

From: [Tim Coulson](#)
To: [2002 Act Review](#)
Subject: Scottish hunting act review
Date: 27 March 2016 15:44:18
Attachments: [Tims infographic.png](#)

Dear Sir,

I am making a submission to your review of current Legislation regarding hunting in Scotland. My current involvement is as huntsman of the Lauderdale hunt based in the Scottish borders.

Back ground of the Lauderdale hunt.

- Since 2002 legislation came into force the hunt has changed its constitution to conform to the law as required, whilst still trying retain the image, employment and social structure of 'traditional' hunting.
- We cover a large area north of the river tweed up to the Pentland hills and runs as far west as Moffat, and to Greenlaw in the east.
- The area is regarded as marginal hill ground in agricultural terms.
- As such cover from which I use a pack of hounds to flush foxes from to waiting guns can vary from; gorse, bracken, large areas of 'rank' heather and forestry.
- We use mounted followers in some parts of our fox control operations to aid in turning foxes whilst in cover towards the guns
- The mounted followers pay a subscription to come and enjoy access to ground otherwise off limits to horses, whilst also playing a role the process of fox control.
- The Lauderdale hunt have always operated in an open manner with a full description of our methods on our website for some time now.

Effectiveness of a full pack of hounds.

- There is no doubt that a full pack is the quickest, if not the only manner to get foxes moving in large areas of dense cover.
- Once foxes are moving they are often quickly got into a position where by they can be despatched.

Welfare of foxes controlled in this manner

- Because a large number of hounds are used to flush, the time from a fox being found to being shot is greatly reduced, ie the period of the chase is greatly reduced.
- If the target species is injured during the course of this process the law makes provision for a full pack to continue to track that animal, at speed, to dispatch it.
- As a result of this last point there is no danger of that animal suffering long term, from injury and infection arising from being injured, which is certain to result in a lingering death.
- Because there are a great number of hounds the scent of a fox is rarely lost for long before being recovered by some number of hounds.

Results of using the same method with two hounds (as permitted in England)

- Two hounds used to search for foxes in large forestry or similar cover will take considerably longer to find a fox, if at all. So significantly reducing effectiveness.
- If two hounds do happen to find a fox under these circumstances they will take much longer to track it because they will regularly loose the scent of the fox on account of there being such a small number of dogs.
- This will result in the time a fox is hunted being greatly increased, therefore reducing the welfare of any fox flushed with two hounds.
- There is a study (J Naylor MRCVS and Knott), that shows the effectiveness of a full pack as

opposed to two hounds in the roll of flushing. It also highlights the welfare aspects with regards to foxes controlled in this manner.

The use of terrier work during a days hunting.

- We employ one man, under license, to act as Terrier man on a days hunting.
- If an injured fox goes to ground at any point he will enter a dog to that earth with a tracking device. that dog will then locate the injured fox where upon he will dig down, remove the dog as soon as possible and despatch that fox with a humane killer.
- There is a provision within the law allowing the use of a terrier to flush any fox, injured or otherwise, from below ground, or from within an enclosed space (a pile of rocks for example), so it can be shot as soon as it emerges.
- In this case, it is deemed prudent to have the hounds in close proximity to despatch the fox if it is injured in the course of this process. Again preventing prolonged suffering

Analysis of Lauderdale hunt activities for the past season.

- I have kept detailed records of every day we were out this season, which I have summed up below.
- As shown 19% of the foxes accounted for were killed by hounds, these foxes will have been wounded first, and would other wise have died through injury.

