



The Hon David Parker
Minister for the Environment

28 October 2020

Dear Minister,

I hope this letter finds you well. I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) regarding fireworks. We know this is a contentious issue, especially in the lead-up to Guy Fawkes Day, and that, to date, **almost 30,000 people have signed a petition demanding that you ban the sale of fireworks nationwide. We would like to add our voice to this request.**

Explosives detonated in suburban backyards terrify wild animals and can cause native birds to fly into objects – or even to abandon their nests and young. Companion animals are also at risk, as the terrifying sounds may cause them to panic and flee their homes, sometimes jumping over fences or through glass windows in order to get away from the noise.

As a result, many animals arrive at rescue centres with bloody paws and broken bones. Some are never reunited with their families and may even be euthanised if new homes can't be found for them. Others may flee onto roads, where they can be struck by vehicles and killed and can also endanger drivers.

Animals on farms and in zoos suffer as well. In 2019, an antelope at Wellington Zoo died following Guy Fawkes fireworks displays, reportedly because of the "high levels of stress" caused by the noise of the fireworks and a fire that broke out. Auckland Zoo has asked for an end to private fireworks displays following the death of a wallaby joey who was ejected from the stressed mother's pouch.

Fires caused by fireworks also threaten lives. Last year on Bonfire Night, firefighters were dispatched to more than 50 fireworks-related blazes across the country. Displays in Auckland – described by Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern as sounding "like a war zone" – apparently sparked two large fires in the Mount Wellington and Mount Eden neighbourhoods, while a Wellington scrub fire blanketed the suburb of Newtown in thick smoke.

We urge the government to ban the sale of fireworks and to make the transition to expertly managed public events using *silent* fireworks in order to protect animals, noise-sensitive children, elderly people, and individuals suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Thank you for your time. May we please hear from you?

Yours faithfully,

Emily Rice
PETA

PEOPLE FOR
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OF ANIMALS

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