

RABBITS & GUINEA PIGS

How do you know if they are worried about fireworks?

Rabbits and guinea pigs are even less likely than cats to show signs of fear but this doesn't mean bonfire night isn't a distressing and frightening time for them. By making a few simple changes to your pet's environment, you will have helped them be more calm and comfortable during the firework season.

What to look out for.

It may not be obvious to you that your pet is frightened and stressed but here are a few examples of some tell-tale signs:

- Stamping their back legs.
- Restlessness or just staying motionless.
- Attempting to escape or hide.
- Aggression.
- Grinding their teeth.
- Reduced appetite—this can be very dangerous in rabbits and guinea pigs!
- Change in toilet habits.

Hints for the night

- Bring your pet's hutch inside if possible or cover with blankets.
- Close the curtains and turn on the TV or play music to muffle the sound of the fireworks and block out the light flashes.
- Never leave rabbits or guinea pigs in outdoor runs. Make sure they are safely in their hutches/cages.
- Ensure your furry friends have an extra safe area in their hutch or cage to hide away in and companion they are familiar with.
- Consider distracting your pet by giving them a new toy and/or offering their favourite food.
- Ensure your rabbit is microchipped in case they escape and get lost.