



Jon Clempner  
Leader of the Council  
Harlow Council

19 October 2017

Via e-mail: [jon@clempner.com](mailto:jon@clempner.com)

Dear Cllr Clempner,

I'm writing on behalf of PETA UK – and our more than 1 million members and supporters, including many in Harlow – in response to reports that a fireworks display in the area caused a horse to sustain fatal injuries when the animal bolted in fear. Because of the numerous concerns surrounding the use of traditional fireworks, we have a suggestion that we hope will *spark* your interest: pledge to use only silent fireworks at council displays in order to show that a stress-free environment can be created for the town's animal and human residents.

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. The bangs from regular fireworks are traumatic for wildlife and also cause many domesticated animals great distress. Indeed, animal-rescue centres see an increase in the number of lost dogs following conventional displays. Often, these animals go missing after they panic and jump over fences or break loose from leads or tethers, and some even jump through glass windows in an attempt to get away from the terrifying sounds. Many arrive at rescue centres with bloody paws and broken bones.

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Luke Steele  
Campaigns Strategist  
PETA UK

PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

PO Box 70315  
London N1P 2RG  
United Kingdom  
+44 (0) 20 7837 6327  
+44 (0) 20 7923 6242 (fax)

Info@peta.org.uk

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS (PETA)  
FOUNDATION – a charitable  
company limited by guarantee,  
with its registered office at  
125 London Wall, London EC2Y 5AS.  
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as charity number 1056453,  
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