



Dog Training Ireland

FIREWORKS – 12 Point Programme

- 1.** Bring your pet indoors during firework season - they should under no circumstances be sleeping outside.
- 2.** Give them a comfortable & safe place to sleep/hide with lots of bedding that they can hide under - inside a crate, covered with a sheet/blanket is ideal.
- 3.** Close all blinds/curtains during the fireworks.
- 4.** Turn up the volume of your radio/TV during the fireworks to help drown out the firework sounds.
- 5.** Do not comfort them in soothing tones or speak to/look at your dog when they react to the fireworks. Ignore all their reactions. Reacting to them only serves to confirm in their own mind that there is a problem.
- 6.** Give them a stuffed Kong toy with biscuits and soft foods such as pate/soft cheese in their crate/bedding area - the licking action releases natural endorphins that will help relax your dog. (Ask in your local pet shop for a Kong)
- 7.** Start using Tortue Rouge Fear Elixir now, 8 drops morning and evening. The Crisis Elixir should be used on the actual night of the fireworks if the dogs reaction is severe. (These are Bach Flower remedies similar to rescue remedy - but are specifically targeted at each problem - we have had excellent results with many people using them for various problems)
- 8.** Invest in a DAP(Dog Appeasing Pheromone) diffuser, spray or collar, this releases pheromones similar to those produced by the lactating bitch which help calm both puppies and adult dogs.
- 9.** In very extreme cases your dog may need to be given a sedative - contact your veterinarian for advice on this.
- 10.** Keep your dog on lead during walks in firework season - a normally obedient dog can become disorientated/startled and run away from you or out in front of a car.
- 11.** Make sure they have a dog tag with your phone number on their collar - Pets often stray because they become frightened/disorientated.
- 12.** In preparation for the New Year start a de-sensitisation programme. This can be done using a firework sound effects CD - For more information on how to do this please contact www.DogTrainingIreland.ie