



# Factsheets

## Preparing your pet for fireworks

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These days fireworks feature at all kinds of celebrations – not just bonfire night. Some animals can be very frightened by them. If your pet is frightened by loud noises, don't ignore the problem. You should always seek advice from a vet.

To get the best results for your pet you need to start to prepare for the firework's season as soon as September.

At least one month before start using...

### **Adaptil for Dogs or Feliway for Cats**

These plug-ins release an appeasing pheromone, recommended for preventing and reducing stress related behaviour in dogs & cats. You need to leave them continually switched on for at least 1 month before the effect required is achieved.

### **Adaptil collars for Dogs**

May be used at the same time, to give additional support.

Complete plug-in = £27.72 & the refills are £20.80 (lasts approx 1 month)

### **Make your dog a den in his favourite room**

A cardboard box would do with his favourite blanket / toys. On the weeks building up to an event get him used to this area. Go in close the curtains, turn a radio or TV up loudly and play with him in there – giving him lots of praise. Remember not to close any internal doors, as he may feel trapped and panic.



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### **Skullcap & Valerian Tablets**

Need to start a week before events expected.

Skullcap & Valerian tablets are a herbal medicine for the treatment of anxiety, nervousness, excitability, hyperactivity and travel sickness in cats & dogs.

The tablets do not cause drowsiness or impair normal behaviour making them a good option for the treatment of noise phobias.

### **Zylkene Capsules**

Need to start a week before events expected.

Zylkene is a milk based product proven to help your pet cope in times of stress and adapt to change.

No side effects have been associated with the use of Zylkene and it can be used for short periods or continuously if necessary.

They are a palatable powder contained in a capsule – just open the capsule and mix with food.

Only needs to be given once a day, from a cost of 50p

### **On the day of the fireworks**

Take your dog for a walk during daylight hours. Make sure he has done his toilet business.

Feed him a stodgy high-carbohydrate meal (ie rice, pasta or mashed potato) in the late afternoon, this may help make your dog feel more sleepy and calm during the evening.

Don't leave your dog alone in the house. He may panic. Make sure all windows are closed and external doors are closed. Close curtains. Turn TV or radio volume up (to drown out the noises)

Go with him to den area. Try to keep your dog busy with games to keep his mind off the noises.

Try to act as if there is nothing to be scared of. If he finds a way which helps him to cope be sure to let him do this. For example if he goes to hide under the table, don't coax him out – he will come out when he is ready.

If you know of another dog that is not scared by noises and gets on well with your dog, then keeping the 2 together during the evenings may help your dog to realise that there's no need to be afraid. Anxiety/valerian drops may be required.

### **Anxiety Drops**

A homeopathic remedy liquid which can be applied directly into the pet's mouth or can be dropped



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onto their bedding. For use with cats or dogs.

### **Valerian Liquid**

Valerian liquid is a herbal product which is used in the same way as Anxiety drops.

### **Treating Your Dog's Sound Phobia**

In the long term, your dog needs to learn to be less afraid of loud noises. With proper treatment this is achievable, so that the next firework season will be less stressful for you and your dog. The RSPCA recommends the Sounds Scary CD therapy pack. This includes 2 CD's of firework, gunshot and thunder noises, together with an information booklet and easy to follow instructions.

### **Cats**

Keep cats indoors when fireworks are likely to be set off – remember to lock the cat flap once inside. Make sure your cat has somewhere to hide – for example on top of some furniture or inside a cupboard. Don't try to tempt them out as this causes increased stress. Give them a nice big meal to help them settle. Anxiety or Valerian drops may be required.

### **Small Animals**

If your pets live outside, partly cover cages, pens & aviaries with blankets so that one area is well sound-proofed. Make sure that your pet is still able to look out. Provide lots of extra bedding for your pets so that they have something to burrow in.

### **Helpful Websites**

- [www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk)
- [www.secrettohappypets.com](http://www.secrettohappypets.com)
- [www.zylkene.co.uk](http://www.zylkene.co.uk)
- [www.petfireworkfear.co.uk](http://www.petfireworkfear.co.uk)
- [www.soundsscary.com](http://www.soundsscary.com)
- [www.fabcats.org.uk](http://www.fabcats.org.uk)