



Fireworks And Your Dog



Firework Phobia

Is your dog worried about fireworks? Does he drool, refuse to eat, shake, dig or hide?

Lots of dogs find fireworks incredibly stressful, but don't worry. There are several steps you can take to help minimise his distress. It is best to start preparations at least two weeks prior to the event.

Before the Fireworks Start

Create a den that:

- Is as far from the exterior walls of your house as possible.
- Is away from windows (if this is not possible, ensure curtains are closed).
- Contains plenty of blankets to burrow in, and a worn piece of your clothing.
- Is stocked with toys, chews and water.
- Is easily accessible at all times, so your dog can easily enter and exit without feeling trapped.

It can also be useful to make this den dark, by using a blanket over a crate, or between two chairs.

You should ensure that your dog is comfortable in the den, by taking him there a few times each day with his favourite treat.

An Adaptil plug in can also be advisable. This works in a similar way to a plug in air freshener, but releases a dog appeasing pheromone, which helps to calm and relax your dog. It is advisable to start using this around 2 weeks before the fireworks are likely to start. If a plug in is impractical, Adaptil sprays and collars are also available. To purchase, please give your local Yorkshire Vets surgery a call.

During the Fireworks

If you know that a display will be happening, feed your dog a large meal, 2-3 hours before the display is due to start. You can also add some pasta or mashed potato to the meal. This will help him feel calm and sleepy.

Play rhythmic music with a strong beat at a moderately loud, but not uncomfortable volume.

Ensure that all of your curtains are closed.

Play games with your dog, including the use of his favourite treats.

Take your dog to his hiding place, and encourage him to stay there.

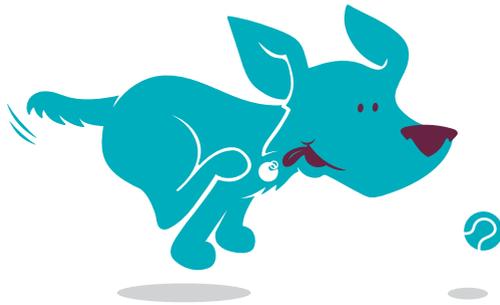
Do's and Don'ts

Don't get cross with him when he's scared. This will only make him more frightened.

Don't try to soothe or pacify him. This reinforces the belief that he has something to fear.

Do ignore him and behave as you would on any other evening. When he relaxes, you can play with him and give him treats as a reward.

Do check your house is secure, so he can't escape if he hears a sudden noise.



After the Fireworks

Continue using Adaptil for one week after all displays have finished. This helps to reduce your dog's anxiety as darkness falls and he expects fireworks to start again.

Long Term Phobia Prevention

The use of firework audio CDs can help to acclimatise your dog to the sound of fireworks. These can be ordered by calling your local surgery, and contain full instructions.

For severe firework phobia cases, you should book an appointment with our behaviourist. To do so, give your local surgery a call.

Medication

Medication is available, but a veterinary consultation must be booked for advice, before a prescription will be provided.

Behavioural training methods are better long term treatments than the use of medication.



Thornbury Hospital

515 Bradford Road
Thornbury
Bradford
BD3 7BA

24 Hour Emergency - 01274 663301

Armley

236 Tong Road
Armley
Leeds
LS12 3BG

0113 2791576

Birkenshaw

744 Bradford Road
Birkenshaw
Bradford
BD11 2AE

01274 651115

Horsforth

1 Station Road
Horsforth
Leeds
LS18 5PA

0113 2591196

Meanwood

52 Green Road
Meanwood
Leeds
LS6 4JP

0113 2758329

Morley

Topcliffe Lane
Morley
Leeds
LS27 0HL

0113 2383823

Shadwell

143 Shadwell Lane
Shadwell
Leeds
LS17 8AE

0113 2698889

Shipley

89 Leeds Road
Shipley
Bradford
BD18 1DF

01274 597070



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