

Thunder Storm and Fireworks E-Mails in dated Order!

Date: Fri, 09 Jul 2004 16:01:31 -0400
From: franbill@bellatlantic.net

We need suggestions as to how to deal with 3yo Black SP Heth's horrific reactions. We know that many of you currently deal with this, and some have even arrived at solutions which actually work.

What really has me (Bill) upset is that body shakes so violently & his heart pounds so strong against his chest that I fear he will have a heart attack or go into a seizure. The frightened/panicked look in his eyes makes us feel especially helpless.

During the months of June-August, the metropolitan Washington, DC area experiences (almost daily) severe thunderstorm activity. The typical 5-day forecast is: "The '3-H's' - Hot, Hazy, Humid followed by late afternoon thunderstorms. The storm cells can produce tornadic like effects.

Fireworks are set off by individuals in neighborhoods year round for such events as New Years, High School/College Graduation parties, July 4, big sports events (World Series, Super Bowl, NBA), and of course loud highly-attended parties back yard or neighborhood parties.

In addition to the 1-3" firecrackers (which create a loud pop), noiseless sky rockets, & "fountains", someone who has traveled to North & South Carolina will set off something which can create the noise & destruction of a 1/4" stick of dynamite. Our police are usually occupied with much more serious activity, or arrive too late to stop it.

At the 1st faint sound of distant thunder/or explosions, Heth looks up with wild/panic and starts his nervous pacing and running around. When the real noise kicks in, no amount of cuddling will calm him down.

OK, so here are some of the things we've tried:

1)The holistic vet-Chinese calming herb pills given over a 30 day period. No Help

2)Valerian Pills-Given 2-3 hours in advance. Does help for the less intense times

3)Valerian Liquid / or Spray-- Acts much more quickly than pills and the earlier it's given, the better.
Side effects can be upset/rumbling stomach.

4) Benadryal--He's 51# and we give him 2 pills (50mg) 2-3 hours before the storm to make him sleepy
Thid does help if given early enough

4) Physical activity--If we get enough warning (storm or fireworks) we arrange a very intense playdate with his Silver 3.5 y/o SP friend Toby. If this is done at least 8-10 hours ahead, he can usually sleep through it. I'll also give him 30 minutes or frisbee as he's very good at bringing it back to me.

5) Ice Cubes--10:30pm July 5th, neighbors who attended community/DC firework events on the 4th decided to host their own "spectaculars". Out of desperation, I was rubbing this on Heth's neck & head to help calm him down. Much too late for any of the above to help, so Frances & I cuddled him and I was really surprised to see that it did help to a degree.

The only other things that I can think of trying is to

1) Purchase a couple of CD's. One of them a "Nature" thing like 'Thunderstorms in The Grand Canyon' and another similar recording of fireworks and just playing them (for very short periods at 1st) at random times during the day and graduating to just reading the Sunday paper with all of the poodles with us listening to an hour of these CD's.

2) Have him wear one of those lycra body suits that field people use for their poodles (burrs/ticks).
Something along the idea of the Tellington Touch technique of wrapping the dogs torso in an effort to calm them down.

A VERY LARGE COOKIE Reward awaits someone with a solution which works.

Thanks, Bill

From: SusiPoodle@aol.com
Message-ID: <1dd.25e61d91.2e20544e@aol.com>
Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 16:04:30 EDT
Subject: Re: PSG: Thunder Storms/Fire Works & Heth
To: franbill@verizon.net
CC: psg@poodle.org

In a message dated 7/9/2004 1:57:40 PM Central Standard Time,
franbill@bellatlantic.net writes:

A VERY LARGE COOKIE Reward awaits someone with a solution which works.

Thanks, Bill

Bill,

I would suggest Rescue Remedy, available in a tiny bottle from the health food stores. Four drops on the tongue and my friend's standard will sleep through a thunderstorm instead of shaking through it. Doesn't work on all dogs, but when it does, it's amazing. I've used it on myself a time or two, and it is calming without numbing, and it will not hurt him.

Sue Ross
Renaissance Miniature Poodles
Waverly, Indiana

From: CURLYTOP1976@aol.com
Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 16:07:38 EDT
Subject: Re: PSG: Thunder Storms/Fire Works & Heth
To: franbill@verizon.net

I live in central Florida, thunderstorms are a daily way of life here.

The thunderstorm CD's are a good idea to help him think that the noise is just something that happens all the time. Maybe try to act like it is a fun time and try not to let him know you are worried. Sometimes our reactions exaggerate theirs.

You could also try DAP (it is a dog appeasing pheromone), we are using it in dogs that are scared of thunderstorms and going to new places. It has a calming effect on them. They have a diffuser kit that you plug in the wall, or a spray that you can spray in the kennel or area that he will be in.

Another alternative is Clomicalm by Novartis, we have had good results with this. This does work but the owner needs to do constructive training at the same time.

I'm sure there are things to try, but from past experience I know it can be hard to overcome.

Kim Raymond
Curlytop Poodles
www.curlytoppoodles.com

Date: Fri, 09 Jul 2004 16:10:49 -0400
Subject: idea
From: Ann Addison <canicheaa@earthlink.net>
To: Cookie Man <franbill@verizon.net>

Put on one of your T shirts on him

Ann Addison
Argenta Toy Poodles
Columbia, South Carolina
canicheaa@earthlink.net
<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Ranch/9366>
--

Date: Fri, 09 Jul 2004 16:11:15 -0400
From: Tina & Char <tinachar@worldnet.att.net>
To: Cookie Man <franbill@bellatlantic.net>
Subject: Re: [BestOfVariety] Thunder Storms/Fire Works & Heth

Writing off-list, Bill.

We're so sorry Heth is having such a terrible fear of storms. One thing you didn't mention, which they SAY works to some degree, is to put a man's t-shirt on the dog, front legs through the sleeves of course, and tie the excess into a knot on top of his back so that it doesn't drape down. It wouldn't cost much, so why not try it?

We're worried about Ann Addison, but she has a wonderful attitude as she faces the surgery this coming Monday. She said you're sending her cookies!

Our little Liberty is a real joy. Just wish you could meet her!

Hugs
Tina & Char

From: SjPoodle@aol.com
Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 16:11:16 EDT
Subject: Re: PSG: Thunder Storms/Fire Works & Heth
To: franbill@verizon.net

Bill,

I have a dog who is the same way and has been for 11 years and the only thing short of drugging him with ace is the benedryl and I've had to learn to just give it to him if the forecast calls for rain and it works. The key is early enough, but after literally trying it all, we have found the benedryl takes the edge off and he doesn't pant and breathe so hard that his heart is jumping out of his chest. We also just used it for the fireworks and it helped alot. Take heart, it seems age does help this problem as Shadow is now 11 and is better than when he was younger, but it still is unnerving to him. I feel so bad for these kids when it happens.

I hope poor Heth gets some relief and if you hear of any better suggestions, pass them on.

Sally

Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 13:15:56 -0700 (PDT)
From: Leslie Soden <lesticia@yahoo.com>
Subject: Re: PSG: Thunder Storms/Fire Works & Heth
To: franbill@verizon.net

I think the other 2 ideas you haven't tried sound good, especially #1 if you gradually increase the volume to slowly desensitize him. Good luck!

--- franbill@bellatlantic.net wrote:
> The only other things that I can think of trying is to
>
> 1) Purchase a couple of CD's. One of them a "Nature" thing like
> 'Thunderstorms in The Grand Canyon' and another similar recording of
> fireworks and just playing them (for very short periods at 1st) at
> random times during the day and graduating to just reading the Sunday
> paper with all of the poodles with us listening to an hour of these
> CD's.

=====
Leslie Soden
<http://www.sunflower.com/~lessoden>

From: Arlrichpdl@aol.com
Message-ID: <67.2d83ecdf.2e205c7d@aol.com>
Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 16:39:25 EDT
Subject: PSG: Re: Cookieman & Heth

<<<Heth with fireworks and storms...

Bill: I think you might be on the right track with the lycra body suit, but you can try inexpensively with a t-shirt wrapped snugly around him to see if it has any effect at all. My daughter's Golden is like Heth and I have to feel very sorry for him. They just let him go in the bathtub or behind the TV or wherever he chooses and cower and shake until it's all over. They wouldn't take my suggestion and try the t-shirt. I think I read about it in the Whole Dog Journal. Arlene

Arlene Scardo,
Arlrich Toys

Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 13:41:32 -0700 (PDT)
From: Jacqui Webster <jacqui@sbcbglobal.net>
Subject: Re: Cookies
To: franbill@verizon.net

Thanks, Bill. We are honored to be honored with cookies.

Your private update on Floyd: I guess the operation was a success because he is starting to want to jump and get up on furniture. Of course, I have to restrict that for the rest of the 30 days but he tries to get sneaky and I see him contemplating the couch or bed when my back is turned and he has already taken a couple of four legged leaps unexpectedly. This is the fifth day after surgery....25 more to go and I can only imagine that he will get more antsy as the time goes on. There is no puffiness, redness or hot feeling on his incision and I believe it is already starting to itch a little. Fortunately he is on Prednisone which is a cortisone and I am sure it relieves some of the itchiness and is an

anti-inflammatory. If everything goes as well from now on, he will probably get the staples (21) out on Monday the 19th.

Sorry about Heth's fear of the fireworks and thunder. A couple of years ago, I took Floyd to a doggie 4th of July party at the training center we take agility at and even though they did not have fireworks, there were some in a park about a block away. We had to eventually had to go home because Floyd was cringing. I found with him that just holding him tightly in my arms helps a lot. It doesn't do away with the shakes but they become more controlable. Give him an extra hug for us when he is frightened next time....and all our best to Fran.

Jacqui and Flyin' (Soon) Floyd

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--- franbill@bellatlantic.net wrote:
> Hi Jacqui--I've updated my addy book with your
> current address.
> Your cookies will go out tomorrow.  :o)))  Bill
>
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Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 16:47:17 -0400 (GMT-04:00)
From: Jan Gray <workingdogs@earthlink.net>
Reply-To: Jan Gray <workingdogs@earthlink.net>
To: franbill@verizon.net
Subject: Re: PSG: Thunder Storms/Fire Works & Heth
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Bill,

I'd get the CD's and start them out at the very lowest volume you can. Increase the volume very gradually over a period of weeks. From the very beginning, while the volume is so low you can barely hear it, act casual and ignore him, read the paper, whatever. You stay calm and ignore him (giving him attention for being afraid will reward him for being afraid--I know he's genuinely afraid now, but if you start out at low volume there won't be any need for him to be and no need for him to be "rewarded" with your attention).

