



IS YOUR TERRIER TERRIFIED?

How to help your dog during firework season.

At least one or two weeks before firework season begins

1. Select one of the quieter rooms in the house and create a play area, rotate the toys and put some away when not in use so the dog does not become bored with them. Most dogs like to hide as this helps them feel more secure so create a “den” for them, for example a blanket over a coffee table that they are able to get under, a cupboard or an area behind the sofa. Allow the dog access to this room even if you are not at home.
2. Plug in a dog-appeasing pheromone (Adaptil diffuser) in the room you have created and do not switch it off for the whole season
3. Start a nutritional supplement, these can be used for the management of some behavioural problems and can help to keep dogs calm during fearful situations and periods of stress or anxiety. Please speak to one of the Veterinary Surgeons or Nurses with regard to which supplement we would recommend for your dog. This is best started in advance of firework season if possible.
4. Walk your dog during daylight hours to reduce the possibility of fireworks being let off when you are outside.
5. Every year some dogs bolt and escape during firework season so consider a microchip as this can help you become reunited with your pet as soon as possible.

During a firework event

1. Make sure your dog is safe and secure. Keep them indoors with all windows, doors and dog 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 (panting, whining, shaking etc.) and **DO NOT** fuss, reassure or punish your dog. Acknowledging the event will only act to confirm that there is something to be afraid of and reward this behaviour.
5. In some individual cases it may be necessary to adjust the dose of certain supplements on the day of the event, but this should be discussed with a Veterinary Surgeon.

In cases of severe or established noise phobias other prescription medications may be useful and should only be used under veterinary guidance. Please speak to one of our Veterinary Surgeons if required.

After firework season

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