

# **Zoo calls for action on fireworks as baby panda dies**

**The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) has called for tougher rules on fireworks, following the death of a baby red panda at Edinburgh Zoo on Bonfire night.**

Veterinary experts at the wildlife conservation charity believe that three-month-old kit, Roxie, died due to stress caused by fireworks being let off in the city centre.

Ben Supple, RZSS deputy Chief Executive, said: "Roxie had recently lost her mum, Ginger, but was responding well to specialist care from our expert team and was feeding independently.

"Very sadly, she choked on her vomit on bonfire night and our vets believe this was probably a reaction to fireworks.

"Roxie had access to her den but the frightening noises seem to have been too much for her. We know that fireworks can cause stress to other animals in the zoo and we cannot rule out that they may have contributed to the untimely death of Roxie's mother Ginger, just five days' earlier."

The zoo appeals for the public to contact their local MP and MSP to support the petition delivered to the UK Government earlier this month. You can find the details of your MP at [members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP](https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP) and [Members of the Scottish Parliament \(MSPs\) | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

Mr Supple said: "Fireworks can cause fear and distress for pets, livestock and animals in zoos, so it is essential that the UK and Scottish governments tighten restrictions on their sale and use.

"We support calls from animal welfare charities to ban the sale of fireworks to the public, with only light displays being permitted at organised events.

"This would help avoid devastating consequences for animals like Roxie while ensuring that people can still enjoy traditional celebrations."



