

Fireworks & Thunder Night Prep Checklist

A loud night goes better with the work done early: **sound practice in the quiet season, a den your dog can leave freely, masking sound on before the first bang, and an escape-proof house.** Comforting your dog is fine; punishment is not.

FILLABLE PDF – TYPE ON A COMPUTER OR TABLET, OR PRINT AND FILL IT IN BY HAND.

DOG'S NAME

VET PHONE

EMERGENCY CLINIC PHONE

WEEKS AHEAD

- ☐ **Sound practice:** a recording so quiet your dog stays relaxed, paired with treats, a few minutes at a time
- ☐ **Vet visit** if the fear is moderate or severe: ask about event-day medication
- ☐ **ID tag and microchip** contact details current, plus a recent photo
- ☐ **Start in the quiet season**, when storms and fireworks are unlikely, so a real bang doesn't undo the work
- ☐ **A practice dose** of any prescribed medication before the big night
- ☐ **Collar or harness** fitted so your dog can't back out of it

THE DAY OF THE NOISE

- ☐ **Den ready** in a room where sound is muted, away from windows, door open so your dog can come and go
- ☐ **Masking sound on** (fan, white noise or music) before the first bang
- ☐ **Curtains closed**, windows shut, gates latched, a note or baby gate at the door
- ☐ **Storm days:** check the forecast; storms bring darkening skies, rain, flashes and pressure changes, not just thunder
- ☐ **Bedding, water** and a long-lasting chew or stuffed food toy in the den
- ☐ **Long walk before dark**, and a leash for every trip outside after, even in a fenced yard
- ☐ **Drinks, grapes and party food** out of reach of a curious nose
- ☐ **After the noise:** walk the yard for fireworks debris before your dog goes out

DURING THE NOISE

Do

Let your dog hide or lean on you. Calm stroking and talking is fine. Keep a chew or treats coming.

Don't

Punish, drag your dog out of hiding, shut a panicking dog in a crate, or take your dog to a display.

NOISE-NIGHT LOG

DATE	STORM OR FIREWORKS	WHAT HELPED	WORST MOMENT	CALM 0-5

Call your vet for frantic escape attempts, loss of bladder or bowel control, or self-injury. If your dog eats fireworks or party food, call your vet, the ASPCA (888) 426-4435 or Pet Poison Helpline (855) 764-7661; a fee may apply.

THE FULL VERSION: DOG FIREWORKS & NOISE ANXIETY PLAN · ON ETSY: NEWDOGCO.ETSY.COM

Sources: VCA Animal Hospitals (fear of storms and fireworks; severe phobias); AVMA (fireworks and holiday safety); ASPCA (fireworks anxiety; New Year's safety); AKC (calm during fireworks); Riemer 2023, Animals (noise-fear evidence review); Pet Poison Helpline.