverage unattended. Due to the heat and thirst, if you dog digests alcohol, he could become weak, severely depressed and could go into a coma.
- **It's No Picnic** – Always be sure not to let you dog eat foods that are potentially dangerous and your friends may not be aware of them. Bones, onions, avocado, grapes and raisins may be toxic to your pets. Please be aware of your nearest emergency vet's location.

By following these suggestions, the Humane Society of Charlotte hopes that both people and their pets will have a wonderful July 4th and summer season!

About the Humane Society of Charlotte:

The Humane Society of Charlotte is a community resource committed to improving the lives of companion animals through adoption, spay/neuter and education. The Humane Society of Charlotte provides low-cost spay and neuter surgeries for cats and dogs to reduce pet overpopulation throughout the Carolinas. The no-kill of adoptable animal's organization provides pets with the love and attention they need to live happy and healthy lives while awaiting a new home. The Humane Society of Charlotte is a nonprofit organization that relies solely on private donations to achieve its mission

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