



Gordon Gibb
Owner
Flamingo Land Limited

Via e-mail: Gordon.Gibb@flamingoland.co.uk

26 October 2017

Dear Mr Gibb,

I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) UK – and our more than 1 million members and supporters, including many in North Yorkshire – with regard to your upcoming fireworks display. As there's ample evidence of the dangers of fireworks to animals and humans, we ask that you cancel the event and commit to not holding such loud displays in the future.

Animal-rescue centres see an increase in the number of lost dogs following fireworks displays. Often, they go missing after they panic and jump over fences or break loose from leads, and some even jump through glass windows in an attempt 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.

Loud fireworks also scare wildlife, especially deer, often causing them to run onto roads, where some are hit and killed by vehicles. Birds have been known to abandon their nests, leaving their eggs vulnerable to predators. A team of scientists used weather radar to track birds' reactions to fireworks displays over three years and found that tens of thousands took flight when the explosions began and continued flying for the duration of the shows. Most birds cannot see well in the dark, so this type of disruption could cause them to become injured by colliding with cars, buildings, trees, and each other.

Countless other animals are traumatised or killed by explosions from fireworks every year. For example, just this month, a horse in Harlow [sustained a fatal injury when she bolted out of fear of the noises](#). And in Stoke-on-Trent, [terrified ducks and geese fled from a park onto a nearby road](#), where they were at risk of being struck by traffic.

Flamingo Land has a responsibility for the safety and well-being of the animals at its facility. Allowing the barrage of explosions that accompany fireworks displays – which would no doubt distress many of the animals – would not be in their best interests.

Banning fireworks displays would also show consideration 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 zoo-goers and staff wouldn't be at risk of sustaining hearing loss.

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.
Registered in England and Wales
as charity number 1056453,
company number 3135903.

Affiliates:

- PETA US
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands

We're keen to hear back from you on this important issue. I can be contacted on 020 7837 6327, extension 227, or at LukeS@peta.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,



Luke Steele
Campaigns Strategist
PETA UK