

Safety Tips for Pets During Fireworks

Fear of fireworks is common among dogs. The loud, unpredictable noise and bright displays can cause quite a bit of stress. With that stress, dogs may try to run away and escape the frightening circumstance by jumping their backyard fences, frantically trying to get out of the house, and other such behaviors that can put the dog into a dangerous situation.

There are several things you can do to keep your pets safe.

1. Don't bring your dog to the fireworks display!
2. More stray dogs than usual are picked up and brought in to animal shelters on this night. Be sure your dog is in the house, safe and sound.
3. If your dog finds a crate as a comforting place, put him in the crate that evening if you are not going to be home. But don't use a crate if this isn't already part of his routine as he is liable to injure himself trying to get out.
4. Turn on classical music.
5. Consider anti-anxiety medication for additional support this evening. See your veterinarian for ideas that are appropriate for your pet. You might also consider a product called Composure that is carried in the LHS store Boz' Place.
6. *Thundershirts* are a "wrap" that is proven to reduce anxiety. They, too, are available at Boz' Place in LHS and are guaranteed to work or they can be returned to the manufacturer.
7. If you choose to forego the fireworks display yourself and stay home, stay with your pets, pet them and assure them that all will soon resume to quiet. If your pet elects to hide out, allow him to do so and just monitor him to be sure that he is safe.

And, remember, we all expect the fireworks the night of July 4th, but also remember that some of our neighbors may have ones that they do days before or after which can still startle and upset our pets.