

Keeping your cat safe this Bonfire Night

It has been revealed that 22% more cats are reported missing on Bonfire Night than on any other night of the year. Data collected over the past five years has shown that during the week either side of Bonfire Night, the number of missing pet reports goes up by a third, compared with an average week. It is thought this is because of the amount of stress that pets experience on the night due to the loud bangs and noises that fireworks produce.

To try and minimise the number of accidents, injuries and stress-related behavioural problems seen in frightened and missing pets this November, we recommend the following:

- 🐾 Ensure cats are safely home before dark, potentially by offering food a little earlier than normal.
- 🐾 Before the fireworks start, draw all the curtains and ensure that doors, windows and cat flaps are securely closed.
- 🐾 If you allow your cat outside, ensure they are microchipped* and wearing a reflective collar and identity tag.
- 🐾 In the few days before the night, provide a litter tray for your cats inside. This allows them to recognise that it is there, and so on the night when they are kept in, they won't need to be let out.
- 🐾 Cats pick up on odd behaviour so just treat them like normal. If they do get scared, ensure they have a safe place to hide or try and distract them with treats or play.
- 🐾 Try plug-in pheromone products, such as 'Feliway' or on food liquids such as Calmex to help pets relax.

Remember that while we might love fireworks, our cats don't and following these tips can help make their firework night much more enjoyable.



*We are currently offering free microchips with your yearly vaccinations or £ 10 at any other time