I'd also use calming signals--look away from him, lick your lips, yawning, etc. Get Turid Rugaas's book--it's inexpensive and goes over the signals dogs use to calm each other. I did a web search for "calming signals" and several articles came up with the info. She even has her own site and if you get it and got to articles and go to calming signals you can get it straight from her. There are sites in Norwegian but they show dogs doing the calming signals. This stuff works!

There's a theory that some dogs are more sensitive to the electricity in a storm, so many like to be near toilets or in bathtubs. Maybe have him somewhere with grounding would help.

The TT stuff might work also, but an Ace Bandage would be alot cheaper than one of the Lycra suits.

Good luck and let us know what works!

Jan

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Subject: RE: PSG: Thunderstorms/Fireworks
Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 13:51:17 -0700
Message-ID: <CE93919986E48B40AFD420A3B8316AC4112336@PVF1>
From: "Judy McKelvey" <jlm@pvandf.com>
To: <franbill@bellatlantic.net>
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Hi, Bill -

Saw your PSG post asking how to help your poor boy through the nasty sounds/vibrations. My dearly departed Boston Terrier was the same way, and I always felt worried for her. Eventually, I asked my vet for a prescription medication to help her remain calm. He gave me a very very very mild sedative-type thing (can't recall it's name now), and it worked like a charm. She had no adverse reactions - just seemed a little sleepier than usual, and much much happier than if she'd had to endure more fireworks (here in California, I don't have to worry about thunder too often).

Now I have my 11 month old standard, Gem, and I was very concerned to see how she made it through her first July 4. So I decided to try to desensitize her. About a week before July 4, I started banging loud pots and pie pans together, giving her a treat after every surprising "BOOM". The first two times that I came up behind her and made the loud sound when she wasn't looking, she jumped and then cowered. But pretty quickly, she would stand right next to the banging pots/pans, waiting for a treat and wagging her tail. If I came up behind her and surprised her, she'd immediately turn, wag tail, and look for her treat.

On the 4th, I crated her with a nice juicy bone. I checked her often, as fireworks and firecrackers were being used next door by our neighbors. She seemed fine as wine, and emerged after the festivities with no ill effects from her "ordeal."

Don't know if this will help, but I hope that something does. I feel so sorry for them, and know how worried you feel when you feel their hearts pounding and see the look of terror in their eyes. Good luck.

Judy McK.

From: "Cynthia Robins" <cprobins@earthlink.net>

To: <Arlichpdl@aol.com>, <psg@poodle.org>

Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 14:52:38 -0600

Subject: PSG: RE: Re: Cookieman & Heth

I don't even want to hear about thunderstorms. Here in Denver the skies are VERY dark, and the boomers are unbelievable. The last one made my chair shake. Luckily Rajah (10.6 y/o Standard) could care less about those things. Me - I'm about to hit the cooking sherry for some relief.

Cynthia Lerner

Jubilant Standard Poodles

-----Original Message-----

From: psg-bounces@poodle.org [mailto:psg-bounces@poodle.org] On Behalf Of Arlichpdl@aol.com

Sent: Friday, July 09, 2004 2:39 PM

To: psg@poodle.org

Subject: PSG: Re: Cookieman & Heth

<<<Heth with fireworks and storms...

Bill: I think you might be on the right track with the lycra body suit, but you can try inexpensively with a t-shirt wrapped snugly around him to see if it has any effect at all. My daughter's Golden is like Heth and I have to feel very sorry for him. They just let him go in the bathtub or behind the TV or wherever he chooses and cower and shake until it's all over. They wouldn't take my suggestion and try the t-shirt. I think I read about it in the Whole

Dog Journal. Arlene

Arlene Scardo,
Arlich Toys

From: "Kathleen Cullen" <kathleencullen@hotmail.com>

To: franbill@bellatlantic.net

Subject: Re: Thunderstorms etc. (PSG)
Date: Fri, 09 Jul 2004 17:16:08 -0400

Rather than an ordinary CD designed for our listening pleasure, I would get one of the ones specifically designed for dogs. I used a "shotgun" tape with my last litter--played it from the day they were born. None of them has any trouble with storms, fireworks, or any loud noises. In fact, during this past holiday, I had neighbours on three sides setting off fireworks. I took my one-year-old out in the backyard and did some training exercises (as well as I could in the dark) during the height of it and he didn't even seem to notice the noise.

These tapes/CDs start out with just soothing music, then slowly add the noise, very, very faint at first. Until a dog is completely comfortable with one level, you don't move on to the next. It comes with a complete set of instructions and a chart for tracking progress. I borrowed the shotgun tape from a friend who does field trials and had been asked to "cure" a vizsla that was terrified of the gunshots. The tape really worked for her. I didn't write down the company that produced it, but, if you want to try it, I will find out from my friend where to get one.

[]Kathleen[]

Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 14:17:35 -0700 (PDT)
From: Jacqui Webster <jacquiw@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: Re: PSG: Thunder Storms/Fire Works & Heth
To: franbill@verizon.net

Bill, Floyd has a lycra suit that I have had for a couple of years. It is the one made for warmth but is very like the shiny lycra one used to protect surgery.

I got it when he started having the problems with his back. No one could pin point the source of the problem. so I got this suit to keep him warm on cool winter evenings and he could still exercise in it and participate in agility without getting cold and tense making him shake and shiver.

I never thought of using it for loud noises but it would be similar to the suggestion that I had about holding him tight. I guess it is the same theory as swaddling a baby.

Jacqui

-

From: "Kelly Cassidy" <lostriver@completebbs.com>
To: <psg@poodle.org>
Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 14:24:39 -0700
Subject: PSG: Re: Thunder Storms/Fire Works & Heth

Bill,

I hate to sound pessimistic, but it's unlikely you can do much to desensitize him. I've been around the block on that issue with my last dog, the husky/shepherd cross that was terrified of fireworks and gunshots.

(Luckily, thunderstorms didn't bother him.) From everything I've read about gunshy dogs, that type of reaction is genetic and too deeply ingrained to do much about. You find most information about gunshy dogs among hunting dogs owners.

I tried doing the happy/nonchalant behavior during fireworks. Tried having him with me in a group of happy friends during fireworks, tried exposing him to faraway booms. Treat rewards, of course, don't work, because a terrified dog won't eat.

If you know in advance there will be fireworks, you can get a prescription for sedatives from the vet. They work best if given before the fireworks start.

If you don't know in advance, or if loud noises are too common to keep the dog in a constant state of druggedness, be sure he has a quiet place to hide. A crate covered with blankets in the darkest, most soundproof room in the house will help. In summer, if you can keep the crate in a dark room with a noisy window A/C unit, he will stay cooler and the A/C will drown out much of the noise.

Good luck. I feel for you.
Kelly

Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 14:31:27 -0700
To: psg@poodle.org
From: "Susan L. Fleisher" <slf373@earthlink.net>

Date: Fri, 09 Jul 2004 16:01:31 -0400
From: franbill@bellatlantic.net
Subject: PSG: Thunder Storms/Fire Works & Heth

Black SP Heth's horrific reactions. We know that many of you currently deal with this, and some have even arrived at solutions which actually work.

What really has me (Bill) upset is that body shakes so violently & his heart pounds so strong against his chest that I fear he will have a heart attack or go into a seizure. The frightened/panicked look in his eyes makes us feel especially helpless.

The only other things that I can think of trying is to

- 1) Purchase a couple of CD's. One of them a "Nature" thing like 'Thunderstorms in The Grand Canyon' and another similar recording of fireworks and just playing them (for very short periods at 1st) at random times during the day and graduating to just reading the Sunday paper with all of the poodles with us listening to an hour of these CD's.
- 2) Have him wear one of those lycra body suits that field people use for their poodles (burrs/ticks).
Something along the idea of the Tellington Touch technique of wrapping the dogs torso in an effort to calm them down.

A VERY LARGE COOKIE Reward awaits someone with a solution which works.

Thanks, Bill

Bill,

I'd give him Valium, which specifically calms anxiety, rather than giving him Benadryl, which might make him sleepy. Alos, someone is making a suit that does something about static electricity or whatever it is that is produced by an electrical storm. It is guaranteed to work, or can be returned for a full refund after, I think, three months.

Susan

--

Susan L. Fleisher
Berkeley, CA

slf373@earthlink.net
fax 501 621-7842
Kidney Disease in Dogs website:
symptoms, diagnosis, treatment,
management (medical and dietary),
recipes, breed specific renal

diseases, genetics, current research,
bibliography and abstracts

From: " Judy Burch" <sburch@indy.rr.com>
To: <franbill@verizon.net>, <BestOfVariety@yahoogroups.com>,
"PSG" <psg@poodle.org>
Subject: Re: Thunder Storms/Fire Works & Heth
Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 16:33:55 -0500

Bill I have had EXCELLENT results with Melatonin. Recently I have suggested it's use with several dogs with major thunderstorm phobias and their owners saw results on the very first use. The dogs still wanted to be by their humans, but the trembling, shaking and whining were gone.

I have used this with Rocky after he developed t-storm fears after a near tornado years ago. After several uses, he now no longer needs it although he still does want to be near me.

At only 12 pounds, I gave him a whole 3 mg tablet with great results. I did notice that if I gave this to him during the day, it made him sleepy, which was ok at night.

The following post was on wellpet years ago. The *I* in the post is not me btw. Again, I have seen this help many dogs.

I finally got in contact with Dr. Aronson, who presented the Melatonin cases at Dr. Jean Dodds' seminar here in MA. Her study will not be published until summer in the journal of veterinary medicine, but she did give me some further information.

She has found melatonin 80% successful in treating dogs with fear of loud noises, i.e., thunderstorms. She mentioned that it was also effective for epilepsy and a number of other conditions that allopathic vets use anti-depressants for. It produces the same results that an antidepressant does. Dr. Aronson said she doesn't see the need to keep up a regimen of anti-depressants when melatonin will work when needed.

