

AXARQUIA ANIMAL RESCUE

Registered Charity N°: 10567 (Spain) - CIF: G93245116

Dedicated to saving lives and rehoming abandoned and abused animals
Dedicado a salvar vidas y encontrar nuevos hogares a los animales maltratados y abandonados

**CAN YOU FOSTER, ADOPT, DONATE OR SUPPORT?
¿Puede Acoger, Adoptar, Donar o Apoyar?**

Website: www.AxarquiAnimalrescue.com

Email: axarquia-rescue@hotmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/axarquianimalrescue



Keeping your pets safe during fireworks

At key points throughout the year, wherever you and your pets live, there will be an increase in the use of fireworks. Whilst this is a time for celebration for many, for pets and their owners it can be a worrying and stressful time. In order to minimise the stress on your animals, preparation is important; do not wait for the fireworks to start until you take action.

Please take some time in advance to read through and act on some advice we have collated for you (we have focussed on dogs and cats in this leaflet).

We advise you to try behavioural therapies as the starting point, try these first before you visit your vet to seek medication (in extreme cases); they may take more effort but they are a longer term fix and will also provide further bond between you.

Speak to your neighbours if they are planning on a fireworks party to advise on lower-noise fireworks, responsible building of bonfires (for wild animals too) and disposal of litter.

Creating a safe haven in advance

In advance of any fireworks, provide your pet with a place of safety; somewhere quiet in the home where they feel in control.

For dogs, you can start to train with positive reinforcement (treats, toys) of them being in that area and using it as a place for them to relax. Leave toys there, but swap some out regularly so they retain interest and not get bored.

For cats, make sure they have somewhere to hide in addition to their pet-bed, (usually under furniture) and don't try to coax them out as this is more stressful for them.

Try to keep your presence in this area at a minimum and ensure your pet has access at all times. When the fireworks start, your pet will go to this place and feel happier.

If you do keep your pets outside, consider bringing them in (gradually and well in advance); if you decide not to; do not tie them up, please provide extra bedding for comfort, think about covering any cages partially for sound-proofing but allow them to still see out if they want to.

In extreme cases, speak to your vet about pheromone diffusers, which again should be used in conjunction with the above, not instead of.

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Safety first

Make sure your animals are secure, so if there is a sudden bright light or loud noise they cannot escape (police report an increase in animals involved in road traffic accidents during fireworks).

Of course, your pets should be micro-chipped.

Keep dog-walking and outdoor activities to day-light hours, walk your dog in the day and keep your pets inside at night during firework season.

During the fireworks

If you know your pet will become stressed when the fireworks start, stay home with them or ask a responsible adult to.

Keep doors and windows shut, close the curtains and maintain a calm "business as usual" atmosphere, do not become anxious or fuss over your pet as this will exacerbate any unusual energy. Of course, never admonish your pet for their feelings.

If your dog goes into their "doggy haven", you can accompany them but do not invade their space. You can encourage them to play with their toys but do not force or coax them; many times it is enough that you are with them in the same room (so be sure there is something to keep you occupied too!).

De-sensitising and calming...Classical music can have a soothing effect on animals and can reduce the impact of unexpected loud bangs - research has (e.g. SPCA) revealed that "music has a calming effect on dogs and that their stress levels decreased significantly after listening to music."

You can use music and sounds as de-sensitising therapy in advance of fireworks too, so that your dog becomes accustomed to different noises, please do your research on reputable therapy packs of music such as "Sounds Scary" from RSPCA.

