

## Noise Aversion and Treatment Options

### The top three signs of noise aversion



Trembling or shaking



Brow furrowed  
and ears back



Owner seeking behavior  
or abnormal clinginess

Loud noises like fireworks and thunder can be very scary to some dogs, ranging from mild nervousness to total panic (sometimes to the point of breaking out of yards, slipping out of collars etc. and running away).

The good news is we can help dogs not have to suffer through this terror. We tend to use two very safe medications for noise phobias in dogs- **Sileo** and **Trazodone**, they work better than older drugs like Acepromazine that don't remove the fear, just make them too sedated to do anything about it.

Sileo is a gel specific for dogs, that is applied between the cheek and gum and absorbed into their system, not swallowed. Trazodone is a pill that is given by mouth. At the doses prescribed, Sileo does not cause sedation, just calming of their fears. Trazodone's effect depends on the dose used and we usually provide a range of safe doses for each dog. At the lower dose it is just calming but some dogs do best with higher doses that may make them somewhat sedated. When used correctly neither one should lead to a 'drunk' or stumbling dog. Sileo comes in a tube that is good for 2 weeks after it is opened so either medication can be used for a few days in a row if your neighborhood likes extended celebrations or there are multiple thunderstorms. Both work best if given before the scary noises start, please follow the directions on the prescription label.



If using trazodone, we **STRONGLY** recommend some trial runs before the scary noises will happen. It will allow you to find the right dose for your dog, and to make sure they aren't one of the very rare dogs who actually get more excited on trazodone instead of more calm- not what you want to find out the evening of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July! Start at the low end of the dose on the prescription label some time when you are going to be around your dog for several hours to observe them. If it has no effect at all, try a higher dose within the range on the label on another day. Ideally your dog should be somewhat calmer than normal, maybe sleeping more, but still able to get up, walk around and respond to you.

These are both prescription drugs, so we must have a current exam on your dog to be able to fill them. Please call us far enough in advance that we can decide the best choice for your dog, fill the medication and still give you time to try them out and find the right dose and timing. We don't want any of our canine friends to have to suffer because others are celebrating!