

**PE1124/X**

Petitioner Letter of 27 October 2011

Dear Committee Members,

We would like to thank the Committee for taking the time to discuss our petition which is calling for a ban on the sale, manufacture and use of all snares at the forthcoming meeting on 1 November.

The petition was first submitted to the Committee in March 2008 and over the years further evidence has been produced to support such a ban. It is also worth noting the petition is supported by 11,000 signatures. Given the time and effort put into progressing this petition so far we respectfully request the Committee to keep it open until it is possible to identify some positive progress within the Parliament on the issue.

For example, with the passing of the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 the legislative opportunity to make snaring illegal in Scotland has passed for the time being, but it has come to our attention through the PAW Scotland group that the snaring regulations in the Act will not be commenced for around one to two years. This means that the improvements to animal welfare, if any, offered by the Act are still a long way off.

We believe there are a number of issues which could be pursued by the Committee.

The Committee has previously made enquiries of DEFRA regarding its commissioned research into the extent of use and humaneness of snares in England. Despite assurances this would be published in 2011 it has still not appeared.

In conclusion, we would like to suggest that the Committee writes to the Scottish Government asking them when it intends to commence the snaring section of the WANE (Scotland) Act 2011; and also writes to DEFRA to enquire about the likely publication for its report into the humaneness of snares.

Kind regards

Louise Robertson and Libby Anderson (OneKind)