

Diwali and Fireworks (According to the S.A. Law)



Below is an insert from a local newspaper released a few years back by Mr V. Maharaj. And I quote "I have checked with the relevant authorities on the use of fireworks during religious occasions and find the following response useful to share with your readers..." "The forthcoming Diwali celebrations are always a contentious issue and generally disrupt good neighbourliness. The following information might help to alleviate misconceptions and promote tolerance. The Draft Explosive Regulations 2007, Notice 433 of 2007, published in The Government Gazette of April 18, 2007. Chapter 16 – summarized: The use of consumer fireworks (including bangs) is permitted by the Minister as follows:

(3) C (1) Chinese New Year – Beginning at 08h00 and ending at 24h00 (midnight).

(2) Diwali – Beginning at 08h00 and ending at 24h00 (midnight) on the *** TWO days of Diwali.

(3) New Year's Eve Beginning at 08h00 and ending at 24h00 (midnight) on that day.

It's interesting to note that Diwali is celebrated for one week in the UK (United Kingdom) and throughout the world and the recommendation is being tabled to enjoy the same in South Africa (but I personally won't be holding my breath.) It's therefore not illegal to let off fireworks a week before Diwali. Please note that "Guy Fawkes" is not a recognized occasion in South Africa – and therefore the use of fireworks is prohibited.

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I trust this information will help our readers understand the rights of individuals entrenched in our Constitution. It's unfortunate that pets do suffer the

brunt of the loud bangs, so please act as a pet lover would do in an unavoidable thunderstorm. Let's celebrate responsibly. Jai Hind."

Should you like to read the comprehensive "The Draft Explosive Regulations 2007" article do click on the link below.

<http://www.polity.org.za/article/explosivesactdraftexplosivesregulationsnotice433of-200720070615>

*** Do note that Diwali in South Africa is celebrated over two days viz. the 27th - 28th October 2019.

So once again with the information provided above it does seem that us awesome Hindus are definitely given the proverbial "short end of the stick". We do need strong leaders to back us Hindus when the age old issue of fireworks rear its ugly head during Diwali every year yet for the other dates like the New Year Eve celebrations generally these same hypocrites who criticize us Hindus for bursting fireworks in Diwali are the ones bursting fireworks.

In my humble opinion I feel that our government should add another rule about the level of noise that the louder fireworks make. Us uber awesome Hindus are loving and peaceful people hence we try as much not to harm any of God's creatures.

Animals and Fireworks...

Do you constantly worry about your pets during firework displays close to your home?

Do you fear you may come home to find that your pets are unhappy or, even worse, dead because of the extremely loud noises? If you can't ask for quieter fireworks, you will have to do the best you can to comfort your pet. We are providing some tips to keep your pet safe and cared for during fireworks.

Find out from your local municipalities when the fireworks will be happening and how they'll impact your home. Mark the dates on a calendar so that you can keep track of when to ensure your pets are cared for. If you know or suspect that the fireworks will be heard around your residence, take the necessary precautions outlined in the following steps.

Check that your pets' ID tags and microchips are in order. If your pet does go running off during fireworks events, it's much easier to be able to identify its ownership with these features. Fireworks upset pets as a result of the noise, smell of sulfur, and flashing lights. Desensitization of noises helps to prevent a phobia of loud noises, use a CD that like Sounds Scary, well before the firework season, or after the event. You should prepare your house as your house becomes your pets' safety zone, so it's important to prepare properly. Keep some lights on. Keeping a light on will calm your pet and make him feel more secure, rather than being scared in a dark room. Dampen the noise. Close the curtains in the room and, if your animal is a caged one, cover up the cage with a thick blanket, but make sure it's breathable so your animal doesn't suffocate. This will also help to stop the flashes of light affecting your pet.