A dog would have to have over 100 milligrams of Melatonin before there was any adverse effect. Suggested dosage is:
20lbs or less 1 1/2 milligrams 40lbs - 100 lbs 3 milligrams
over 100 lbs 6 milligrams This dosage can be given up to 3x's a day. When you know that a thunderstorm is approaching or there is the first sign of a "rumble" start the dosage. Results are very fast with no side effects.

Judy

Judy Burch sburch@indy.rr.com
OTCh Pepper 4-10-88---5-20-03
Rocky UD 13 yr old male, silver miniature poodle
Boomer UD 6 yr old male, black miniature poodle with Idiopathic Epilepsy
Brownsburg, IN
****Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened****

Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 14:38:35 -0700 (PDT)
From: Linda Rhodes <linda77447@yahoo.com>
To: psg@poodle.org
Subject: PSG: Re: PSG Digest, Vol 7, Issue 65--Thunder, Noise

You mentioned something similar to this, but the actual product name is "Anxiety Wrap". There's lots of info out there.

My instructor received info on a home-made wrap. She has a big, 16 year old golden that is now terrified of thunder. Valium helps, but she's afraid he will fall and get hurt. She used the home-made wrap--very tightly fitting t-shirt with something tucked in the front for weight, like a book, and he was better. Not 100% but didn't need the valium. She hasn't been able to find the article, though. I was just searching the net for it when I read your post.

The one thing I do see repeatedly is "do not coo and sympathize, or pet, etc. because it rewards the behavior." Makes sense in a way. But I would think sitting or lying right next to the dog, touching or holding would be the answer.

My 10 year old SP was shaking horribly at the vet yesterday after a big, grossly obese lab mix turned Cujo. Of course the owner never thought to shorten that 8' lead! He didn't stop shaking even after they left until I sat on the floor, right next to him, and just lay my hand on him. (He's never reacted that way before, but now that his sight is going....)

Linda R

2) Have him wear one of those lycra body suits that field people use for their poodles (burrs/ticks).
Something along the idea of the Tellington Touch technique of wrapping the dogs torso in an effort to calm them down.

From: "C. A. McGinnis" <pink1@mindspring.com>
To: <franbill@bellatlantic.net>
Subject: Heth's reaction to thunder/fireworks
Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 17:55:28 -0400

Hi Bill,

So sorry to hear that one of your babies gets so un-nerved by thunder & other LOUD noises.

I don't know if this would work for you, but what I do to help desensitize my pups to things like thunder and fireworks is use a starter pistol and lots of yummy cheese bits as treats.

I'd fire the starter pistol (which sounds like a VERY loud cap gun), and the pups would drop their tails, hunch up and look around all frightened, at which point I'd talk real happy talk to them and pass out a piece of cheese (a favorite tidbit & doesn't cause diarrhea). I'd then wait until they are all happy & scampering about in the yard, and I'd do it again (maybe 2 or 3 quick shots) -- again, the tails would DROP, they'd look around for the big frightening noise that they are sure is coming to get them - and instead, mommy would be calling them with lots of happy noises and a piece of cheese.

I tried to be very careful and not reward them for a fearful response (hence the happy talk - a little diversion tactic) I do not want to say "Oh, that's okay, you don't have to be afraid" in a soft, soothing tone that would be interpreted as a "good dog" response to the fear, and thereby reinforcing that it is okay to be frightened.

Basically, what this turned out to be, was clicker training with a REAL loud noise. By the third or fourth day of this game, whenever they heard the bang of the pistol, they would come running up to me looking for their treat. It was no longer a scary thing for them, rather the sign of something good to come.

We have been blessed with some WICKED storms recently, and I would purposely leave them outside to play as the storms started to rumble towards us - so

they would hear the noise in the background, but it was a happy time with lots of happy treats.

As it started to rain, and I had to bring them inside, and they heard the thunder - again, I'd pull out the cheese. BOOM (thunder) - zip--treat into the mouth. LOTS of wagging tails.

There were a lot of fireworks all around (redneck central!) the whole weekend, and fortunately, the pups just ignore the bangs, or they look around to see if the crazy lady is there with treats for them.

When I've had winter litters, I have used the thunderstorm CDs and would occasionally drop pans while it was on, for extra noise.

If you would like to try the starter pistol, I'd be happy to send it up to you to use.

Cathy

From: " Judy Burch" <sburch@indy.rr.com>
To: <franbill@verizon.net>
Subject: Re: Thunder Storms/Fire Works & Heth
Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 17:05:36 -0500

>>A VERY LARGE COOKIE Reward awaits someone with a solution which works.<<

Bill I just noticed this after I sent my post to you about Melatonin.

Believe me, IF it works for Heth, that will be reward enough. I know how tough it is to have a dog who is fearful during thunderstorms!

Judy :o)

Judy Burch sburch@indy.rr.com
OTCh Pepper 4-10-88---5-20-03
Rocky UD 13 yr old male, silver miniature poodle
Boomer UD 6 yr old male, black miniature poodle with Idiopathic Epilepsy
Brownsburg, IN
****Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened****

From: "Janine Adams" <jadams@jbma.com>
To: "PSG" <psg@poodle.org>
References: <40EEF99B.8D4F8ABF@mailbox.bellatlantic.net>
Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 17:17:11 -0500

Bill,

My standard poodle, Pip, has mild thunder phobia (whining, pacing). What works well for her is the amino acid l-theanine, which is calming. I give her one capsule and she goes into her crate and chills. If one capsule doesn't do the trick, I'll give her another 15 minutes later. I've never been tempted to give her more, since two has always calmed her. Sometimes I'll put a t-shirt on her too, if it's not too warm in the house. I buy the l-theanine here:

<http://www.painstresscenter.com/mall/LT.asp>

If l-theanine didn't work so well for Pip, I'd be tempted to try the Anxiety Wrap that someone else suggested. You can read about it here:
<http://www.anxietywrap.com>

I have a friend with a mixed breed dog who has terrible thunder phobia. She would tear bathroom fixtures off the wall if a surprise storm hit while her folks weren't home. It's extreme, but what worked wonders for her is daily, year-round doses of Prozac with the addition of Valium during a storm. (Apparently using only one of them wasn't very helpful.) It's made a big difference in this dog's quality of life, since in the summer thunderstorms are very common.

Hope that helps,

Janine

Date: Fri, 09 Jul 2004 18:17:45 -0400
From: Caroline Hair <carahai@infionline.net>

On Friday, July 9, 2004, at 04:30 PM, Bill wrote:

We need suggestions as to how to deal with 3yo Black SP Heth's horrific reactions [to loud noises, fireworks, etc.]....

Bill, if I post, and if my suggestion is successful, PUHLEEZE don't send along cookies, I had a hip replaced in April, and etc. etc.

Our dogs LOVE the sound of thunder and gunshot, etc., and this is because they associate this loud noise with tremendous fun, birds, retrieving, and so on. So, obtain a few dead pigeons and a few dead ducks and commence fetch training using these and whatever else is around the house, hammers, dumbbells, etc., and then take 'em to a retriever training session, and you will probably have to throw dead birds for a lot of slavering Labradors, but never mind, with the back of your truck (you're an ole boy and drive a truck, eh? That's a Canadian eh...) open so your Poodles have the chance to become frantic with desire. .. and so on. And on. Until when you jostle the whistle on the coat hook, all your dogs run down two flights of stairs from the third floor and scrabble around the corner and stand there, gazing at the whistle, slavering and eager. And when they discover it's a mistake, they slink away. I had a friend who couldn't even get beans out of the freezer without every dog in the house ending up facing the freezer waiting eagerly for the bags of frozen birds to be lifted out.

And what about the person who, when he loaded his truck for training, the dogs AND the ducks he kept in the back yard all lined up to get into the vehicle for some fun?

--Emily

Poodle History Project (annotated bibliography)
<http://www.poodlehistory.org>

From: Accordalice@aol.com
Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 18:37:44 EDT
To: psg@poodle.org, franbill@bellatlantic.net
Subject: PSG: Re:Thunderstorms and Heth

In a message dated 7/9/04 3:31:08 PM Central Daylight Time,
psg-request@poodle.org writes:

<< From: franbill@bellatlantic.net
Subject: PSG: Thunder Storms/Fire Works & Heth

We need suggestions as to how to deal with 3yo Black SP Heth's horrific reactions. We know that many of you currently deal with this, and some have even arrived at solutions which actually work.

>>

Have you ever tried crating him during storms? I find my dogs feel more secure in their crates. I have a large kennel room in the basement and that is where the crates are and where the dogs spend their time when they are not upstairs with me. An added benefit is that being below ground level seems to help nullify the noise and vibration of the thunder. Cuddling and making a fuss over him is the worst thing you can do. It reinforces the idea that something bad is happening. You need to be calm and very matter-of-fact about it.

Alice

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 Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 18:37:44 EDT
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Alice

From: amycompton@comcast.net
 To: franbill@bellatlantic.net
 Subject: Hess & storms
 Date: Fri, 09 Jul 2004 22:44:51 +0000

Bill,

I'd love to help you and Hess out with this problem, even if it didn't mean a Cookieman cookie for me! Since the poodle seminar in North Carolina has been cancelled, I now have some clear time on the 17th and 18th. How 'bout I scoot up there on one of those days and do an evaluation and show you some exercises to do with him that help most dogs?

In the meantime, don't buy an expensive Lycra suit. ('m as tight as the bark on a tree! <G>) Go to K-Mart or a similar store and buy a toddler's tee shirt in size 3T or 4T--just eyeball what looks right. It needs to fit snugly around his chest. Alternatively, use a 4 in wide Ace Wrap wound around his chest (snug, not tight). Practice putting it on lots of times when no storms are coming, and show him a really good time with food or a toy while he wears

it for 10-15 min. Then try putting it on when a storm approaches. Do supervise him while he's wearing until you are convinced he won't chew and eat it.

