



## How can I protect my dog?

### Loud noises are frightening

Fireworks, thunderstorms, lightning, loud noises and many types of parties are frightening to dogs because they can feel threatened by them. Many dogs will go to extreme lengths to escape from what they think is going to hurt them. In trying to feel safe, dogs can injure themselves by climbing fences, running away or squeezing into tight corners. An escaped dog is often distressed and may attack or harass people or other animals, causing property damage, or they may cause a road accident injuring the dog or damaging the vehicle. All of which becomes the responsibility of the owner of the dog.

#### We understand...

...these events can impact upon your dog and their behaviours, so it's good to take active steps to help your dog cope.

### Dogs and loud noises: the Fast Facts

- Loud noises and bursts of light frighten dogs as they feel threatened by them.
- A dog's fear of loud noises is instinctive.
- Consult your vet as they may prescribe sedatives to calm your dog.

There are many things you can do to prepare when a loud noise or event is happening:

- Keep your dog securely inside
- Ensure it can't escape from your home
- Stay with your dog to reassure it that it is safe
- Familiar noises, such as radio or TV may help
- If you will not be home consider a boarding kennel or sending your dog to a friend or family member's home away from the noise
- Ensure your dog has a current registration disc along with name tag or microchip identification which is up-to-date, then should it escape, it can be quickly reunited.

## We understand...

...the fear of loud noises is an instinctive reaction and trying to calm your dog or say 'no' to fearful behaviours may actually increase the pet's anxiety. Officially, it is known as 'Loud Noise Phobia'.



## What the owner can do

There are a number of things you can do to prepare your dog should you know that a party will be held nearby, or that thunderstorms are forecast, or fireworks and loud public celebrations are planned.

### Before the event:

Ensure that your dog can't escape and that it is secured indoors in a shed or within a fenced property. Check your dog has a current registration disc along with name tag or micro-chip identification so that if found it may be returned home quickly.

### During the event:

Reassure your dog that it is safe; let it be near you, you are its greatest security. Allow your dog hiding spots for example under the bed or behind the lounge suite. Familiar noises, such as a radio or television may help. In extreme or repeated situations your veterinarian can prescribe sedatives for dogs that have a strong reaction to these types of events. If you will not be home and these approaches are not possible, consider the use of boarding kennels or sending your dog to a friend or family member's home away from the noise.

## Be a responsible event organiser

Inform your neighbours so they can make arrangements for their dogs and themselves. Also indicate the expected type of event (e.g. midnight fireworks for five minutes or a party from 8pm to 2am). Consider enclosing this Information Sheet, or pointing them to our website.

### If your dog escapes

As soon as you realise your dog is missing, take action. Contact your local council, your neighbours, your local vet, plus other pet services and groups, such as the RSPCA and Animal Welfare League or visit their shelters. If not found quickly consider a letterbox drop, notices in local shops, schools and shopping centres.

### Dogs and loud noises: a Good Owner tip

Owners of dogs which are threatened by loud noises should seek advice and guidance from an animal behaviouralist or their veterinarian.

**To find the facts and other tips on how to be a good dog owner, visit [dogandcatboard.com.au](http://dogandcatboard.com.au)**



An initiative of the **DOG AND CAT MANAGEMENT BOARD** and your local council. Council information and contact details can be located at [www.lga.sa.gov.au](http://www.lga.sa.gov.au) View the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* along with Information Sheets on selection, health, behaviour and care at [www.dogandcatboard.com.au](http://www.dogandcatboard.com.au)