



Fireworks and thunderstorms - protecting pets

Fireworks and thunderstorms are a cause for concern to pets and their owners. Pets do not understand that the loud noises they are hearing are not going to hurt them. They think they are in danger and will often try to escape.

What should you do if I know an event involving fireworks is going to occur?

Consider how your pet will feel. Ensure that you are nearby to comfort your pet when the noise is occurring. If you cannot be at home, find someone who can stay with your pet.

What should you do if you are the organiser of a fireworks event?

- a. Let neighbours (up to one full street away) know you will be conducting an event to give them an opportunity to make other arrangements for their pets.
- b. Let residents know what the expected duration of the noise will be.

What can you do to protect your dog or cat from fireworks or thunderstorm noise?

- a. During thunderstorms or fireworks events, keep your pet with you indoors and comfort them if they appear distressed.



Keeping your pets inside and safe during thunderstorms and fireworks reduces the risk of them becoming stressed.

- b. If you know your pet is likely to become distressed, ask your vet to prescribe a mild sedative.
- c. It may be possible to desensitise your pet to the noise by playing a tape with noise from a thunderstorm or fireworks. This is done in a controlled environment and teaches your pet to cope with the noise.
- d. Turn up the volume on the radio or TV to counteract the noise of the thunderstorm or the fireworks.

For further information or enquiries, contact Council's Compliance Unit on 8416 6333 or email csu@wtcc.sa.gov.au.