



DO YOU HAVE A SCAREDY CAT?

How to help your cat during firework season.

Many cats are scared of fireworks, but unlike dogs that tend to make it obvious to their owners, cats often suffer in silence.

Common signs of stress related behaviours include urine spraying, vertical scratching, over grooming and inter-cat conflict. To help reduce the amount of stress suffered by cats during firework season follow these few easy steps.

At least one or two weeks before firework season begins

1. Select a quiet room in the house and create hiding places (elevated is best as cats prefer to climb if they are scared) this will help them feel more secure, for example a box with a small entrance safely elevated on a table.
2. Plug in a pheromone diffuser (Feliway) in the room and do not switch it off for the whole season. Facial pheromones convey a message of reassurance and security.
3. Start a nutritional supplement, these can be used for the management of some behavioural problems and can help keep cats calm during fearful situations and periods of stress or anxiety. Please speak to one of our Veterinary Surgeons or Nurses with regard to which supplement we would recommend for your cat.
4. Consider a microchip as some cats do go missing during this period and it can help you become reunited with your pet as soon as possible.

During a firework event

1. Make sure your cat is safe and secure. Keep them indoors with all windows, doors and cat flaps closed.
2. Close all the curtains to help reduce the noise and flashing lights.
3. Create a distraction by turning on the TV or playing music (constant drumbeats are good at helping mask the sound of fireworks).
4. Ignore any fearful behaviour and do not fuss, reassure or punish your cat. Acknowledging the event will only act to confirm that there is something to be afraid of, making your cat more distressed.
5. Provide extra litter trays to reduce the risk of inappropriate toileting.

After firework season

1. Leave the Feliway diffuser plugged in for one week.
2. If you are concerned about the future and your cats noise phobia please consult with one of the Veterinary Surgeons or Nurses.