Love to Fran and both dogs,

Amy

--

Amelia D. Compton, Ph.D.
Behavioral Psychologist & Canine Trainer

Animal Behavior Solutions
10255 Glendye Road
Richmond, VA 23235
804 267-5680

From: "Peggy Ann Anderholm" <poodlemom@wiktel.com>
To: <franbill@verizon.net>
Subject: Re: Thunder Storms/Fire Works & Heth
Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 17:45:12 -0500
X-Mozilla-Status2: 00000000

OH man, if they come up with a solution I will make them cookies! Anna has similar experiences.....it makes me so sad to see her so upset.

Peggy Ann

----- Original Message -----

From: RICOPPOOS@aol.com
Message-ID: <50.2e522c35.2e207cba@aol.com>
Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 18:56:58 EDT
Subject: Re: PSG: Thunder Storms/Fire Works & Heth

In a message dated 7/9/04 2:57:40 PM Central Daylight Time, franbill@bellatlantic.net writes:
We need suggestions as to how to deal with 3yo Black SP Heth's horrific reactions. We know that many of you currently deal with this, and some have even arrived at solutions which actually work.

CookieMan and Heth,

I had a PWD/Border Collie that was noise sensitive, especially gunshots and vacuum cleaners. He didn't seem to mind fireworks or storms as much, it just seemed to be the others more so.

This was a dog I was trying to train for SAR, and to have a dog be disturbed by noises when working SAR is not a good thing, so I had to really work to get him over this.

There is no one "magic solution," but rather a combination of things, and a HUGE dose of patience and determination to have the dog get better.

What really has me (Bill) upset is that body shakes so violently & his heart pounds so strong against his chest that I fear he will have a heart attack or go into a seizure. The frightened/panicked look in his eyes makes us feel especially helpless.

First thing, YOU have to become a STONE. I know it is hard to do, especially when you think your baby is "suffering," but you really have to put your emotions in check, and STOP feeling pity, helpless or apologetic for the dog feeling that way. That's the first step.
Healthy, normal dogs with strong hearts and no previous history of epilepsy or seizures have a 99.9 % chance of NOT having problems like this from a fear response. I'd be more worried about him expressing his anal glands or bladder or bowels involuntarily, that would come first, waaay before a stroke, heart attack or seizure.

During the months of June-August, the metropolitan Washington, DC area experiences (almost daily) severe thunderstorm activity. The typical 5-day forecast is: "The '3-H's' - Hot, Hazy, Humid followed by late afternoon thunderstorms. The storm cells can produce tornadic like effects.

I know exactly the conditions, only here in Arkansas, it's April through October, with actual tornados happening just about weekly. :-)

Fireworks are set off by individuals in neighborhoods year round for such events as New Years, High School/College Graduation parties, July 4, big sports events (World Series, Super Bowl, NBA), and of course loud highly-attended parties back yard or neighborhood parties.

We have many local Rednecks that shoot fireworks just about daily for no other reason than they're born pyromaniacs. :-) And don't even get me started on gunshots and loud cars, most that run poorly and backfire very regularly. We live out in the country, sort of, and there is a pond in nearly every backyard within a five mile radius. These Rednecks with their shotguns and other firearms, shooting at snakes and snapping turtles every night just for fun. Some people just don't understand, live and let live.

At the 1st faint sound of distant thunder/or explosions, Heth looks up with wild/panic and starts his nervous pacing and running around. When the real noise kicks in, no amount of cuddling will calm him down.

Okay, remember, FIRST thing you have to do is STOP the cuddling. Any sort of attention is actually reinforcing the behaviour. Even negative attention is better than being ignored, to a dog, so first, IGNORE the behaviour. As I said before, it will probably require a combination of several things to extinguish the behaviour, so I will list the things I think will help, in no particular order.

OK, so here are some of the things we've tried:

1)The holistic vet-Chinese calming herb pills given over a 30 day period. No Help

If it doesn't help, then scrap it and try another method.

2)Valerian Pills-Given 2-3 hours in advance. Does help for the less intense times

True, Acepromazine does help, but it does nothing but mask the senses and the behaviour, not a solution for the long term behaviour modification.

3)Valerian Liquid / or Spray-- Acts much more quickly than pills and the earlier it's given, the better.
Side effects can be upset/rumbling stomach.

Again, not a long-term solution, and with negative side-effects.

4) Benadryal--He's 51# and we give him 2 pills (50mg) 2-3 hours before the storm to make him sleepy
Thid does help if given early enough

Same as previous two.

4) Physical activity--If we get enough warning (storm or fireworks) we arrange a very intense playdate with his Silver 3.5 y/o SP friend Toby. If this is done at least 8-10 hours ahead, he can usually sleep through it. I'll also give him 30 minutes or frisbee as he's very good at bringing it back to me.

This idea shows promise, and incorporated with a few other methods, can definitely be part of the total solution. You might try inviting the playmate over DURING the storm, something to get his mind off the problem at hand, covered under Alternage Behaviours in the book.

If you and the other dogs are having a huge party during the storm, use the jealousy or "me too," factor to invite/encourage Heth to take part in the fun.

5) Ice Cubes--10:30pm July 5th, neighbors who attended community/DC firework events on the 4th decided to host their own "spectaculars". Out of desperation, I was rubbing this on Heth's neck & head to help calm him down. Much too late for any of the above to help, so Frances & I cuddled him and I was really surprised to see that it did help to a degree.

I have no explanation for the ice cubes, except that maybe from cooling the major blood vessels on the head and neck, then cooled the blood to the brain, and induced a sort of "brain hypothermia" and reduced the reaction? (not really, but it's the only thing I could think of)

In any case, Rule # 1 - NO CUDDLING DURING THE BAD BEHAVIOUR!

Truly, I know it sounds harsh, because that's what your "human" instinct tell you to do, but dogs just don't work the same way as humans.

Second thing, there is a book out there called "How Dogs Learn," by Mary R. Burch Ph.D., and Jon S. Bailey, Ph.D. I got my copy at PetsMart. Although it is a bit technical at times, I was able to understand it, so you should have no problems.

Overall, it is a marvelous explanation of Operant and Respondent Conditioning, and how the canine brain processes information. It talks about positive vs. negative reinforcement/punishment, and also, the part you're interested in, extinction of undesired behaviours through several methods.

There is so much information in the book, I really can't even begin to give you any bits of it in an email, but I strongly recommend reading the book, as it addresses many problem behaviours in dogs.

Some things I would try are this. First, IGNORE the fearful behaviour at ALL times.

Then, try redirecting. I know it will be difficult and probably not show much result at first, but patience, determination and perserverance will win in the end. Especially since he is 3 yrs. old, and the pattern is probably very hard-wired by now.

During the storm or any offensive noise, HAVE A PARTY. Get out the favorite toys and PLAY with the other dogs. Totally ignore Heth, unless he wants to join in the playing.

Get out the favorite treats, and I mean really SPECIAL treats. If it takes Filet Mignon and Lobster Tail to get him interested, by gum, that's what I'd use, at least for a while.

Introduce alternate behaviours to replace the fearful behaviours. Using the really special treats, do some obedience exercises or seek the toy, or just plain ol' parlor tricks, shake, roll-over, sit up, etc. Give him something positive to DO, other than shake, shiver and hide.

I've seen from experience that it will take some time to get results. First, by starting with ignoring the undesired behaviour, NO CUDDLING during the storms or banging, you may not notice results. Then, during Extinction of a behaviour, dogs will have what's called an Extinction Burst, where the behaviour actually gets worse before it fades completely. Like a puppy protesting being in a crate, the howls start lowly at first, then escalate until he finally gives up....that is, if no one "comes to his rescue" and lets him out of the crate while he's being "bad." Same thing for most behaviours. You must IGNORE it for it to extinguish.

If you get the book and read it, once we're both on the same page, (so to speak) I'd be glad to help you work out a plan for dealing with the behaviour. It's too hard to explain everything here, if you don't know where I'm coming

from. :-)

The only other things that I can think of trying is to

1) Purchase a couple of CD's. One of them a "Nature" thing like 'Thunderstorms in The Grand Canyon' and another similar recording of fireworks and just playing them (for very short periods at 1st) at random times during the day and graduating to just reading the Sunday paper with all of the poodles with us listening to an hour of these CD's.

This approach is addressed in the book under the sections on Habituation, Systematic Desensitization, and counter-conditioning, or the alternate behaviours.

There are several marvelous case studies/explanations of dealing with fear/phobias in dogs and humans.

These are a reasonable substitute for the noise, but the actual conditions of a storm affect dogs more, such as the barometric pressure, heat, humidity, etc. Like how dogs can predict earthquakes and things like that long before they happen, there are several environmental things that you can't control. That's why the recommendation of the alternate behaviours during the actual storm and redirecting. Instead of reading the paper during the tapes, start the routine of playing with them and feeding, to carry over during the actual storm.

Start the tapes softly and for short sessions, and then gradually increase the volume and YOU have to be very upbeat, positive and happy the whole time.

2) Have him wear one of those lycra body suits that field people use for their poodles (burrs/ticks).

Something along the idea of the Tellington Touch technique of wrapping the dogs torso in an effort to calm them down.

This is also an excellent idea, to incorporate along with the other things. However, I would use this in the later stages, after he learns to relax a bit first. If you'd start with this right away, it would essentially be "forcing" him to lay down, which may cause even more anxiety when usually he'd be pacing and worrying, and then the massage would be interpreted as "praise" or cuddling, and actually still reinforcing the fear response. Just wearing the suit probably wouldn't have much of an effect, but introducing massage later would probably be a wonderful idea.

Hmmmm.....I think if I got a massage during my dentist appointment, I sure wouldn't mind it as much. (my phobia) ;-)

I definitely have empathy for you in this situation, but know that the ability to vent and incoming support is only a few keystrokes or a phonecall away. :-)

My noise-sensitive dog has made marvelous strides, but the densitization process is continuing for the rest of his life. Once they are habituated to the noise, you must constantly maintain. It is work, but for the ones you love, it is worth it. Good luck, and if there's anything I can do to help, please don't hesitate to ask.

Michelle and the SAR Poodles

From: RICOPPOOS@aol.com
 Message-ID: <1d2.2587769e.2e2084e9@aol.com>
 Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 19:31:53 EDT
 To: psg@poodle.org
 Subject: PSG: dealing with dogs' fears

It has been interesting seeing how many of the people on this list deal with the fears their dogs have, such as thunder, fireworks and other loud noises.

