

# Registration of Snares

Wildlife & Natural Environment,  
(Scotland) Act 2011

# What is Snaring?

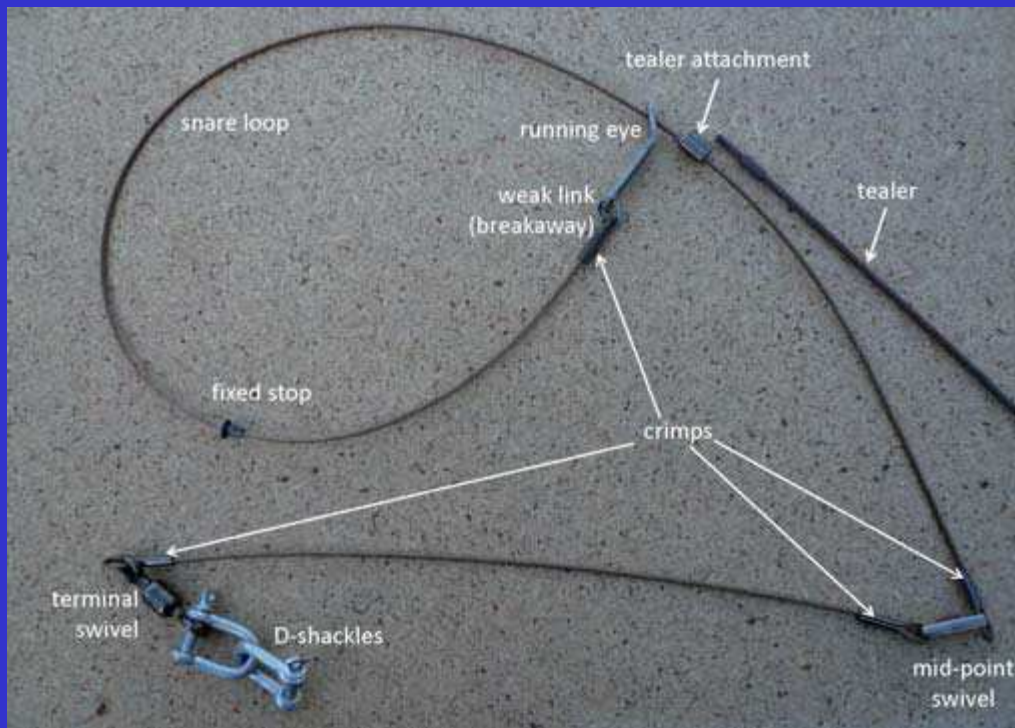
Fox and rabbit control in Scotland is necessary to ensure that damage to crops, livestock, trees, game and other wildlife and their habitats can be reduced to acceptable levels to maintain Scotland's unique rural biodiversity.

Snaring is a vital tool to achieve these ends in Scotland due to diverse landscape and types of cover.

Snaring is subject to many legal restrictions. When conducted in a legal manner it is an effective and humane form of control.

This presentation is designed to assist Officers and Police Staff who may encounter offences in relation to the illegal use of snares or who will be involved in processing the registrations of persons who will attend at front counters in Police Stations.

