HAVE A FEAR FREE FOURTH!

Tackling Canine Frets & Fears During Firework Festivities

Independence Day firework festivities can turn a time of celebration into one of terror for many dogs. From the canine perspective, loud, unpredictable noises accompanied by bright lights are threatening and a cause for alarm. Thankfully, it doesn't have to be that way. Here are some ways to help your dog keep calm and carry on for a Fear Free Fourth of July.

Your Pet's Veterinary Team is Here to Help

If your dog acts upset with fireworks or other loud noises, talk with your veterinarian about options to help your dog.

- Your veterinarian may suggest medications or supplements to help your dog relax.
- He or she might recommend working with a veterinary behaviorist or rewards-based trainer.

Set a Soothing Acoustical Sanctuary

With a little know-how, you can drown out extraneous noise and naturally calm your canine.

- Use calming music, such as classical, reggae, or soft rock.
- Utilize white noise to fill any gaps in the music, like a fountain, fan, or white noise machine.
- For severe cases, you can also use noise-reduction products or temporarily place cotton balls in their ears during noisy events.

Comfort from Compression Garments

The gentle-pressure hug of a compression garment induces feelings of wellbeing for some dogs.

- These mimic the soothing effect of swaddling for an infant.
- They may not work for all dogs, but when they do, the results are profound.
- Some compression garments may include gentle vibrations or music to further calm your dog.

Home Help

Don't attempt to pull your dog out from hiding.

- A fearful, upset dog may bite if cornered and confronted.
- Gently encourage the dog to come out on his own with a treat or a toy.

Fireworks and Fido don't mix.

- Don't take your dog with you to the fireworks celebration.
- This is not only for your dog's safety & the safety of others but also to prevent further negative emotional impact.

Comfort from others.

- For some dogs, the calming presence of their beloved humans or canine buddies is a confidence booster in stressful situations.

Fear of Lights

- Perceived light flashes and flickering can escalate your dog's anxiety.
- Minimize exposure to fireworks flashes by blocking windows or taking dogs to a room with limited views of the outdoors.
- Turn on the lights in the home to decrease the contrast of light changes.

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