



Horses and livestock

Fireworks can be fun... but not for your animals

Please remember 1 July is Territory Day... but please don't forget your pets. Every year animals suffer as a result of fireworks used in Territory Day celebrations. The RSPCA and the local councils see a marked rise in pets being brought into centres having run away from home. Animals have very acute hearing, and loud bangs and whistles cause them actual pain in their ears. But by following these simple guidelines your pet need not suffer.

Fireworks must not be set off near livestock or horses in fields. Anyone planning a firework display in a rural area should warn neighbours in advance.

Obviously try to make sure that fireworks are never set off near your horse's paddock or stable. Wherever possible tell neighbours and local fireworks display organisers that there are horses nearby so that they can ensure fireworks are set off in the opposite direction to them.

Unfortunately we are often not forewarned about private fireworks displays so think and plan ahead for 1 July Territory Day celebrations when you know celebrations occur involving fireworks.

Preferably keep your horse in its familiar environment and in its normal routine with its companions, which will give it security.

If your horse is usually stabled keep it stabled, if it is normally out in the paddock keep it there as long as it is safe, secure and not near any area where fireworks are being ignited.

Ensure that you or someone experienced stays with your horse if you know that fireworks are being set off. This way you can observe its behaviour, ensure that it remains safe and respond accordingly to its reactions the next time. If you know your horse reacts badly, speak to your vet or perhaps consider moving it for the night. If your horse is distressed don't over comfort it as it will sense your anxiety - remain calm and positive.

Take care not to get in the way if your horse becomes stressed as you may get hurt.

Don't take the risk of riding when you think fireworks might be set off. If you have to leave your horse in the care of another person ensure that you leave clear instructions and contact details for your vet should any problems arise.

Try not to leave your pets alone during this period