# Fox Snare

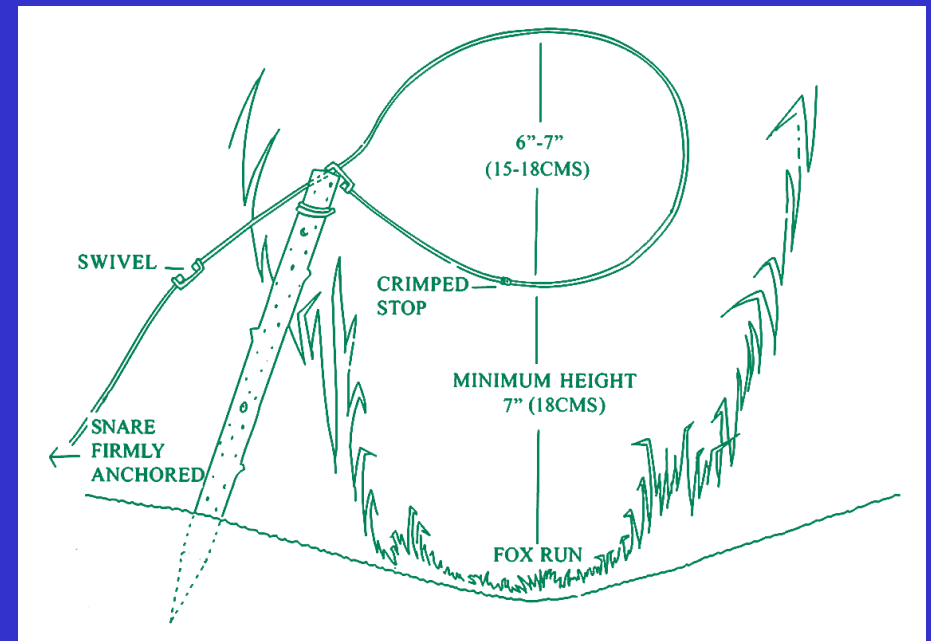


This shows a typical modern snare used to catch foxes. It comprises a loop made from strong wire that is set securely in “runs” that are used by foxes. When a fox walks along the run, it’s head goes through the loop which tightens around the neck of the animal and holds it there until the person who set the snare can return and humanely dispatch the animal. The loop must be free running and have a stop fitted to prevent it from strangling the target animal.

## Proper Setting of Snares



Snare set in a Fox run



# Lawful Use of Snares

- Snaring is a lawful means of controlling foxes and rabbits providing that they are of the correct construction and that they are set by authorised persons in a correct fashion so as to reduce the chance of capture of non-target species
- Snares must be free running and checked to be free running at least once every day within a 24 hour period. If a snare is found not to be free running it should be removed or repaired. Any non-target animals should be released
- Snares used for foxes must have an effective safety stop 23cm from the running end
- Snares used for rabbits must have an effective safety stop 13cm from the running end
- Snares must be firmly anchored by staking to the ground or attaching to an object in a manner to prevent the snare being dragged by an animal caught in it
- It is an offence to set snares in places where captured animals are likely to become fully or partially suspended or drown



# **Snaring Registration WANE (Scotland) Act 2011**

**The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act, (Scotland) 2011 has a number of provisions that will affect the use of snares in Scotland.**

- (1) From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 any person who sets a snare in position must have an identification number**
- (2) Any person who sets in position or otherwise uses a snare must ensure**
  - (a) that a tag is fitted on the snare in such a manner that is not capable of being easily removed from a snare;**
  - (b) that there is displayed on the tag (in a manner which will remain readable) the identification number of the person who set the snare in position; and**
  - (c) where the snare is intended to catch the following types of animal-**
    - (i) brown hares or rabbits; or**
    - (ii) foxes**
- That there is displayed on the tag, (in a manner which it will remain readable) a statement that it is intended to catch the type of animal in question**

# Snaring Registration WANE (Scotland) Act 2011

- A chief constable—
  - (a) on receipt of an appropriate application from any person for an identification number for the purpose of setting snares in position in the chief constable's police area; and
  - (b) on being satisfied that the applicant has been trained to set a snare in position and on the circumstances in which the setting of snares is an appropriate method of predator control,
- must grant the application and issue the applicant with an identification number
- Any person who fails to comply with subsection (1) is guilty of an offence.
- Any person who—
  - (a) has an identification number and sets in position or otherwise uses a snare; but
  - (b) fails to comply with subsection (2) in any respect,
- is guilty of an offence.



# ***Application Process***

**From 22nd November 2012 applicants will attend at a local police office with –**

- **Completed Application Form (Parts A and B)**
- **Valid Snaring Certificate**
- **£20.00 fee**
- **Valid governmental photographic ID (Driving Licence / Passport etc.)**
- **Passport style photograph**

**Processing Officer / Member of staff will**

- **Confirm application is completed correctly**
- **Confirm identity of applicant using provided documents**
- **Obtain photocopies of valid Snaring Certificate and Governmental photographic ID**
- **Retain £20.00 fee in line with existing local arrangements**
- **Complete Part C of application form and forward with retained copies documents and passport style photograph to Central Police Registry**



## APPLICATION FOR A SNARING OPERATOR IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

**You should use this form to apply for the  
grant of a Snaring Operator Identification  
Number**

I am applying for the grant of a Snaring  
Identification Number.

Please read the notes on the back of this form before  
Completing the application.

