

FIREWORKS...

Noise Phobias | Sensitivities | Strategies

Disclaimer

This information is intended to help you and your pets have a safe and Happy 4th of July, but please bear in mind that we are not dog trainers nor behaviorists.

Be proactive!

Please pick up prescriptions ahead of time as we will be closed on July 4. Also, it is always a good idea to do a trial run with any medications before the actual noise event. Medications should always be given 30-60 min prior to the desired effect. We do require that patients be current and up to date on all regular wellness care before dispensing any prescription items.

Just in case...

In addition to ensuring your pet is safely contained, please take a moment to double check and update any identification tags and microchip information. If your pet should escape, it is important that you can be contacted quickly.



Phobia vs Sensitivity

No bad dogs...

Please remember that a phobia is just that for dogs who are scared of fireworks, thunderstorms, gunshots, or other loud noises. A phobia is a severe and irrational fear that defies logic or reason. Scolding your pet, trying to pet or feed them during these instances will not help as the response is beyond their control. Such interventions may actually be counterproductive and worsen the situation. Signs may worsen with time and age. Hiding, shaking, destructive tendencies, and inability to respond to normal commands or reinforcers are all common signs.

In contrast, as a construct of evolution and biology, almost all dogs [all creatures and humans, in fact....] are to some degree noise sensitive. Responding to changes in our environment is a normal and desirable response. Most dogs/humans will always



Common medications

There are many strategies to helping your pet with noise issues. Please consult with one of our doctors before trying any prescription items, over the counter medications, or supplements. This is important for safety and accurate dosing.

Supplements may include products like Rescue Remedy, Melatonin, Zylkene, Solliquin, and Adaptil. We have no experience nor data regarding the use of CBD products.

Prescription medications are often utilized-Diphenhydramine, Trazadone, Gabapentin, Diazepam, and Alprazolam are among the most common. Acepromazine is an older medication that is not typically recommended any longer for these problems.

Sileo is the first FDA approved medication for noise sensitivities. More information at-<https://www.zoetispetcare.com/products/sileo>

A few other management tools may include Thundershirts, TTouch Wraps, Storm Defender Capes, and Rex Specs Ear Muffs.

startle at a sharp or sudden noise, but most quickly recover. Some may seek to avoid that sensation in the future, but they do not exhibit the extreme and self-destructive behaviors that a patient with noise phobia may display.

***There is also evidence that acute onset of noise sensitivity can be linked to a pain response in dogs. If your pet begins to exhibit symptoms suddenly without any previous history, it is often worth consulting with your vet.

Development of noise phobia/sensitivity likely has both a genetic and environmental basis. Certain individuals, certain breeds, and certain lines within a breed can often be predisposed.

Counterconditioning and training may be helpful, but are unlikely to completely alleviate the problem. Systematic exposure of young puppies to various noises during growth and development may be helpful in avoiding the development of some of these behaviors later on in life.

Happy 4th of July-be sure to obey all local regulations and restrictions, practice good fire safety, and please celebrate responsibly for the sake of all people and pets!

