

From: [REDACTED]
To: [2002 Act Review](#)
Subject: Review of Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002
Date: 30 March 2016 15:55:33

Dear Sir,

I believe the Act is successful in its current form and need not be reviewed or altered. However I am most concerned about any proposals about changes to hunting with hounds that might have had presented to you during the course of this review and therefore would like to highlight why these should not be altered.

Living in the country as I do you are fully aware of the devastating effect wild foxes can have on livestock, be it a regular occurrence of young lambs being taken from a field or a whole henhouse of chickens being slaughtered despite being in a well secured run or a treasured pet cat mauled to the point it needs put to sleep.

I am fully aware that as a wild animal foxes have a right to be here, indeed as scavengers they form part of a vital chain in the countryside in clearing up rotten carcasses of other animals they may come across which have died and keeping rabbit numbers down, however, as with all creatures their numbers need to be kept under control otherwise the countryside and worryingly the towns and cities could become over run. More frequently in the news now it is reported that wild foxes have entered houses and children have narrowly escaped injury. Numbers have to be controlled.

Farmers need to protect their own livestock which although not termed as 'wild animals' in the same fashion as foxes would be they cannot be regarded as 'pets' and so they too are entitled to protection.

To protect their livestock farmers need to keep numbers of foxes down and to do this they have two alternatives 1, to allow a hunt to provide a free service or 2, to shoot them by means of lamping at night.

I believe hunting with hounds is a more natural way to reduce numbers as if the animal is fit and healthy it will get away thus allowing the breed to continue and thrive but the older, weaker ones being removed. It also has the added benefit of bringing money into the rural community as people with horses tend to spend a lot in maintaining them and jobs are provided as grooms and trainers. The same goes for the hunt's hounds where kennel hands jobs etc are provided and farmers also have a means of dead carcass removal.

Reduction of fox population by guns as the other alternative is something I favour less - which although some might argue is 'kinder' - as most of the shooting is done at night by lamping the odds are very much against the fox and several can be killed in one evening whereas a hunt with a pack of hounds might or might not even catch a fox.

Furthermore if you work on the basis that most hunts only go out twice a week over the winter, that they are prohibited from hunting when foxes are raising their young, that they are very much weather dependent for catching a scent, if I were a fox I know which I'd favour and I would strongly request that the bill be left well alone.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

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