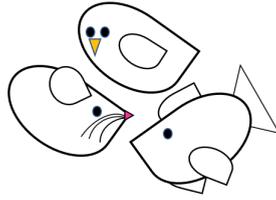


ANIMAL CONCERN



LEGISLATE TO LIBERATE

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Animal Concern Ltd is a Registered Scottish Charity (No. SC050422) and a registered non-profit making Limited Company (Co. No. SC109126)

Established in 1988 as Animal Concern (Scotland) Limited we changed our name to Animal Concern in 1992 as several of our campaigns were international.

It incorporates the Scottish Anti-Vivisection Society which was founded in 1876.

Ken Murphy Esq.,
The CEO,
Tesco UK,
Falcon Way,
Shire Park,
Welwyn Garden City,
Hertfordshire,
AL7 1TW

Dear Mr. Murphy,

I have read a recent press report (link below) claiming Tesco are using anti-bird netting on your store in North Berwick to deter pigeons from nesting and roosting on your store.

Although legal to use to deter pigeons, netting is very ineffective and the cause of slow, cruel deaths of birds through entanglement. I've worked on this issue for several decades and have dealt with many cases of people being angered and making complaints when they see entangled birds struggling in netting or have had maggots drop on them from the rotten carcasses of trapped birds.

I dealt with one case in Inverness where roof top netting was causing regular entanglement of gulls and pigeons in netting fixed above the flat roof of a Royal Mail building. We received reports several times a month about trapped birds and the owners of the building had to bring someone all the way from Aberdeen to release live birds and remove dead ones. That became very expensive and the netting was removed.

I know that bird droppings can be a problem with food retailers but that should be addressed by using plastic curtain screens in loading bays and ensuring any roosting sites or possible small entrances to stores and storage areas are blocked using rigid metal grills, roof edge wires, blunt spikes or similar. The use of nets and surface gels should be avoided at all costs.

However, if you look at the comments from locals at the foot of the article on the attached link, there is another, more sinister aspect to the situation at your North Berwick store. It is claimed that Tesco have removed the nests of Swallows and House Martins from your North Berwick store.

There's no indication as to whether or not these were active nests and I have asked Scottish Natural Heritage (now operating under the name NatureScot) to investigate this situation to ascertain if Tesco required and, if necessary, had the required licence to disturb or remove any nests from your store.

Injuring or removing active nests of Swallows or House Martins is a criminal offence unless a Government License has been applied for and granted. These birds are not included in the General License Scheme which allows the persecution of pigeons and several other native bird species without seeking permission.

I suggest that instead of persecuting birds you take a more enlightened approach. Use humane methods to deter roosting and nesting of pigeons and gulls in sensitive areas. Make sure store entrances and trolley parks are covered to protect customers and trolleys from bird droppings. Install nest boxes/nest cups for House Martins and Swallows (RSPB can advise), placing these in areas where any droppings are not going to interfere with the working of your store or pose a poop risk to customers.

You could turn adverse publicity into a positive story by doing your bit to help and protect wildlife on and around your properties.

I look forward to your reply in due course.

Yours sincerely,

John F. Robins,
For Animal Concern

<https://www.eastlothiancourier.com/news/19959649.300-people-sign-online-petition-remove-bird-netting-north-berwick-tesco/>