Pet safety checklist

Plan for animals before the first bang.

PREPARE IN ADVANCE

- ☐ Ask neighbours about planned displays and share your own timing.
- ☐ Create a familiar quiet refuge for pets. Let them use it before firework night.
- ☐ Check identification and contact details are current. Ask your vet early if your pet struggles with noise.
- ☐ Organisations including Dogs Trust (for dogs) and PDSA (for cats) offer guidance on gradual sound desensitisation to firework noises. Start well before firework season, follow the guidance for your pet and never force exposure to sounds that cause distress. If your pet is already fearful, ask your vet about a clinical animal behaviourist.

DURING FIREWORKS

- ☐ Walk dogs before displays begin. Keep dogs and cats safely indoors.
- ☐ Close curtains and windows. Use familiar background sound if it helps.
- ☐ Allow pets to hide. Stay calm; do not punish fear or force them out.
- ☐ Protect small pets from noise and flashes while maintaining ventilation.

HORSES, LIVESTOCK AND AFTERCARE

- ☐ Coordinate with owners and keepers before choosing a firing location.
- ☐ Use the animal's familiar routine and secure surroundings; obtain species-specific advice from the keeper or vet.
- ☐ Check the area for debris before animals return. Contact a vet if an animal is injured or remains distressed.