

NOTICE OF MOTION – SUPPORT A SIMPLE FIREWORK LICENCE

Background information

Link to the Cabinet Motion of Rhondda Cynon Taff:-

[Item3ResponsetoNoticeofMotionFireworks.pdf \(rctcbc.gov.uk\)](#)

Some other useful links:-

[How fireworks can affect your health and the ecosystem | CBC News](#)

[Fireworks legislation and impacts: international evidence review - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

[Festival fireworks celebrations' health impact on vulnerable people - study \(birmingham.ac.uk\)](#)



10 ways to avoid a firework frenzy

Big bangs and bright lights illuminating the sky on Bonfire Night can frighten even the most sensible horse. That's why we've asked the British Horse Society for some vital safety tips to make this time of year less stressful for you and your horse

- 1 Fireworks should not be set off near livestock or horses in fields or stables.
- 2 Try to keep your horse in his normal routine because this will mean one less thing for him to stress about.
- 3 Risk assess your stable yard. If your horse panics and gets out of control, you want as few objects in the way that could potentially cause injury. Also, make preparations to secure your yard in case your horse does manage to break out of his field or stable.
- 4 Find out if there are any displays planned near to where your horse is kept. Check with your local council to see if local commercial displays have been applied for and been granted the appropriate licence.
- 5 Be proactive and warn local organisers, councils and schools that there are horses in the area.
- 6 If you're around when the fireworks are being set off, remember to remain calm and positive as horses will sense your unease. Discuss and try to agree a strategy for dealing with fireworks with your yard owner and fellow liveries so that everyone has support.
- 7 In the lead up to Bonfire Night try desensitising your horse to loud bangs - there are various CDs available that can be played to your horse at a low level.
- 8 you can slowly increase the volume as he becomes more comfortable with the noise.
- 9 You could also play music in his stable to dull the sound of the bangs - again this would need to be introduced prior to the night so that he can acclimatise.
- 10 Leave stable or barn lights on - it could help to lessen the effect of bright lights and flashes. Meanwhile, if your horse is in a barn, close the main doors to limit the effects of the fireworks.
- 11 Remember, safety is key so don't put yourself in danger. Exchange full contact details with other horse owners for both yourself and your vets in case of emergency.

Know the facts on firework legislation

- It's illegal for anyone below the age of 18 to possess a firework in a public place
- Fireworks cannot be set off by a private individual between 11pm and 7am except on certain nights of the year
- It's an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to any captive or domestic animal
- Unless retailers possess a special licence they may only sell fireworks from 15 October to 10 November and 26 to 31 December
- Find out more about preparing your horse for Bonfire Night with the BHS Horses and Fireworks leaflet which can be found at www.horseaccidents.org.uk



Fireworks Safety for pets

Keep your pets secured INSIDE your home. Even dogs in fenced yards find ways to escape the scary sounds.

Give them a safe place to hide. Set up a comfortable room or crate in your house just for them.

Use ambient noise to mask the noise. A radio or TV playing comforting music works well.

Update their IDs & microchips (just in case).

Skip the celebration and stay home with them. Sometimes your presence makes all the difference.

Keep them busy. Treat toys, like Kongs, can help distract them during the display.

thatpetplace.com

Additional notes:-

Raise awareness and regulate use

It is important to promote a public awareness campaign positively and actively about the **unintended consequences of legal fireworks** which can be set off 365 days a year.

Local authorities can act to protect animals now and there is a fine of up to £20,000 and/or a six month prison sentence. There have been no convictions in Powys as far as I am aware but in our area we have seen an increase in the level of noise, the impact on animal welfare and the fear of unintended consequences happening more frequently.

Current legislation allows for **RANDOM** public use of fireworks 16 hours a day, every single day, making it impossible for vulnerable groups to take precautions against the distress they can cause.

1. There is a need to encourage local suppliers of fireworks to display signage endorsed by PCC, stating the law on fireworks and the unintended consequences of legal fireworks. It would further raise awareness and the necessity to buy the correct type of fireworks for all locations and use.
2. Horses are 'flight' animals and whilst it is very helpful to know **When, Where and What** firework displays might be happening to prepare a **reduced risk** for horse establishments and owners from sustaining a potentially fatal injury, the risk is still very high with large extravagant explosive noisy displays.

Animal Welfare Act

There is little or no monitoring of this. The noise of modern fireworks outstrips what was traditionally a family gathering celebrating the arrest and convictions of a plot in 1605.

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 states **it is an offence to cause any unnecessary suffering to any captive or domestic animal. Fireworks must not be set off near livestock or horses in fields or close to buildings housing livestock.** Anyone planning a firework display in a rural area should warn neighbouring farmers in

advance.

Section 4 of the AWA 2006 says

(1) A person commits an offence if:

- (a) an act of his, or a failure of his to act, causes an animal to suffer,
- (b) he knew, or ought reasonably to have known, that the act, or failure to act, would have that effect or be likely to do so,
- (c) the animal is a protected animal, and
- (d) the suffering is unnecessary. If the fireworks are near a road you can also contact the Highways division of your council and quote the following Source: Explosives Act 1875 Section 161

The offence carries a fine of up to £20,000 and/or a prison term of up to six months.

The Act is enforced by local councils, animal health officers and the police.

The Unintended Consequences of Fireworks:

- Distress and injury to humans especially those with conditions that are triggered by noise and flashing lights
- Distress, injury and death to animals
- Litter - what goes up must come down
- Fire risk to property
- Pollution – noise and environmental