

**From:** [Nathan Roche](#)  
**To:** [2002 Act Review](#)  
**Subject:** consultation on Protection of Wild Mammals Act Scotland  
**Date:** 31 March 2016 23:44:26

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Dear Lord Bonomy et al.

I am writing to urge that protection for wild mammals in Scotland be increased, and not reduced so as to appease the hunting/shooting lobby. I lived in Edinburgh a few years ago, saw a lot of Scotland's birds and wildlife, right up to the Shetland Islands, went on otter and badger watches, right now I am in Portugal.

I am informed there is still a lot of hunting with hounds going on, foxes which take refuge from the chase are still being dug up and killed, often savaged by dogs. And many wild and domestic animals, including otters and badgers, die horribly after being caught in snares.

The PWMA has not yet proven adequate to protect wildlife from human cruelty, judging from shocking videos of fox hunts (eg. the Fife Foxhounds)

I have just viewed. They seem to be continuing their violent sport much as before the Act. I am also shocked to hear of large numbers of mountain hares being hunted and killed.

Foxes, hares etc. are sentient beings, their welfare must be given consideration, and cruelly killing them is not the sort of sport you would want to encourage. Thankfully you don't have badger culls in Scotland. But I am distressed to hear of beavers being shot - they are obviously still rare in the UK, could potentially benefit the environment and deserve better protection, which has yet to be given despite a petition of tens of thousands.

The PWMA needs to be strengthened to bring a definite end to hunting with hounds, so-called terrier work with brutal killing of foxes and their cubs, killing of mountain hares and beavers, and there should be a complete ban on the setting of snares, which are cruel, indiscriminate and unnecessary and already banned in many countries. This will save a lot of animal suffering and I think ultimately be of benefit for all.

thank you for reading my comments,

Nathan Roche (writing from Porto, Portugal)

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