

# HELP!

## MY DOG IS SCARED OF FIREWORKS!

Correcting phobias can take some time. Start training your dog at least 1 week before fireworks begin and to progress quickly, use effective calming products like Thundershirt, a well-stuffed chew toy, Through A Dog's Ear music CDs, and herbal remedies.



- 1** Place your dog's bed where it is near you but away from the windows or doors. Regularly have your dog settle in their bed, rewarding for calm, settled behaviour.



- 2** Have your dog settle on their bed at different times of the day to help train calm behaviour so they don't associate just one part of the day with being calm.



- 3** Remain calm and happy, feeding your dog with tasty treats like dried liver or bacon fat, each time the noise occurs. The dog will associate the noise with positive outcomes. If your dog refuses the food, continue to offer it with a cheerful voice.



- 4** If your dog has a severe phobia, consult your vet and use a sound desensitisation CD, starting at a very low volume. Feed your dog by hand, progressing to the next volume only when they are calm with the current level.

- 5** Your dog's bed is now an enjoyable and safe place for the dog to be. If you have to leave them alone, increase the volume of Through A Dog's Ear to help cover the noise of the fireworks, close any curtains and stuff plenty of food in the chew toy occupy them.

