

Fireworks Cause Lost and Found Pet Numbers to Rise

BY MINDY COOPER

After the Fourth of July Holiday weekend, Multnomah County Animal shelter said they have received a drastic increase of lost and found animals brought into their shelter in Troutdale.

"Not all of them are lost or missing, but it is more than double what we see in a typical three-day holiday weekend," said Mike Oswald, the Director of the Multnomah County Animal Shelter.

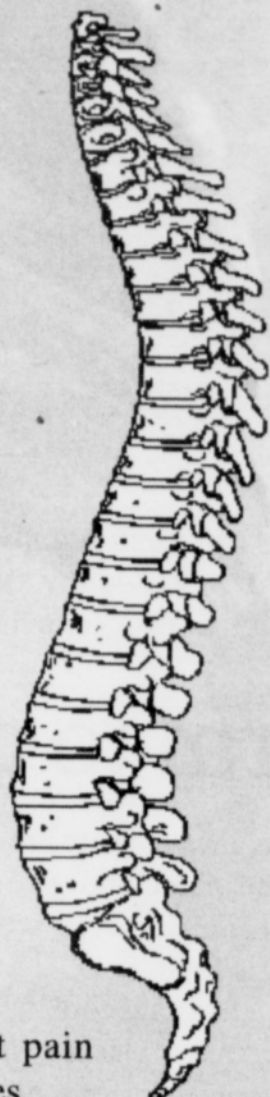


Mike Oswald, the Director of Multnomah County Animal Shelter, gives a treat to dog Squishy, who is staying in the shelter until her adoption.

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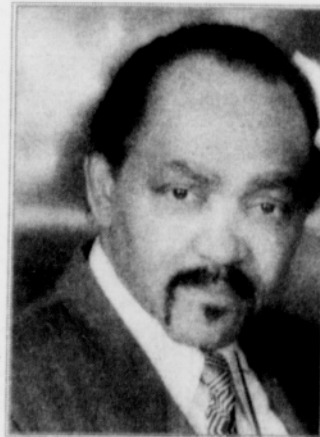
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Oswald explained pet owners and residents often don't know what to do when they have lost an animal, and it can be a difficult experience. "If you have lost your dog or cat, come to the shelter in Troutdale," he said. "This is the one place for people to look and it is critical for people to look."

The shelter, which is open seven days a week, exists to serve all of the cities within Multnomah County. "Animal welfare and public safety are our priorities," he said. "We receive around 8,000 animals a year."

He explained their first job as a shelter is to find the owners of the animals. "This is why licensing and micro chipping is so important," he said. "The dogs and cats that end up in the shelters rely on their owners."

He said the reason for the high level of animals brought into the shelter over the holiday weekend can be traced to the noise levels throughout the county. "Pets and fireworks don't mix well," he said. "They frighten the pets, and when pets are frightened they tend to run."

Beginning on Saturday, July 2, through Tuesday July 5, he said the shelter received a total of 73 dogs and 60 cats from the county. "We are the community animal shelter," said Oswald. "We get all of the lost, stray, injured, sick animals in the community."

In addition to lost and found dogs, the shelter also provides opportunities for pet adoptions. Coming up on Saturday, July 16, Multnomah County Animal Shelter welcomes the entire community to "Petlandia," for its fourth annual pet adoption party.

The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the shelter, which is located at 1700 West Columbia River Hwy.

For more information, go to www.multcopets.org