

From: [REDACTED]
To: [2002 Act Review](#)
Subject: Lord Bonomy
Date: 29 March 2016 15:14:22

[REDACTED]
Roofer

[REDACTED]
Please do not publish any of my details anywhere.

I have no doubt in my mind that the current legislation regarding the hunting of mammals, particularly foxes is working just fine and is in no need of any changes. In fact if there was to be any alterations to the protection of wild mammals (Scotland) act 2002 as is being proposed then I say it would have a detrimental effect on the welfare of the animal being controlled. I would urge Lord Bonomy to advise that the act gets left as is when making his report.

I am penning this to yourself Lord Bonomy as although I am a roofer mon-fri, at the weekends I offer a pest control service to farmers/gamekeepers/landowners who have problems with pest species, again particularly foxes. I have a pack of eight (8) beagles which I use to flush foxes from cover to waiting guns.

The days are planned in advance and the area to be covered looked over in detail to try to ensure the day goes as smooth as possible, positions for waiting guns are agreed on by myself and the person who works the ground and the guns are placed out in positions where foxes are likely to break cover. I then enter my hounds into the cover, be it a wood or a bank of gorse, the fox is found and flushed to the guns. We are all in radio contact so I know when a fox is accounted for. There are four possible outcomes to this procedure. Number 1 being: The fox is killed outright by the waiting gun.

Number 2: The fox is hit and either got back into cover where it will be quickly located by the hounds and dispatched or it's hit and carries on out of the drive where it will be quickly caught by lurchers that are located at the back of the guns on open ground and again dispatched.

Number 3: The fox goes to ground after being shot and is quickly located with the use of a terrier and dispatched.

Number 4: The fox slips out of the drive and escapes, the hounds are then stopped and moved onto another piece of cover.

I know having done this for a good number of years that it is a very effective way of locating and flushing foxes from cover and I'm in no doubt at all that the number of dogs used is by far more humane and efficient the greater the amount there is. Lessening the amount of dogs is only going to increase the time that the target animal is going to be pursued, therefore prolonging it. I started with two hounds years ago and although 9/10 got the job done I set out to do it definitely took longer to locate and present the fox to the guns for a safe and humane shot. Therefore not getting as much done in a day making it not as effective and helpful to the farmer/gamekeeper as it should be. In the event a fox is wounded, two dogs are going to take longer to locate it again for it to be dispatched, prolonging the suffering.

Large coverts or open hill ground will also cause problems to the man that can only use two hounds as the target species will be harder to locate and therefore the problem it's causing may continue if it's not located or doesn't have enough pressure on it to flush it to the guns.

Terriers are a valuable member to the team as well for dealing with wounded foxes that manage to get to ground or for locating orphaned youngsters to be dispatched as quickly as possible.

Not every piece of ground can be lamped or snared due to various reasons, not accessible, too busy with walkers etc so sometimes the only way is with the use of dogs.

The way I use my hounds to carry out vital pest control is as far as I'm concerned the most likely to have a quick and humane outcome. People working together in constant contact with each other. The act already states that the chasing and killing of foxes with dogs is not allowed but that's not what we do, we flush and even the SSPCA have acknowledged that flushing plays a vital role in controlling a pest species. Common sense should prevail and allow us to continue using numbers of dogs that is gonna speed up proceedings and get the task done quicker therefore surely making it as humane as possible.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this and I hope it's helpful to you in making your decision.



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