

# Firework Season Is Almost Upon Us!

While the Fourth of July is a fun time for barbeques and fireworks, it can be a scary time for our furry friends. Below we have listed signs of anxiety and some at home solutions to help your pet.

**Signs of fear or anxiety in dogs:** Whining, crying, shaking, panting, running away, and/or hiding. More subtle signs include: licking nose/lips, turning away, flattening ears, tightening around mouth, salivating, and pacing.

**Signs of fear or anxiety in cats:** Nose licking, panting, over grooming, and running away and hiding.

## At Home Solutions:

Some pets might want to hide under the bed because that is where they may feel the safest. If they do hide it is recommended to allow them to do so without trying to tempt or make them come out. You can make a bed/area and cover it with a blanket to give them a hiding spot. Place a piece of clothing that you have worn, extra bedding, toys, and a treat in this area. It is recommended to introduce your pet to this area ahead of time so they know that it is a good place to hide.

Help reduce sound by closing windows, drawing the curtains, and turning up the TV or radio.

If you have dogs, taking them on a long walk before the fireworks begin can be helpful to make sure that they have taken care of business! It may be helpful to feed the evening meal a little earlier in the day.

If your pet is afraid do not take them to a firework display, it will not help them with their fear.

If your dog is showing signs of distress do not become upset or anxious if they begin to cry, bark, growl, or have an accident in the house.

A pheromone to help reduce stress may make a difference. They come in many different forms, including a plug-in diffuser, spray, or collar.

Make sure your cat is indoors before the fireworks start and that all exit routes are closed or blocked off. If you are going to keep your cat in a separate quiet area make sure to include a litter box and show them where it is ahead of time.

Make places for your cat to hide and give them fun things to do. You can create spots with cardboard boxes, can hide treats, and leave out their favorite toys.

For some pets in home solutions are not enough. In these more severe cases anti-anxiety medication or sedatives may be needed. Your pet must be current on their annual exam in order to fill either of these medications. If you have used one of these to help with anxiety in the past and need a refill please call ahead of time so that it can be filled in time for the holiday. If you have not used a medication previously but suspect that your pet may need something to help please call our office to discuss with a doctor.

**Appointments book up quickly around holidays so please call as soon as possible if an appointment is needed @ 360-794-6772. We hope that you have a fun and safe Fourth of July!**

Thank you,

Cascade Animal Clinic

