



Preparing for Fireworks

Emma Brown
BVSc PGDip MRCVS CCAB

Dogs

- Take your dog for a walk before dusk so that they will not need to go out to the toilet once the fireworks start.
- Feed your dog in the mid to late afternoon, as this can also help them relax.
- At dusk ensure that your dog is safe indoors. Do not leave your dog alone if fireworks are expected.
- Provide a safe place your dog can retreat to if they wish but do not shut them in – as long as it is safe allow your dog to find the place they feel most comfortable – this may be with you or it could be under a bed! You can help by providing a safe “den” such as a dog crate / box covered on three sides and with blankets for them to dig into, well in advance of the event. Encourage your dog to use this and make positive associations with the den by putting treats in it. Do not try to move your dog once they have chosen a safe place.
- Drawing the curtains can stop your dog being startled by flashing lights.

- Playing music or turning up the volume on the television can help to minimise the impact of the sound of the fireworks if your pet is accustomed to this.
- If your dog has never reacted to noises before try not to react to the sound yourself, simply say in a cheerful voice “that was loud” and then try playing a game or doing some training with them to help form a positive association with the fireworks.
- Do not punish your dog for showing fearful behaviour. If they are distressed, then it is OK to comfort them. Do not try to restrain your pet.
- Developed by behaviour vets this online survey can help assess if your pet needs help by following the link below:

<https://is.gd/utLb6L>



Fellowship of Animal Behaviour Clinicians



Where can I find help?

Contact your vet who will be able to advise you or for a list of qualified clinical animal behaviourists in your area visit one of the web sites below.

Cats

- Ensure your cat is safely indoors before dusk and that all windows, doors and cat flaps are secure.
- Even if your cat does not usually use a litter tray make sure that one is available at this time of year.
- Close the curtains to minimise flashes which could frighten your cat.
- Putting on music or turning up the volume on the television can help to mask the sound of fireworks.
- If your cat seems quite relaxed, try playing a game or offering some treats to help form positive associations.
- Ensure your cat has suitable safe places to hide if required (cats will often choose to hide in a dark cupboard or under a bed so make sure these places are accessible and also offer a selection of boxes in various locations for your cat) Do not try to move them once they have selected a hiding place.

Microchips

If your pet should manage to escape in a panic on fireworks night then a microchip could help ensure that you are reunited. This is also a good time to double check with the microchip database that your contact details are all up to date.

IF YOU ARE HAVING A BONFIRE, MAKE SURE THAT YOU CHECK FOR WILDLIFE BEFORE LIGHTING IT.



Small Pets & Birds

If your pet lives outside, consider bringing them indoors. If this not possible ensure that their cage / aviary is safe and soundproof it as best you can.

Offer extra bedding for pets to burrow into.



[www.fabclinicians.org
/find-a-behaviourist](http://www.fabclinicians.org/find-a-behaviourist)

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www.abtc.org.uk



CCAB

[www.asab.org/ccab-
register](http://www.asab.org/ccab-register)

My Pet was very frightened by fireworks last year – what can I do?

If your pet has previously shown fear of fireworks or other loud noises, please contact your vet for advice. The sooner you approach you start preparation the better. Sound phobias can be treated. There are medications which can reduce your pet's anxiety and behaviour modification can change their reaction to the fireworks.



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office@fabclinicians.org