

BANGS, BOOMS & BRAVE PETS!

WHOOSH! BANG! CRACKLE! POP!

Fireworks can be exciting to watch, filling the night sky with beautiful colours and sparkling lights. But for some animals, those sudden bangs and bright flashes can be really frightening. So, why do fireworks bother our pets, and what can we do to help?

Super-Sensitive Ears!

Did you know that dogs and cats can hear sounds that humans can't? Dogs have incredible hearing and can detect sounds much higher-pitched than we can. Cats have amazing hearing too, which helps them detect tiny movements when hunting. Now imagine you're relaxing on the sofa when suddenly...

BOOM!

A huge noise comes from outside! You might jump in surprise, especially if you don't know what caused it. Now imagine you have super-sensitive hearing and don't understand what fireworks are. No wonder some pets get worried!

How Can You Tell If Your Pet Is Frightened?

Animals can't tell us they're scared using words, but they have lots of other ways of showing how they feel.

Dogs might:

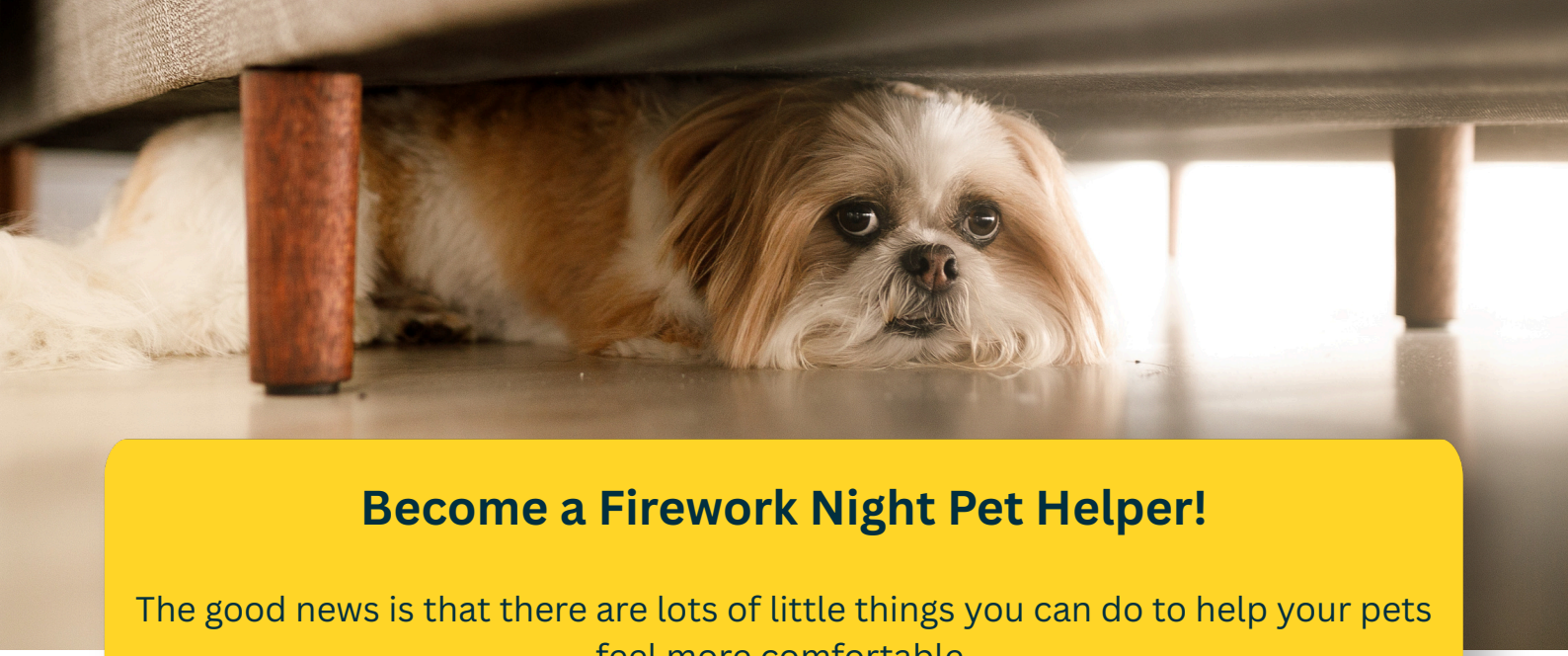
- Shake, tremble or pant
- Bark or whine more than usual
- Hide or stay close to their favourite person



Cats might:

- Hide under beds or furniture
- Flatten their ears or crouch low
- Become unusually quiet

Rabbits and guinea pigs can become frightened too. They might freeze, hide away or stop behaving as they normally would. Every animal is different. Some pets don't seem bothered by fireworks at all, while others find them very upsetting.



Become a Firework Night Pet Helper!

The good news is that there are lots of little things you can do to help your pets feel more comfortable.
Ask a grown-up if you can help with these important jobs.

1. Get Ready Before Dark

Help make sure your pets are safely indoors before fireworks are likely to begin. Dogs should have their walks earlier in the day, and cats should be safely inside. Bring rabbits and guinea pigs into a safe, quiet indoor space if possible.

2. Close the Curtains

Closing the curtains can help block out some of the bright flashes. Keeping windows closed can also help reduce outside noise.

3. Make Some Gentle Background Noise

A television, radio or some familiar music might help disguise some of the firework sounds. Keep the volume comfortable for your pet.

4. Prepare a Cosy Space

Make sure your pet has access to a favourite bed, blanket or quiet hiding place.

5. Offer a Favourite Activity

Some pets might enjoy a puzzle feeder, favourite toy or suitable chew to keep them occupied. But remember, if your pet is too worried to play or eat, don't force them.

6. Be Calm and Kind

Try to keep things as normal as possible. Your pet might want some company, or they might prefer to be left alone. Let them decide!