

Advice and Tips on getting your dog ready for Firework Season



Double check your dog's Microchip Details and ID Tag – Make sure your dog's Microchip details are up to date, you can usually do this online with the Database they are registered with.

Consider leaving your collar on your dog whilst they're in the garden during Firework Season, if you usually take it off in the home. Always supervise your dog in the garden at night if they're outside and check the security of your fences to reduce the risk of your dog escaping from the garden if they get worried.

Walk your dog during the daytime if you can. Similarly to when it is very hot, they will not die from missing a walk – if it is too dark to take them out and they're worried about the fireworks, change it up and do some games activities inside. They can always go a walk the next morning!

Start de-sensitisation as early as possible and try to top this up through the year. A great example is to use your Amazon Alexa, or any other device, and ask them to play Firework noises whilst you're preparing your dogs dinner. This pairs a positive response to the fireworks and starting on a low volume then increasing slowly may help them to become less reactive to the Fireworks.

Give them time – when your dog is worried, the stress hormone your dog produces when he is worried or anxious can take up to seven days to reduce if your dog has had a particularly scary time. Giving your dog calming, sniffy walks, or time to chill in the house with a Kong will support them to relax. Don't be surprised if during the Firework season, your dog starts to react to things he wouldn't normally – protect him and wait for him to settle prior to exposing him to environments.

Make a Doggy Den and offer it to your dog as a safe space – create it in advance of Firework season and allow your dog to get used to it.

Let your dog lead – if your dog seeks out comfort, comfort him! Anxiety is an emotion and it cannot be reinforced with comfort, if your dog will benefit from your comfort then do so in moderation. You must also act calm and un-reactive to the fireworks yourself, so ensure you respond to the dog and not the noises themselves.

Increase supervision of your dog around children if he is worried – please remember, if your dog is nervous he might act out of character. Children may not always notice the signs, so it is important to educate them around how your dog is feeling and what they can do to help.

Consider calming products – if you know your dog finds this time of year stressful, consider appropriate calming products – plug in diffusers, sprays, natural supplements from Dorwest Herbs or collars can all support your dog. If you know your dog will be extremely distressed – contact your vet in advance to discuss appropriate options to help them through.

Check your local Facebook/Social Media pages to find out when local displays are in your area, try to be at home with your dog, ensure they are safe inside and shut the curtains. Do not let them in the garden during any Firework displays, wait until a quieter time.

Do not take your dog out to any type of display, such as Firework parties or 'Trick or Treating'. These environments are not suitable for any type of dog, they're unpredictable and you are putting your dog at significant risk.

Prepare in advance – desensitisation can take some time, and it's important to go at your dogs pace. Start early and top it up throughout the year.

If you have any further questions, please ask your instructor who will be able to support you or find someone who can.