

**Evidence session on a proposed ban on the use of snares**

The Scottish Parliament’s Rural Affairs and Islands Committee heard evidence from the Scottish SPCA in relation to the Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill. This session took place on Wednesday 8 November 2023. As requested during this session please find Scottish SPCA statistics in relation to snaring.

**Scottish SPCA Statistics Relating to Snaring – Please note these statistics are based on the calendar year**

Since 2019, the Scottish SPCA has recorded 41 incidents of animals caught in snares. 14 of those involved domestic animals and the majority of wild animals found in snares were dead when the Society’s frontline arrived.

Year (January 2019 to December 2022)	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
<b>2019</b>	<b>11</b>	2	1	7	2	6		1	
<b>2020</b>	<b>8</b>	3		2		1	1		1
<b>2021</b>	<b>12</b>	4	1	3		1			
<b>2022</b>	<b>10</b>	3		1	2	4	2		
<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

**Data Produced for the Scottish Government Snaring Review Published in February 2022 – Please note these statistics are based on the Fiscal year not calendar year**

*‘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	Legally Set	Illegally Set	Tagged	Untagged	Wildlife <sup>(2)</sup>	Domestic Animal <sup>(2)</sup>	Submitted to COPFS <sup>(1)</sup>
<b>2013-14</b>	6	1	4		5	4	1	6
<b>2014-15</b>	17	5	4	5	5	12	2	7
<b>2015-16</b>	16	2	5	1	9	7	6	0
<b>2016-17</b>	21	1	16	1	16	15	7	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>2017-18</b>	8		7		7	8		1
<b>2018-19</b>	17	1	11	7	3	13	3	4
<b>2020-21</b>	20	5	13	6	10	9	7	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>

(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.

If the committee requires any further information please do get in touch and thank you again for inviting the Scottish SPCA to give evidence as part of the Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill.

Kindest regards

Mike Flynn

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