

Date: 8/2/2025

To Whom This May Concern,

My name is Natasha Clarke and I've had the pleasure of being Coco Chanel's veterinarian since June 2024.

I sincerely appreciate the interest in reducing firework events as I see first-hand the potential deleterious consequences they can have on our pets. Most might assume they only contribute to pet anxiety but remember, our pets have superior hearing to our own. Dogs can detect frequencies from 40 Hz to 60,000 Hz, and cats are even more sensitive, hearing from 48 Hz to 85,000 Hz. This means they perceive fireworks as louder and more intense than humans do, potentially causing pain. If our children have to cover their ears – imagine what animals experience.

Historically clients use sedating medication, and other methods like turning up the TV or playing music while comforting their pet in a safe place during fireworks. Having worked in the veterinarian industry for 20 years now, I see other more serious complications including pets escaping from the home, running through screen doors and windows, jumping fences, and destruction of walls and crates. Some sadly get loose only to be hit by a car. This can lead to a phobic response in some pets. Not only are they more sensitive to the noise, but they can inflict self harm in many instances as well. The fewer the fireworks, the safer our pets will be.

It's imperative to reduce the exposure of pets to these noises. I therefore fully support Heather Middleton's position on the legal use of fireworks only.

Thank you,



Natasha Clarke, BSc. Agr., DVM
Valley Center Veterinary Clinic