

**PE1671/A**  
**SSPCA submission of 20 October 2017**

Members of the Public Petitions Committee.

The Scottish SPCA supports the above petition lodged by Lisa Harvey and Andrea Goddard.

The Scottish SPCA accepts the need for humane pest control for human health and safety reasons; however, the Society expects this to be carried out in the most humane manner possible.

Glue traps are totally indiscriminate and will entrap any creature that comes into contact with them.

There are many other types of live traps that are covered by legislation such as snares, Larsen and Cage Crow traps, such traps must be checked by the operator within a 24 hour period and any target animal or bird caught humanely dispatched or non-target animal released unharmed.

The same principle applies to glue traps, however, many are supplied without the necessary guidance and when this is supplied it is often not followed, many people cannot bring themselves to dispatch an animal with a swift single blow and as a result the animal is left to die a slow death through starvation, dehydration or exhaustion in an attempt to escape.

Pest of vermin species in the wild state have little legal protection, however in the case of glue boards, once an animal has become trapped it is under the control of man and as such is technically protected by the Animal Health and Welfare Scotland Act 2006, which could come into play if the general acceptance of dispatch within 24 hours is not carried out.

If these boards were deliberately set to trap a wild bird it could be deemed illegal under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

As with other live traps, if a non-target species is caught it should be released unharmed within a 24 hour period, it would be extremely unlikely that a non-target animal or bird could be released unharmed without treatment to remove the glue from fur or feathers.

There are many alternatives to the use of glue boards. There are many types of instant kill traps available that are very effective, there are also a number of humane live traps that capture the animal unharmed whereby the trapped animal can be released away from the property it was caught in.

The Scottish SPCA does believe that glue traps do cause unnecessary suffering and stress to the animals that are caught on these glue traps and would ask the Committee to recommend that measure are taken to ban the sale and use of these glue boards.