



TREFALDWYN VETS

NEWSLETTER

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Fireworks and Your Pet



With firework night, Christmas and New Year fast approaching now is a good time to start preparing for what can be a stressful time for both pet and owner. Some dogs and cats show no fear whatsoever with fireworks but others can find the loud bangs and noises extremely frightening. Dogs affected by fireworks may cower, shiver and shake, will often refuse their food and may try to hide in a place where they feel safe.

Practical Help- the Four D's.

DEN- Making a den for your dog before the start of the firework season can be helpful. Ideally this should be a safe, comfortable area which is as quiet as possible and can be dark to hide the firework flashes. It is a good idea to leave several blankets in the den so that your dog can burrow if he wants. Under the stairs or under a table covered with a blanket are common places for dogs to choose.

DESENSITISATION- Desensitisation has in many cases helped dogs and cats who show anxiety towards fireworks. Specially made recordings of fireworks can be played on CD several weeks before the fireworks begin. Building up the volume and the length of time for which it is played will help your pet to gradually become more used to the noises.

DAP- Using an 'Adaptil' diffuser before the fireworks begin can help to calm your dog. This is a plug-in diffuser which continuously releases a dog appeasing pheromone into the environment. The pheromone released is similar to that released by a bitch after the birth of her pups. It is totally natural, provides no sedative effect and cannot be detected by humans. We advise the diffuser to be plugged in a place where your dog spends most of its time and switched on 24 hours a day for 2 weeks before the fireworks begin continuing through the firework season.

DISTRACTION- Turning the television on loudly, playing music and closing all windows and curtains can help to mask out the noise of the fireworks.

When the fireworks begin...

- Encourage your dog to settle in the den and try to act as normally as possible so that he does not sense any concern from you.
- Do not stroke him and fuss him if he is scared as this will reward his scared behaviour.
- Pets who are scared can be unpredictable and may well panic so ensure that they are kept in a safe area and keep all doors and windows closed.
- If you do need to take your pet outside make sure you do so on a lead.
- Please remember your pets that live outside- partly cover cages, pens and aviaries with blankets so that one area is well sound-proofed.



For any further advice please do not hesitate to contact us at the surgery on 01686 668 234