



The Time is Meow

Protecting animals from the unrestricted use of fireworks

Why it matters

Fireworks can be incredibly stressful for cats and other animals, especially if their owners have not had the chance to ensure their cats are safely indoors. Even if they are inside many cats still get stressed and frightened and need extra reassurance and help from their owners to cope with the noise of fireworks.

Cats associate sudden loud noises and flashes of light with imminent threat and their natural instinct is to flee. If they are outdoors during a firework display, cats can quickly become disorientated, run into traffic or become lost. For many cats that are not microchipped it can be especially difficult for them to be reunited with their owners.

What the government can do

Restrict the unplanned use of fireworks to allow owners to anticipate displays and take action to keep their cats safe. Reduce the maximum noise level of fireworks to help ease the stress to cats and other animals.

Helping the whole community

Current restrictions on firework usage are very relaxed, allowing displays any day of the year between 7am and 11pm, with extended hours for Bonfire Night, New Year's Eve, Diwali and the Chinese New Year¹. This can be difficult for both pets, their owners and other members of the community who struggle with loud, sudden noises. Requiring notice for displays would help everyone plan ways to reduce the impact of fireworks.



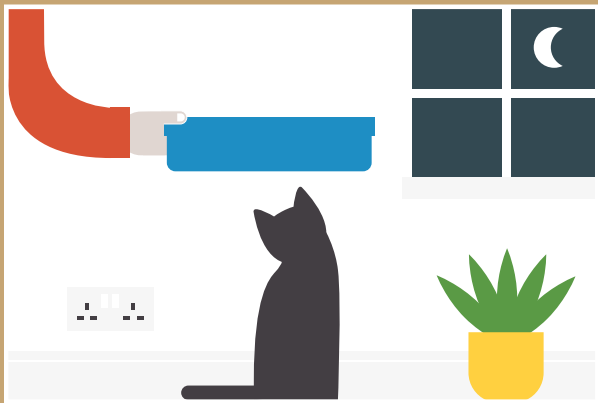
A recent RSPCA poll found that 54% of cats show signs of distress during fireworks².

Turn over to read our top tips

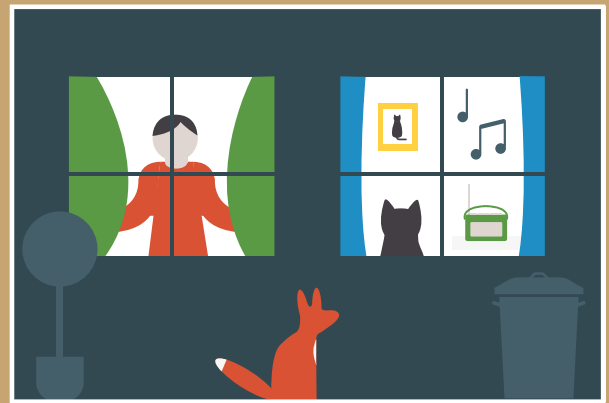


Fireworks frighten cats

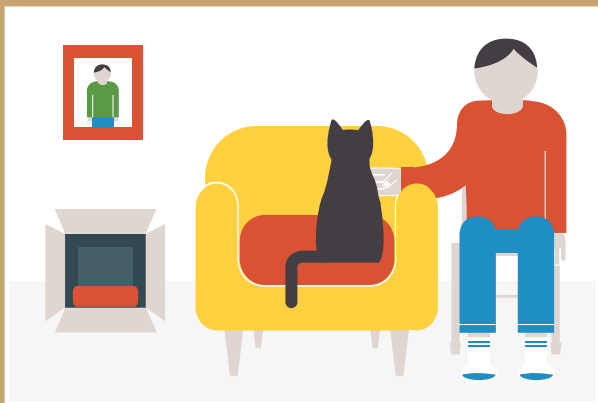
Our quick guide to keeping your cat safe and calm during fireworks season:



1. Keep your cat in after dark, provide them with a litter tray and securely fasten all doors and windows.



2. Reduce outside noise by keeping curtains drawn and playing soothing music.



3. Provide a safe, comfy place in familiar territory for your cat to hide.



4. Create a comforting environment with a Feliway® plug-in diffuser.

For further information about our advocacy work visit www.cats.org.uk/timeismeow or email advocacy@cats.org.uk

1 www.gov.uk/fireworks-the-law

2 RSPCA - This study was conducted in England and Wales via Kantar OnLineBus, an internet omnibus survey. A sample of 1,137 adults aged 16+ were interviewed. 345 dog owners and 320 cat owners responded to the question: 'Does your pet/animal show signs of distress during the fireworks season?'