

Briefing for the Public Petitions Committee

Petition Number: [PE01671](#)

Main Petitioner: Lisa Harvey and Andrea Goddard on behalf of Let's Get MAD For Wildlife

Subject: Sale and use of glue traps

Calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to ban the sale and use of glue traps and boards in Scotland.

Background

Glue traps, also known as glue boards, are trays coated with a strong adhesive. Any animal that touches one becomes stuck and is unable to escape. The animal is immobilised but not killed outright ([Humane Society International](#), Undated). Glue traps are most commonly used by professional contractors in food premises, where the use of rodenticide poisons are undesirable due to the risk of poison contamination.

The Humane Society International has a number of concerns related to glue traps -

- animals are not killed outright and may suffer before the trap is inspected and the animal killed
- non-target species may be trapped
- guidelines are not followed.

Code of practice and legislation

The National Pests Technicians Association has developed a [code of practice for the humane use of glue traps](#). It states that -

“the use of rodent glue boards remains an important last choice option when all other control methods have been considered and deemed unsuitable.”

The code of practice is not statutory.

The [Animal Health and Welfare \(Scotland\) Act 2006](#) is concerned with the health and welfare of protected animals. Protected animals are defined under section 17 –

- (1) In this Part, an animal is a “protected animal” if it is—
- (a) of a kind which is commonly domesticated in the British Islands,
 - (b) under the control of man on a permanent or temporary basis, or
 - (c) not living in a wild state.

The [Guidance on the Animal Welfare Provisions \(Part 2\) of the Animal Health and Welfare \(Scotland\) Act 2006](#) provides an animal caught in a trap as an example of an animal under the control of man on a temporary basis (page 2, para 7). It is clear from this that in Scotland animals caught in traps are considered to be under the control of man and therefore protected. The person who sets a trap in Scotland has a legal responsibility to deal humanely with any animals caught in them. Failure to do so is an offence under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006.

However, there is no specific requirement either in the Act itself or in any secondary legislation under the 2006 Act requiring traps to be checked.

The Scottish Government has told SPICe that the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA) prohibits the use of glue boards to trap birds.

Primary legislation would be required to ban glue traps in Scotland. Section 11 of the WCA would have to be amended to prohibit glue boards as a method of taking wild animals.

Scottish Government Action

None

Scottish Parliament Action

Jim Hume (South Scotland) (Scottish Liberal Democrats). (S4W-21151)

To ask the Scottish Government whether it plans to ban the use of glue traps for catching rodents.

Paul Wheelhouse (20 May 2014): The Scottish Government currently has no plans to ban glue traps for catching rodents although we do plan to review aspects of policy in relation to animal traps in the near future, consulting with the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime Scotland Legislation, Regulation and Guidance sub-group and other relevant stakeholders.

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21 August 2017

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