

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [2002 Act Review](#)  
**Subject:** Review of Wild Animal Protection (Scotland) Act 2002  
**Date:** 31 March 2016 11:46:42

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Dear Catherine Murdoch

Mr Greer Hart who was on the phone to you this morning about difficulty getting an email through to you on Hotmail.

I wish to comment on the issue of Fox control using hounds.

Being a member of every possible wildlife and animal welfare group in Scotland, I feel very strongly on the issue of blood sports. I used to be a regular protester at fox hunts, and was disgusted with the whole spectacle, along with the thuggish characters brought along to intimidate the campaigners.

Since fox hunting with packs of hounds was banned in Scotland, there has been a blatant breach of the law by fox hound pack groups. The League Against Cruel Sports, has done excellent work in showing this contempt for the law. Recently, BBC Scotland showed footage of a video they had made exposing the Jedburgh Hunt flushing out two foxes, one of which was subsequently chased and cornered, and presumably killed. In England, the AIF has followed hunts and found the same activity and contempt. It is derisory to expect humane members of the public to believe that such farcical chasing a wild animal with an expensive to keep pack of hounds, is to assist the rural community control fox numbers. In some areas of the UK a fell running sheep farmer with two collies can do that job without cruelty and at low cost. A gamekeeper who observes the niceties of the law, can control fox numbers using his or her marksman/womanship. Snares are vile and cruel items, and ONEKIND, EDINBURGH, has mounted a campaign against snares showing foxes in severe distress, having been imprisoned for several days in one.

It is also strongly felt by animal welfare and conservation groups that the blood sports aficionados have formed very close relationships with the Crown Office, Fiscal Service, Judiciary and Police, that ensures that any breaches of the law on wildlife crime, do not go far or if they do, only minor sentences are applied. Raptor Persecution Scotland has plenty of historical cases, and present ones pending of flagrant breaches of the law on the killing of Birds of Prey, which go nowhere or are looking like going that way anyway. If a penalty is imposed, it is a slap on the wrist. Throughout the whole blood sport industry, its practitioners act with total disregard of the law and humane public opinion.

Finally, I would recommend that only two dogs are used to flush out a fox, which is then despatched by marksperson in a humane way; the dogs be muzzled, and the drag hunting be followed to relieve the need for chasing something around the countryside. This is part of a very serious issue, which is the continued existence of "sports" that are anachronistic and cruel, and have cast doubts on the impartiality of Scottish justice.

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