

From: [Hannah Hutchings](#)
To: [2002 Act Review](#)
Subject: Review of Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) 2002 Act?
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I have hunted on a regular basis since 1996 and have experience of hunting in both England and Scotland under their corresponding laws. In the winter I hunt twice a week with a fox control pack in Scotland who provide invaluable fox control to many farmers. Hounds are used to flush foxes from cover which are then shot by competent marksmen using shotguns. This is a very effective and humane way of controlling foxes, and must be argued that it is a lot less stressful than other control methods such as snaring. The more hounds that are used for this, the less time is spent in the cover as the quarry is located a lot quicker and thus flushed out a lot quicker. If the number of hounds used was restricted, this would increase the time spent locating and flushing from cover, causing more stress to the quarry.

This is particularly relevant in the area in which I hunt. Big forestry blocks where foxes live are often flushed, but this would be difficult to do with a lesser number of hounds. Other fox control methods, such as lamping or snaring, would be impossible in this type of terrain, likewise bracken covered steep hillsides which are easily covered by a pack of hounds, would not be suited to lamping or snaring.

Also, this method of flushing foxes to waiting guns has been carried out within the law in Scotland since the 2002 Act was passed. It has worked effectively and efficiently for the last 14 years, and I have yet to see any evidence emerge to support any change that is not politically motivated or misguided.

Hannah Hutchings

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