

Fireworks & Your Dog
Simple, practical tips on helping your dog deal with noise phobia in firework season



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Introduction

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About the Authors:

This book has been carefully prepared, researched and edited by a team of canine information experts. Our authors are, first and foremost, passionate about dogs and share a mutual satisfaction in assisting people who are experiencing problems with their pets. Our works have been read by more than 12 million pet owners globally.



Fireworks & Your Dog: The Information EVERY Owner Needs to Know

A Practical Tip Sheet to Help Noise Phobic Dogs

Pets face many hazards outside, and with the seasonal firework festivities fast approaching and longer nights, it's a time for increased vigilance and awareness of the dangers pets face outside the home.

A senior Veterinary Surgeon at the PDSA, Elaine Pendlebury, says:

"The noise of fireworks can shock a pet into running away causing it to become disorientated, lost and frightened.

"The main danger time is, of course, during the evening, so it's a good idea to keep cats indoors, bring rabbit hutches inside and exercise dogs during the day."

PDSA also advises getting pets' accustomed to loud noises in advance.

There are some recordings of firework sounds that owners can buy, which some vets may suggest using to help pets cope with the noise.

Many pets can hear sounds that are inaudible to the human ear. So what we might think is a small sound, will seem far worse to your pet.

"It's all about making your pet feel safe and comfortable" says Elaine.

"What you don't want to do is add to their anxiety by panicking yourself."

Find out when any big displays are taking place in your area.

It's also important to make sure pets are in a room where they feel secure and draw the curtains as soon as it is dark. It may help to put some music on, preferably something with repetitive drumbeats and

make sure there are places a pet can hide, which is often a comfort for some animals.

Last of all, if you are having your own bonfire night celebrations, you should always check beneath the bonfire just before you light it to make sure there are no cats or hedgehogs hiding under it. Always clear away the hot embers afterwards and remember too, that scraps of left-over food can be harmful, as can hot spent fireworks.

Elaine concludes: "Noise, smoke, embers and sparks are all hazardous and can cause real distress to pets. PDSA's advice is to plan ahead. Keep pets safe and keep them indoors."

Pets also face many other dangers outside. For example, every year many pets are injured in road traffic accidents, so owners should keep cats indoors at night and keep dogs on a lead at all times when out walking to try to prevent any accidents.

Getting your pet microchipped will also help should your pet become lost due to the loud bangs and bright lights.

The K9 Magazine Firework Safety Code for Dog Owners

Every year the skyline is set alight with rockets, Catherine wheels and Roman candles as celebrations take place to the accompanying sound of fireworks. Bangs, explosions and bright lights are partnered by screams, sirens and the occasional howling dog.

Most dogs do not like fireworks. Fact.

Every year dogs along with many other animals experience fear and confusion, sometimes alone when their owners are away enjoying an organised bonfire.

It is not unusual for dogs to run away or escape from the home when frightened by fireworks so ensuring your garden is ULTRA secure is a

must, especially at this time of year.

Our simple 6 point guide should help to ensure your pets can get through the firework season safe and sound.

* It is a good idea to bring any outdoor pets inside for the duration of firework period. If this is not possible, covering kennels up with a blanket at night will give a dog a little protection from the bright flashes and loud bangs. Outside dogs are often used to thunder but fireworks can cause a very different reaction. Always remember how acute a dog's sense of hearing is. A loud bang to us can feel like volcano erupting to a dog.

* It may be hard, but try and stay with your dog during the majority of the firework season. A dog can often react very differently to a bang when you are not there. If it is possible, see if you can view your dog via a hidden vantage point just to gauge his or her reaction to the bangs. Even though you may elect to stay with the dog, try very hard not to react to the sounds of fireworks yourself. Do your best to ignore the bangs and crashes, showing your dog that there is no imminent danger despite the loud noises and bright flashes.

* Always make sure your dog has his or her own special area where they can go to feel safe. Be it an indoor kennel or a place under the stairs, dogs love to have a den at their disposal.

* It sounds obvious, but try to keep the windows and curtains closed as often as possible during firework season as this will lessen the effect of the noise and bright flashes.

* Normal household noises such as the TV, vacuuming or music can help to distract from the loud noises coming from outside. Maybe firework season is a good time to have a disco at home followed by a few days of vacuuming!

* Last but certainly not least, always ensure your pet has some sort

of identification on him or her. It is a sad fact but many dogs do run away from home during firework season, even dogs that has previously shown no fear of fireworks can occasionally take flight at the loud noises and flashes in the sky. Be prepared, your dog has no comprehension why the sudden noises and bright lights and as an animal with ultra sensitive senses, it's important to be prepared for any sudden displays of anxiety or fear.

BONUS TIPS: Canine Anxiety

Four-legged animals are as inclined to experience stress as their two-legged owners. While your dog won't labour over where his next meal will come from, he may wrestle with his own fears and anxieties. Fear may be associated with a particular person or gender, or a specific situation, such as a visit to the veterinarian's office.

Dogs may become anxious when their owners are away, when they hear certain noises such as thunder or fireworks, when a new pet enters the house or an animal companion dies.

Eliminating the cause is the first step in preventing your dog's anxiety attacks. If your dog runs under the bed during a thunderstorm, the source of the stress is clear, but sometimes the cause of the stress is more difficult to determine.

To help a nervous pet, try some of these tension-easing tips:

1. If your dog has a fear of thunder or fireworks, desensitizing your pet is almost impossible. Instead, provide a place in your home away from windows and doors in which he can wait out the storm and keep a radio on to help drown out the sounds of the thunder or fireworks.
2. If your dog experiences anxiety over a new pet addition to the home, introduce the animals gradually.
3. Dogs may experience stress at being left alone. Consider the option

of adopting or purchasing a second dog to keep your existing dog company.

4. If your dog seems anxious when you are away even for short periods of time, leave the television or a radio on.
5. If your dog becomes stressed because you are moving to a new home, take him to your new home before you move in, if possible, and allow him to investigate the surroundings. Give your dog some treats or play with him in the new home so he will associate something positive with the experience.
6. If the appearance of a new baby or new spouse in your home is making your dog anxious, try to keep things as normal as possible. Stick to your dog's regular schedule and give him plenty of attention.
7. If your dog grieves due to the loss of an animal companion, give him plenty of love and affection. After some time passes, consider a new animal playmate.

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RESOURCES:

If you're one of the millions of pet owners in the UK with a dog suffering from a fireworks phobia, then a simple spray of "Soothing Animal Solution" could be enough to instantly turn your petrified pooch into a relaxed, happy pet.



Specially formulated to help Dogs with fears associated with loud noises, such as fireworks and thunder, this easy to use spray works instantly to trigger relaxing endorphins, and is a safe alternative to sedation and expensive chemical based products. It is made using only natural and organic ingredients, flower essences and aromatherapy it can be used on a regular basis with no drowsiness or side effects

Soothing animal solution can be used either orally (sprayed into water and feed bowls) or sprayed on the dog's coat and surroundings, with effects lasting between 4-6 hours.

Soothing Animal Solution is priced at £10.99 and can be bought online at www.forestfarmacy.com or for more details ring the helpline on 0800 9709421

Remember, remember, the fifth of November, gunpowder, treason and...terrified dogs?

If your dog is terrified of sudden noises, a spray of Forest Farmacy's "Soothing Animal Solution" will offer instant relaxation for petrified pooches, thanks to its unique blend of flower essences and aromatherapy waters to trigger happy endorphins.

'Soothing Animal Solution' costs £10.99. Visit:

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