



## Firework Preparation for Dogs & Cats

Fireworks can be extremely stressful and frightening for pets. Loud noises, flashing lights, and vibrations may trigger panic, escape attempts, or injury. Preparing ahead of time can help keep your dog or cat safe and reduce anxiety.

### **Create a Safe Space**

Set up a quiet, secure area inside your home before fireworks begin. Use blankets, beds, crates, or hiding spaces your pet already feels comfortable in.

### **Keep Pets Indoors**

Even pets that normally spend time outside should remain indoors during fireworks. Frightened animals may jump fences, break leads, or run away unexpectedly.

### **Update Identification**

Make sure collars, tags, and microchip information are current. Many pets go missing during fireworks holidays.

### **Use Background Noise**

TVs, fans, white noise machines, or calming music can help reduce the sound of fireworks.

### **Stay Calm**

Pets often pick up on human emotions. Stay calm and avoid punishing fearful behavior. Comfort them if they seek reassurance.

### **Exercise Dogs Earlier**

Take dogs for walks and bathroom breaks before fireworks start. Keep dogs leashed even in familiar areas.

### **Consider Anxiety Aids**

Thundershirts, calming pheromone products, veterinarian-approved medications, or supplements may help some pets.

### **Secure Doors & Windows**

Check that windows, fences, gates, and doors are secure. Panicked pets can escape quickly.

### **Watch for Stress Signs**

Signs include shaking, panting, hiding, drooling, pacing, vocalizing, destructive behavior, or attempting to escape.

### **After Fireworks**

Check outdoor areas carefully before allowing pets outside. Firework debris may be toxic if eaten.

### **WHEN TO SEEK VETERINARY HELP**

Collapse or inability to calm down
Injuries from escape attempts
Repeated vomiting or eating firework debris
Extreme panic or self-injury
Difficulty breathing or seizures

Preparation before fireworks begin is the best way to reduce stress and keep pets safe.

Pay It Fur-Ward — Love Without Judgement