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# Thunderstorms and Fireworks

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Summer is finally here and with summer comes sun, going to the beach, parties, fireworks and thunderstorms. While we enjoy watching fireworks and even thunderstorms some dogs and even cats will see these as extremely frightening and traumatic events.



Dogs and cats that are afraid of thunderstorms and fireworks can exhibit varying degrees of fear when they are exposed to these events. They can range from panting, drooling, trembling, vocalizing, pacing, and hiding to being destructive to them selves or their environment. Dogs and cats can typically tell a storm is approaching by several ways: barometric pressure drops, temperatures fluctuations and wind direction shifts. They may start showing signs of fear long before the storm is actually upon them. Fireworks can be even more terrifying to dogs and cats with noise phobias because of the sudden, extremely close and loud noise that comes, goes away, and then returns with no consistency.



Diagnosing a dog or cat with noise phobia is typically straight forward and are more common in pets that already experience separation anxiety. Typically the treatment of noise phobias depends on the severity of the signs. If your dog or cat just hides or trembles during thunderstorms and fireworks your veterinarian will more than likely not prescribe anything. While these signs may be slightly annoying they are not endangering the safety of you or your pet. However, if your pet becomes a danger to themselves, you, or becomes destructive there are options available. Your veterinarian may prescribe a sedative to be given before a thunderstorm or fireworks to help sedate your pet. They may also recommend natural calming therapies such as [ADAPTIL](#)<sup>®</sup> canine pheromone diffusers or [Feliway](#)<sup>®</sup> feline pheromone diffusers. Another option is trying a product called [Thundershirt](#)<sup>®</sup> which is a snug fitting shirt that works along the same lines as swaddling a baby. This product is available for both dogs and cats.

Phobias and anxieties can be difficult and at times impossible to resolve. There are options that will help you to help your pet work through their fears and anxieties. However it can be a very long, slow hard process with varied results.

If you have any further questions about thunderstorm and firework phobias or trying to resolve phobias please feel free to contact us at (920) 668-6212 or send us an email at [info@cgvet.com](mailto:info@cgvet.com).