



June 17, 2024

The Honorable Laura Weinberg  
Mayor of Golden

Dear Mayor Weinberg:

On behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), which has thousands of members and supporters across Colorado, I'm pleased to award the Golden City Council with our Compassionate City Award for choosing to forgo fireworks displays during Fourth of July events indefinitely. Because of this decision, countless animals—human and nonhuman alike—will be able to enjoy Independence Day without the frightening noises and stress that fireworks cause. In recognition of this decision, we'll be sending the Golden City Council a framed certificate and some delicious vegan chocolates to enjoy, and we stand ready to provide the city with free vegan hot dogs and buns for the first 100 attendees at this year's fireworks-free Fourth of July festivities to make it an even kinder celebration.

As you know, fireworks sound like an all-out war to dogs, cats, veterans, and wild animals—and their use has devastating consequences. More dogs and cats go missing between July 4 and 6 than on any other days of the year. Terrified dogs often climb, break, or dig their way out of wherever they are as they frantically try to evade the chaos, resulting in increased intake at animal shelters, further straining community resources. Many dogs arrive with bloody paws or broken bones. Some don't even make it to shelters—they're hit by cars or are strangled when their collars become caught on fences in their attempt to escape the thunderous noises.

Beyond the immediate physical dangers, fireworks also produce smoke and dust laden with toxic particles that are harmful to the respiratory systems of humans and other animals and cause fear, stress, and anxiety in sensitive wildlife, companion animals, children, the elderly, and veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, which can be triggered by the sights, sounds, and odors of fireworks.

We hope your compassionate decision will inspire other cities to follow suit. We look forward to hearing from you about our offer of vegan hot dogs and buns. Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Ingrid Newkirk  
President

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OF ANIMALS

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