

SNARES

Snares are widely used as management tools on sporting estates, farms and other places where control of rabbit and fox populations is necessary. The use of snares is regulated by various pieces of legislation, principally among which are the following: Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended by the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011)

Set or otherwise use any self-locking snare (or a snare of any other type specified in an order made by the Scottish Ministers. (Charge Code WILD198100111A00)

Set or otherwise use any other type of snare which is either of such a nature or so placed as to be calculated to cause unnecessary suffering. (WILD198100090100)

Set any snare likely to cause bodily injury to any wild animal included in Schedules of the Act or those protected under the Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1994 (e.g. Badger, Wild Cat, Otter etc). Seek advice if in doubt. (WILD198100111G100)

Set a snare and fail to inspect at least once in every day at intervals of no more than 24 hours. (WILD198100113000)

Fail to release or remove an animal, whether alive or dead, while carrying out daily inspection of snares. (WILD198100113AB0)

Be in possession of, sell or offer for sale any snare capable of operating as a self locking snare, without reasonable excuse. (WILD198100113C00).

Be in possession of any snare on land or to set any snare on land without the permission of the owner or occupier. (WILD198100110104 or WILD198100113DAO)

Snares must be free running and checked to be free running at least once every day within a 24 hour period. If snare found not to be free running it must be removed or repaired. (WILD198100113000)

All snares must be fitted with an effective stop 23 centimetres from the running end of the snare for foxes and 13 centimetres for rabbits. (WILD198100110101 for rabbits and WILD198100110102 for foxes)

Snares must be firmly anchored to the ground or attached to an object in a manner that will prevent the snare being dragged by the animal caught in it. (WILD198100110103)

Snares must not be set in places where captured animals are likely to become fully or partially suspended or drown. (WILD198100110100)

All snare users are required to have completed an approved training course in the use of snares. (From 1 April 2013)

All snares used are required to be tagged with an individual operator number issued by the Police which shall be unique to the user. (From 1 April 2013)

All snare users are required to keep records of where and when snares are used. These records must be retained for 2 years and made available for inspection by Police within 21 days of being requested. (From 1 April 2013)
Deer (Scotland) Act 1996

Set trap or snare calculated to cause bodily injury to any deer.
(DEER199600170101)

Use snare for the purpose of taking or killing any deer. (DEER199600170102)
Action to Take at Snaring Incidents

Where there is reasonable suspicion an offence has taken place Police have powers to enter onto land without Warrant, however entry to dwellings or lockfast places requires a Warrant. The Police may also be accompanied by any other person and may take required equipment on to land.

Snaring offences can on conviction attract a custodial sentence and therefore there is a Section 14 power of detention available.

Deal with incident like any other crime, be methodical and mindful of requirement for corroboration and possibilities for DNA examination. Request that incident be tagged for Wildlife Crime Liaison Officer. Speak to informant and any other witnesses. If unsure of anything consult on duty WCO or if urgent and no WCO on duty contact off duty officer via Control. Note any ID Number on snare and contact Licensing or Wildlife Crime Liaison Officer to obtain details of operator. Get accurate positions for each of the snares using GPS if possible. Consider using diagram in notebook to mark positions of snares in relation to each other. Give each snare a number when recording position. Photograph snares in situ. Include object of known size in photograph along with number allocated to snare in position recording outlined above. If the area where the snares are located is complex or large consider seeking advice and assistance from specialist Search Trained Officers. Seek advice from Scenes of Crime Officers and have them attend if thought advisable. Once area searched and all necessary SOC procedures completed seize each snare (complete with identifying number) and lodge as productions. If any dead animal in snares do not remove it but seek advice from WCO and submit to SAC Vet Lab for PM complete with snare. If live animal is in snare consult SSPCA or Vet regarding release or humane destruction. Items for possible DNA examination should be stored in paper bags. Dead animals or remains should initially be refrigerated prior to PM, rather than frozen. Progress enquiry seeking specialist advice as required.