



# FIREWORKS AND EQUINES

Fireworks can cause stress, injury, and even serious harm to horses when set off near equestrian premises. Each year, many yard owners experience issues from private displays, extended shows, or multiple events. As a yard owner, are you aware of the regulations, and the measures you can take to safeguard your horses?

## UNDERSTANDING THE LAWS

- Age Restrictions: People must be 18 or older to purchase or use adult fireworks (Categories F2 and F3). [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)
- Permitted Hours:
  - General Rule: Fireworks can only be set off between 7am and 11pm.
  - Extended Hours
    - Bonfire Night: Until midnight.
    - New Year's Eve, Diwali, Chinese New Year: Until 1am. [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)
  - Violating these hours can result in fines or a Noise Abatement Notice under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
- Public Spaces: Setting off fireworks in streets, highways, or public places is prohibited under the Explosives Act 1875 and the Highways Act 1980.
- It is NOT obligatory to hold Public Liability Insurance for events that are held on private land.
- There is NO LEGAL REQUIREMENT to inform local residents of planned displays
- There is NO SPECIFIC LAW stipulating distances displays must be from farms or livestock
- Usually only large public displays (Categories F3 and F4 fireworks) *may* require a local council permit
- Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014: Councils can act against repeat nuisance or unsafe fireworks displays.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Event Awareness: Ask nearby households or event organisers to give advance warning of planned displays, and check local councils: Be aware of any public displays near your yard.
- Forward Plan: Take the best steps knowing the temperament and reaction of horses on your yard (ie whether stables/ turned out)
- Make Equines Comfortable: Take steps to minimise noise (closing doors/ windows, using radio etc)
- Veterinary guidance: In some cases, vets may recommend sedatives for very anxious horses.
- Check gates/ fencing/ perimeters are safe and secure (if the horses are out in the paddock)
- Have a Fire Plan: In the event of an emergency, make sure you have evacuation and escape plans.
- Post Fireworks: Inspect stables and paddocks for damage or loose fencing, and check horses for injuries: Panic can cause cuts, bruises, or other accidents.

**If displays are causing a nuisance by being outside permitted times, prolonged or repeated, or used unsafely near animals, people, or property, then you can report this to your Local council's Environmental Health team or via the non-emergency police line (101)**

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT PROTECTING EQUINES ON YOUR YARD, AND THE FIGHT AGAINST FIREWORKS  
AT [REDWINGS: FIREWORKS AND HORSES](#)