

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

13th July 2018

Dear Constituent,

RE: SNARES.

Thank you for contacting me recently about snares; your comments upon which I read with great interest.

I understand the strength of your feeling on this issue, and I am committed to animal welfare; the UK has some of the highest standards in the world. Wildlife management is, however, vital for conservation, farming, animal husbandry, and sustainably harvesting wild game birds. Snaring is one of a range of measures that must be used.

Used correctly and according to the law, snares can be effective at restraining target animals before they are humanely managed. Nevertheless, I accept that if used incorrectly, they can cause injuries and suffering to animals, and might accidentally capture species that were not targeted.

While free-running snares are permitted for targeting certain species (mainly foxes and rabbits), self-locking snares, which place animals at greater risk of harm, have been banned since 1981. Animals, including any caught in snares, are protected from unnecessary suffering under the *Animal Welfare Act 2006* and trappers must check their snares at least once every 24 hours.

Based on research commissioned by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, land management organisations have issued a new code of best practice on the use of snares in England. It emphasises the importance of taking the behaviour of animals into account when setting snares, stating that if non-targets are likely to be caught, snares should not be used. Meanwhile, improvements in snare design have significantly reduced the risk of injury.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

LISTENING TO YOU - CAMPAIGNING FOR YOU

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