



While we may enjoy seeing the sky light up with a blast of fireworks or a spectacular lightening display courtesy of Mother Nature — pyrotechnics and storms are a terrifying experience for most dogs and cats.

Dogs fleeing fireworks and storms become lost, sustain serious injuries and sadly in many cases run into serious trouble that can cause injury or cost them their lives. To prevent your pet from running away and to keep them calm during storms and fireworks, it is crucial you are prepared.

Top tips:

- Identify your pet and keep your details updated.
- Stay calm as your pet will take cues from you.
- Provide a safe and calming environment.
- Stay with your pet or organise someone you trust to.
- Keep an eye out for weather warnings and fireworks schedules.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR PET'S CONDITION

Cats and dogs have a heightened sense of hearing and most will respond to loud and sudden sounds. They may run under the bed or jump onto your lap to seek refuge and comfort. Fear however, is very distinct from phobia.

A phobia is an out of proportion reaction that is often very difficult to calm down. Signs of phobia include; excessive pacing, panting, whining, restlessness and going great lengths to escape. Some dogs go as far as breaking doors down, scaling fences and travelling long distances.

TREATMENTS

There are a number of training methods and ways to keep your pet calm.

- Provide your pet with reward based training that rewards them for calm behaviour. Remember to only reward your dog for correct behaviour and ignore all other behaviours to help

them learn the appropriate response.

- Look into gentle massage to calm them during a storm.
- Invest in a Thundershirt which reduces anxiety by applying a gentle, constant pressure that has a calming effect.
- Use relaxation music to drown out the loud sounds, or a storm soundtrack to desensitise your pet prior to a storm.

Medical

It is advised you speak to your vet if you suspect your pet has a phobia or is highly anxious. Your vet may offer medical treatment to help keep your pet calm. This should however, be a last resort and must only be undertaken after a professional consultation.

BEFORE FIREWORKS AND STORMS HIT

- Ensure your pet is identified with a microchip, collar ID tag and most importantly, ensure your contact details are up-to-date. This gives you

What is National Pet ID Month?

Each year, thousands of lost cats and dogs across Australia arrive at shelters and have no way of being reunited with their owners, either because they are not identified or their owner's contact details are out-of-date.

National Pet ID Month is an annual awareness raising month by National Pet Register and The Lost Dogs' Home to better the chances of reuniting these lost cats and dogs with their owners.

and your pet the best chance of being reunited in the event they become lost.

- While backyard fireworks are difficult to predict, you can however, find out about most scheduled fireworks near you by visiting your council's website or by calling them.
- Keep an eye out on weather forecast and warnings.
- Take your dog for a long walk before well before to help tire out and relax them.
- Inspect your backyard for potential hazards and check fencing and gates are secure.

DURING FIREWORKS AND STORMS

Stay home with your pet, or organise a pet-sitter for the night who is reliable and familiar with your pet.

- Bring your pet inside and provide a safe, relaxed environment.
- To block out the flashing lights, draw the curtains closed and drown out sounds by turning on the TV, radio or playing soothing music.
- Keep your pet securely contained for the entire night in a safe enclosed area, ideally indoors.
- It is important you don't tie your dog up using their collar, as in a moment of panic he or she could try to get away causing serious injury.
- Always stay calm during a storm and go about your activities as normal — your pet will take its cues from you.
- If your pet fears storms, don't pat or cuddle them — this can be seen as reinforcing their behaviour and

teaching your pet that storms are something to be feared.

BACKYARD FIREWORKS

Backyard fireworks are dangerous because they are unpredictable and can be let off in close range of your home. This means, owners with anxious pets need to be more vigilant in making sure their pets are safe leading up to and during periods when they are common. If you hear or see any illegal fireworks in your neighbourhood, you can alert the police by calling 000.

LOST YOUR PET?

- Call your local councils, animal shelter and vet clinics.
- Search your home, garden and neighbourhood.
- Stick up flyers and posters, do a letter-box drop.
- Post on online lost pet forums.
- Update your details on your pet's microchip.

FOUND A PET?

- Check the collar for a tag and the owner's contact details and/or a council tag and contact number.
- Call the council in which you found the dog or cat.
- If safe for you and the animal, take the dog or cat to a shelter.

For further information on lost and found pets, visit dogshome.com or please call National Pet Register on 1300 REG PET.



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Since our official opening in 1913, we have been a voice for animals without owners caring for more than 30,000 cats and dogs each year. Pioneers for fair animal laws, we continue to work on the front line to reduce the number of lost, abandoned and stray cats and dogs.

We rely on public support to run services and programs, including; proactive adoption, foster care and behaviour rehabilitation programs, responsible pet ownership education and provide discounted microchipping through National Pet Register.