

WARNING: Contains images of injured and dead animals

Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee
Welsh Parliament (Senedd)
Cardiff CF99 1SN

Dear Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee,

Re: Ban of snares

4th November 2022

As the Agriculture (Wales) Bill is currently under scrutiny I urge you not to be falsely led to accept that “humane” snares should/could be retained for use. There is nothing humane about these snares as I have myself time and time again observed. They do not work as they are supposed to: to tighten and then relaxing. Snares are not gentle at all, animals can thrash about in them for days, tightening and tightening.

I run a small local animal rescue centre and we have received numerous badgers and foxes that have been caught in snares. It is obvious from the very start when you try to rescue a trapped animal, that hours have been spent desperately trying to free itself with the area around completely bare and churned up. Most die a prolonged painful death in the snare. We have found that any type of snare can cause horrendous injury and death. How come that we receive snared injured animals if all current legal snares are humane?

At times the animal may not display any visible sign of injury at the start, but within a week the skin can break down and this is very easily infected and gangrene can follow. At other times the injury is so severe that the animal has to be euthanised as soon as possible.

Many species that was not ‘intended’ are caught, such as badgers and pets (DEFRA 2012: 73% of snared animals were non-targeted species) . A badger has to be returned to its home range and if snares are present it will then be exposed to be caught again. According to DEFRA there are up to 51.000 snares lying hidden in the Welsh countryside.

We enclose some pictures; please note how a snared badger will clear an area within its reach to try to escape. Also some examples of snare wounds

We wish Wales to be the first devolved country in the UK to ban snares, to lead the way to improve wildlife welfare. Go Wales!

Michael Sharratt MSc









