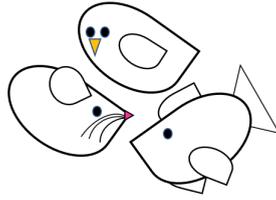


ANIMAL CONCERN



LEGISLATE TO LIBERATE

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Animal Concern Ltd is a Registered Scottish Charity (No. SC050422) and a registered non-profit making Limited Company (Co. No. SC109126)

Established in 1988 as Animal Concern (Scotland) Limited we changed our name to Animal Concern in 1992 as several of our campaigns were international.

It incorporates the Scottish Anti-Vivisection Society which was founded in 1876.

Charity Animal Concern has asked the Governments of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales to immediately ban the sale and use of sky lanterns. Sky or Chinese lanterns are miniature hot air balloons, usually constructed from paper fixed to a bamboo or wire frame with a small crucible below where fuel is burned to create the heat to make the lantern rise, sometimes high into the sky where it is carried for perhaps a mile or more before the fuel runs out and the lantern descends. It is not unusual for the flame to set alight the paper and bamboo, causing the lantern to crash in a ball of fire.

Animal Concern has campaigned for many years to have these lanterns banned. When they land the wire or bamboo can pose a hazard to farm and wild animals.

Animal Concern has asked the relevant Ministers in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales to take urgent action to outlaw sky lanterns. In Wales this matter has been taken seriously and all local authorities have banned the release of sky lanterns from their land. However there is nothing to stop people launching them from their gardens and other privately owned land.

Without realising the risk people may well be tempted to launch lanterns into the evening sky at the end of a summer's day or at the conclusion of a wedding reception or outdoor party. This could cause a disaster.

John Robins, Campaigns Consultant to Animal Concern said;

“With much of the U.K. tinder dry due to the heatwaves we have been experiencing this summer it is ludicrous to allow people to launch incendiary bombs into the sky. Wildfires are devastating to wildlife, woodlands and both rural and semi urban environments. They also threaten property and human lives. For the same reason it would make sense to ban the sale and use of fireworks.

Global warming means the threat of wildfires will be with us year after year. A permanent ban on sky lanterns should be a priority.”

Editors notes: You can see one of our emails to Government Ministers on our website at:

http://www.animalconcern.org/pdf/2022/August2022/Renewed_Call_for_Sky_Lantern_Ban-10-08-22.pdf John Robins can be contacted for comment on 07721605521.