

**From:** [Rowena](#)  
**To:** [2002 Act Review](#)  
**Subject:** Review of the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002  
**Date:** 30 March 2016 23:28:29

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Dear Lord Bonomy

I write as a Scot, as a Member of the Berwickshire Hunt, and as a supporter of the Atholl and Breadalbane Hounds, to say how strongly I feel that there is no reason for the above law to be altered. Any further consideration of this matter, or review of this law, would be a waste of public resources and time.


As stated in a Scottish Hill Packs Association submission prior to the Act being passed, "It is accepted by farming and conservation bodies that foxes have to be controlled." The original evidence put before the Scottish Parliament and accepted by them, was that a full pack, as opposed to just two dogs, was essential for flushing foxes from cover. Since the Act, the flushing by a pack of hounds to experienced marksmen has been working well, as I've seen with a foot pack in the Highlands and a mounted pack in the Southern Uplands. I see no reason why it should be altered.

The sheep farming industry and game shooting industry in Scotland would be adversely impacted by foxes going uncontrolled through the inevitable failure of using just two dogs to flush from cover. Foxes are wily - we learnt that from children's stories. A fox in Scotland's woodland, upland, or moorland can not be controlled without the effective and humane predator control that is a pack of hounds.

In addition dogs have been used to control foxes for many centuries in Scotland. Fox hunts and the small communities around them, are an important part of the fabric of rural life in areas where population densities are extremely low and any form of community needs to be supported. Fox hunting has shaped the countryside we love so well today. Any change in the law would be likely to lead to the death of these hunts, which carry out such an important role under the law as it stands.

The YouGov poll from December 2015 showed that 64% thought it was acceptable for farmers to shoot foxes to protect their livestock. 40% believed the current law should be left as it is allowing any number of dogs to flush and shoot foxes. I totally agree. And as I stated in my first paragraph, any further consideration of this matter, or review of this law, would be a waste of public resources and time.

Yours sincerely  
Rowena Witchell



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