

It's fireworks and thunderstorm season again!

There are ways you can indirectly comfort your pet during thunderstorms (or other sources of fear and anxiety). One thing you can try is to provide a comfortable hiding place in the quietest part of your home. A crate with a soft bed inside and covered with a sheet might make your dog or cat feel safer. Try playing music or white noise to drown out the noise. Consider trying a CD like Through a Dog's Ear. (sometimes there is one of these available to borrow at the clinic to see if it helps before you purchase your own CD). In addition, using Dog Appeasing Pheromone (DAP) in the "safe place" might also help dogs, and Feliway may help cats in the same way. Some dogs (and a few cats) benefit from a type of wrap, like the Thundershirt, that is believed to provide some comfort during times of anxiety, stress and fear. DAP collars and thundershirts are available at many pet stores. Some dogs benefit from L-theonine (Anxitane) tablets available at the clinic. Anxitane helps about 50% of dogs, but the ones it helps it helps a lot.

If your dog does calm down and stops reacting to the storm, respond with calm praise and rewards. Consider distracting your dog from the remainder of the storm by practicing basic commands or playing a game of tug-of-war.

For more info, and the rest of the article the above was modified from please click on the link below

<http://dogs.about.com/od/dogbehaviorproblems/qt/thunderstorms.htm>