

The Law Relating to Snares in Scotland

It is **illegal** to

- 1) possess without reasonable excuse
- 2) sell
- 3) offer for sale
- 4) expose for sale
- 5) set in position
- 6) otherwise use

any self- locking snare.

It is **illegal** to

- 1) have a snare in one's possession on any land without reasonable excuse
- 2) set a snare on any land

without the authorisation of the owner or occupier.

A person setting a snare **must not**:

- 1) Set a snare which is of such a nature or so placed as to be calculated to cause unnecessary suffering to any animal coming into contact with it
- 2) set it in such a place where an animal caught by it is likely to become fully or partially suspended or drown
- 3) set it where it is calculated to catch a schedule 6 animal. (Schedule 6 animals include badger, wildcat, hedgehog, pine marten, otter, polecat, red squirrel).

A person setting a snare **must**:

- 1) stake it to the ground or attach it to an object in such a way as to prevent it being dragged by an animal caught by it;
- 2) ensure that where the snare is intended to catch a fox it is fitted with a stop which prevents the noose of the snare reducing in circumference to less than 23 centimetres
- 3) ensure that where the snare is intended to catch any animal other than a fox it is fitted with a stop which prevents the noose of the snare reducing in circumference to less than 13 centimetres
- 4) inspect it or cause it to be inspected at least once every day at intervals of not more than 24 hours to see whether any animal is caught and whether the snare is free running
- 5) ensure that if an animal is caught (dead or alive) it is released or removed
- 6) ensure that if the snare is not free running it is restored to a free running state or removed

“free running” means not self-locking, not capable (whether because of rust, damage or other condition or matter) of locking; and subject only to the restriction on such movement created by the stop.

With effect from 21st June 2012 the following organisations:

- Borders College
- British Association for Shooting and Conservation Limited
- Elmwood College
- Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust
- The North Highland College
- The Scottish Agricultural College
- Scottish Association for Country Sports
- Scottish Gamekeepers Association Charitable Trust

Are authorised to issue certificates showing that a person is competent to

- 1) select an appropriate location for a snare to be set

- 2) set a snare in accordance with the law
- 3) identify and remedy defects in the setting and use of a snare; and
- 4) set a snare in such a manner and in such a place that it is reasonable to expect that –
 - a) the use of the snare is consistent with animal welfare; and
 - b) the setting of the snare is an appropriate method of predator control

- From 1st of January 2013 anyone using snares will have to be in possession of a valid certificate issued by an approved training body since 1st of May 2010 and have a user number issued by the police. The user number must be on a tag attached to each snare in that is placed together with details of the target species. Records of snare locations, catches, bye catches and interference must be kept for two years.

Andy Riches

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07792-142446

Slioch69@aol.com

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