

**From:** [caroline mcmanus](#)  
**To:** [2002 Act Review](#)  
**Subject:** Review of Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002  
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Rt Hon Lord Bonomy  
Review of Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002  
Wildlife Management Team  
Environment and Forestry  
Scottish Govt  
Victoria Quay

Dear Lord Bonomy

I write to you as I have been concerned, extremely concerned, about the killing of foxes and other wildlife in the countryside around me, on the outer aspects of Edinburgh, and in other areas of countryside I have lived in Scotland in previous years.

Even on the edge of our capital city I have called the police on a number of occasions when it has appeared that there has been persecution of wildlife- but even here gathering sufficient evidence is challenging. Others have also told me of suspected wildlife persecution incidents they have witnessed in other areas surrounding Edinburgh in the last few years

I would most definitely like the Protection of Wild Mammals Scotland Act 2002 upheld and enforced. Packs of dogs being used to kill foxes should without doubt be banned, in the same manner as bear baiting and cock fighting.

As the World Health Organisation and major health, cancer cardiac, diabetes and obesity organisations worldwide tell us we should be dramatically cutting down on meat consumption, and animal agriculture is recognised as one of the biggest contributors to climate change, bigger than even transport, we have to ask why kill foxes? If we were to follow the strong recommendations of these major health organisations ( and as a country with the health challenges of Scotland at present, how long can we bury our head in the sand?), then we would need all the foxes we could find, to protect crops in the field.

I do believe very sincerely that Scotland's health could dramatically improve with such changes, having been a vegetarian for over 40 years. I realise many ridicule for my eating habits, but I have lived nearly 60 years since terminal cancer treatment as a young child, and very few meat eaters can emulate that. I note that the longest cancer survivors I have been put in touch with across the globe, also in many cases eat a plant based diet. I do not know any very long term survivors that chase the latest drug, (most seem to steer well clear), but know an abundance that get great solace from nature and seeing wildlife. I therefore see killing foxes as a most backward step for the health of our nation.

Please ban the use of dogs to deliberately chase wild Mammals. I cannot see why anything but properly supervised drag hunting should occur in Scotland. The chasing of wild animals as entertainment seems reminiscent of Nazi or Ku Klux Klan practices, and has no place in a civilised society.

If it cannot be banned, then make it compulsory for hounds to be fitted with muzzles if used to flush out foxes, so they cannot tear the poor animal to pieces

The number of hounds that can be used to flush out foxes should be no more than 2 dogs- why should any more be needed?

In all of this I would ask that it is remembered that a great deal of research associates cruelty to animals with cruelty to children and those weaker than the person, generally women. It was nothing for a man to point a gun at me, an unarmed woman on her own of course, when I challenged him on shooting. It was nothing for 4 men to surround me on another occasion, unarmed, grey haired, on her own, and blessed by the appearance of an approaching car to be able to move get away. It was nothing for a man armed with a rifle to grab my phone when I took a picture of him, and leave me to struggle with an armed man to get it back. When people kill animals, it appears moral boundaries slip.

I do request you ask as a major question, why are we even considering ways of killing wildlife?

Please reflect on the major health organisations urging governments to support moves to plant based diets, and ask where this policy fits into that direction

Thank you

Caroline McManus



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