

Poisons

Certain rodenticides can be used for rats and mice in conditions which prevent access by other animals and birds. The **abuse** of these poisons, or other poisons or pesticides on a carcass, in eggs or on grain or other foodstuffs and placed in the open is illegal. It is also totally indiscriminate in respect of the type of bird or animal likely to fall victim.

Misuse is also an offence; always follow label instructions fully.



photo: poisoned golden eagle dead on nest - RSPB

Please Respect Legal use of Traps and Snares

Interference with legally set traps or snares is an offence. Do not touch them. If you are absolutely certain that an offence is being committed, photograph the trap or snare and spring it so that it cannot catch anything. If you are suspicious but unsure, photograph it and advise a police wildlife liaison officer as soon as possible

List of Force Wildlife Liaison Officers in Scotland

CENTRAL SCOTLAND POLICE

Inspector Ian Cameron
Alloa
Tel: 01259 723 255

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY CONSTABULARY

Inspector Bill Graham
Dumfries
Tel: 01387 252 112

FIFE CONSTABULARY

Inspector Bill Harley
Glenrothes
Tel: 01592 418 888

GRAMPIAN POLICE

Ch Supt Mike Watson
Inverurie
Tel: 01467 620 222

LOTHIAN & BORDERS POLICE

Sergeant Malcolm Henderson
Kelso
Tel: 01573 223 434

NORTHERN CONSTABULARY

Inspector John Grierson
Inverness
Tel: 01463 715 555

STRATHCLYDE POLICE

Inspector Kenny Swan
Headquarters
Tel: 0141 532 2641

TAYSIDE POLICE

Mr Alan Stewart
Perth
Tel: 01738 892 650

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE

Constable John Simpson
Coulport
Tel: 01436 674 321

Useful Contacts:

Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Tel: 0131 339 0111

RSPB (Scotland) Tel: 0131 311 6500

Funded by: the SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE through the PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION AGAINST WILDLIFE CRIME.

Designed by DM Graphics and printed by WOODS OF PERTH LTD.

Traps, Snares, Poisons and the Law in Scotland



photo: gfm traps - Tayside Police



Traps, Snares, Poisons and the Law in Scotland

The Control of Pests

is an essential part of farming and game management, and sometimes appropriate in the conservation of species at risk, in particular ground-nesting birds. All methods are controlled by law and while most of those practising pest control stay within the law, there are still abuses through ignorance or intent.

Spring Traps

All spring traps must be approved under a Spring Traps Approval (Scotland) Order. They must also be set in natural or artificial tunnels or in some cases in a rabbit burrow.

The entrance size of the tunnel must restrict the trap to catching the species of pest for which it is authorised.

Spring traps must not be set to catch birds, or on top of a post, or in the open.

It is illegal to use a gin trap or to possess it for an unlawful purpose.

Cage traps

It is legal under a general licence issued annually by the Scottish Executive for authorised persons to use a cage trap to control members of the crow family (except ravens and choughs, which are protected), greater and lesser black backed gulls, herring gulls, feral pigeons, wood pigeons, collared doves, house sparrows and starlings.

When in use, the cage trap must be checked daily and the birds caught must be removed from it and humanely despatched. Protected birds must be released unharmed. **When these traps are not in use, they must be rendered incapable of holding or catching birds.**



Larsen Traps

This is a small portable version of the cage trap. If a decoy bird is used, it must be a crow, jackdaw, rook, jay or magpie, and must have adequate food, water, shelter and a perch. Like the cage trap, the Larsen trap must be inspected daily, and birds caught other than those listed must be released.

Mammal Cage Traps

There are a number of cage traps of varying sizes used to catch mammals, such as feral cats, foxes, mink or grey squirrels.

They are basically all of the same design, with bait within the trap to tempt the animal in, and a non-return door to contain the animal.



The animals are caught unharmed. Pest species must be humanely despatched and non-target species released. Checking intervals are not laid down, but failing to check regularly is likely to be an offence under the Protection of Animals (Scotland) Act, 1912, or the Abandonment of Animals Act, 1960.

Snares

These are commonly set for foxes or rabbits. They must not be set where they are likely to catch non-target species, such as badgers, deer or otters, and must be checked daily.

Snares must not be self-locking and the principle of the law allowing snaring is that, so far as practicable, the animal is restrained in the manner least likely to cause it injury until it can be despatched humanely.