



Judith Blake
Leader of the Council
Leeds City Council

17 August 2017

Via e-mail: Judith.Blake@leeds.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Blake,

I'm writing on behalf of PETA UK – and our more than 1 million members and supporters, including many across Leeds – regarding your annual Bonfire Night fireworks displays, with a suggestion that we hope will spark your interest: use only silent fireworks to create a stress-free environment for Leeds' humans and animals.

Richer in colour effects and visual choreography than conventional displays, silent fireworks offer a peaceful celebration for noise-sensitive children, elderly people, and individuals suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder – who are sensitive to and can be deeply disturbed by the noise of the explosives – and they don't put viewers at risk of sustaining hearing loss.

They're also more animal-friendly. Animal-rescue centres see an increase in the number of lost dogs following conventional fireworks displays. Often, they go missing after they panic and jump over fences or break loose from leashes or tethers, and some even jump through glass windows in order to get away from the terrifying sounds. Many animals arrive at rescue centres with bloody paws and broken bones. Some are never reunited with their families, and others are doomed to an even worse fate. Loud fireworks displays also scare wild animals, such as deer, causing them to flee onto roads, where they're highly susceptible to automobile collisions, in which they may be killed and can endanger drivers. The blasts have also been known to cause birds to fly into chimneys, houses, and trees – and even to abandon their nests and young.

By using only silent fireworks in Leeds, you'll be able to deliver all the flash without the frightening noise of conventional displays while improving the quality of life for all Leeds's residents.

Thank you for your time. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Luke Steele
Campaigns Strategist
PETA UK

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