

ASK OUR VETERINARIANS

Dear Dr. Schmidt,

I heard some people at work talking about Thunder Blankets for their dogs. What are they talking about, and do they work?

Thanks, April

Dear April,

The name of this product is actually ThunderShirt, made by a company called ThunderWorks. These are jackets made of a material similar to spandex that fit snugly around your pet's body. They make them for both dogs and cats. This snug fit apparently creates a calming affect to pets suffering from noise phobias like thunder and fireworks, to just about any type of situation that can cause the pet anxiety. The company claims that it can help separation anxiety, travel anxiety, trips to the vet, and even reports some help with aggression. They claim a dramatic calming effect in over 80% of dogs that need them. My personal experience with clients that have used them is pretty high too. Most clients love them, but I have also had people tell me it didn't help their pets at all. My recommendation is that since it is definitely a harmless accessory, and if your pet is suffering from a particular anxiety, it is definitely worth a try. Anything that can help a pet through these difficult situations is a good idea in my opinion. I had a small dog come in recently wearing hers, and she was definitely calmer and more relaxed than during other visits. I have seen them in different pet stores in our area. So, if your dog or cat is suffering from loud noises or other anxieties, (like trips to the vet office) I would make a trip to your favorite pet shop and give the ThunderShirt a try. Your pet may really benefit from it.

Submitted by: Dr. Doug



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