



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Baroness Hayman of Ullock
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Department for Environment and Rural Affairs
By Email

30th September 2024

Dear Baroness Hayman,

We are writing to urge you to take immediate action to end the continued legality of snares in England. Many of our constituents have brought this issue to our attention through the campaign group Animal Aid.

As you will know, snares are typically deployed to capture animals such as foxes or rabbits by the neck, and also often used for pest control. However, these devices are inherently indiscriminate, unable to differentiate between their intended targets and other wildlife or domestic pets.

A previous Defra report¹ found that up to 1.7 million animals fall victim to snares yearly, with a staggering 68% being non-target species. Domestic pets, hares, deer, badgers, and countless other wildlife are often caught in snare traps, suffering severe injuries or lingering deaths, with some dying from starvation, exposure, or attacks by predators before they are found. Many of these instances occur despite the best intentions of snare users to follow guidelines. In short, snares are a dangerous and imprecise instrument in wildlife management.

England is now one of the few remaining countries in both Europe and the UK where snares are still legal. In contrast, Scotland banned these cruel devices entirely in March 2024, following a consultation² that underscored the gruesome injuries and fatalities inflicted on non-target species. The Scottish Animal Welfare Commission³ described the serious welfare risks posed by snares, highlighting their capacity to cause prolonged suffering to both targeted animals and unintended victims, including wildlife, pets, and farm animals.

Wales banned snares through the 2023 Agriculture Act, which recognised the severe physical and psychological torment inflicted on animals trapped for hours or even days. The Welsh Government's assessment recognised that snares often lead to slow, agonising deaths, further exacerbating the welfare concerns associated with these devices.

¹ [Determining the Extent of Use and Humaneness of Snares in England and Wales](#)

² [Wildlife management: consultation](#)

³ [Scottish Animal Welfare Commission - trapping of terrestrial wild mammals using snares: position paper](#)

The Secretary of State previously voiced his support for a ban on snares and pledged to implement this measure when in Government⁴. We therefore ask that you act on that commitment without further delay and bring England in line with the approach being taken elsewhere in the UK

We look forward to your response and are ready to support any efforts to advance this important cause.

Yours sincerely,

Carla Denyer MP, Bristol Central
Sian Berry MP, Brighton Pavilion
Ellie Chowns MP, North Herefordshire
Adrian Ramsay MP, Waveney Valley

⁴ <https://x.com/SteveReedMP/status/1799367618274750750>