

From: [Ray Ings](#)
To: [2002 Act Review](#)
Subject: Review of the Wild Mammals Protection (Scotland) Act 2002
Date: 31 March 2016 20:49:33

Dear Sir

I am writing to give an opinion regarding the review of the above act. I am a graduate zoologist and qualified animal welfare scientist having successfully completed an MSc in Applied Animal Behaviour and Animal Welfare at the University of Edinburgh. I also spent nine years as a wild animal welfare advisor to the Westminster and Scottish Government governments as member of the Zoos Forum 2001 -2009.

I am strongly of the view based on my academic background that a wild animal such as a fox experiences substantial suffering both of a physical and mental nature when hunted with hounds. I have seen no evidence that persuades me that there is a need for general fox control which in any case hunting with hounds has little to contribute as the 'Burns Inquiry' concluded. However there will be occasions when targeted specific control of problem foxes is both justified and effective. This can be accomplished in a humane manner by the use of a skilled marksman using 'lamping at night' and the use of a high powered and sighted rifle.

The use of a pack of hounds has no role in the control of problem foxes as it is not specific and may even make the situation worse by creating a territorial vacuum for an itinerant fox to move in that may be a lamb predator replacing a fox that had shown no interest in lambs. Killing foxes in this way is no different to responding to an attack on lambs by a dog or dogs and killing any stray dog in the area.

The ban on hunting foxes with hounds in England and Wales has not resulted in an increase in lamb predation by foxes. I hope that Scotland will bring its legislation in line and ban the use of hounds to hunt foxes with the opportunity that arises from a review of the above act.

Raymond Ings MSc BSc

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