



January 12, 2026

The Honorable Dean Trantalis
Mayor of Fort Lauderdale

Dear Mayor Trantalis:

On behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and in response to the city's January 6 decision to move ahead with a fireworks display for this year's Fourth of July celebration, we respectfully urge you to reconsider plans for seriously problematic fireworks at future events and replace them with drone or laser shows. To help you understand the suffering that fireworks cause, we're sending you a noisemaker that plays some of the dreadful sounds caused and drowned out by fireworks—like fearful dogs crying, tires screeching as drivers try to avoid wildlife like deer who have panicked and run onto roadways, and the thuds of disoriented birds colliding with buildings—along with some earplugs as a reminder that, unlike humans, animals don't have the option of preparing for these blasts.

More animals go missing on the Fourth of July than on any other day of the year. Shelters both nationwide and across Florida report a 30% to 60% increase in lost animal intakes between July 3 and 6. Many animals arrive with bloody paws or broken bones, and some are never reunited with their families. Others don't even make it to shelters—they're hit by cars or strangled when their collars become caught on fences. From captivating laser light shows to innovative drone displays, there are plenty of ways to "wow" tourists and residents without traumatizing wildlife, companion animals, and noise-sensitive humans.

Please let the fireworks fizzle out and ensure that future festivities leave *all* animals in peace. Drone shows are safer, can be organized in as little as a few weeks' time, and are growing in popularity as people seek peace in chaotic times: They've been used at the Super Bowl, Radio City Music Hall, Dodger Stadium, Coachella, Travis Air Force Base, and Walt Disney World. Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Very truly yours,

Ingrid Newkirk
Founder

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