

## Fireworks, Fears, and Fido



Dr. Jasmine Streeter, Veterinarian, with Sheba

By **Jasmine Streeter, DVM**  
Special to *The Skanner News*

Hopefully your 4th of July was filled with cookouts, laughter and an awesome fireworks display. This seems like an ideal way to spend an extended weekend — unless you are a dog. Although the sparkly sky sprinkles are most-

common frightening scenarios. For example, fireworks, thunderstorms or trains. There are multiple CDs on Amazon for fearful sounds and even Spotify has soundtracks of various thunderstorms and firework displays. Playing these sounds for a short period of time and gradually increasing the length and volume as your pet becomes comfortable is

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ly put away until next year, there may be a few enthusiasts who are still sparking the last of their Roman candles. Preparing your dog for fireworks and loud noises can help save you stress and headaches.

The simplest way to handle a fireworks display or stressful event is to remove the animal from the stimulus. This can mean taking a dog to a neighbor or relative's house that will not be hosting a fireworks show on their street, or checking your dog into a boarding or pet sitting service. Having someone present during the time of excitement who is calm and relaxed will help put your dog at ease. If you are unable to physically remove your dog from the location of excitement, place them in a quiet room as far away from the noise as possible. This could be a bathroom, den or basement where the sound will be dampened.

Acclimation is a wonderful way to prepare your dog for scary events. Small, repeated exposures, in a controlled setting, paired with positive reinforcement, is a good, long-term plan for

the key to acclimation. Positive reinforcement through words, food rewards or toys will help your pet respond more appropriately when the real thing happens.

For some pets, sedation through medication or aids like the Thunder Shirt are needed. These tools work best when given before a frightening event has occurred. Consult a veterinarian if you believe your pet requires sedatives. To prevent toxicity, never give your personal medication to your pet. Drugs affect humans and animals differently even if they provide the same intended outcome.

Regardless of the method you choose, the goal is to help you enjoy wonderful moments without compromising the safety and health of your pet. Using these tools in conjunction with positive reinforcement, your pet may be able to enjoy these holiday experiences as much as you do. For my little fur babies, when it comes to 4th of July, they don't mind the noise as long as they get a treat.

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## Dennis Richardson Offers Limited Data to Trump Commission for \$500

Oregon and Washington Secretaries of State say they will only release information that's already publicly available

By **Andrew Selsky**  
*Associated Press*

SALEM — Oregon's chief election official on Friday told President Donald Trump's commission investigating allegations of voter fraud that it could receive a state-wide list of voters for \$500, just like anyone else.

Oregon Secretary of State Dennis Richardson, however, said in response to the commission's request for publicly available details on all voters in the state that he's barred legally from disclosing Social Security and driver's license numbers.

Two members of Oregon's congressional delegation and Gov. Kate Brown had urged Richardson, a Republican in this Democratic-leaning state, to refuse the request that went to secretaries of state around America.

Richardson said in a letter to commission vice chairman and Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach that there is “very little evidence” of voter fraud or registration fraud in Oregon.

“I do not believe the federal government should be involved in dictating how states conduct their elections,” Richardson said.

Among the secretary of state's key missions, according to Richardson's official website, is to “maximize voter participation and protect ballot security in order to promote Oregon's healthy democracy.”

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, a Democrat, charged via Twitter that the request is a tool of voter suppression, and said Richardson should follow the lead of some of his coun-



In this Nov. 8, 2016, file photo, Dennis Richardson, the Oregon Republican Secretary of state candidate, waves to the crowd during an election night event at the Salem Convention Center in Salem, Ore. Richardson, Oregon's chief elections official has been silent on a request by President Donald Trump's commission investigating allegations of voter fraud in the 2016 election for a list of the names, party affiliations and voting histories of all voters if the information is publicly available.

terparts in other states, and not provide data.

Rep. Earl Blumenaur and Brown, also Democrats, agreed.

Washington Secretary of State Kim Wyman, a Republican, says her office will send the commission names, addresses and birth

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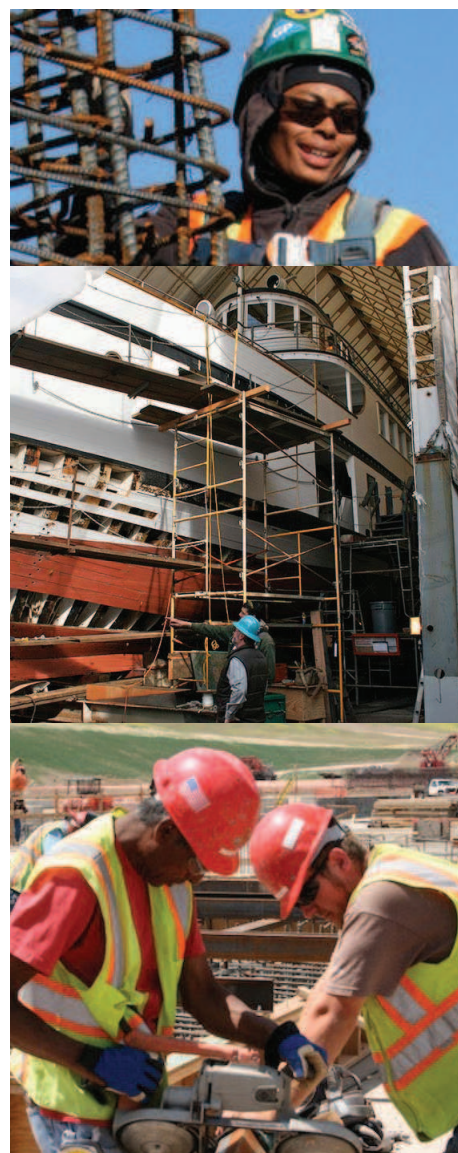
“We should protect voters' information and expand access to the ballot, not suppress it,” Brown tweeted.

The Democratic Party of Oregon said believes the request “is an effort to mislead the American public about the integrity of our voter rolls.”

dates of registered voters because they are public record. She will not send Social Security numbers, driver's license numbers or other information.

The Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integri-

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