



DEALING WITH FIREWORKS

Fireworks can be scary even to dogs who are usually really calm. Our guide will help get you through major events like Bonfire Night and New Year's Eve.

PREPARATION

- It's a good idea to take walks much earlier in the day before fireworks are likely to have started. If this isn't possible, consider skipping the walk altogether.
- If you do go out, make sure your dog is kept on a lead. Dogs can be excellent escape artists at the best of times so play it safe and double lead (if you don't already)!
- Once fireworks have started, keep your dog indoors.
- Close the curtains to hide the flashing lights.
- Make sure cat flaps and windows are locked so that your dog cannot escape.
- Turn on the radio or TV to distract from the noise. White noise really helps to mask the sound of the fireworks. Take care that it's not too loud that it could also become a source of stress - particularly if your dog is not used to it.

- Dogs are likely to drink more when they are worried, so make sure they have plenty of water available.
- If your dog does escape, contact PPTF immediately so that we can help.

HOW TO KEEP YOUR DOG CALM

- As difficult as it is when your dog is stressed, try not to show that you are upset or worried by it as they look to your reactions for reassurance that everything is normal.
- Stay calm, act normally, ignore any stressed behaviour from your dog as much as possible and give lots of praise for calm behaviour.
- If they are pacing and whining, let them until they find a safe space, and then try not to disturb them.
- It goes without saying that you should never shout at your pet. If you come home to find your dog has been destructive or messed in the house, PLEASE do not get angry with them. Reprimanding them will not help and will also make your dog more stressed.
- If you know you are going to have a particular issue with firework season, medication and sound therapy can help.
- Speak to PPTF, your vet or a qualified behaviourist at least 3-6 months in advance.

