

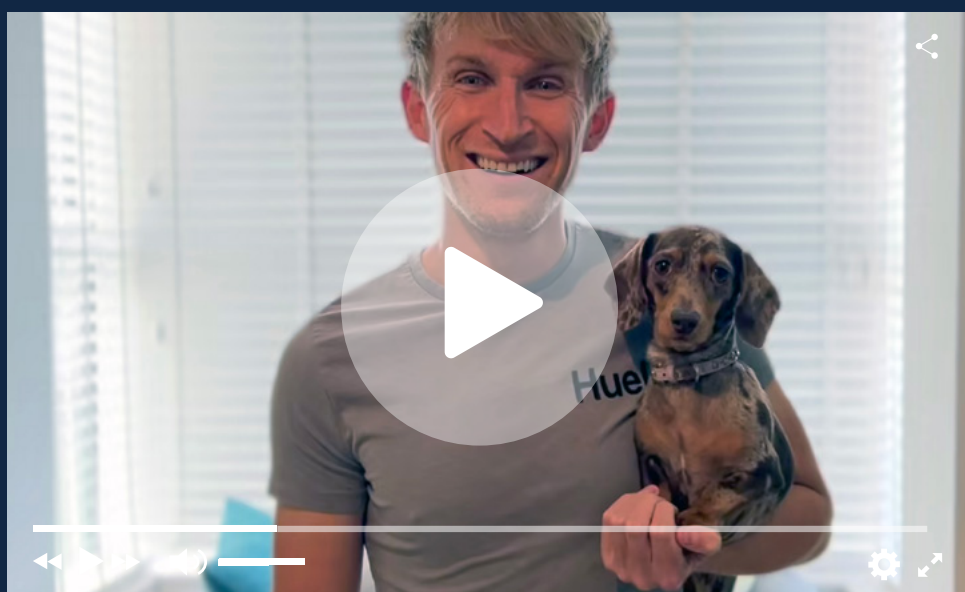
Behaviour Therapy First Aid

# Fear of Fireworks

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

Video Explainer

Behaviour Therapy First Aid for Fear of Fireworks for Clients & Veterinary Staff



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!

Alprazolam 0.01-0.1mg/kg  
(Titrate to effect)

- Behavet Dosing Protocol:**
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.

We sometimes add in Gabapentin at a dose of 10-20mg/kg 2 hours before dusk dependent 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.

Trazadone 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 Trazadone 30 minutes later
  3. Give second sileo dose 1.5 hours after Trazadone

Video Explainer

How to Find the Medication Sweet Spot!

Knowing if you have an appropriate combination ahead of the firework event can be challenging. Here's a video of the Behavet Team ideal approach.



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.

Considering ACP?

Have you tried sileo?

NOT SUCCESSFUL?

Are you concerned about Disinhibition

NO

YES

Add in Alprazolam  
(or other benzodiazepine)

NOT SUCCESSFUL?

Possibility of Concurrent Pain?

NO

YES

Concerned about Liver Disease?

NO

YES

Trazadone

NOT SUCCESSFUL?

Concerned about Kidney Disease?

YES

NO

Dosage Care

Gabapentin

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

Bodyweight of dog (kg)	Dose/Number of dots	Full doses in 1 syringe
2.0 - 5.5	1 ●	12
5.6 - 12	2 ●●	6
12.1 - 20	3 ●●●	4
20.1 - 29	4 ●●●●	3
29.1 - 39	5 ●●●●●	2
39.1 - 50	6 ●●●●●●	2
50.1 - 62.5	7 ●●●●●●●	1
62.6 - 75.5	8 ●●●●●●●●	1
75.6 - 89	9 ●●●●●●●●●	1
89.1 - 100	10 ●●●●●●●●●●	1

Disinhibition is the process by which a dog that was previously inhibiting themselves from biting has that inhibition removed, resulting in escalation of 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 (e.g barking, lunging, running around) or passive (e.g. trembling, shaking, hiding) 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.

Trazadone has been linked with hepatotoxicity in very rare cases. This would change the preference for Trazadone in cases of hepatic disease.  
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33378129/>