Write in **BLOCK CAPITALS** throughout except when  
Signing.

### **Part A**      **Personal details to be completed in all cases**

1. **Title (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr, etc)**

6. **Nationality**

2. **Surname**

7. **Location of Snaring Training Course**

3. **Forename(s)**

8. **Date Snaring Training  
Course Attended**

4. **Home Address or Business Address**

_____
_____
_____
_____
Post Code

9. **Snaring Course Approved Body**

5. **Date of Birth (D/M/Y)**

## Part B Declaration

I declare that the statements made by me on this form are true.

I understand that my details may be held on computer in compliance with the Data Protection Act 1988.

It is an offence under Section 17 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 for any person knowingly or recklessly make a statement or furnish a document which is false in any material particular for the purposes of obtaining a Snaring Operator Identification Number.

I am applying for a Snaring Identification Number in accordance with the Snares (Identification Numbers and Tags) (Scotland) Order 2012.

Signature of Applicant

Date (D/M/Y)

\_\_ / \_\_ / \_\_

## Application Guidance Notes

**1.This form should be completed personally by the applicant.**

**2.If you wish to provide any information further to the questions detailed overleaf separately to this form, you must sign and date the information.**

**3.The applicant must attend at a police officer in person with the completed form together with the documentation/fee detailed below;**

**-Fee - £20.00**

**-Valid Snaring Certificate in the name of the applicant**

**-A valid means of Governmental Identification, such as a valid driving licence or passport**

**-A recent passport size photograph clearly showing the face and shoulder of the applicant**

## Part C Issuing Authority (Completion by Receiving Police Station)

Address of Police Office:		Postcode	
Fee Paid:	£	Receipt No.	
Valid Snaring Certificate in the name of applicant and copy obtained:	Yes / No	Photograph submitted:	Yes / No
Government Photographic Identification viewed and copy obtained:		Yes / No	
Government Photographic ID reference Number (if applicable):			
Applicants Identity Confirmed:		Yes / No	
Remarks (if applicable) insert free text:			
Officer's / Member of Staff Name / Rank / No.:			
Date Submitted:			

When completed the application form and documents are to be forwarded to –  
**Wildlife Crime Coordinator, Strathclyde Police,**  
**Police Headquarters,**  
**173 Pitt Street,**  
**Glasgow, G2 4JS**

## Part D Issuing Authority (Completion by Central Police Registry)

<b>Date of Receipt:</b>		<b>Received/Administrated by:</b>	
<b>Legislative Requirements met:</b>		<b>Yes / No</b>	
<b>Snaring Identification Number:</b>			
<b>Snaring Identification Number Provided to applicant:</b>		<b>Yes / No</b>	
<b>Remarks (if applicable) insert free text:</b>			
<b>Date of Issue:</b>			



# Approved Training Bodies

The following bodies are authorised by the Scottish Government to train practitioners in relation to predator control:

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

Persons who wish to apply at a Police Station for a snaring registration number will produce a certificate from one of these bodies to show that they have received the appropriate training and have shown competence to use snares.

## Landowner Authorisation

- **Snares: authorisation from landowners etc.**
- Subject to the provisions of this Part, any person who without reasonable excuse—
- (a) while on any land has in his possession any snare without the authorisation of the owner or occupier of the land; or
- (b) sets any snare in position on any land without the authorisation of the owner or occupier of the land,
- is guilty of an offence.

# Record Keeping

Any person who has an identification number must keep a record of the following—

- (a) the location of every snare set in position by the person which remains in position;
- (b) the location of every other snare set in position by the person within the past two years;
- (c) the date on which each snare mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b) was set;
- (d) the date on which each snare mentioned in paragraph (b) was removed;
- (e) in relation to each animal caught in a snare mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b)—
  - (i) the type of animal;
  - (ii) the date it was found;
- (f) such other information as the Scottish Ministers may by order specify.

## Other Legislation

The following pieces of legislation also provide further offences in relation to the illegal use of snares:

- **Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 & Conservation (Natural Habitats, & c.) Amendment (Scotland) regulations 2007**
- **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981**, amended by the **Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004**.
- **Deer (Scotland) Act 1996**
- **The Wild Mammals Protection Act (1996)**
- **Animal Health & Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006**

**Contact the Wildlife & Environmental Crime Officer for your area for further advice if required.**