

## Fact sheet

# Fireworks safety – caring for small animals

Every year animals suffer as a result of fireworks used in Territory Day celebrations. The RSPCA and the local councils see a marked rise in pets being brought into centres having run away from home.

Animals have very acute hearing, and loud bangs and whistles may cause actual pain in their ears.

Small animals such as rabbits, guinea pigs, ferrets and birds all need to be treated with special care when fireworks are being let off.

These animals are easily frightened and can die of heart attacks as a result of the loud noise. The following precautions should be followed:



- ✓ Hutches and enclosures should be brought into a cool, quiet room indoors, or into a garage or shed. Give your pet extra bedding to burrow into so it feels safe.
- ✓ If you cannot bring your pet's hutch inside, you should turn its enclosure around so that it faces a wall or fence instead of the open garden.
- ✓ Cover any aviaries or hutches with a tarp to block out the sight of the fireworks and deaden the sound of the bangs, but make sure there is enough ventilation.

Try not to leave your pets alone during this period.