

From: [Laurence McNaught](#)
To: [2002 Act Review](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Review of 2002 wild mammals act
Date: 10 March 2016 10:42:46

I own a small farm in the middle of a large farming area in which there is a considerable fox population. Because of the nature of the ground the only fox control activity was carried out on foot using a pack of hounds and shotguns, carried either on foot or on ATVs. However, I have considerable experience of the use of hounds for control both here and in England. It is axiomatic that a pack of hounds is a much more efficient way of flushing foxes to guns than a couple as used in England. It results in the fox being flushed from cover to guns much more quickly and therefore any stress felt by the quarry is shorter in duration than it would be were there only two hounds working in the same cover, as the seeking process would take less time and the pursuit to flushing shorter. This would seem to me to be a more humane process than the protracted searching by two hounds to achieve the same ends.

Also, we have used this method with success and within the law in Scotland since the 2002 Act was passed and I can see no reason to change it and no evidence has emerged to support any change that is not politically motivated or misguided and I do not see why the Scottish Government should be coerced into a change in the Act by small pressure groups who have been discredited in court.

In addition, people on horses do not take part in the flushing nor the pursuit of the quarry, they are kept well back from the huntsman by a "field master" who knows the country and does not allow the "field" to interfere. Therefore they do not add to any stress and are usually unaware of the flush until they hear the shot.

Finally, the process is as humane as it can be for the control of a predator, which not only preys on small livestock but also on wild mammals and birds which should enjoy our protection equally as the fox, whose numbers must be kept under control to a reasonable level by the mostly expeditious and humane way possible as executed by the current method.

L W McNaught

Sent from my iPad

This email was scanned by the Government Secure Intranet anti-virus service supplied by Vodafone in partnership with Symantec. (CCTM Certificate Number 2009/09/0052.) In case of problems, please call your organisations IT Helpdesk.

Communications via the GSi may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for legal purposes.

This email has been received from an external party and has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.
