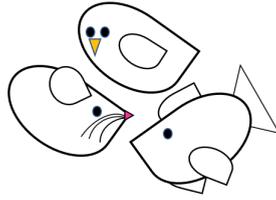


ANIMAL CONCERN



LEGISLATE TO LIBERATE

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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.

Nicola Sturgeon MSP,
First Minister,
The Scottish Government,
Edinburgh

Dear First Minister,

I write concerning the use of Chinese or Sky Lanterns. These 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.

For many years Animal Concern has campaigned to have these lanterns banned in the UK as when they land the wire or bamboo can pose a hazard to farm and wild animals. We also want balloon releases banned for the same reason. In addition, semi deflated balloons are a major hazard in the aquatic environment where they can be ingested by fish, birds, turtles and marine mammals causing slow painful death through starvation.

Today I am writing specifically about Sky Lanterns. I ask you to bring in an immediate ban on their sale and use. With much of the country tinder dry due to the heatwaves we have been experiencing this summer it is ludicrous to allow people to launch firebombs 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 is required.

I urge you to take action now. You may avert a tragedy.

Yours sincerely,

John F. Robins,
For Animal Concern