



# How to help your pets cope during a firework display

- ✓ **Calmly reassure your pet** - you cannot reinforce fear or do any damage by speaking to and petting your animal if you stay calm yourself – if you are calm and ignore what's going on outside, your pet will have less reason to panic. Doing something yourself such as watching T.V can help you do this.
  - ✓ **Have the TV or radio on** to help reduce/ muffle the sound of the display.
  - ✓ **Close the curtains** so that they cannot see the flashing lights.
- ✓ **Have a 'safe place' or den** where they can take themselves off to and hide if they wish - crates covered in blankets are fab for this but don't shut them in.
  - ✓ **Let them move about** to where they feel the most comfortable and secure.
- ✓ **Keep them distracted** with things they love doing such as training with treats as rewards, playing games with you etc.
- ✓ **Take them out for a walk a couple of hours before the display** to help keep their energy levels calm.
  - ✓ **Plug in a Pet Remedy/ Adaptil/ Feliway diffuser** or similar to promote calmness in your home.



- ✗ **Do not take your pet to the firework display.** You may love them but your pet will probably find all of the noises, smells, lights and people quite stressful!
- ✗ **Do not shout at your pet or use any form of punishment** method if they bark or 'misbehave' during the display. They are probably behaving this way as they are stressed/ scared. Telling them off will only add to this stress/ fear, making it worse.
- ✗ **Do not restrain your animal** in a small environment yourself or by equipment such as tying them up. If they are frightened they may injure themselves or redirect this fear onto you by accident. Some animals cope better if they can't see the flashes, other are better if they can as they then can look towards the sound and realise its not hurting them – each individual will be different.
- ✗ **Do not take them out for a walk around the time that the display is due to go off,** you risk them slipping a harness/ collar/ lead and getting themselves into harms way.