

Annex A

From: [Redacted s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: 09 December 2022 12:52
To: [Redacted s.38(1)(b)] @scottishspca.org
Cc: Mike Flynn <Mike.Flynn@scottishspca.org>
Subject: Snare photos

Hi [Redacted s.38(1)(b)],

Mike needs to host the attached photos on a link for a report for the Scottish Government as they won't allow images in the body of the report. We transfer links only hold the images for seven days before expiring and it needs to be for more long-term use than that.

Is there a way to put these on a web page but make that page hidden from search?

Have copied in Mike, if that's possible just send the link direct to him so he can liaise with ScotGov.

Thanks,

[Redacted s.38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: 09 December 2022 12:50
To: Mike Flynn <Mike.Flynn@scottishspca.org>
Subject: RE: Snare photos

Hi Mike,

It's opening fine for me but I've redone it just in case: <https://we.tl/t-r9yRhMoAGe>

I don't have a way to make the link permanent unfortunately. The only other thing I could maybe suggest is seeing if [Redacted s.38(1)(b)] our web developer could add the photos on to a blank web page and if there'd be a way to hide it from view from the general public.

Thanks,

[Redacted s.38(1)(b)]

From: Mike Flynn
Sent: 09 December 2022 12:43
To: [Redacted s.38(1)(b)] @scottishspca.org
Subject: Re: Snare photos

[Redacted s.38(1)(b)]

The link you just sent does not open.
Mike

From: [Redacted s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: Friday, December 9, 2022 12:41:21 PM
To: Mike Flynn <Mike.Flynn@scottishspca.org>
Subject: RE: Snare photos

Hi Mike,

Here you go, <https://we.tl/t-ZPh9vcuGKT>

With the free version of wetransfer the link will only be live for seven days unfortunately. If this is going to need longer term access then might be worth seeing if ScotGov have any way to host images longer term?

Thanks,

[Redacted s.38(1)(b)]

From: Mike Flynn
Sent: 09 December 2022 12:29
To: [Redacted s.38(1)(b)]
Subject: Fwd: Snare photos

Dear [Redacted s.38(1)(b)]

Please see the thread below. Can you resend me a link to the photos as the link no longer works. The SAWC included the previous link into their paper but it no longer works.

Thanks

Mike

From: mike.flynn@scottishspca.org <mike.flynn@scottishspca.org>
Sent: Tuesday, 15 November 2022, 16:41
To: [Redacted s.38(1)(b)] @gov.scot
Subject: Re: Snare photos

Cheers

From: [Redacted s.38(1)(b)] @gov.scot
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2022 4:32:19 PM
To: Mike.Flynn@scottishspca.org <Mike.Flynn@scottishspca.org>
Subject: RE: Snare photos

Hi Mike

Thanks, that's great – I'll keep you updated on the status of the paper.

Cheers

[Redacted s.38(1)(b)] @gov.scot

From: Mike Flynn <Mike.Flynn@scottishspca.org>
Sent: 15 November 2022 16:23
To: [Redacted s.38(1)(b)] @gov.scot
Subject: Fwd: Snare photos

Dear [Redacted s.38(1)(b)]
The link to the photos is in the message below.
Let me know if there is any problem.
Mike

From: [Redacted s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: Tuesday, 15 November 2022, 16:01
To: Mike Flynn <Mike.Flynn@scottishspca.org>; [Redacted s.38(1)(b)]
@scottishspca.org
Subject: RE: Snare photos

Hi Mike,

Yeah it's just this wee link <https://wee.tl/t-iemnB2Glg3> and they can click on it and download both images from there.

Thanks,

[Redacted s.38(1)(b)]

From: Mike Flynn
Sent: 15 November 2022 15:57
To: [Redacted s.38(1)(b)] @scottishspca.org; [Redacted s.38(1)(b)]
@scottishspca.org
Subject: Re: Snare photos

[Redacted s.38(1)(b)]

Thanks
If we put them on a we transfer thing, would that just be a link they could put at the end of the report.
Mike

From: [Redacted s.38(1)(b)]
Sent: 13 July 2022 13:47
To: Mike Flynn (Mike.Flynn@scottishspca.org) <Mike.Flynn@scottishspca.org>
Cc: [Redacted s.38(1)(b)] @scottishspca.org; [Redacted s.38(1)(b)]
@scottishspca.org
Subject: Snaring brief for SAWC

Hi Mike,

Thanks for your patience with the brief on snaring. Here is it attached. I've also copied **[Redacted s.38(1)(b)]** so he has sight of the data I've provided from 2019 onwards and copying **[Redacted s.38(1)(b)]** for reference too.

Please let me know if you need anything else.

[Redacted s.38(1)(b)]

Annex B

[Photograph of a dead badger found in a snare]

[Photograph of a dead fox found in a snare]

Scottish SPCA Snaring Report

Snares

The Scottish SPCA has recorded 38 incidents of animals caught in snares since 2019. 13 of those jobs involved domestic animals and the majority of wild animals found in snares were dead by the time we arrived.

As Scotland's animal welfare charity, we support an outright ban on the use of snares due to the level of suffering an animal is caused.

Animals that are caught in snares are caused unimaginable physical and mental anguish. They will have experienced slow and agonising deaths. Animals will fight for their lives and sadly, the more they fight, the tighter the snare can become. Snare operators are legally obliged to check their snare every 24-hours but the Scottish SPCA is aware of a number of incidents when this is not the case.

Snares and traps are indiscriminate which means that they can capture any animal and not just the target species. In many cases protected species such as badgers and domestic animals such as dogs and cats can also be caught in them.