Plan to use familiar sounds to drown out the noise of the fireworks. Music from a stereo or turning on the TV or likely familiar sounds that can sooth your pet. Do make sure not to play these sounds ridiculously loud as they can become bothersome themselves. Prepare the room. Select a suitable room where you will contain your pet/s for the duration of the fireworks. An inner room that is least impacted by the noise is most ideal. It should be a room that you can close off to prevent your pet from running about the house and injuring him/herself or wrecking furniture, etc. If you have more than one pet, be sure they don't mind being confined in the same room, or select several rooms for different pets.

For example, dogs and cats will of course appreciate being kept separate. Make the room cozy. Put down familiar, clean bedding somewhere pleasant such as under a table, on or behind a chair, etc. Add some familiar chew toys, scratch pads, balls, etc., to keep your pets amused and distracted. Ensure that the room temperature is pleasant; warm if it's cold weather, or cool if it's hot weather. Consider whether sound might be soothing. If your pet is used to music, turn the music at the normal volume. Also, the sound of rainwater is very soothing to pets. Use Lavender based products. This is optional, but you might like to use lavender scented items to help calm your pet. Use a spray or gently bruise the leaves and flowers of some fresh plants. Do make sure that it's out of reach of your pet. Using heated scent oils or incense is not recommended as a frantic pet can knock them over and start a fire or injure themselves. Add a litter tray for cats. Remove any sharp items from the room in case your pet starts jumping or running around.

Prepare yourself. In the desire to ease one's pet's pain, sometimes one can transfer some of one's anxiety and upset to one's pet. If you've prepared properly in advance, there is no need to feel upset and worried as you can be reassured about the safety of your pet. Realize that the startled and frantic reactions of your pet are often the principal source of your own upset. Being ready for their reactions can help to keep you calm as well. Confine your pet. Half an hour to an hour before the fireworks are due to be set off, place your pet into the chosen room. If you're concerned about not being able to locate your pet (for example, cats aren't always easy to find), consider finding your pet several hours earlier. Mealtime is a good time to round up every pet, provided it falls before the fireworks are set off. If your dog needs a walk, be sure to walk him/her before confining him/her. Even if your pet is caged, place it into the secure and comfortable room you've selected. If your pet is a horse or other farm animal, make sure he/she has clean bedding and is inside the stable or barn.

Provide food and hydration. Be sure to leave sufficient water and food for your pet in the confinement space. Many pets will be uneasy, or even frantic. If your pet has access to water, it will help calm him/her, and food supplied in your pet's regular portion will make him/her feel like it's a normal day. Keep an eye on your pet, and if possible, stay with him/her. Comfort him/her and talk to him/her. Be friendly but don't fuss over him/her too much; this can increase him/her anxiety if he/she picks up on yours

and can encourage fearful behavior. If it's not possible to stay with him/her, (perhaps because you are out or busy (you may be at the firework display), don't worry the previous steps should ensure that your pet has been adequately cared for.

Allow your pet to hide somewhere in the room if wished. It's your pet's way of coping (a "bolthole") and dragging them out of a safe spot can increase their anxiety levels. Don't fuss over him/her too much. Check on your pet after the fireworks. Reassure him/her and remove the protection (blankets, etc.) as long as you are sure that the loud fireworks are over. Let him/her have free run of the house to see how he/she behaves before considering letting him/her return outside (it might be best to wait until morning, if possible). Check for signs of stress in your pet like.

For cats, signs of stress include running away, soiling the house, hiding away and refusing to eat. For dogs, signs of stress include barking a lot, running away, soiling the house, hiding and cowering, clinging to owners, whimpering, trembling and shaking, pacing and panting, and refusing to eat. If your pet is stressed, keep him/her indoors overnight. Keep a litter tray in a designated place in the house, or walk a dog after the fireworks but don't let him/her off his/her harness and be sure to stay with him/her the whole time. Do a yard sweep before letting your pets back outside. Collect any sparklers, firecrackers, etc., as well as party items and broken objects. This will prevent your pet from being injured by unfamiliar objects. Finally tablets like Melatonin, TranQuil Tabs, etc are given to one's pet to ingest a week or so or as your vet prescribes to calm your pet before the loud bangs starts.

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