

GUNPOWDER, TORTURE AND PLOT...

Modelled on Africaner Storm, (Storm) owned by Cheryl Mackfall



Forget gloves, a scarf and a warm coat; the perfect outfit for November 5th is a T-shirt – if you're a firework-phobic dog...

How many dog owners dread the arrival of autumn, when the nights draw in and Halloween and November 5th herald the beginning of the firework season? Many dogs suffer horribly at this time of year.

Your vet can supply sedatives or tranquillisers, which can work well, but nobody wants to give these on a regular basis. DAP diffusers and sprays are also available - these release a synthetic dog-appeasing pheromone, a substance produced naturally by a lactating bitch to reassure and calm her puppies, which is also known to have a relaxing effect on adult dogs. There are natural calming remedies, too: valerian is a well-known herbal tranquilliser and is available from Dorwest Herbs - www.dorwest.com - see our reader give-away on page ??

One of the best remedies for fear in dogs and cats is perhaps a surprising one. Many owners are aware that putting a T-shirt on a dog will help to calm him down. The anxiety wrap takes this principle further. It is a garment that applies light pressure to certain areas of the body. Based on Dr Temple Grandin's animal

studies and the Tellington Touch principles, it effectively 'hugs' an anxious or frightened animal, helping to calm and relax him. Office Airedale Ben is terrified of fireworks and other loud noises, to the extent that he will try to escape the noise in any way he can - such as trying to get up the chimney, or down the plughole in the shower, panting and distressed all the while. If he were out of doors, he would run off in a panic. The anxiety wrap helps him enormously. He is still frightened, but will curl up somewhere and wait for the noise to stop - a huge improvement.

The anxiety wrap is specifically designed to cover a large part of the body without falling off or allowing the dog to become tangled up in it, and it is not distracting to wear. It is made of a lightweight fabric and comes in 11 sizes, each adjustable to provide a perfect fit for every dog. It does, of course, have applications beyond noise phobia, helping animals with other fear or security issues, trauma at the vet's, car sickness and shyness to name a few.

So if November 5th is a problem at your house - try a hug from the anxiety wrap!

To find out the correct size of wrap for your dog or cat, you need to accurately measure, in inches, the circumference of the fullest part of the dog's ribcage - normally the girth. Use a cloth or vinyl tape measure, and have the dog standing. Pull the tape slightly snug, and do not round off the measurement; a dog measuring even 1/16" below 31" would require a medium; one measuring 31" would require a large.

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