

# ADVICE ON HOW TO PROTECT YOUR ANIMALS THIS FIREWORK SEASON

## CHECK FOR ANY PLANNED FIREWORK DISPLAYS NEAR YOU



Unfortunately, most firework displays are not advertised in advance. **Make sure to check beforehand if there are any firework displays planned near you.**

If you hear of a display planned, and you have farm animals, try to talk to the organisers in advance and explain that there are livestock nearby. Ask them to release their fireworks in another direction.

## NON-PUBLIC DISPLAYS - TALK TO YOUR NEIGHBOURS



If you know your neighbours are likely to set off fireworks at unexpected times, consider putting a note through their door asking them to kindly notify you in advance of the intended time they will be hosting their display, so you have time to prepare your animals.

## CREATE A SPACE WHERE YOUR ANIMALS FEEL SAFE



For dogs in particular - spend time in advance creating a nice, quiet, safe area inside your home, away from windows or doors. It could be where they sleep.

Use their favourite blankets, cushions, toys, food and affection.

Get them to associate the space with comfort and safety – where they can go if they feel nervous or afraid.

When the time comes, gently encourage them to the safe space – but take care not to force or confine them if they don't want to go there.

**Turn on all the lights** of the rooms you're in and close the curtains.

Have some **familiar, relaxing white noise** on – the radio, the TV, etc.



**For birds and smaller animals cover their cages, hutches or walls** to help soundproof them.

If you have an animal that likes to burrow – provide them with some **extra bedding or places to hide** to help them feel protected against the noise.

Visit our website to learn more:  
[www.animalconcern.org/fireworks](http://www.animalconcern.org/fireworks)



## **GIVE THEM PLENTY OF OUTDOOR TIME DURING THE DAY**



Anticipate displays by making sure you have given your companion animal its outdoor time and plenty of exercise during the day.

## **IF YOUR ANIMAL LIVES OUTSIDE, BRING THEM IN FOR THE NIGHT**



*If your horse has been particularly affected by fireworks in the past, speak to your vet for professional advice.*

If you know your horse is afraid of fireworks, and you feel they may get injured in their field, bring them into their stable for the night. Stay with them for comfort and reassurance if you can. Leave barn lights on and consider how you might distract their attention from the flashing lights and sudden bangs ... smaller holed haynets, apple bobbing, licks and playing music can help.

## **BE A COMPANION AND A CALMING INFLUENCE**



Your own reaction to the fireworks will have an effect. Stroking, soothing, talking and remaining calm will all help to reassure your companion animal. Show no reaction to the fireworks, if you can. Although, be aware that this may not be enough to reduce their fear completely.

Wherever possible, try to make sure you are at home, or with your animals, for the evenings around firework night. Or have someone you trust pet-sit. Or take your animal with you, if you think that's safer.



### **TRY A DOG WRAP**

If your animal is shaking, people have found it helpful to wrap them in a towel or a piece of their owner's clothing.

***If your animal is exhibiting abnormal behaviour, or if you are worried in any way, do not hesitate to contact your vet. They will be able to advise across a wide range of queries and help keep your animal safe.***

Visit our website to learn more:  
[www.animalconcern.org/fireworks](http://www.animalconcern.org/fireworks)

