



How to keep your pets safe...

Every year thousands of animals will suffer as a result of fireworks being let off. Blue Cross animal hospitals across the country see a marked rise in pets requiring medication during such stressful times, and many animals are brought into Blue Cross adoption centres having run away from home.



Animals have very acute hearing. Loud bangs and whistles may cause them actual pain in their ears. But by following these simple guidelines your pet need not suffer.

Dogs and cats

- Always keep dogs and cats inside when fireworks are being let off. Make sure your dog is walked earlier in the day before the fireworks start.
- Close all windows and doors, and block off catflaps to stop pets escaping and to keep noise to a minimum. Draw the curtains, and if the animals are used to the sounds of TV or radio, switch them on (but not too loudly) in order to block out some of the noise of the fireworks.
- Ensure dogs are wearing some form of easily readable identification (ID) – even in the house. By law, they should have at least a collar and tag. Think about fitting pets with a microchip, so that if they do run away they have a better chance of being quickly reunited with you.
- Prepare a 'den' for your pet where it can feel safe and comfortable – perhaps under a bed with some of your old clothes. It may like to hide there when the fireworks start.
- Let your pet pace around, whine, miaow and hide in a corner if it wants to. Do not try to coax it out – it's just trying to find safety, and should not be disturbed.
- Try not to cuddle and comfort distressed pets as they will think you are worried too, and this may
- make the problem worse. Instead stay relaxed, act normally and praise calm behaviour.
- Avoid leaving your pet alone during such potentially upsetting events.

If you do have to leave the house, don't get angry with your pet if you find it has been destructive after being left on its own. Shouting at a frightened pet will only make it more stressed.

- Don't tie your dog up outside while fireworks are being let off, ie outside a shop while you pop inside, or leave it in the garden or in your car.
- Never take your dog to a fireworks display. Even if it doesn't bark or whimper at the noise, it doesn't mean it is happy. Excessive panting and yawning can sometimes indicate that your dog is stressed.

Horses and ponies

- Fireworks must not be set off near livestock or horses in fields, or close to buildings housing livestock. Anyone planning a firework display in a rural area should warn neighbouring farmers in advance.
- Try to make sure that fireworks are never set off near your horse's field or stable. Tell neighbours and local fireworks display organisers there are horses nearby, so that they can ensure fireworks are set off in the opposite direction and well away from them.
- Keep your horse in its familiar environment, in its normal routine with any companions to make it feel secure. If your horse is usually stabled then keep it stabled. If it is normally out in the field, keep it there as long as it is safe, secure and not near the fireworks' display area.
- Ensure that you or someone experienced stays with your horse if you know fireworks are being set off. This way you can observe its behaviour, ensure it remains as safe and calm as possible and respond to its reactions appropriately.
- If you know your horse reacts badly to loud noises speak to your vet or perhaps consider moving your horse for the night.
- Try to remain calm and positive as horses can sense unease in a person and this might make things worse if the horse is startled.
- Be careful yourself. Try not to get in the way if your horse becomes startled as you may get hurt.
- Don't take the risk of riding when you think fireworks might be set off.
- If it is necessary for you to leave your horse in the care of another person during a fireworks show, leave clear instructions and contact details for yourself and your vet should any problems arise.

The laws concerning fireworks

- It is illegal for anyone under 18 to possess a firework in a public place.
- Fireworks cannot be set off by a private individual between 11.00pm and 7.00am except for certain nights of the year.
- It is an offence to cause any unnecessary suffering to any captive or domestic animal.
- Unless retailers possess a special licence they may only sell fireworks from 15 October to 10 November and 26 to 31 December.

Think ahead

The Blue Cross advises that all pet owners seek veterinary help for their animal six to 12 weeks before the firework season begins. Behavioural advice for your pet needs to be sought three to six months in advance. While this information is correct at the time of going to print all pet owners are advised to check www.berr.gov.uk/fireworks for current guidelines. For more information on pet care, or to talk with like-minded people about pets and fireworks, visit the online social network: All About Pets



Summer Tips for your Best Friend...

Fourth of July is right around the corner. So just a couple of reminders to everyone. Remember that exposure to lit fireworks or even unused fireworks can be hazardous to your pets. Many different types of fireworks can contain toxic substances. Also make sure you clean up used and damaged fireworks also.

Have a wonderful **AND SAFE** Fourth of July, and remember that your pet is scared of the loud noises and the smoke of your celebration. Make sure they are in a secure area, and that they are wearing their identifying tags in case they should bolt and run.

July is one of the hottest times of the year in Texas. Remember to keep pets in a shady place or keep them indoors when it is so extremely hot. Give them plenty of fresh clean water to drink, and some dogs like to play in buckets or kiddie pools. Try to keep dogs and cats from drinking pool water because it contains chlorine and other chemicals. Try to keep your pets away from the pool altogether, because they can drown if they can't find their way out, and panic.

WE HOPE YOU AND YOUR PETS HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!!!

by Shanice McKinney (from Jones High School of Coldspring)

A Heartfelt Thanks!

Coldspring STARS, non profit community service organization for the rescue of unwanted, abused, and neglected dogs, would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Crystal's Bar and Grille on the square in Coldspring, for the sponsorship of the Crawfish Boil fundraiser held on May 29th for the benefit of all the dogs at the rescue facility.

STARS and its volunteers would also like to thank East Texas Living, and Linda Shockley, for the free advertising for this fundraiser, and also for the continued support given to all the non-profits in our area.

Also, thank you to the community and to all the people who attended the crawfish boil in support of STARS, and for all the generous donations we received.

Visit our Website: www.etexads.com

RITA B HUFF HUMANE SOCIETY
 530 Bearkat Blvd., Huntsville, TX 77340
 email: rhas48@yahoo.com
www.ritabhuffanimalshelter.com • 936.295.4666

POLK COUNTY SPCA
 3731 Hwy. 190 W • Livingston, TX 77351
 936.967.2287 • spcaofpolkcounty@spcaofpolkcounty.org
www.spcaofpolkcounty.org

HUMANE SOCIETY OF MONTGOMERY
 The Woodlands, Texas 77387 • Phone: (936) 441-4762

Bandit is a Husky mix that was left tied to a car belonging to one of our volunteers so he wound up at the SPCA. We estimate his age to be approx. 1 yr as of 6/18/10. He is gentle with people, loves to be petted, and gets along well with the other dogs at the shelter. Bandit would make a great companion for the right family.



BANDIT



ESTER

The animal control officers trapped a stray dog and when they picked up the trap, the dog had given birth to 8 little puppies. An SPCA Volunteer agreed to take the momma and the puppies home until they were old enough to be weaned. Ester has a sweet personality and wants her own forever home. Ester is approximately 8 months old as of May 2010.

Please email for an adoption application at: spcaofpolkcounty@spcaofpolkcounty.org or call (936)967-2287.

COLDSRING S.T.A.R.S.
 A Rescue for Unwanted Dogs/Puppies
Jacque, Marianne, Sharon
 Volunteers
 180 Lake Road
 Coldspring, TX 77331
 Jacque - 936-203-7004
 Marianne - 832-401-1326
 Sharon - 936-520-1667
Petfinder.com

COLDSRING AREA ANIMAL ORG., INC.
 P.O. Box 399 • Coldspring, TX 77331
281.460.8037

501(C)3 Organization
 (Not associated with any other
 Animal Rescue Organization)
 San Jacinto County Only

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BETTY FISHER
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Legacy Ranch
 Dog Foster and Adoption Services
 Located in
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 Texas

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