BEHAVET PROFESSIONAL
The Behaviour Experts

Behaviour Therapy First Aid

Fear of Fireworks

I've put a QR code on this poster for your clients. In this video, I outline the behaviour therapy first aid to do in and around firework season.

Video Explainer on Behaviour Therapy First Aid for Fear of Fireworks for Clients & Veterinary Staff.



Considering ACP?

We'd recommend avoiding this one. Primary benefit is an immobilant rather than anxiolytic making its use limited and even detrimental in the context of fear responses!

Have you tried Sileo or Tessie?

Sileo Dose:

Behavet Dosing Protocol:

1. Give first dose 2.5 hours before dusk
2. Give second dose 30 minutes before dusk
3. Repeat every 2 hours until out of risk period

Tessie Dose:

Behavet Dosing Protocol:

1. Give 30 ug/kg (0.1 ml/kg) 2.5 hours before dusk

IMPORTANT - Dogs also receiving SSRIs or SARIs: use reduced 20 ug/kg (0.06 ml/kg).

2. Give the second dose 3 hours later.
3. This dose can be repeated up to 3 times.

NOT SUCCESSFUL?

Are you concerned about Disinhibition

NO | **YES**

Disinhibition is the process by which a dog that was previously inhibiting themselves from biting has that inhibition removed, resulting in escalationof response.

How to tell?
Has this dog showed biting, lunging in this context or another?
This would increase concern of disinhibition.
Is the dog showing an active or passive coping strategy?
If passive, possibly at lower risk of inhibition
Are there children or other pets in the household?
In this case, may not be worth the risk.

Add in Alprazolam (or other benzodiazepine)

Alprazolam 0.01-0.1mg/kg

(Titrate to effect)

Combined with Sileo

1. Give first dose Sileo 2.5 hours before dusk
2. Give second dose Sileo with Alprazolam 30 minutes before dusk
3. Repeat Sileo every 2 hours until out of risk period
4. A further Alprazolam can be given 6 hours after first if fireworks persist or for additional retrograde amnesic effect.

Combined with Tessie

1. Give first dose Tessie 2.5 hours before dusk
2. Give Alprazolam 30 minutes before dusk
3. Give second Tessie dose 1 hour after Alprazolam
4. A further Alprazolam can be given 6 hours after first if fireworks persist or for additional retrograde amnesic effect.

We sometimes add in Gabapentin at a dose of 10-50 mg/kg 2 hours before dusk depending on effect of above protocol.

A suspected benefit of benzodiazepines in appropriate cases is the anterograde and retrograde amnesic effect that may limit consolidation of learning taking place in that period, possibly limiting further establishing of negative associations.

NOT SUCCESSFUL?

Possibility of Concurrent Pain?

NO | **YES**

Concerned about Liver Disease?

Trazodone has been linked with hepatotoxicity in very rare cases. This would change the preference for Trazodone in cases of hepatic disease.

https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33378129/

NO | **YES**

Trazodone

Trazodone 6-10mg/kg

(up to 300mg per dose)

Behavet Dosing Protocol:
Give 2 hours before dusk

Combined with Sileo Protocol:

1. Give Sileo 2.5 hours before dusk
2. Give Trazodone 30 minutes later
3. Give second Sileo dose 1.5 hours after Trazodone

Combined with Tessie Protocol:

1. Give Tessie (at reduced 0.06ml/kg) 2.5 hours before dusk
2. Give Trazodone 30 minutes later
3. Give second Tessie dose 2.5 hours after Trazodone

NOT SUCCESSFUL?

Concerned about Kidney Disease?

YES | **NO**

Dosage Care

Gabapentin

Gabapentin 10-50 mg/kg

Behavet Dosing Protocol:
Give Gabapentin 2 hours before dusk

Combined with Trazodone Approach:

1. Give Trazodone and Gabapentin 2 hours before dusk

Combined with Sileo Protocol:

1. Give Sileo 2.5 hours before dusk
2. Give Trazodone and Gabapentin 30 minutes later
3. Give second Sileo dose 1.5 hours after Trazodone

Combined with Tessie Protocol:
IMPORTANT: Give the reduced Tessie dose when combining with Trazodone.

1. Give Tessie 2.5 hours before dusk
2. Give Trazodone and Gabapentin 30 minutes later
3. Give second Tessie dose 2.5 hours after Trazodone

Veterinary Portal

Are you looking to refer a behavioural case, or perhaps you're seeking expert behavioural support and education for you and your veterinary practice, we're here to help! Join our FREE Veterinary Portal.



This resource represents the considerations the Behavet Team would have when making medication choices and recommendations. Final medication choice and dispensing is the sole responsibility of the prescribing veterinarian with a full understanding of the history and case. Behavet accepts no liability for medication choices.

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