It is amazing how much our society today has influenced what we use as solutions to any certain problem.

I notice how many flat out say, "drug him," whether it be with natural stuff like Rescue Remedy, or "harder" stuff like Valium, etc.

And how few are actually interested in finding out why and what is causing the problem, and fixing the root of the behaviour, if possible through modification and training. Or simply say that there's nothing that can be done, he

was born this way and we can't change it.

And even more, for breeders, this seems to be a fairly major temperament issue, and should be considered along with every other health/breeding issue. Just as bad hips will cost an owner loads of money in medication, etc, it seems

that Prozac and Valium cost as well, and could be eliminated.

There is a book in circulation titled "How Dogs Learn," by Mary Burch and Jon Bailey, Ph.D's. It is an excellent work on operant and respondent conditioning, and dealing with many behaviours that dogs exhibit.

It contains many thorough explanations and case studies of dogs with "problem" behaviours. Some caused by man, some inherent, like the noise phobia.

My personal approach is that I hesitate to give any sort of "drugs," natural or not, til the last possible resort. I don't even like taking Motrin or aspirin for a headache if I can avoid it.

Using the desensitization, habituation and counter-conditioning techniques is a lot of work, requiring patience, determination and perseverance, but I believe that even the most phobic dog can achieve some progress using them, and be spared the negative effects of drugs to some degree.

Many will argue that they've known dogs that could not be cured, especially with the ignoring the behaviour approach. Most people don't understand how long it takes for a behaviour to extinguish using this approach, and what the extinction burst is.

That is, a behaviour actually gets worse before it gets better.

Like the puppy crying/whining when left in a crate, or dogs that beg for food, the bad behaviour escalates to a point that is nearly unbelievable, and that's usually when most people come to the conclusion that it can't be cured and

give in. And that just more firmly cements the behaviour, and now at a higher intensity than it was before.

It is a wonderful book, and I highly recommend it for anyone who is interested in learning more about the processes of a canine brain and how to create, elicit or extinguish behaviour in dogs.

Michelle and the Ricochez Gang

From: "Gayle Roberson" <pocopoodles@comcast.net>
To: "psg" <psg@poodle.org>
Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 19:37:42 -0400
Subject: PSG: Melatonin

Judy~

I have also had excellent results with Melatonin. I heard about it at one of Watchung Mtn Poodle Club's eye clinics. We were sitting in a dark room, each waiting his/her turn to see Dr Aguirre. Discussing all kinds of stuff, including T-storms, and this small voice said: Melatonin. Huh? several

people said. Perhaps she had also read the Dr Dodds report. I used it on Maybelline, who would crawl up my leg during a t-storm. It worked!! Now, she is 11, perhaps a little deaf, maybe she has gotten over it, but she is no longer bothered by t-storms!

On a dog with significant thunder phobias, I would try Melatonin, pin a t-shirt tightly to the body, and probably even dose the dog with Rescue Remedy and Elm essence (which is said to be for 'unknown fears'). Couldn't hurt, and none of them would work against the others.

What I would not do is "koochie poo" try to comfort the dog. I think it would tell the dog I agree with the fear. I would also play Neal Diamond tapes, real loud; they're pretty cheerful, and you can dance to it!

Gayle Roberson

www.pocoapocopoodles.com

Life Without A Poodle Is Like Dancing Without Music. You *Can* Do It, But Why?

Date: Fri, 09 Jul 2004 16:40:30 -0700
 From: Diane Whitehouse <cassie@lightspeed.net>
 Subject: Re: PSG: Thunder Storms/Fire Works & Heth

Hi Bill,

Went through this with a friend's Golden. The things that worked with her:

1. Do not reinforce the fear. Don't sympathize, don't cuddle....you're saying "Oh, it's awful, and I know you're scared and you are right, it's very, very bad and we are all scared." You want to say "Silly boy! Nothing to worry about!"
2. The body suit, or a snug wrapping (they started with a teeshirt and then wrapped over it with the old fashioned ace bandages, making poor Peaches into something resembling a mummy.....but it was VERY effective.
3. They then would crate her in their den --no outside walls which helped muffle the sounds-- leave a light on (they swore she was better with a light on) and classical music playing at a normal level.

Hope you come up with something that works for Heth!

Hugs,

--

Diane and the Casual Country Poodles, SunGen, Cassie, Angie, Mandy, and Pshanel plus Clyde, honorary Poodle

 Date: Fri, 09 Jul 2004 20:09:18 -0400
 From: franbill@bellatlantic.net
 Subject: Re: PSG: Thunder Storms/Fire Works & Heth

Michelle & Michael Mace
 27809 Hwy. 107
 Cabot, AR 72023

Michelle,

I hadn't intended to respond (yet) to many the replies to my post. I am getting a LOT of public & private emails 36 so far, and the suggestions are most encouraging. At a later point, I'll send a summary of what seems like practical ideas others might like to try.

Your incredibly kind & in-depth reply deserves an immediate "thankyou". What wonderful suggestions!! You can be sure that we will be trying most of them.

The reason that your addy is at the top of this email (and copied to myself as

well) is so that I can place a printed copy next to my baking supplies, so that the next time I bake..... :o))

Thanks again Michelle. SPD to you, Mike & your RICOPPOOS--Bill & family

From: "Claudia" <cpendlay@charter.net>
References: <1d2.2587769e.2e2084e9@aol.com>
To: <psg@poodle.org>
Subject: Re: PSG: dealing with dogs' fears

I wonder how many dogs are afraid of thunder and fireworks and gunfire because of owners reactions when they were small puppies? I know it certainly isn't all of them but I am curious how much of it is conditioning, the first 4th of july or thunderstorm when the pup is little and the owner sees the pup startle at the noise and immediately comforts it so the pup associates that noise with being cuddled and comforted. I have never had a dog with the problem so I am certainly no expert, my Great Dane puppies went everywhere with us and at that time in our lives what we did was drag race so they grew up at the drag strip. By the time they were grown they were absolutely steady when a fuel motor fired up and I had one male that would try to drag me in the direction of a top fuel or funny car as soon as he got a whiff of nitro methane. When he was in the 9 to 12 month puppy class we went to a specialty show that was held at the Los Angeles Police Academy and he was one of very few dogs that didn't freak out when they started target practice not far from where the show was being held. When we had coonhounds we did hunt them so they were very used to gun fire, to them that noise meant there would be a racoon on the ground for them soon. My husband at that time was a competition trap shooter and we were meeting someone after shooting to breed our best bitch so we took her to the range with us, she was used to one or two rifle shots but not a line of 30-40 men with shotguns shooting a wink (if the first shooter misses the bird the next one in line fires until someone hits it or it hits the ground), at first she startled and then her eyes lit up and she knew there would be a coon to kill soon. You should have seen the look on her face when there was no coon it was pure disgust, all those men with guns and not one of them could hit that coon, they were absolutely worthless in her mind. My Rat Terrier grew up at the range and LOVES fireworks, she all but oooooos and ahhhhhs over them so we actually buy them for her. I wondered how the poodle would take them and last year as a small pup she wasn't thrilled but not terrified so after holding her so she could watch a few from a very safe distance I put her in the house. This year I took them both out on leashes and she watched with tail wagging for a few minutes and then was bored and found it more fun to hunt bugs and totally ignored the fireworks. Both girls bark at thunder and get excited and run to the door and back to me because they want to go outside and see the fireworks.

I really wonder how many dogs are inadvertently trained to fear loud noises by well meaning owners.

Claudia

-----Original Message-----

From: RICOPPOOS@aol.com
Date: 07/09/04 19:33:32
To: psg@poodle.org
Subject: PSG: dealing with dogs' fears

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Michelle and the Ricochez Gang

From: "Claire" <Nalanis2@hawaii.rr.com>

To: <franbill@bellatlantic.net>

Subject: PSG: Thunder Storms/Fire Works & Heth

Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 15:53:22 -1000

Hi Bill,

I heard about this product awhile ago. Don't know anyone who uses it so I couldn't tell you if it worked or not, but thought you might want to read about it. You might want to give it a try.

<http://www.alldogsschool.com/inthenews.htm>
 Claire

 From: " Judy Burch" <sburch@indy.rr.com>
 To: "Gayle Roberson" <pocopoodles@comcast.net>, "psg" <psg@poodle.org>
 Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 21:35:58 -0500
 Subject: PSG: Re: Melatonin

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 including T-storms, and this small voice said: Melatonin. Huh?
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 it on
 Maybelline, who would crawl up my leg during a t-storm. It worked!!
 Now, she
 is 11, perhaps a little deaf, maybe she has gotten over it, but she
 is no
 longer bothered by t-storms!<<

That has been the same outcome with Rocky, he no longer needs it.

It's easy to sit back and say poo-poo to those that use 'drugs',
 but when you have a dog that is terrified by storms, you are
 willing to try something that you know has worked for others.

If I was waiting on behavior modification with him, I think I still
 would be waiting. This helped him sleep through a storm (at night
 when we were in bed anyway) and nap through one during the day. It
 gave him some peace from the terrors that came with a storm.

Like you, I never coddled him through a storm, I always told him
 what fun the storms were. It wasn't til we had one horrible,
 frightening-loud storm that his fears developed. My other two
 do/did not have t-storms fears, but if they did, I know what relief
 a dose of melatonin is and that in time, *somehow* through its use
 these fears abide.

Judy

Judy Burch sburch@indy.rr.com
 OTCh Pepper 4-10-88---5-20-03
 Rocky UD 13 yr old male, silver miniature poodle
 Boomer UD 6 yr old male, black miniature poodle with Idiopathic
 Epilepsy
 Brownsburg, IN
 ****Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened****

From: "Judy Burch" <sburch@indy.rr.com>
 To: "Claudia" <cpendlay@charter.net>, <psg@poodle.org>
 Subject: Re: PSG: dealing with dogs' fears
 Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 21:47:48 -0500

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 because of owners reactions when they were small puppies? I know it
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 associates that noise with being cuddled and comforted. I have
 never had a

dog with the problem so I am certainly no expert, my Great Dane puppies went everywhere with us and at that time in our lives what we did was drag race so they grew up at the drag strip.<<

Good question Claudia.

