




FIREWORKS & FURRY FRIENDS



Most pets hate loud or sudden noises and struggle during fireworks season. Consider the following to ensure safer and less stressed pets...

- ◇ Walk dogs earlier and before dark if you can before any fireworks start. Keep your dog on a lead as they may be spooked by fireworks and run off.
 - ◇ If your dog or cat should run off, having the proper identification will greatly increase the chances that they will be returned quickly. All cats and dogs by law must wear a collar and an ID tag when in a public space.
 - ◇ Microchips are also required by law, and offer permanent identification should the collar or tag fall off. Just make sure the information is up-to-date.
 - ◇ Always keep your dog indoors when fireworks are being let off, and make sure your cat stays inside at night during firework season. Block off cat flaps to stop them getting outside and to help muffle the sound of bangs and whistles.
 - ◇ Switch on the TV or radio (the best choice is something they are used to) to help muffle the sound, but make sure it's not too loud as they have sensitive ears.
 - ◇ Close the curtains to black out any flashing lights from outside.
 - ◇ Fill their water bowl up to the brim – dogs drink more when they are worried.
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- ◇ Speak to your vet or rescue centre in advance as they may be able to provide calming treatments such as 'Pet Remedy' which helps calm stressed cats and dogs if they really struggle over this period.
- ◇ Prepare a calming hiding place for your dog or cat where it can feel safe and comfortable when loud noises are all around – perhaps under a bed with some of your old clothes. Once they have found a safe space they shouldn't be disturbed.
- ◇ Avoid leaving your dog or cat alone during firework season. If you do have to leave them, don't get angry if you find it has been destructive or toileted as shouting at them will only make them more stressed.
- ◇ Never take your dog to a fireworks display. Even if it doesn't bark or whimper at the noise, it doesn't mean it is happy. Excessive panting and yawning can be signs of a stressed dog.
- ◇ Don't have a private display in your garden and politely discourage neighbours from having one.
- ◇ Try not to let your dog or cat know you are worried as it may make the problem worse. Stay calm, act normally and give lots of praise for calm behaviour. It's okay to cuddle and stroke your pet if it helps them relax, but if it prefers to hide, then let it do this instead.
- ◇ Cover aviaries or bird cages with thick blankets to block out the sight and deaden the sound of the fireworks, but make sure there's enough ventilation.