



DOGS AND FIREWORKS IN JUNEAU



If you have a **fearful dog (or cat)**, especially sensitive to sounds, ...be sure to do the following:

- 1.** Make sure your dog is secure and cannot escape or run loose should he/she get spooked. An infinite # of dogs disappear each year due to open doors, windows and gates, even tie downs (which are generally cruel during firework season). Many dogs bolt and in their frenzy run and run and run.
- 2.** If you have medication to calm your dog, be sure and give it ample time to kick in.
- 3.** If possible, do not leave your dog alone.
- 4.** Take your dog for a nice long walk on the day of the fireworks. This will help burn off some of the energy that could otherwise add to your pet's anxiety. This also allows for a toilet visit as your dog may not want to leave the house later that evening.
- 5.** Be sure and have back ground music or white noise to help deflect the intensity of the booms of the fireworks.
- 6.** Give your dog access to a basement or even a big closet or stall shower where they may feel safest.
- 7.** Cover his or her crate if they prefer to go into their crate during storms or fireworks.
- 8.** Try going for a drive with your dog if you know there is going to be fireworks in your neighborhood. Often, dogs who love car rides look forward to this and are not as jolted by the noise. Be sure and have your radio on!
- 9.** **COMFORT YOUR DOG!** If your dog is worried and unsettled, IT IS OK to comfort your dog. You will NOT be rewarding an undesirable behavior. YOU WILL BE SOOTHING his emotional response and supplying oodles of sense of security.
- 10.** If you have a Thundershirt or Anxiety wrap or even a teeny tee shirt, put it on your dog.
- 11.** Have a drink or whatever relaxes YOU and bite the bullet. If you are calm, it will help your dog tremendously. Try your hardest to jolly up your dog and engage him/her in an activity that they usually go ga ga over. Have DYNAMITE (no pun intended) treats on hand.

