

Let's stop snaring – NOW!

What's the problem?

Snares are thin wire nooses that are commonly used by farmers, landowners, gamekeepers and others to catch foxes, rabbits and stoats (so called "target species"). Snares unfortunately do not discriminate and other animals, such as cats, often get caught in them, causing immense injury, suffering and perhaps death. Snaring has been banned in most of Europe but is still legal in the UK.

A recent report by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) found that almost 30 per cent of rabbit snare operators had caught a cat and that most rabbit snare operators took no measures to avoid the capture of non-target animals.

We need a total ban on snares

Cats Protection is strongly opposed to the use of any object, or the adoption of practices, that inflict pain and suffering on cats. The use of snares clearly falls within this statement and we would like to see a complete ban on the manufacture, sale and use of snares across the UK to end the horrific injuries and painful deaths suffered by cats and other animals that get caught in snares.

Law-making on snares is devolved, meaning that campaigns have to tackle all UK administrations separately. In England and Wales, the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 applies and there is also the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 and the Snares (Scotland) Order 2010. Recent campaigning in Scotland did strengthen regulations but failed to persuade the Scottish Parliament to agree a full ban.

In March 2012 DEFRA published a report into *The Extent of Use and Humaneness of Snaring in England and Wales* which confirmed that many farmers and game keepers are not aware of the various laws and regulations governing snaring and that it is not possible for snares to be species specific and avoid incidental trapping of cats and other animals. This report presents an opportunity to press DEFRA to introduce a total ban on snares. Hopefully other parts of the UK would then follow.

What you can do

The League Against Cruel Sports has launched an online petition calling for the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Owen Paterson MP, to introduce a complete ban on the manufacture, sale and use of snares across England and Wales. Cats Protection has been promoting the petition through its network. The petition already has over 50,000 signatures but many more are needed if snares are to be debated in Parliament and the law changed. To find out more and to sign the petition visit www.league.org.uk/snaring

"Snarewatch" is a campaign being co-ordinated by the charity Onekind. Cats Protection, with the help of its branches and adoption centres has helped get over 6,000 postcards sent to MPs calling for a ban on snares in England. Snarewatch is also appealing to people to report instances of pets or other animals getting caught in a snare. For more details visit www.snarewatch.org/report-a-snare. They are also calling on people to send an e-letter to their MP asking them to support a motion banning snares across the entire UK – for more information visit www.onekind.org/take-action/campaigns ●

On Facebook you told us:

Jacquie Wow, I thought snaring had been banned years ago! Shocking :(

Ida I AGREE get these barbaric things made illegal, quickly, please.

Louise My cat was caught in a snare twice! Thankfully I found him in both times and he survived, but he (and I) was really traumatised.

Sylvia This happened to my cat – he nearly lost his leg. He managed to chew through the rope and got home, thank God but the vet took ages to get it off.

Kerridwen I fail to understand why such practices are still legal in the UK – are we in the middle ages? No animal should suffer like this, be it a fox, cat, or other.

You can contact our Advocacy team
via email advocacy@cats.org.uk

 Speaking
up for cats

 CATS
PROTECTION

