



Fireworks

Festa season can be miserable for dogs with a fear of fireworks. Because noise phobia tends to get worse over time you will need to take action to help your dog. We have listed our tips below for helping your dog through the fireworks season.



Allow your dog to feel safe: Your dog will develop his or her own ways of coping with their fear of noise. If your dog prefers to hide under the bed or the table when fireworks begin, do not try to coax him out. Provide your dog with a box to hide in if that makes him feel more comfortable. Let your dog stay where he or she feels safest and reward them when they do eventually emerge.

Distract your dog: Make sure that you act as if there is nothing to be afraid of. Give your dog plenty of attention if it helps him to feel more relaxed. Turn the volume of your television up and close the curtains – these all help to make your dog feel safe and to distract him or her from the noise. Never leave your dog alone: A dog that is alone and afraid may panic and injure itself.

Reward: If your dog shows signs that he or she is becoming more relaxed, reward that positive response with attention and treats. Your dog's fear should subside the more he associates the noise of fireworks with something he or she enjoys.

Specialist advice: If your dog is severely distressed then speak to your vet about treatments he or she may be able to prescribe to help your dog through the season. If your dog becomes aggressive as a result of its fear, your vet may suggest a course of drug or behavioural treatment.

If you already know that your dog has a severe phobia of noise, visit your vet in advance of the beginning of the fireworks season, to give the treatment the best chance of working.

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