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## LA Fireworks: Rules, Regulations And Pet Safety This July 4th

By [Lucy Copp](#)

Published Jul 3, 2023 2:35 PM



Fireworks can be fun, but they can also lead to loud noise, poorer air, and a variety of potential headaches for dogs and their guardians.

(Courtesy of Riverside County Department of Animal Services)

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Fireworks can be fun — the bright lights, a big bang, followed by crackles and a smoky imprint left in the sky. It's a staple of the July Fourth holiday that many of us enjoy, or at least expect, each year.

**Headed To See Fireworks? Here's What You Need To Know About Regulations And Safety**

16:14

If you live in Southern California, you probably also anticipate the downsides of this spectacle, which include a drastic dip in air quality, loud bangs throughout the night, and, if you're a pet owner, an anxious animal glued to your side or cowering in the corner.

We discussed the fireworks rules and regulations you need to know about and how to keep your pets safe and secure on *AirTalk with Larry Mantle* Monday on LAist 89.3. Here's what we learned:

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**Sanctioned shows are more regulated now**

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Regulatory agencies are cracking down on sanctioned shows.

Last month, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Board [passed new rules](#) stating that [fireworks shows over major bodies of water have to meet certain standards under the Clean Water Act](#). After fireworks explode, their casings fall out of the sky and produce a good amount of trash. How much exactly is unclear, but the board will be monitoring that going forward.

These management practices were formulated with input from fire departments and firework operators, said Norma Camacho, chair of Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, who joined [AirTalk](#) Monday. It will take time for these practices to be implemented safely, but the hope is to curb the discharge of plastic trash that's sprinkled into the water with each exploding firework.

## Increased regulations could mean more illegal fireworks



Fireworks in a Huntington Beach neighborhood on July 4, 2021.

(Jill Replogle / LAist)

Then there's the issue of illegal fireworks throughout the city.

MySafeLA is a nonprofit that organizes risk reduction programs throughout the greater L.A. area and is one of the lead organizations for the city's fireworks mitigation program. David Barrett, executive officer of MySafeLA, said on *AirTalk* that when considering your own backyard show, "One, think about your neighbors, and two, leave fireworks to the professionals."

This year, a handful of big shows have been cancelled for environmental and financial reasons, creating more incentive for people to set off fireworks of their own. Barrett says they're seeing more drone light shows, which is promising.

"They are spectacular," he says and unlike traditional fireworks, drone light shows can't start wildfires.

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But if you really need your firework fix this holiday, he says, "a professional show is a terrific way to enjoy the Fourth. Doing it yourself ... is just a bad idea."

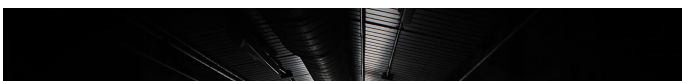
## How July Fourth is impacting animal shelters

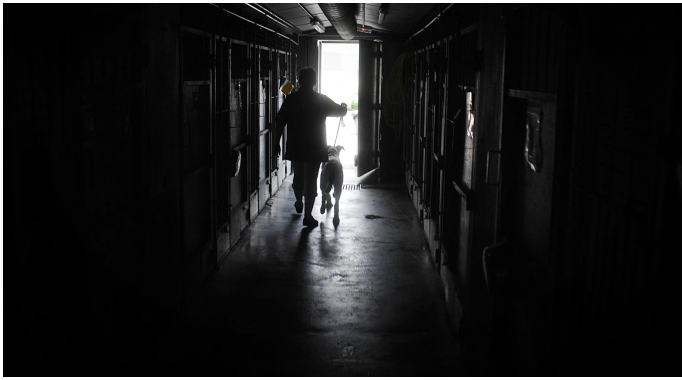
**Checking In On LA Animals Shelters And How To Navigate Your Pet's Anxiety This Holiday**

17:11

The July Fourth holiday can also torment some pets. Animal shelters in Los Angeles are sounding the alarm that they're at capacity and critically short-staffed.

Shelters are expecting an influx of lost animals in the coming days as many pets flee yards and homes in a fear response to fireworks. Marcia Mayeda, director of the Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control, says county operations stay open on July Fourth and work to reconnect as many people with their pets as possible.





A shelter employee takes a dog out of an enclosure.

(Martin Bureau / AFP via Getty Images)

Board-certified veterinary behaviorist Dr. Rachel Malamed encourages pet owners to secure their property and make sure pet ID tags are in place and updated.

Creating a "safe haven for your pets" with treats and play toys can help distract some dogs from the noise, she says.

Reducing the sound of fireworks by playing white noise, keeping windows closed or even purchasing noise-cancelling headphones can be very effective solutions. You should also plan ahead and work with veterinarians in case prescriptions for your pet are needed, Malamed says.

