



Jagtar Singh Dhindsa
Chair of the Council
Watford Borough Council

14 November 2017

Via e-mail: jagtar.dhindsa@watford.gov.uk

Dear Cllr Dhindsa,

I'm writing on behalf of PETA UK – and our more than 1 million members and supporters, including many across Hertfordshire – in response to reports that [a fireworks display terrified a dog, causing her to jump from a first-floor window and run half a mile before becoming wedged in a tiny space between two walls](#). Because of the numerous concerns surrounding the use of conventional 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 borough'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. Rescue centres see an increase in the number of lost dogs following noisy 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 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. Loud displays also scare wild animals, such as deer, sometimes 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 Watford, you'll be able to deliver all the flash without the frightening noise of conventional displays while improving quality of life for all of the region's residents.

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

Yours sincerely,



Luke Steele
Campaigns Strategist

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