



Animal Welfare Federation Northern Ireland

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 2001

Strength in our unity - animals in our trust

Wildlife and Natural Environment Bill (Draft)

Response by the Animal Welfare Federation Northern Ireland (AWFNI)

17 February 2010

In response to the consultation on the above Bill, the AWFNI wishes to comment on the following aspects:

SNARES

We urge you to take action to introduce a **complete ban on the manufacture, sale and use of snares, for the following reasons:**

1. Snares cause extreme suffering to animals and, frequently, a painful, lingering death from starvation, strangulation or dehydration.
2. Snared animals suffer massive stress and horrific injuries. In their efforts to escape, they can be disembowelled, dislocate bones from their sockets and even chew through their own limbs.
3. Snaring is ineffective in trapping the target species and is indiscriminate – pet animals, badgers, otters, hares, deer and livestock and other non-target animals have suffered terrible injuries or been killed by snares.
4. Snaring is outlawed in most of Europe but remains legal in the UK and Ireland.

THE IRISH HARE

The AWFNI shares concerns about the decline in the population of the Irish hare, which has become locally extinct in many areas.

We are equally concerned that the draft Bill does not appear to address the need for greater protection for this species.

We believe that the Irish hare should be given full protection via its inclusion in Schedule 5.

Furthermore we believe this Bill is an opportunity for the Northern Ireland Assembly to exact exemplary legislation to indicate its commitment to real environmental protection for the 21st century and for future generations.

On behalf of the Animal Welfare Federation Northern Ireland

Jean Dykes - Chairperson

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