

August 1st: Celebrate without fear and distress

Every year on August 1st, countless fireworks are set off throughout Switzerland. While many people enjoy the displays, they are often unaware that the explosions cause stress, fear, and distress for animals. This affects both wild animals and pets alike. Animals have much more sensitive hearing than humans and they do not understand why there are loud bangs, fire, smoke, and noise in the middle of the night. Sadly, many animals lose their lives as a result of the Swiss National Day celebrations.

In addition to the usual warnings and safety advice regarding fireworks, please also observe the following recommendations in the interest of animal welfare:

- **If you use fireworks at all, choose quieter options such as fountains, volcanoes, and sparklers.**
- **Do not set off fireworks near pastures, barns, forests, or bushes — and never near animals.**
- **Keep your pets indoors, turn on the television or some music to help mask the noise, and, if necessary, give particularly sensitive animals a homeopathic calming remedy or discuss suitable options with your veterinarian in advance.**
- **Stay as calm and relaxed as possible yourself. Your calmness is usually transferred to your animals. Avoid comforting frightened animals excessively, as this may unintentionally reinforce their fear.**
- **Animals that panic during fireworks may be desensitised with the help of an animal behaviour therapist. However, this process requires several weeks of preparation.**
- **Bonfires and woodpiles should only be built on the day they are to be lit. If they are assembled earlier, they must be completely dismantled and rebuilt shortly before lighting. Woodpiles left standing for days often become shelter for hedgehogs, snakes, insects and other small animals. When the fire is lit, these animals are frequently trapped because they are too frightened by the crowds and noise to escape, resulting in a cruel death.**
- **Perhaps this year you could donate the money you would have spent on fireworks to help animals in need.**

Please help make Swiss National Day more bearable for animals, so that one person's celebration does not become another creature's suffering — or death.

Thank you for your consideration.

We wish you a happy Swiss National Day!



Because every life matters!