

Pets need care on July Fourth

By Lucinda Dillon
Of the Emerald

The Fourth of July is a day for Americans to celebrate their independence. Unfortunately, many family pets also find themselves independent and detached from their owners after breaking fences, chewing through ropes and digging out of yards in attempts to escape the sounds of fireworks.

"July fifth is our busiest day of the year; sort of like the day after Christmas for retailers," said Barry Oaks, program manager for Lane County Animal Control.

While most people take the subject lightly, Janice Headlee of the Eugene Humane Society said pet owners should take special care of their pets on this day. "No matter how secure they are, someone should be home with them," she said. "What they need is human companionship and reassurance while the firecrackers are going off."

Headlee repeated reports of dogs trying to break down doors and chewing through wooden posts in their hysteria. Keeping dogs at home in a familiar environment, or in a travel kennel, is the best idea, Headlee said.

"These dogs don't just wander around the neighborhood — they go for miles," she said.

The director of the Eugene Humane Society urges owners to start taking precautions now, before the Fourth of July. "As soon as the fireworks start going off — we've already had

calls," said Carmen, who declined to give her last name. "If you can't be home with your pet, then maybe a babysitter can."

Local animal regulation officials give the following tips to pet owners for the Fourth:

- If you own an outside pet, tie it up securely with a rope or chain, or confine the animal to a travel kennel for the evening.

- Do not take pets along on picnic or firework outings with the idea that the pet is better off with you than home alone. "We had one report from a woman who took her dog to a fireworks display. Smart huh? The dog tore up the back seat of her car and escaped out a window in the Fern Ridge area. She has never seen the dog since," Carmen said.

- Do not tranquilize animals. This does not always demobilize animals and does not lessen their fear.

- Don't forget about cats on July Fourth. Cats can "climb up and hide under things," Headlee said, but they need to be kept indoors and secure also.

- Make sure pets have a validated license and collar before the festivities begin. Tags can be obtained from the Lane County Animal Control office with proof of a current rabies vaccination.

- If you do lose your pet, go in person to the animal control and licensing office at 3970 W. First St. within three days as animals are adopted out or destroyed after this time, Headlee said.

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revising the proposals with the recommendations of the OPEU and will send the new classifications to the state agencies July 15, said Maryanne Long, assistant director for classification and compensation at the University. The University's 540 full-time clerical workers then have to be fit into the classification system, she said.

"We'll review the position descriptions, we'll look at duties and responsibilities then fit them into the new system," Long said. It sounds easy, but there are a multitude of different duties and responsibilities with all the different departments, and each one has to be looked at on an individual basis, she said.

Hallock warned the clerical workers that their assignment to a classification depends entirely on the description of their position filed in their department.

"Make sure your position description is up to date, and when you sign it, you agree with it," Hallock told them.

The deadline for updating position descriptions is July 15, Long said.

The reclassifying of clerical positions will probably take until the end of September, Wilcox

said. Reclassification of other state employees will be completed soon afterward, he said.

Once the reclassifications are organized, they must be approved

ed by the Legislative Task Force on Comparable Worth and then by the Legislature in 1987.



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