

Friday, September 20, 2019
Fireworks Testimony

Hello,

My name is Tom Marotta - I have an animal sanctuary in New Hope, PA on 10.5 acres. I have neighbors on THREE sides of my property (all new neighbors since I moved here, I would not have chosen this location otherwise) that routinely set off fireworks throughout the year. Not just on holidays, but random days of any week - and sometimes even later than 11pm.

As many others have probably said, the sheer volume of these fireworks is incredibly traumatizing for our animals here. To date, we've had injuries to our dogs, donkeys, a horse that have required veterinary care, repairs to our fencing, barn, etc. and an ongoing concern, almost nightly, for whether one of the neighbors are going to decide to set them off. I have spoken with two of them, very nicely, who simply just replied that it's perfectly legal for them to set off fireworks, and I should 'Train my animals' to endure fireworks. The volume of their fireworks is BEYOND deafening. From within my own home, I can hear AND feel the fireworks in a way that makes it hard for me to imagine they could even get enjoyment out of setting them off.

The other issue, is that I have a shed full of hay, and also 3 wood outbuilding for the animals. The fireworks almost ALWAYS make their way over to my property - and in one case, I believe the neighbor does this on purpose. As you can imagine, there is a significant threat to a fire due to these fireworks landing in our dry hay or even on the buildings.

I ask that you PLEASE, at a minimum, impose the restrictions that some townships have taken it upon themselves to impose (Doylestown Township, for example) - but better yet, to ban fireworks from private homes. There are many, many venues - even in just our area, that set off fireworks on all of the major holidays.

Thank you very much for your time and attention - and I do hope very much that PA will adopt new laws to stop this extremely dangerous activity.

Tom Marotta
Bright Side Sanctuary
2010 Street Road
New Hope, PA 18938