I can only speak for my three. Two of them have/had no fears at all of loud noises no matter the source.

Rocky has always been sound sensitive, BUT never to thunderstorms. As puppies, I always hold the puppy near a window during a thunderstorm and act happy with each bolt of lightning and clap of thunder.

It wasn't til he was around 5 or 6 (maybe older) that we had a near tornado which caused many limbs to down in our and surrounding yards. The storm was very scary with lots of thunder and lightning. After *that* storm, his fears developed and no amount of "wow, wasn't that fun" could bring him out of it.

Judy

Judy Burch sburch@indy.rr.com
OTCh Pepper 4-10-88--5-20-03
Rocky UD 13 yr old male, silver miniature poodle
Boomer UD 6 yr old male, black miniature poodle with Idiopathic Epilepsy
Brownsburg, IN
****Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened****

Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 20:05:06 -0700 (PDT)
From: Angela Spitaletto <onlypoodles@yahoo.com>
Subject: PSG: Help for Heth
To: franbill@bellatlantic.net

Hi Bill & Fran,

I use Melatonin, I give two 3 mg tablets when she started to get restless. Vashra would come up to me and put her body across mine and I would ask her if she wanted her medicine and she would go and sit where the Melatonin was. I would just give her the tablets in some cheese and she would go in her corner and sleep which was great.

There is a jacket you can buy him, it is about \$60 and it acts as a buffer for the electrical current they feel.

I have to tell you that the last litter I had last June went crazy during one electrical storm, the pups were all crying and squirming around, I covered them with a blanket and they quieted down.

You might be able to take Heth, give him Melatonin, put him in his crate and then cover it - try it -it might work for you.

Take care,
Angela

From: "Claudia" <cpendlay@charter.net>
References: <031f01c46628\$497efac0\$a0b01a41@Burch1>
To: <psg@poodle.org>
Subject: Re: PSG: dealing with dogs' fears

That is a completely different story, he has good reason to fear that noise. That was a situation where you were also afraid (unless you're crazy...lol)

I can relate to that kind of storm fear, I loved thunderstorms and the wilder the better, I would go out on the porch where I could get the full effect until the evening our transformer and two other transformers close by took direct hits. This was pretty close to the house and it caused a lot of damage along with us being without power or water for 14 hours and my husband was a paraplegic who also relied on a c-pap machine to sleep safely. We were without a phone for 5 days and lived in a fairly remote area. Thunder storms have since scared me too, but I am getting better, from outright panic to apprehension and a bit jumpy now that I live in the south. The first storms of the season always scare the tar out of me until I get back in the swing of things and watch the doppler to see which direction it is coming from knowing from the west always peters out before it gets here, from the north is rarely bad, but from the south watch out.

Claudia

-----Original Message-----

From: Judy Burch
Date: 07/09/04 22:47:53
To: Claudia; psg@poodle.org
Subject: Re: PSG: dealing with dogs' fears
Good question Claudia.

I can only speak for my three. Two of them have/had no fears at all of loud noises no matter the source.

Rocky has always been sound sensitive, BUT never to thunderstorms. As puppies, I always hold the puppy near a window during a thunderstorm and act happy with each bolt of lightning and clap of thunder.

It wasn't til he was around 5 or 6 (maybe older) that we had a near tornado which caused many limbs to down in our and surrounding yards. The storm was very scary with lots of thunder and lightning. After *that* storm, his fears developed and no amount of "wow, wasn't that fun" could bring him out of it.

Judy

Judy Burch sburch@indy.rr.com
OTCh Pepper 4-10-88---5-20-03
Rocky UD 13 yr old male, silver miniature poodle
Boomer UD 6 yr old male, black miniature poodle with Idiopathic Epilepsy
Brownsburg, IN
****Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened****

From: " Judy Burch" <sburch@indy.rr.com>
To: <psg@poodle.org>
Subject: Re: PSG: dealing with dogs' fears

Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 22:46:59 -0500
X-Mozilla-Status2: 00000000

Claudia wrote:

>>Thunder storms have since scared me too, but I am getting better, from outright panic to apprehension and a bit jumpy now that I live in the south. The first storms of the season always scare the tar out of me until I get back in the swing of things and watch the doppler to see which direction it is coming from knowing from the west always peters out before it gets here, from the north is rarely bad, but from the south watch out.<<

And I'm sure just as I do, you act brave in front of the dogs or act as if nothing unusual is going on during a storm. I sometimes thing I should win an Academy Award for my t-storm performances!

Yes, the *big* storm did scare me too!

I just heard from one of my sons that the storms that went through today hit a large tree behind his law office. Thankfully his building (a renovated home) wasn't hurt, they were just without power for several hours.

I might add that Rock wanted on my lap during the storm and then went to sleep. A far cry from how he used to react to storms.

Judy

Judy Burch sburch@indy.rr.com
OTCh Pepper 4-10-88---5-20-03
Rocky UD 13 yr old male, silver miniature poodle
Boomer UD 6 yr old male, black miniature poodle with Idiopathic Epilepsy
Brownsburg, IN
****Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened****

From: RICOPPOOS@aol.com
Message-ID: <d6.ee92f92.2e20c720@aol.com>
Date: Sat, 10 Jul 2004 00:14:24 EDT
Subject: Re: PSG: Thunder Storms/Fire Works & Heth

In a message dated 7/9/04 7:06:01 PM Central Daylight Time, franbill@bellatlantic.net writes:

Michelle,
I hadn't intended to respond (yet) to many the replies to my post. I am getting a LOT of public & private emails 36 so far, and the suggestions are most encouraging. At a later point, I'll send a summary of what seems like practical ideas others might like to try.

Your incredibly kind & in-depth reply deserves an immediate "thankyou". What wonderful suggestions!! You can be sure that we will be trying most of them.

Bill, Fran and Poodles,

You are most welcome for the suggestions, I hope they work and both you and Heth become more comfortable during storms and fireworks. :-) Let me know how everyone is progressing, we'll be rooting for your success. :-)

Michelle and the Ricochez Gang

From: RICOPOOS@aol.com
Message-ID: <148.2def6b63.2e20c89f@aol.com>
Date: Sat, 10 Jul 2004 00:20:47 EDT
Subject: Re: PSG: dealing with dogs' fears

In a message dated 7/9/04 7:43:39 PM Central Daylight Time, cpendlay@charter.net writes:
I really wonder how many dogs are inadvertently trained to fear loud noises by well meaning owners.

I'm sure it is a lot, and not just loud noises, but also other situations, like going to the groomer or the vet. Clients tell me that their dogs start shaking three blocks away, so I know they're picking up on vibes from the owners. Vets hear the same thing all the time as well.

Michelle

Sat, 10 Jul 2004 00:19:34 -0400
From: victoriarose3@gbbcdesignworks.com (victoriarose3@gbbcdesignworks.com)
To: <franbill@verizon.net>, <BestOfVariety@yahoogroups.com>, "'PSG'" <psg@poodle.org>
Subject: RE: Thunder Storms/Fire Works & Heth
Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 23:27:15 -0500

Bill, Bonnie's reaction is not nearly so severe, but she does cower under my desk or get as close to me as possible during a thunderstorm. I started spraying her with a mix of bath oil and water, rubbing it into her fur, and then put one of Will's previously worn (and not yet washed) t-shirts on her and tie it at her waist to tighten it up.

I also give her a bone to work on -- a yummy knuckle bone or a couple of rib bones or a nice marrow bone -- which helps take her mind off her troubles. If I don't have these, I give her a used marrow bone stuffed with peanut butter or cheese. She still stays close, but doesn't show as much distress. If she hadn't had such bad experiences with kennels, I'd tuck her into one of them for the storms and cover it over to make it more den-like. That's all I used to do years ago for a little mutt I had, and it worked quite well for her.

Good luck finding a solution that helps Heth.

Sande ;o)

Date: Sat, 10 Jul 2004 00:29:35 -0400 (Eastern Daylight Time)
Content-Type: Text/Plain;
charset="Windows-1252"
X-Mailer: IncrediMail (3001487)
From: "Claudia" <cpendlay@charter.net>
Subject: Re: PSG: dealing with dogs' fears

That is why I asked the question, I have been a groomer for 31 years and have seen that over and over.

Claudia

-----Original Message-----

From: RICOPOOS@aol.com
Date: 07/10/04 00:23:14
To: psg@poodle.org
Subject: Re: PSG: dealing with dogs' fears

In a message dated 7/9/04 7:43:39 PM Central Daylight Time, cpendlay@charter.net writes:
I really wonder how many dogs are inadvertently trained to fear loud noises by well meaning owners.

I'm sure it is a lot, and not just loud noises, but also other situations, like going to the groomer or the vet. Clients tell me that their dogs start shaking three blocks away, so I know they're picking up on vibes from the owners. Vets hear the same thing all the time as well.

Michelle

From: "C. A. McGinnis" <pink1@mindspring.com>
To: <franbill@verizon.net>
Subject: Fw: Heth's reaction to thunder/fireworks
Date: Sat, 10 Jul 2004 05:11:01 -0400

Whoops - I punched in "cookieman" and didn't think to double check & make sure it was the RIGHT address ! it came up as your old addy!

----- Original Message -----

From: C. A. McGinnis
To: franbill@bellatlantic.net
Sent: Friday, July 09, 2004 5:55 PM
Subject: Heth's reaction to thunder/fireworks

Hi Bill,

So sorry to hear that one of your babies gets so un-nerved by thunder & other LOUD noises.

I don't know if this would work for you, but what I do to help desensitize my pups to things like thunder and fireworks is use a starter pistol and lots of yummy cheese bits as treats.

I'd fire the starter pistol (which sounds like a VERY loud cap gun), and the pups would drop their tails, hunch up and look around all frightened, at which point I'd talk real happy talk to them and pass out a piece of cheese (a favorite tidbit & doesn't cause diarrhea). I'd then wait until they are all happy & scampering about in the yard, and I'd do it again (maybe 2 or 3 quick shots) -- again, the tails would DROP, they'd look around for the big frightening noise that they are sure is coming to get them - and instead, mommy would be calling them with lots of happy noises and a piece of cheese.

