

The liquid has a really unpleasant taste so even a small amount in a cat's mouth will cause frothing and foaming.

The liquid can also cause irritation to the skin and eyes.

If any drops have fallen onto your cat's skin or coat, wash off with plenty of water or the cat will ingest it when they groom (if you look at your cat in the dark, the glowing liquid will be very visible and help show up the contaminated areas).

Again, if the liquid has gone into your cat's eyes, wash with plenty of water.

If your cat ingests the liquid, you can help your cat by tempting them to eat small amounts of milk, canned cat food, tuna juice or an other highly palatable food to dilute the chemical in the mouth and making the taste go away.

If you are concerned about your cat, do seek veterinary advice.

If you would like to discuss how to keep your cat safe and calm during the firework period, call and book in for a complimentary consultation with one of our RVN's who can discuss the options available with you.



Consulting Times

Hillock Lane Surgery

Monday to Friday
8.30am to 7pm

Saturday
8.30am to 1pm



Blackpool Surgery

Monday to Friday
8.30am to 6pm

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Hillock Lane



Blackpool



How to Prepare your Cat for Fireworks

Rowan Veterinary Centre

"where pets come first"

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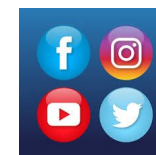
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Fireworks

Fireworks are being used much more often to celebrate various events such as Halloween, Bonfire Night and New Year, to name a few.

For humans, they can be exhilarating but for our feline friends they can be the cause of a lot of fear and distress.

Frightened cats may be startled, run away and become lost, or run across roads and be involved in accidents. A distressed cat can develop behavioural issues such as house-soiling or excessive grooming.

Preparation

So how can we help them? We can start by putting into practice now, some or all of the following routines and training that will help to prepare your

cat and diminish the effects fireworks might have.



1. Recordings of firework sounds are easy to find either from the vet or via YouTube.

This allows you to get your cat accustomed to the sound of fireworks many weeks before the firework season and perhaps even starting from being a kitten. This will help to desensitize them to the noise and help them cope when hearing fireworks for real.

Play these initially at very low volumes and gauge your cat's response. If your cat appears indifferent to the sound, you can reward this behaviour with a food treat or play, and gradually, over several days, increase the volume. If at any stage your cat seems worried by the sounds, go back a few steps and progress more slowly.

2. Provide your cat with a safe and comfortable hiding place in case it is frightened. You can set this up ahead of time so your cat knows where they can escape to when they're feeling scared or stressed.

A cardboard box on its side or an igloo bed are perfect. The hideaway can be placed in an elevated location (eg, on top of a wardrobe) if your cat tends to seek high places at times of uncertainty.

If your cat prefers hiding places on the ground, a nice, cosy nest under your bed or behind the sofa is an ideal place. If you have purchased a new bed, help to make it smell familiar by adding some bedding which already smells of your cat.

3. Using a plug-in Feliway diffuser in the room your cat spends most time in, a few days before you expect any fireworks as well as spraying their blankets with Feliway, can help to keep them calm and relaxed. Synthetic plug in pheromone products (eg, Feliway, CEVA) are available from your vet and can help cats feel more secure. Ensure it is switched on continually throughout the firework season.



On the Night

1. Ensure your cat is safely indoors before dark. Tempt them inside with a treat and ensure all doors, cat flaps and windows (even the small top ones) are closed to keep the cat inside but also to help keep the noise out.

Some cats are not used to being restricted indoors or using an indoor litter tray. If this is the case, 'rehearse' confinement overnight in the run up to the season.

Practise getting your cat to come to you when called. When your cat is hungry, call their name and reward their approach with a tasty treat. You can start this training indoors. If your cat is not very food motivated, you can reward them coming to you with a game it enjoys, such as with a wand toy. Once your cat has mastered coming to you when called within the home, you can extend this to the outdoors. Always be ready to reward your cat with food or play so that they learn that coming home from outdoors is rewarding. In this way your cat will continue to be motivated to come to you.

2. Don't try to cuddle your cat to make it all OK. Treat your cat as normal, stroking them if they make contact with you. Your cat is going to feel safest if it can hide, so preventing this by holding or cuddling for reassurance during the fireworks may be counterproductive, and your change in behaviour may even give them reason to worry!



3. Use treats and toys to distract your cat from the firework noise.
4. If you are holding your own display, try and light the fireworks as far away from the house as possible and choose silent or quieter fireworks if possible.
5. If you have a very nervous cat it is better not to use sparklers indoors as the light and hissing noise may be frightening. Even if using them outdoors make sure the burnt sparklers (which are initially very hot) are kept away from animals and children before being safely disposed of.

General Safety

Bonfires which have been built for some time before burning make good hiding places for small animals such as hedgehogs, and even a cat or kitten, so check them before lighting.



Coming indoors at night may be safer for your cat in the long term, as night time is when more road accidents and cat fights occur.

Glow sticks are a common and popular item to have around Halloween and although not toxic they can cause some distressing symptoms if your cat were to bite into one or get the liquid on their skin or in their eyes.