

BVA response to Scottish Government

able, which first requires
be pests at all. Before
other controls considered, prevention methods or deterrents should be implemented, and finally,
if lethal control of animals is considered necessary, methods that minimise suffering, fear and pain
should be used.

Alternatives to snares

- 6) In light of the above evidence, we call for an outright ban on the use and sale of snares. We consider that there are sufficient alternative means of prevention and deterrence and lethal control available, including cage trapping and shooting, such that there is no justification for the use of snares even under a licensing regime. A ban should encompass the use of homemade snares.
- 7) Organisations such as the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust consider that for effective fox control it is desirable to have a range of methods available, giving options according to cost, time, safety, landscape and seasonal constraints.
- 8) Alternatives to using snares for fox control include good management techniques to prevent access to livestock, including removing fallen stock promptly to avoid attracting foxes, baited live cage traps (followed by shooting), or free-shooting (known as lamping if carried out at night). Guard animals such as llamas, alpacas, and dogs are also used in Europe, South Africa and the US to protect livestock from predation.
- 9) For rabbits, Government suggested alternatives to snaring include prevention methods such as fencing. Alternative lethal methods including gassing, trapping, ferreting, and shooting, all of which have potential welfare harms.
- 10) We recognise that cost and practicality are necessary considerations for those organisations representing the interest of land managers. However, as an animal welfare focused profession we cannot support the selection of lethal control methods based primarily on resource availability or convenience where prevention and deterrents have not been either considered or used and there are more humane alternative lethal methods (such as accurate shooting) available.
- 11) While the welfare concerns associated with snares are significant, it is important to recognise that other methods of wildlife control may also compromise welfare. With this in mind, it is paramount that additional research is carried out into the development of alternative methods for the exclusion and deterrence of wildlife, and more humane methods of killing.

Question 2 - Do you think that the Scottish Government should consider allowing an exception for the use of snares for the live capture of mammals for research p8(mam)-2(mals)-201(f)-3(2h G4 0 0. 1

