

PetAssist®

Companion's Corner

Summer storms and your pet

Storm season is here, and if you have a nervous cat or dog, they may begin to show signs of fear as one approaches. Whether your pet is scared of lightning, thunder, the smells or even the change in barometric pressure, a storm can set off a series of behaviors that can be alarming to you and dangerous for your pet. Dogs may run under the bed, begin barking in agitation, break housetraining, go on a chewing frenzy or even injure themselves trying to escape the scary sounds. Cats show their distress by hiding and/or avoiding the litter box.



Especially for Frightened Dogs. You can show your dog that storms don't have to be scary. Relocate with the dog to a windowless room or a basement where exposure to the storm will be reduced. Holding them in your arms and speaking in a gentle voice is calming. Or distract the pooch by playing a game using a favorite plaything. Consider setting aside particular toys or treats for use only during a storm so that your pet associates the frightening stimulus with a pleasant experience.

Especially for Scaredy Cats. Thunder typically isn't as big a problem for cats as it is for dogs. Their storm behavior usually involves hiding in a place with less noise. Cats are much less likely to become actively phobic, but if you do have cat storm problems, they can be treated in many of the same ways you would deal with a dog. Take your cat's thunder-traumatized ears to the quietest place in your home, or distract the cat using treats or other engaging items such as a favorite toy or laser pointer.

Both dogs and cats benefit from a little white noise. Turn on a low-volume radio or fan to dull the sounds of the storm. There are also products similar to a shirt that can be worn by either cats or dogs. The gentle pressure of the shirt seems to have a calming effect. If simple behavioral fixes don't help, speak with your veterinarian. Prescription anxiety medications can help, and over-the-counter sprays and other solutions for reducing stress are available as well. Your veterinarian will be able to help you to determine whether your pet's storm anxiety is something to be concerned about.

As a preventative measure, have your pets microchipped and registered in case they escape during a storm. That will make it much easier for a pet rescuer to reunite you and your pet after the storm ends.

Source:
http://petid.homeagain.com/Newsletters/2013/June/storms-and-your-pet.aspx?utm_source=HomeAgain_Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=X_Article1&utm_campaign=201306_News



Did you know....?

According to petfacts.com:

- The smallest breed of dog is the Chihuahua and the largest breed is the Irish Wolfhound.
- Cats are designed for hot climates. Provided they have plenty of clean water to drink, cats can tolerate temperatures as high as 133 degrees Fahrenheit.
- More than 5 million new puppies are born in the United States every year, and many of these dogs will have multiple litters of their own puppies.

When can I use PetAssist?

PetAssist's Return of Pet Service

In the event a member is injured or becomes sick while traveling with a pet and requires hospitalization, PetAssist will coordinate and pay for transport home of the accompanying pet.