#### HOW TO KEEP YOUR PETS SAFE AND CALM

- Leave pets at home when attending parties, fireworks displays, parades and other social gatherings.
- Have your pet get plenty of exercise during the day so they can release a lot of their energy — take them out for a walk or to the park.
- Consider putting them in a safe space, like a safe room or a crate. Fill it with their comfort toys, blankets, etc. or even play white noise like soothing music. Make sure windows are closed so they don't inhale the fumes or smoke from fireworks.
- If you're hosting a BBQ or backyard party, keep them away from sparklers or snappers. After the cookout — don't forget to check your yard and cleanup any firework debris, even if you didn't set them off yourself.

## Shows in L.A. County

Now that you read through the advisory and tips for pets, we've got a list of how you can safely watch fireworks this weekend and on the Fourth of July in L.A. County.

- You can also check out the [Orange County Fire Department's list on its website](#)



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FOURTH OF JULY  
2023 FIREWORK SHOW DIRECTORY  
June 24, 2023 - July 4, 2023**

SHOW DATE	TIME	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	DISPLAY LOCATION
<b>Saturday, June 24</b>			
1	6/24/23 9:15 PM	City of Lakewood	Lakewood Civic Center parking lot, 5050 Clark Avenue
2	6/24/23 9:00 PM	City of Lomita	Lomita Park, 24428 Eshelman Ave
<b>Sunday, June 25</b>			
3	6/25/23 9:00 PM	L.A. Co. Dept Parks/Rec	East Los Angeles Civic Center, 4801 E. 3rd Street
<b>Friday, June 30</b>			
4	6/30/23 9:30 PM	Altadena Country Club	Altadena Golf Course, 1456 E Mendocino St
<b>Saturday, July 1</b>			
5	7/1/23 9:00 PM	City of Pico Rivera	El Rancho High School Football Field
6	7/1/23 9:00 PM	City of Norwalk	Civic Center, 12700 Norwalk Blvd
8	7/1/23 7:00 PM	Inwindale Speedway	500 Speedway Drive
9	7/1/23 9:00 PM	City of Hawaiian Gardens	Fedde Sports Complex, 21409 Elaine Ave.
10	7/1/23 9:00 PM	City of Commerce	5600 Harbor St.
11	7/1/23 9:00 PM	City of Palmdale	2723 Rancho Vista Blvd.
28	7/1/23 9:00 PM	City of Baldwin Park	Sierra Vista High School, 3600 Frazier Ave
12	7/1/23 9:00 PM	Six Flags Magic Mtn.	26101 Magic Mountain Parkway
<b>Sunday, July 2</b>			
13	7/2/23 9:00 PM	Six Flags Magic Mtn.	26101 Magic Mountain Parkway
<b>Monday, July 3</b>			
14	7/3/23 9:00 PM	Six Flags Magic Mtn.	26101 Magic Mountain Parkway
15	7/3/23 9:00 PM	Stevenson Ranch Mgmt. Co	Westfield Valencia Town Center, 24201 West Valencia Blvd
16	7/3/23 9:00 PM	City of La Mirada	La Mirada Regional Park, 13701 Adelle Drive
17	7/3/23 9:00 PM	Freedom City Church	11003 Sports Arena Dr.
18	7/3/23 9:00 PM	City of Cudahy	5220 Santa Ana St.
19	7/3/23 9:00 PM	City of La Puente	501 N. Glendora Ave
26	7/3/23 9:00 PM	Catalina Island Co.	Two Harbors, Isthmus Pier
27	7/3/23 9:00 PM	City of Lynwood	Lynwood City Park, 11301 Bullis Road
20	7/3/23 9:00 PM	City of Duarte	1401 Central Ave



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SHOW DATE	TIME	SPONSORING ORGANIZATION	DISPLAY LOCATION
<b>Tuesday, July 4</b>			
21	7/4/23 9:00 PM	City of Inwindale	5050 N. Inwindale Ave.
22	7/4/23 9:00 PM	City of Gardena	Rowley Park, 13220 S Van Ness Ave.
23	7/4/23 9:00 PM	City of Cerritos	Cerritos Civic Center, 18125 Bloomfield Ave.
24	7/4/23 9:00 PM	City of Rosemead	Rosemead Park, 4343 Encinita Ave.
25	7/4/23 9:00 PM	Pomona Fairplex	1101 W. McKinley
26	7/4/23 9:00 PM	Crescenta Valley Fireworks	Crescenta Valley High School, 2900 Community Ave
28	7/4/23 9:00 PM	Universal Studios	100 Universal City Plaza (Transformers)
29	7/4/23 9:00 PM	Friendly Hills Country Club	8500 Villa Verde Dr.
30	7/4/23 8:30 PM	City of South Gate	9615 Pinehurst Ave.
31	7/4/23 9:00 PM	City of Artesia	Artesia Park, 18750 Clarkdale Ave.

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