

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

23rd April 2021

New Comment,

RE: SNARES AND STINK PITS

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of the use of snares and stink pits, also known as middens; your comments upon which I have read with interest.

I understand your concerns on this issue and I share your passion for the welfare of our wildlife. I know that these pits are generally created to lure foxes which are then caught in snare traps. I have to tell you, however, that I am not aware of any current plans to ban the use of snare traps or middens.

I know that snares are commonly used in the UK to catch certain animals prior to their killing and current legislation provides strong protection for threatened species and the welfare of trapped animals. Those committing an offence can face prosecution, an unlimited fine, or even a custodial sentence.

Snares are controlled in England and Wales under the *Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981*. This prohibits the use of self-locking snares and the setting of any type of snare in places where they are likely to catch certain non-target animals such as badgers. It also requires snares to be inspected on a daily basis. I also know that snares must not be set where there is evidence of regular use by non-target species.

The *Animal Welfare Act 2006* prohibits causing unnecessary suffering to animals under the control of man, including those animals caught in traps. Trapped animals should be released from a snare trap as soon as reasonably practicable after discovery to ensure they do not unnecessarily suffer. I know that not doing so could be a breach of the 2006 Act and could lead to prosecution.

The onus is on trap operators to act within the law and consider their responsibilities in ensuring that their activities do not harm protected species, or cause any unnecessary suffering. If you believe an individual is inflicting unnecessary suffering on animals, the matter should be reported to the police.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom'.

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE