Media Release

Willem Westra van Holthe, Member for Katherine
Deputy Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries

Avoid animal terror this Territory Day

30 June 2015

The countdown is on to Territory Day celebrations and residents are encouraged to consider the safety and wellbeing of their pets and livestock before the festivities get underway.

Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries Willem Westra van Holthe said it is important Territorians plan ahead to ensure their animals remain safe.

“Thousands of fire crackers will be let off during tomorrow’s festivities and the sudden, ongoing noise can be terrifying for pets and livestock,” Minister Westra van Holthe said.

“Keeping animals calm and secure if the best way to ensure they don’t become aggressive or take flight, possibly injuring themselves in a panic as they look to escape.”

Measures to keep animals safe on Territory Day include:

· Put your pets in a safe room, closing all doors and windows
· Turn on the radio to block out noise
· Provide distractions such as chew toys, bones and balls
· Ensure livestock are stabled where possible, or taken away from the noise

The Animal Welfare Branch of the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries is working closely with the RSPCA and Darwin City Council to ensure all measures are taken to keep animals safe.

RSPCA Darwin General Manager Dani Walter encouraged residents to microchip their pets and keep the information on those chips up to date.

“If an animal does go missing on Territory Day, a microchip is the best way for them to be reunited with their owner,” Dani Walter said.
“The RSPCA can microchip a pet for $50, which is a minimal price to pay for peace of mind where your pet is concerned.”

Anyone whose pet does go missing can call the City of Darwin hotline on (08) 8930 0600.

Media Contact:

Casie Scott, 0432 453 225