I tried to be very careful and not reward them for a fearful response (hence the happy talk - a little diversion tactic) I do not want to say "Oh, that's okay, you don't have to be afraid" in a soft, soothing tone that would be interpreted as a "good dog" response to the fear, and thereby reinforcing that it is okay to be frightened.

Basically, what this turned out to be, was clicker training with a REAL loud noise. By the third or fourth day of this game, whenever they heard the bang of the pistol, they would come running up to me looking for their treat. It was no longer a scary thing for them, rather the sign of something good to come.

We have been blessed with some WICKED storms recently, and I would purposely leave them outside to play as the storms started to rumble towards us - so they would hear the noise in the background, but it was a happy time with lots of happy treats.

As it started to rain, and I had to bring them inside, and they heard the thunder - again, I'd pull out the cheese. BOOM (thunder) - zip--treat into the mouth. LOTS of wagging tails.

There were a lot of fireworks all around (redneck central!) the whole weekend,

and fortunately, the pups just ignore the bangs, or they look around to see if the crazy lady is there with treats for them.

When I've had winter litters, I have used the thunderstorm CDs and would occasionally drop pans while it was on, for extra noise.

If you would like to try the starter pistol, I'd be happy to send it up to you to use.

Cathy

Date: 10 Jul 2004 10:29:43 -0000
From: BestOfVariety@yahoogroups.com
To: BestOfVariety@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [BestOfVariety] Digest Number 1492

Message: 2
Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 16:33:55 -0500
From: " Judy Burch" <sburch@indy.rr.com>
Subject: Re: Thunder Storms/Fire Works & Heth

Bill I have had EXCELLENT results with Melatonin. Recently I have suggested it's use with several dogs with major thunderstorm phobias and their owners saw results on the very first use. The dogs still wanted to be by their humans, but the trembling, shaking and whining were gone.

I have used this with Rocky after he developed t-storm fears after a near tornado years ago. After several uses, he now no longer needs it although he still does want to be near me.

At only 12 pounds, I gave him a whole 3 mg tablet with great results. I did notice that if I gave this to him during the day, it made him sleepy, which was ok at night.

The following post was on wellpet years ago. The *I* in the post is not me btw. Again, I have seen this help many dogs.

I finally got in contact with Dr. Aronson, who presented the Melatonin cases at Dr. Jean Dodds' seminar here in MA. Her study will not be published until summer in the journal of veterinary medicine, but she did give me some further information.

She has found melatonin 80% successful in treating dogs with fear of loud noises, i.e., thunderstorms. She mentioned that it was also effective for epilepsy and a number of other conditions that allopathic vets use anti-depressants for. It produces the same results that an antidepressant does. Dr. Aronson said she doesn't see the need to keep up a regimen of anti-depressants when melatonin will work when needed.

A dog would have to have over 100 milligrams of Melatonin before there was any adverse effect. Suggested dosage is:
20lbs or less 1 1/2 milligrams 40lbs - 100 lbs 3 milligrams
over 100 lbs 6 milligrams This dosage can be given up to 3x's a day. When you know that a thunderstorm is approaching or there is the first sign of a "rumble" start the dosage. Results are very fast with no side effects.

Judy

Judy Burch sburch@indy.rr.com
OTCh Pepper 4-10-88---5-20-03
Rocky UD 13 yr old male, silver miniature poodle
Boomer UD 6 yr old male, black miniature poodle with Idiopathic
Epilepsy
Brownsburg, IN
****Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened****

Date: Sat, 10 Jul 2004 08:06:25 -0400
From: Ann Addison <canicheaa@earthlink.net>
To: PSG <psg@poodle.org>
Subject: PSG: loud noises

My Maggie is afraid of thunderstorms.....but has not been this way very long. In August 2001, two trees in my front yard were hit by lightening and it jumped over to the front porch. I was lucky that the house didn't catch on fire. It zapped two TV's and three remote phones and the alarm system. Some of the boards across the front of the house had to be replaced and all of it had to be painted.

Since then Maggie has been afraid of Thunder.....not before.....I feel sure that the cause is the house being hit.

ann
Ann Addison
Argenta Toy Poodles
Columbia, South Carolina
canicheaa@earthlink.net
<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Ranch/9366>
--

From: Pudlelvr@aol.com
Message-ID: <103.4a1b0e89.2e213769@aol.com>
Date: Sat, 10 Jul 2004 08:13:29 EDT
Subject: PSG: Re: Melatonin

In a message dated 7/9/2004 10:36:39 PM Eastern Standard Time, sburch@indy.rr.com writes:

>>
but when you have a dog that is terrified by storms, you are
willing to try something that you know has worked for others.
<<

I have been blessed with dogs who were never bothered by thunderstorms, although occasionally Cosette would get out of her bed during a severe storm and come over to my side of the bed, just for a little reassurance.

The other night we had a severe thunderstorm that passed right over the house, with the lightning and thunder coming almost simultaneously. The crashing of thunder rattled the windows and seemed to shake the house and the phone would make little rings each time our line took a hit (which is why I always disconnect my modem from the phone jack when there's a storm).

I woke up with a searing pain behind my eyes. I'm not normally prone to sinus

headaches or anything like that and I wondered if it wasn't related to the storm -- perhaps changes in barometric pressure? As soon as the storm passed, so did the pain. Which got me wondering whether some animals might have physical reasons to dread storms.

We have a Percheron who is one of the most composed and fearless horses I have ever known. However, as soon as a thunderstorm approaches, he turns into a 17:2 h, 1900 lb quivering mass of jelly. None of our other horses are particularly bothered by storms, but he takes no comfort from their calm. One day I was taking pictures in the barn and suddenly there he was, rocking back and forth, shaking, and hiding with his head in the corner. I realized that he probably associated the flash from the camera with lightning.

It's easy to blame ourselves sometimes for things that go wrong with dogs since we share our lives so intimately. But I find that sometimes the horses are a reality check that they all have their own personalities and foibles that we may never fully understand.

Mary Ann and Destiny

Date: Sat, 10 Jul 2004 10:07:35 -0400
 From: Caroline Hair <carahai@infionline.net>
 To: Claudia <cpendlay@charter.net>
 Subject: Re: PSG: dealing with dogs' fears/Storms

<< I wonder how many dogs are afraid of thunder and fireworks and gunfire because of owners reactions when they were small puppies? >>

Claudia-
 I think this is true in many cases, and the dog doesn't have to be a puppy, either. Some years ago, I allowed one of my retired girls to live with some friends for several months, as their elderly standard had died, and they had a chronically ill child who was very upset. So Lara stayed with them until I had a litter. She was six years old, and had never been bothered at all by storms, which are loud and numerous here in the summer (Personally, I actually like thunder storms and my dogs seem not to notice them), but when she returned, she acted terrified of them! I later realized that at the first sign of thunder, my friend's kids began making soothing noises and telling her not to be afraid (as their old dog had been). This well meaning reassurance had taught this previously fearless poodle to fear storms. She really had strong physical reactions at the first hint of thunder. Dogs can learn this from other dogs, too, so I wanted to get her over it quickly, before any of the others picked it up. I put cotton in her ears, put her crate in a closet and put her in at the first sign of a storm and closed the door. Showing fear got her nothing but a boring time in a quiet, dark closet. It was a very stormy summer, and as she reacted less wildly, I first removed the cotton, then opened the closet door, then gradually moved her crate out of the closet. It took about a month to get her over it, and she never showed fear of storms again.

I have noticed that sometimes an older dog who was never bothered by storms before shows fear, and my theory is that in that case, the dog's hearing has changed, and the storm sounds differently than before. Even in this case, the best reaction is no reaction at all. Just ignore it.

I do think that there dogs, including poodles, that have an inherited fear of loud noises, but my experience is that even these can be desensitized to at least some degree.

JMO!

Caroline

From: "vikki_kauffman" <kmandutwo@hotmail.com>
To: psg@poodle.org
Date: Sat, 10 Jul 2004 14:26:06 +0000
Subject: PSG: Fear of thunder and fireworks

Someone wrote asking for ideas about getting their dog through storms and fireworks..... Just trying to 'think outside the box,' But how about trying ear plugs?

Vikki, Corsa CGC, AX AXJ, Ferrous NAJ NA NJC (1998-2004), and TinTin JA, CGC, TD

From: "Miki Danielson" <mikidaniels@comcast.net>
To: <psg@poodle.org>
Date: Sat, 10 Jul 2004 10:32:50 -0500

I've been reading these posts with great interest because for the first time in almost 7 years, my big guy Mike is now showing fear of loud bangs. I began desensitizing him to loud noises when he was very young and he never showed any fear. Among other things, each year we go to a Game Show and I always sit next to the skeet range for a while and watch the competition - no fear and lots of anticipation because it's next to a french fry tent and the boyz always get treats. But last year, on a camping trip right after July 4, some idiot in the park set off a huge "bomb" that was so loud we could feel the air move. We were already in my tent when it went off and we all flinched but neither Mike nor Tucker seemed frightened. My sister and her SP, Charley, were still sitting around the fire. Charley freaked and literally ripped through my tent screen to get to us.

Mike seemed no worse for the wear until the 4th grew near this year. No one in the neighborhood set off firecrackers, but for about 4 days we could hear the muffled noise from the fireworks down at the river (@ 4 miles away). I could tell Mike was nervous when I left for work about the time the fireworks started (I work nights) but I acted as if it were no big deal. The fireworks are now over but he's still nervous when I leave, and lately he's started to spend time in the bathtub while I'm at work (footprints have given him away).

So here's what I think has happened - Mike was initially startled at the big noise last year, but then associated it with fear when he saw how freaked Charley was. The muffled bangs this year made him nervous and because they always seemed to happen when I was leaving for work he's now associating me leaving at night with something fearful.

It breaks my heart to see Mike in obvious distress but I force myself to ignore it and just continue on with our little rituals when I leave for work. The only change I've made is I've started to dip his big milk bone in peanut butter before I leave, thinking maybe a better distraction will move him on to associating my leaving for work with something especially tasty. We'll see how it works.....

