



30th March 2016

Dear Lord Bonomy

RE: Review of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002

Let us be clear, we want there to be a healthy fox population in Scotland, but in order for it to survive as a species and not be completely destroyed it has to be culled, as with the deer population.

The Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002 has worked, we have made it work, and kept the fox population under a level of control acceptable to both farmers and gamekeepers. They have no use for the fox so without us fox hunters who is going to maintain the healthy balance? Flushing to guns with a full pack of hounds is the most efficient, healthy and humane way of controlling the population. Flushing with two hounds, as they do south of the Border is far less efficient as it takes a full pack of hounds working together to effectively find and flush out a fox. Without the co-operation of foxhunts using a full pack of hounds farmers and gamekeepers will resort to indiscriminate shooting and snaring of every fox they can, resulting in a far greater decline and suffering of the fox population.

Last year I was walking through the woods in May and I saw a vixen that had been shot by a gamekeeper. She was still full of milk and had recently given birth to cubs, which would obviously have died in their earth. There are no seasons as to when anyone can shoot a fox, but fox hunters stick to seasons to avoid this type of situation.

Please let the law stand and let us get on with keeping the fine balance with a full pack of hounds.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Billinge