

**From:** [Hamish Rae](#)  
**To:** [2002 Act Review](#)  
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I am not great with words , but hope to make a point.

I am writing as a fulltime keeper in Glen Lyon , Perthshire. We have a small , 6500 acre estate , with 600 sheep , some grouse and a mixed population of song birds, Fox control is vital for a mixed habitat . At present we use a spotlight and rifle to control most of the foxes. However , due time resticions (cant spend 100% of time at the foxes) and the terrain ( we have 2 forestry blocks of about 400 acre) spotlighting alone isnt enough. To help out we employ the local foot pack of hounds for 4 days a year, we do this by driving the large forest blocks with hounds to a line of guns. This accounts for the "wise old foxes" and can help out when the foxes are killing lambs , enabling us to flush the foxes that we would other wise not find . This wouldnt work using just 2 hounds , for several reasons, a pack is always more successful than a single animal. A single hound may lose the fox , meaning the hound tires quicker and is less affective, resulting in the fox being spooked (and at lambing time the fox will continue to kill lambs, and being spooked will make it more difficult to find).

We are not looking to "wipe out" foxes, just to control their numbers, and limit the damage they can do.

Yours

HAMISH RAE

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