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Animal Concern is a pressure group registered as a non-profit making Limited Company  
(Co. No. SC109126) established in 1988 as Animal Concern (Scotland) Ltd.  
It incorporates the Scottish Anti-Vivisection Society which was founded in 1876.

Councillor John Alexander,  
Leader,  
Dundee City Council,  
City Chambers,  
City Square,  
Dundee DD1 3BY

Dear Councillor Alexander,

I write regarding the announcement that Radio 1's Big Weekend will be held in Camperdown Park, Dundee from Friday 22 to Sunday 24 May. This will be a much bigger and no doubt much louder Big Weekend than that held 14 years ago.

I am concerned over how this very noisy and very busy event will effect the animals in the Camperdown Wildlife Centre.

Can you tell me how far the music event will be from the animal enclosures?

I trust that before Dundee City Council gave the go ahead for this event you ensured all necessary steps will be taken to minimise disturbance to the animals.

You have several residents at Camperdown who are unlikely to be big fans of big sounds. The Scottish Wildcats, brown bears and primates are all likely to be disturbed by loud music. If your birds are panicked they could injure themselves flying in the restricted space of their aviaries.

Even if the sound stages are a good distance from the animals, care should be taken to point speakers away from the enclosures and to make good use of any natural ground features to reduce noise reaching the animals.

As you are no doubt aware there has been at least one very serious incident involving the public getting too close to the residents of what was then Camperdown Zoo.

The Big Weekend is expected to attract 70,000 visitors to Camperdown Park and no doubt a few of those visitors might try to enhance their experience with a few drinks and perhaps some non-minimum priced stimulants. It is vital, for the protection of animals and visitors alike, that Camperdown Wildlife Park is given greatly enhanced 24/7 security for the duration of the event. If the Council budget will not cover this I suggest you insist the BBC meet the costs.

I hope the Big Weekend is a great success with no casualties of any species at Camperdown Park. I would appreciate it if you would bring this email to the attention of any relevant council staff and committees.

Yours sincerely,

John F. Robins,  
Animal Concern.