

Fireworks = Fear + Runaway pets

There's a good reason that fireworks are considered cruel by the SPCA movement: they're a **source of terror** for many domestic animals and wildlife. Think of dogs and cats as having auditory 'super-senses': they hear sounds that we simply cannot detect. Also consider that a noise that sounds loud to us – such as a clap of thunder or firecracker – delivers an overwhelming, frightening assault on our pets' senses, often causing them to panic.

Take note:

Ensure your animals have identification – sudden loud bangs cause pets to run away and get lost. Ideally, stay at home with pets if you suspect fireworks will be used nearby. If you can't be at home, keep pets indoors, in a room that is safe and secure with the curtains drawn. Leave on the radio or TV, at a reasonable volume, to help mask the sounds outside. Put familiar and comforting things around them such as toys, baskets, etc. Give them something to chew on – a chewy bone or catnip toys for cats. If your pet reacts badly to fireworks, ask your vet for advice BEFORE fireworks season. (Pets that are scared by thunder are usually also afraid of fireworks.) Feed pets a nutritious and balanced meal at night, which may help them to relax.

Take action

Help reduce the number of fireworks victims: **report the irresponsible use of fireworks to the police**. Call the Metro Police Call Centre on 0860-POLICE (765423) or the SAPS on 10111.

Fact: Each year – from early November, into the festive season and New Year, the SPCA Inspectorate is on high alert. Why? Because the number and nature of animal emergencies – caused by fireworks – demands it.

Fact: Many pets respond to fireworks by fleeing in fear, which leads to them being knocked over by cars ... running in blind panic through glass doors, getting stuck in security gates or burglar bars ... suffering horrendous injuries ... getting lost.

Fact: The weeks after Guy Fawkes and New Year are amongst the worst for the SPCA Lost and Found Department. The number of stray pets increases as a result of animals that have fled their homes in fear.

Fact: Fireworks are regulated by the Explosives Act (No 26 of 1956). **The law states it is an offence** to discharge any fireworks in a public place without an Explosives Permit, or to discharge them near any animal or in such a manner as to cause distress, fear, harm, pain or injury.

Fact: Children under the age of 16 may not – by law – buy and/or discharge fireworks without adult supervision. It's also an offence to buy fireworks from an unlicensed dealer.

The City of Cape Town now has a **zero tolerance** approach to the discharging of fireworks. The SPCA hopes this will help reduce fireworks-related tragedies involving animals and children.

Help us to raise awareness of the effects of fireworks by forwarding this to a friend - use the SHARE button below and/or print a copy of the poster and displaying it at work or school.

Help us keep our Inspectors on call during Fireworks season by [making your donation today](#). <http://www.sPCA-ct.co.za/> For a FREE copy of the posters attached, follow the link above and download the poster. Compliments of www.home-sitters.com / Cape Town / SPCA



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