

John F. Robins, Secretary and Campaigns Consultant, Animal Concern,
Post Office Box 5178, Dumbarton G82 5YJ. Tel. 01389-841-639, Mobile: 07721-605521.
E-MAIL: animals@jfrobins.force9.co.uk website <http://www.animalconcern.org/>
Animal Concern is a pressure group registered as a non-profit making Limited Company
(Co. No. SC109126) established in 1988 as Animal Concern (Scotland) Ltd.
It incorporates the Scottish Anti-Vivisection Society which was founded in 1876.

Dear Member of the Scottish Parliament,

I am sending you this as I would not be surprised if you receive a few e-mails from your constituents regarding the incident described in the newspaper article on the link below.

It describes in graphic detail and uses uncompromising photographs to show the cruelty to animals which you as a Member of the Scottish Parliament allow to continue in Scotland in the 21st century.

If it was not for the courage of the volunteers in the Hunt Saboteurs Association this cruelty would remain hidden in the undergrowth in the Scottish countryside.

The Protection of Wild Mammals Act 2002 is not fit for purpose.

Like many new laws as it progressed through the Scottish Parliament MSPs of the day watered it down in a bid to produce legislation which was all things to all people. It did not ban hunting with packs of hounds, it banned the packs of hounds from biting, savaging and killing foxes. Instead the new law brought in a set of rules and ordered the packs of hounds to chase foxes towards people with guns waiting to shoot them. The fox hounds and the foxes obviously did not read the new Act of Parliament and continued as before. The fox hunters, who in my days as a Hunt Saboteur were never very good at controlling their hounds, didn't get any better at it and the hounds continued chasing and killing foxes. Indeed it was not unknown for members of the hunting community to declare that "they had never had it so good" as there were few saboteurs and no police to see what they got up to.

This issue is coming back to the Scottish Parliament and I urge you to force through radical changes to finally make incidents like that described below part of history. Don't tinker with the Protection of Wild Mammals Act 2002. Scrap it. If you really must, why not allow fox control operatives to use two muzzled dogs to flush foxes out of cover?

I was born and I live in the countryside. Farmers don't have time to dress up in funny clothes and ride around the countryside watching dogs rip foxes apart. If they want to control foxes they usually do it by lamping; going out at night and using powerful spotlights to spot the animals before shooting them dead. I don't agree that this is necessary but it is a lot less cruel than chasing a fox for miles and then letting dogs tear it apart.

The Protection of Wild Mammals Act 2002 does not work. Put it down quickly and humanely and bring another part of life in rural Scotland into the 21st century.

Yours sincerely,

John F. Robins,
Secretary to Animal Concern

<https://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/news/scottish-news/226548/brave-protester-leapt-into-action-in-bid-to-save-a-stricken-fox-after-the-terrified-creature-was-chased-through-the-countryside-by-a-pack-of-dogs/>