



2002 Act Review  
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To Whom it may concern

**EVIDENCE SUBMISSION for REVIEW OF THE PROTECTION OF WILD MAMMALS (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002**

I write as one of the owners of South Chesthill Estate in Glen Lyon, Perthshire, and Langrig Farms, in Berwickshire.

At South Chesthill Estate in Perthshire we have a Black Faced sheep flock of 600 ewes and followers. They graze all year round on the moorland. Each year roughly 600 lambs are born, yet we lose around 50 each year which are killed by foxes. A further 25 are killed by badgers (who kill them in a different way, so we know when a found carcass has been killed by a fox).

Our methods for controlling the fox population are twofold:

1. We employ a keeper to go out at night to shoot foxes with a rifle. He is partially successful, shooting around 20 foxes a year. He is unable to shoot every fox, due to time constraints, the canniness of foxes, and because foxes travel from outside our estate.
2. We subcontract to the Breadalbine Foxhounds to come to our land 4 times a year, at a rate of £400 per day, with a full pack of at least 20 foxhounds. The foxhounds are put through the forestry and woods, under the control of a huntsman on his feet. This is a foot pack, with no mounted or dismounted followers. They flush the foxes to a line of keepers with shotguns at one end of the forestry. In recent years this has been successful, with around 2 foxes shot each time.

The change being proposed by animal rights groups to limit the number of dogs to two goes against all the evidence put before the Scottish Parliament by those who promoted the ban in the first place and would render effective fox control in Scotland impossible. As Douglas Batchelor, then Chief Executive of the League Against Cruel Sports, stated in August 2005 that *"pairs of dogs are utterly useless in flushing to guns."*

The suggestion that a limit of two dogs would be better in welfare terms is an assertion without any evidential foundation and contrary to the logic of the arguments advanced in support of the ban. The only research into the effectiveness of using two dogs as opposed to a greater number was commissioned by the Federation of Welsh Farmers Packs and carried out 2012–2013. It showed that using more dogs was not only more efficient but that the time between an animal being found or flushed and it being shot was reduced.

Our forestry is in two major blocks of over 200 acres. Only two hounds would not be enough to flush the foxes.

For our farm to survive, we must be able to reduce the fox population by shooting them, with the help of a full pack of foxhounds from a local foot pack.

Yours sincerely

Will Ramsay  
Director