

FIREWORKS & STORMS

How you can help your pets keep calm and remain safe

Helpful Tips

- Remain calm as your pet will take its cues from you.
- Exercise your dog prior to an event to help them feel more relaxed.
- Keep your pets inside if possible during the event, preferably with human companionship.
- Provide a safe space for them to retreat - when scared of unknown sounds, pets often prefer small enclosed areas.
- Close windows & curtains to block out any flashes of lightning or fireworks.
- Offer your pet treats or toys to distract them.
- Remember, your pets are not displaying bad behaviour, they are feeling distress, fear or panic.
- Comfort and reassure your pet - this will not encourage their fearfulness, but may help to reduce their distress.
- If pets are outside, make sure there are no hazards in your backyard & that fences & gates are secure.
- Identify your pets with a collar & tag & always keep Microchip details up to date.



Signs & Symptoms

One of the most prevalent phobias in animals is of the loud noises associated with fireworks & thunderstorms. In their panic, pets can display destructive behaviour, escape from their homes & even injure themselves.

Some of the signs of noise phobias include: trembling, shaking, clinging to owners, barking excessively, cowering, hiding, soiling the house, pacing, panting, & refusing to eat.

Treatment Options

If you feel your pet is particularly distressed during these periods, consult your Vet to discuss how best to manage their stress at these times. Treatment options can include anti-anxiety medication, pheromone products, 'Thundershirts' and others.

Lost your pet?

- Call local Councils, Vets & visit pounds/shelters.
- Search your home, garden & local area thoroughly.
- Post on online pet forums with clear photos.