

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [2002 Act Review](#)  
**Subject:** REVIEW OF PWMA 2002  
**Date:** 31 March 2016 20:00:35

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Dear Sir

I am strongly opposed to hunting with dogs and believe that there is little need for fox 'management'.

The arguments used by the hunting and shooting lobby to justify the persecution of foxes are fundamentally flawed. It is obvious that the main reason for fox hunting is 'sport', hence the number of false earths and/or food, on record as being provided by many hunts such as the Quorn, Heythrop, Belvoir, Beaufort among others, to encourage foxes to breed.

According to Defra, Improving Lamb Survival, 2004, the main causes of lamb loss are:

- abortion and stillbirth; exposure and starvation;
- infectious disease and congenital

At least 95% of lamb losses are due to farm husbandry practices. A study on two Scottish hill farms found that less than 1% of lamb losses could be confidently attributed to fox predation.

The financial impact of fox predation on livestock farmers is not significant, as demonstrated by several studies, and can be addressed most efficiently by improved housing and husbandry.

Advice from Natural England to livestock farmers concerned about fox predation (Natural England (2011) Species Information Note SIN004) states:

"Protection of livestock and control of damage is preferable to fox destruction. Investment in adequate poultry housing is preferable to a continual commitment to killing foxes. Also, there is no substitute for good husbandry to ensure that livestock are healthy and able to withstand the sudden onset of bad weather that may result in stock deaths for which foxes are blamed"

Trying to reduce fox numbers in an area by killing foxes does not work and may in fact do the reverse – increase numbers and/or predation levels due to each new fox moving into areas where they are unfamiliar with food sources, so making them more likely to turn to livestock.

In England, results from the following surveys conducted by conservation groups confirm that fox numbers have been unaffected by the introduction of the Hunting Act and are currently stable:

- The British Trust for Ornithology's long standing Breeding Bird Survey (BBS),
- Peoples' Trust for Endangered Species' 2012 Living with Mammals Survey
- The Mammals on Roads survey

I do not want fox hunting to continue. The hunts have shown an arrogant disregard for the law and cannot be trusted to operate within legal constraints. Hunting wild mammals with dogs also encourages other wildlife crimes like badger baiting and hare coursing.

Thousands of hounds are destroyed in the UK each year. Hounds that reach 6 or 7 years

old are deemed past their best and young hounds are usually destroyed if they don't show sufficient prey drive when introduced to young foxes during cub hunting.

Time to draw a line.

Thank you

G. Chronowicz



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