

How to keep your dog happy during fireworks

It's a good idea to time walks earlier in the day before the fireworks start. Keep your dog on-lead if you think fireworks will be let off.

Always keep your dog indoors when fireworks are being let off.

Switching the TV or radio on might help to muffle the sound, but make sure it's not too loud and don't try this if your dog isn't used to noises from the television.

Close the curtains to black out any flashing lights from outside.

Dogs are likely to drink more when they are worried, so fill their water bowl up to the brim.

Make sure your dog is microchipped and your information is up to date so your dog can be returned to you if they are spooked by fireworks and run off. If your phone number is easily readable you will have a better chance of being reunited quickly.

Don't tie your dog up outside while fireworks are being let off, ie outside a shop while you pop inside, or leave him in the garden or alone in the car.

Even if your dog doesn't whimper at the noise, it doesn't mean they are happy. Panting and yawning are both signs that indicate your dog is stressed.

What to do if your dog is stressed by fireworks

Dogs show they are stressed or anxious in lots of ways, including panting excessively, drooling, shaking, yawning, and putting their tail between their legs.

Let your worried dog pace around, whine and hide in a corner if he wants to. Once they have found a safe space try not to disturb them.

Dogs may like to hide in a den where they can feel safe and comfortable when loud noises are all around. This could be under your bed or behind the sofa.

Placing some of your clothes there might help to keep your pet calm.

Although it's difficult when it's obvious your pet is stressed, try not to let your dog know you are worried as it may make the problem worse. Stay calm, act normally and give lots of praise for calm behaviour. It's okay to cuddle and stroke your pet if it helps them relax, but if they prefer to hide under your bed, then let them do this instead.

It goes without saying that you should never shout at your pet. If you have to leave your house during firework season and come home to find your dog has been destructive or toileted, don't get angry with them. Reprimanding them won't help and will also make your dog more stressed.

My dog hates fireworks – I'm dreading fireworks season

If you know your pet hates loud, high pitched or sudden noises, it's likely they will struggle to cope with the firework season.

Speak to your vet well in advance as they may be able prescribe calming medication that might help your dog if they really struggle over the period.