I guess we never stop training our poodles because, as with us, life happens to them and sometimes we need do more adjusting.

Miki,
Mike,
& Tucker

From: "Marly_Harvey" <marlyh@telus.net>
To: <PSG@poodle.org>
Date: Sat, 10 Jul 2004 10:10:05 -0600

>>>>> It's easy to blame ourselves sometimes for things that go wrong with dogs
 > since we share our lives so intimately. But I find that sometimes the horses are
 > a reality check that they all have their own personalities and foibles that we
 > may never fully understand.

That's very true Mary Ann. My toy is terrible in thunder storms. She is 4 now & wasn't always as bad as what she is. If we've had thunder and it's over, and I take her outside to do her business, it never fails. A plane will fly overhead and she is a quivering basket case again. She doesn't seem to differentiate, yet there is nothing else she is afraid of. As for those headaches, I never made the connection. I have been plagued with sore teeth from sinus pain this year. After having drought conditions for 2 years in a row, this year has been rainy & stormy. We haven't even seen summer yet. If barometer changes can affect humans this way which I know they can, I'd be willing to wager some animals suffer physically as well. I had never really thought of that.
 Marly

Date: Sat, 10 Jul 2004 12:12:42 -0400
 From: Janis & Stan Bates <sandhill@ns.sympatico.ca>
 Subject: PSG: Cookieman and Heth

My Scarlett is also phobic about thunderstorms, fireworks and other sudden loud noises. She is of my own breeding and tested negative for sound sensitivity at 7 weeks as did her mother Lacy and several of Scarlett's offspring who are also terrified under the same conditions. Makes me wonder if it is an inherited problem. What hasn't worked for me is Rescue Remedy, Melatonin and wrapping. What has worked is a tablet of 25 mgm of acepromazine given at the first bang, as prescribed by my vet. The other thing that helps for time limited things like fireworks is to put Scarlett in the car and take her for a ride till it's over. For thunderstorms. the acepromazine and taking to her refuge, behind the shower curtain in the bathtub, seems to be calming within 15 minutes. I have 3 other dogs and none of them react in the slightest to the noise or to Scarlett's theatrics. It may be significant that they are offspring of a different mother from a different line.
 Janis

Date: Sat, 10 Jul 2004 14:57:14 -0700
 To: psg@poodle.org
 From: "Susan L. Fleisher" <slf373@earthlink.net>
 Subject: PSG: Thunderstorm and fireworks

If you don't know in advance, or if loud noises are too common to keep the dog in a constant state of druggedness, be sure he has a quiet place to hide. A crate covered with blankets in the darkest, most soundproof room in the house will help. In summer, if you can keep the crate in a dark room with a noisy window A/C unit, he will stay cooler and the A/C will drown out much of the noise.

Good luck. I feel for you.
 Kelly

Kelly reminded me that I sleep with a white noise machine on in the bedroom. That would take care of masking the sound, completely, if you can stand it.

Susan

--

Susan L. Fleisher
 Berkeley, CA

slf373@earthlink.net
 fax 501 621-7842
 Kidney Disease in Dogs website:

symptoms, diagnosis, treatment,
management (medical and dietary),
recipes, breed specific renal
diseases, genetics, current research,
bibliography and abstracts

From: "C. A. McGinnis" <pink1@mindspring.com>
To: <franbill@bellatlantic.net>,
<franbill@verizon.net>
Subject: fears & possible suggestion
Date: Sat, 10 Jul 2004 20:07:37 -0400

Someone wrote asking for ideas about getting their dog through storms and fireworks..... Just trying to 'think outside the box,' But how about trying ear plugs?

Someone on PSG suggested ear plugs got me thinking about something that I saw Adriano (Miyuki/Apex) do for a mini poodle at a particularly noisy show. He used a drop or two of lidocane ear drops to numb the ear, and a little bit of cotton to further muffle the noises. Really seemed to help the dogs he was showing that day.

Sure hope you find something that works for poor Heth.

Cathy

From: "C. A. McGinnis" <pink1@mindspring.com>
To: <franbill@bellatlantic.net>,
<franbill@verizon.net>
Subject: fears & possible suggestion
Date: Sat, 10 Jul 2004 20:07:37 -0400

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Sure hope you find something that works for poor Heth.

Cathy

ps - which is the correct e-mail addy for you?

From: KimsLdy@aol.com
Message-ID: <11b.343f344d.2e21f566@aol.com>
Date: Sat, 10 Jul 2004 21:44:06 EDT
Subject: Re: PSG: Thunder Storms/Fire Works & Heth

Bill, Melatonin worked for our Jasmine. App. 2 hours before a storm would arrive, she would start pacing and panting heavily and also trembling, as she got older it got worse. The melatonin worked miracles for her. I cannot comment on others dosage , but I gave her 3, 3mg.tablets and within 20 -30 minutes she would calm right down and would sleep, but not like a drug induced sleep.The strange thing I also discovered, which is not a great alternative , is if it was not "pouring" rain , I would let her outside and she would calm down. If we had tornado warnings or watches or as the t-storm would move in, I would go outside with her and she would almost instantly start breathing

easier. I have no scientific explanation for this, but it seemed to help her for some reason. So , I would give her the Melatonin and then sit outside with her and wait for the storm to arrive then 15 to 20 mins.later we would go back inside and she would be fine. Just my experience. good luck.

Donna

Jasmine (Grumpy Old Princess 08-31-1988 to 10-25-2003)

Logan (Fence Jumping, patience trying, reformed canine good citizen)

Lucky (Canine Good Citizen)

Kim

Ki-Oki Noel & Ki-Owa Loki (Watching from the Bridge)

Date: 11 Jul 2004 10:47:04 -0000
From: BestOfVariety@yahoogroups.com
To: BestOfVariety@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [BestOfVariety] Digest Number 1493

Message: 1

Date: Fri, 9 Jul 2004 22:11:03 -0400
From: "Elizabeth Glew" <gleweliz@msu.edu>
Subject: Re: Thunder Storms/Fire Works & Heth

If you haven't tried Rescue Remedy, it's worth a shot. It's a homeopathic remedy made from flowers. There are several other "brands" available, but we have had best results with:

Bach Original Flower Essences Rescue Remedy, made in England by Bach Flower Remedies Ltd.

Give 3-5 drops at or before first signs of stress. Repeat as needed, as often as every 15 minutes if necessary. May be rubbed into inside of ears if difficult to give by mouth. Works great for humans too. We have found this helpful for our animals in stressful situations.

Our Belgian male, Dancer, has also been afraid of thunderstorms and other "things that go boom." He feels better in some locations than others. It is helpful for him to go to the basement. His fear has decreased over time.

He also seems to find it helpful to have some background noise like a window air conditioner or a loud fan.

Here's a brainstorm -- have you tried earplugs?

Best wishes to your whole family!
Elizabeth

Date: Sun, 11 Jul 2004 12:37:31 -0700 (PDT)
From: Mango <mango77@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: t-Storms

I have used the herbal med. called calming aid to help some dogs and this has worked on some of them, it contains chamomile, which is a mild calming aid among other herbal remedies. I like it. I would also try the thunder storm tapes, since those things help people deal with it. You start out with low volume and increase time played and eventually loudness on a scale, and go around humming a happy tune for him letting him know it is alright with a storm going on...third thing insulate a music room with out windows and put him in it with low playing background music while a thunderstorm is happening. My birds go for the background noise and it calms them.

I have recently become jumpy with a thunderstorm my self, so I put in some heavy duty earplugs. Maybe they will work for a dog too? They help me block it out.

Do you have any inner rooms with no windows. I would try him there with the

calming music and the calming aid herbal. while you are in the meantime using the desensitizing with the low music on when you can, to have him adjust to it. Hope something helps you and him.
Lucy

From: " Judy Burch" <sburch@indy.rr.com>
To: <franbill@verizon.net>
Subject: Re: Thunder Storms/Fire Works & Heth
Date: Sun, 11 Jul 2004 21:42:46 -0500

Bill I just had to share this post with you. I recently told someone on another list about Melatonin for her labs that are fearful during storms. Here's what she said:

"Very interesting thing about the Melatonin. I have dosed Sassy and Scrapper for two storms this week. Yesterday (the second time) the storms rumbled loudly, so I dosed them - took a little out of Sassy's capsule so she didn't have the full 3 mgs. The storm petered off so I had two laid back dogs for the rest of the evening and no storm. Today we had thunder all over the place but the storms failed to produce rain and power outages. I didn't dose the dogs, but interestingly they both came into my computer room with me, Sassy under the desk and Scrapper to my right, snuggled close and went soundly to sleep as if they had their Melatonin! They were oblivious to the thunder... a week ago Sassy would have been in my lap and Scrapper would be barking and trembling. I really cannot believe it has worked that fast, but???"

I hope you have just as much luck with it if you decide to try it.

Judy

From: Laurelio@aol.com
Date: Mon, 12 Jul 2004 23:02:22 EDT
Subject: Re: PSG: RE: Thunderstorms and Fireworks

In a message dated 7/11/04 6:58:57 PM Eastern Daylight Time, cwinkles@cwinkles.com writes:
And that reminds me that some noise machines like mine, can sound like a thunderstorm. A great way to work on desensitizing a dog to storms by turning it low at first and gradually louder over a period of weeks.

This has reminded me that I have a thunder tube. This is a toy I bought in a toy store in Ann Arbor, MI. It is a cardboard tube about the size of the old-fashioned children's kaleidoscopes. One end is open and the other end is covered, with a metal spring affixed through the middle. The spring is a couple of feet long. When you move the tube it makes a thunder sound. A GOOD one! I can't resist toys that make noise, and bought it for my office and it is wonderful. I have it at home now for my grandson, Baylor, and he loves it, too.
Point being--this would be a terrific thing for acclimating dogs to thunder. (It worked pretty good at the meetings I took it to, as well.) Galahad has never been afraid of any loud noises--maybe as a result of my penchant for really noisy toys. I'm sure they're available elsewhere. This was kind of a

Heth_ThunderStormsFireWorksRev.txt

7/27/2004

boutique toy store--but must be available other places.

Laurel Hood & Galahad SP
Marshall, MI

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