Scottish SPCA statistics relating to snaring since 2019

Since 2019, the Scottish SPCA has recorded 38 incidents of animals caught in snares. 13 of those involved domestic animals.

Year	No. of incidents	Species of animal caught in snare (may be more than one animal per incident or species not recorded)							
		Cat	Dog	Badger	Deer	Fox	Rabbit	Otter	Peregrine Falcon
2019	11	2	1	4	2	6		1	
2020	8	3		2		1	1		1
2021	11	4	1	3		1			
2022 (Jan-June)	8	2		1	2	3	2		
Total	38	11	2	10	4	11	3	1	1

Recent incidents

In the Kilsyth area in February, an otter pup died due to being caught in a snare. This is a Police Scotland case and details can be found [here](#).

In April, a fox passed away due to being caught in an illegal snare in Edinburgh. The snare had no stop and this resulted in the snare becoming embedded in the fox's body which caused a slow and agonising death. More information can be found [here](#).

Recent comments

The most recent comment on snaring issued by the Scottish SPCA was in February 2022 in relation to a snare found in woodland in East Kilbride. Thankfully no animal was caught in it. Full story in the Daily Record [here](#).

The comment is as follows:

“The Scottish SPCA is in favour of an outright ban on the use of snares in Scotland. Every year we are alerted to multiple animals caught in snares who have been caused an immense amount of suffering, leading to their death.

“Snaring is legal subject to very stringent conditions. We see a lot of cases of illegal snaring, or legal snares being used illegally. The use of snares is very technical and time-consuming and unless a person is willing to dedicate the time and effort, it’s highly likely an animal’s welfare will be compromised.

“If a snare is set, it’s a legal requirement to check the snare within 24 hours to avoid unnecessary suffering.

“Snares are non-selective and can just as easily harm a domestic animal or non-targeted wildlife.

“The suffering an animal endures in illegal snares is horrific and while snaring continues, suffering will continue.

“If anyone finds a snare, we ask that you leave it untouched and contact our confidential animal helpline on 03000 999 999 if you believe it to have been set illegally.”

Cat caught in snare in Helensburgh

Snares do not discriminate and can cause domestic animals a great amount of unnecessary suffering.

A female cat was found caught in a snare in Helensburgh in October 2021.

A vet contacted our animal helpline after the cat had been brought to them for treatment after the cat’s owners had found her trapped in the snare.

The owners heard their cat in distress and found her with the snare wrapped around her waist and paw.

The snare was very tightly wrapped around the cat and it was lucky she was found when she was otherwise it would have become life-threatening.

The device was illegal and had no tag to identify the person who set it.

Thankfully the cat responded well to treatment and made a full recovery but not all animals caught in snares are as lucky.

[Photographs of two dead badgers found in illegal snares]

Two deceased badgers were found in illegal snares in North Lanarkshire in July 2020. Badgers are a protected species and should not have been targeted by a snare.

The snares that killed the badgers were illegal as both had been set on a fence line. This is unlawful due to the risk of a trapped animal being wholly or partially suspended which can lead to severe unnecessary suffering. The snares also did not have a 'stop', meaning there was nothing to prevent the device from tightening after a certain point. All snares are legally required to have an identification tag but this was absent on both devices. One of the snares was made out of nylon which is an illegal material for use in snares.

One badger had been dead for two or three months and the other had been deceased for longer than the legal timeframe of 24-hours.

One of the badgers must have passed under the fence and become caught in the snare just below their front legs. The animal must have panicked as the snare was wrapped around them several times meaning they were trying to escape by passing under the fence again and again, constricting the wire further and further. These would not have been fast deaths. The level of pain and distress caused is unfathomable.

People need to remember that these devices cause not only physical torture but mental anguish for any animal caught in them.

[Photograph of dead badger found in a snare]

Data produced for the Scottish Government snaring review published in February 2022

'SSPCA recorded 45 incidents between 2016 and 2021. It is not clear from the information provided which are 'crimes.'. The equivalent figure for incidents between 2013 and November 2016 was 60. 13 of these incidents involve snares which do not have an identification number attached, 13 involve snares with an identification number and a further 11 are not listed. The SSPCA Special Investigations Unit reports cases directly to the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS). As a result, any crimes or suspected crimes investigated solely by the Scottish SPCA will not appear in the Police recorded crime statistics. If reported for prosecution however, they will be included in the COPFS figures and those cases will have been given a Scottish Criminal Records Office (SCRO) number. Not all incidents identified as crimes will provide sufficient evidence for a prosecution to be progressed to COPFS. Based on the data provided by the SSPCA, there is clearly evidence that there is still widespread misuse of snares. More detailed information provided by the SSPCA is attached at Annex 2.'

Annex 2

Snaring Incidents Recorded by the SSPCA Year	Number of Incidents	Legal Set	Illegal Set	Tagged	Untagged	Wildlife ⁽²⁾	Domestic Animal ⁽²⁾	Submitted to COPFS ⁽¹⁾
2013-14	6	1	4		5	4	1	6
2014-15	17	5	4	5	5	12	2	7
2015-16	16	2	5	1	9	7	6	0
2016-17	21	1	16	1	16	15	7	3
TOTAL	60	9	29	7	35	38	16	16
2017-18	8		7		7	8		1
2018-19	17	1	11	7	3	13	3	4
2020-21	20	5	13	6	10	9	7	3
TOTAL	45	6	31	13	20	30	10	8

1 This figure is the number of incidents submitted to the COPFS. The actual number of offences reported to COPFS may be higher than shown as some incidents may have breached more than one snaring offence.

2 Each incident may involve one or more species, including wildlife and domestic animals.