Italian town to use silent fireworks for stressed dogs

8th July, 2016

A small town in Italy has passed legislation requiring people to use only silent fireworks in displays and celebrations. The new measure is to ensure the wellbeing of dogs and other pets. The town of Collecchio in the province of Parma has decided that the welfare of its pets is more important than the sound of explosions that normally accompanies fireworks. The more sensitive hearing of animals causes them to develop a condition known as 'acoustic stress' that follows sudden and loud noises. The sounds and smoke created by fireworks can cause additional health problems in animals. Vets commonly report cases of nausea, tremors and increased anxiety in animals after a fireworks show.

Awareness of the potential problems created by the sound of fireworks is growing in Europe. Over the New Year, Germany banned fireworks near refugee shelters to minimise trauma experienced by refugees who had just fled war zones. Fireworks are also known to cause problems for war veterans. The explosions bring back painful memories of being in areas of conflict and can trigger post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). However, not everyone agrees with the idea of silent fireworks. Antonio Maldini said: "You need the booms, cracks and thunder. It's an essential part of the fun." He advised pet owners to keep animals indoors and keep all windows firmly closed.

Sources: *care2.com / khou.com / dogtime.com*

Writing

All fireworks should be silent for the wellbeing of humans and animals. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

legislation / displays / celebrations / wellbeing / pets / explosions / sensitive / nausea potential / refugee / trauma / war veterans / stress / silent / thunder / essential

True / False

a) A major city in Italy has banned noisy fireworks. T / F

b) The ban on fireworks is only for the benefit of dogs. T / F

c) Animals can develop a condition called 'acoustic stress'. T / F

d) Fireworks often make animals feel sick. T / F

e) Germany banned fireworks so refugees would not be traumatised. T / F

f) Fireworks can lead to PTSD in war veterans. T / F

g) Everyone agrees with the law requiring silent fireworks. T / F

h) A man said animals should be kept outdoors for fireworks displays. T / F

Synonym Match

1.	legislation	a.	stress
2.	measure	b.	illness
3.	accompanies	c.	securely
4.	condition	d.	laws
5.	anxiety	e.	set off
6.	potential	f.	key
7.	banned	g.	action
8.	trigger	h.	possible
9.	essential	i.	goes with
10.	firmly	j.	prohibited

Discussion – Student A

a) What do you think of fireworks?

b) What do you think about what you read?

c) How unfair is it on animals to use fireworks?

d) What do you think of the idea of silent fireworks?

e) What do you know about noise pollution?

f) Should all towns introduce the same law?

g) What else should we do for the wellbeing of pets?

h) What noises make you stressed?

Phrase Match

1. fireworks in displays	a. accompanies fireworks
2. ensure the wellbeing	b. shelters
3. the sound of explosions that normally	c. cases of nausea
4. The more sensitive	d. problems
5. Vets commonly report	e. of dogs and other pets
6. potential	f. firmly closed
7. refugee	g. with the idea
8. cause problems for war	h. and celebrations
9. not everyone agrees	i. veterans
10. keep all windows	j. hearing of animals

Discussion – Student B

a) What was the last fireworks display you saw?

b) How might refugees feel when they hear fireworks?

c) How can we help war veterans with PTSD?

d) Would you prefer to see silent fireworks or loud ones?

e) What's the best fireworks display in the world?

f) Is noise an essential part of a fireworks display?

g) Is it enough to keep pets indoors with the windows shut?

h) What questions would you like to ask a fireworks display organiser?

Spelling

1. passed inlisgealto

2. in the vcpnorei of Parma

3. The more iveisesnt hearing of animals

4. a condition known as 'cuaticos stress'

5. report cases of anusea

6. increased xaeniyt in animals

7. the iepoalttn problems

8. near ufeerge shelters

9. ieinmism (UK) / immiinez (USA) trauma

10. painful ieemrsom

11. cause problems for war svaetenr

12. an aseseltni part of the fun

Role Play

Role A – Fireworks
You think the sound from fireworks is the most stressful noise. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things you like about their noises. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): video games, supermarket music or crying babies.

Role B – Video games
You think the sound from video games is the most stressful noise. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things you like about their noises. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): fireworks, supermarket music or crying babies.

Role C – Supermarket music
You think supermarket music is the most stressful noise. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things you like about their noises. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): video games, fireworks or crying babies.

Role D – Crying babies
You think the sound for crying babies is the most stressful noise. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things you like about their noises. Also, tell the others which is the least annoying of these (and why): video games, supermarket music or fireworks.

Speaking – Stressful noises

Rank these with your partner. Put the most stressful noises at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Fireworks
- Electric tools
- Video games
- Cars hooting
- People's headphones
- Music in supermarkets
- Video games
- Family members

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	F

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. g	3. i	4. b	5. a
6. h	7. j	8. e	9. h	10. c