

**From:** [Annette](#)  
**To:** [2002 Act Review](#)  
**Subject:** review of the Protection of Wild Animals (Scotland) Act 2002  
**Date:** 27 March 2016 20:31:24

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I understand the Scottish government is conducting a review of the Protection of Wild Animals (Scotland) Act 2002 and would like to highlight the need to strengthen this legislation given the loopholes highlighted over recent years.

Numerous abuses have been highlighted by various organisations and horrendous video footage evidence is widely available confirming abuse. Please consider how important it is that Scotland leads the way in terms of animal welfare. Flushing is an area which is especially concerning as this loophole allows hunters to set numerous dogs on whichever unfortunate animal is being hunted.

Another area of real concern is grouse shooting industry. Poor birds are bred and transported purely for shooting with no concern for their welfare. Often estates use snares and other tactics to eliminate other wildlife they perceive to be interfering with their objectives. I have seen some horrendous photographs of the unfortunate animals caught in these snares and am horrified and ashamed that such things happen in the country I live in.

A recent report of landowners shooting more than 1500 mountain hares this year in the Lammermuir Hills, southeast of Edinburgh as a result of the grouse shooting industry illustrates this point.

Furthermore the penalties imposed for breaches of the Act do not act as a deterrent as they tend to be low and in many cases prosecutions do not take place due to "lack of evidence" even when the abused animal is available as evidence and video footage of the abuse taking place issued. This makes a mockery of the system and shows it to be shallow and hypocritical.

Please, please consider these issues and close the loopholes evident in this legislation. Harsh penalties for animal abuse are essential. Make the public proud of our animal welfare laws and stance against cruelty.

Kind regards  
Annette Ashton

Sent from my iPhone

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