

News Item 1: Don't panic! It's only fireworks!!!

Getting your dog used to fireworks

This is actually a relatively simple process which requires a little time each day over the period of a few weeks to a few months dependent on the individual dogs level of fear.

We want to make the dog consider the sound of fireworks as part of its everyday life, a normal and non-threatening noise. To do this you will need a CD of firework noises (available from the practice and in some pet stores) and a CD player.

Play the CD in the house for a few hours everyday beginning at VERY low volume (remember your dogs hearing is usually MUCH better than ours), whilst the CD is playing you should act completely normally towards the dog, you can feed him or play with him in a normal manner. DO NOT FUSS the dog as this would be telling him it is correct to be scared and worsen the problem!

The dog should NOT be reacting to the CD, if the dog appears frightened the volume is too high in which case, abandon the CD today and try again tomorrow at a still lower volume.

After a few days when you are happy the dog is non-reactive to the CD you can increase the volume slightly. Every few days you should be able to gently increase the volume, it is important to BE PATIENT and ensure your dog is comfortable and going about his normal business at each volume level, remember as the volume increases your dog may need longer to adapt and be fully comfortable.

To aid this desensitization process there are proven calming products such as DAP diffusers and anti-stress drugs which will aid your dog in becoming happy with these sounds.

Note

Many of these CD's also include other common sound phobia's such as babies crying, and household sounds.