

The Effects of Fireworks on Your Dog



You'll first need to understand that a dog's hearing is much better than humans. Not simply due to amplitude, but specifically due to frequency range. That means that they hear sounds in frequency ranges we don't even recognize as humans. A near sonic firework blast is heard by a dog much more clearly and extremely different than humans. If you were to hear what they do during such a blast, I'd be willing to bet that you too would be running for cover.

What is there to do during our 4th of July celebrations? I have a simple answer. Keep your dogs safe at home and away from extreme explosions.

It kills me to see people at firework celebrations with their dogs; claiming that their dog is fine with fireworks, and therefore they are boasting their own ego by parading their above average dog. It takes only one time to scare the dickens out of "Rover" – and once you do, he'll be a mess possibly for life.

Do not keep them in the backyard during this holiday, since they may get hurt escaping out if the noise is extreme, or the anxiety is severe. If you have a dog that already displays issues with thunderstorms, noises, lightening, etc., you may want to sedate him enough to cut the edge.

Ask your vet to prescribe a mild sedative to give your dog during the holidays, and then follow through 1-2 days leading into it (having the sedatives in the kitchen drawer does not help Rover). If you totally drop the ball and do not contact your vet before July 4th, then give him some plain Benadryl (1mg p/lbs is a good start dosage). You may also use herbs such as Scullcap or Valerian - it helps relieve anxiety in dogs and cats. These herbs should be administered one per week before the planned fireworks.

In comparison, if a dog runs away from your home on a normal day, it will have a higher chance of recovery than if the dog runs away as a result of panic, such as loud noises, fireworks, gunshot, fire, etc... A panic stricken dog is not exploring; therefore, they are not smelling or living life as normal dogs. They are in a constant state of panic, and this panic in most cases will cause them to not recognize their own family members. Their job is to get away from everything. Chances are that they will not be found unless they are cornered and netted.

So why risk your best friend's life? Knock it off !!! Keep him safe at home, and under a lot of supervision. It's only for a couple of days. Remember the last time you were sick? Who sat next to you? Who supervised YOUR sickness? Yeap, "Rover".

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