



SNARES

INDISCRIMINATE
AND CRUEL

Help us to ban them: www.animalaid.org.uk/bansnares





What are snares?

A snare is a wire loop, anchored to the ground, which tightens around an animal when they walk or run into it. It is estimated that around 1.7 million animals are trapped by snares every year, and that as many as 68% of them are not the intended target.

The problems with snares

Animals understandably panic when caught in snares and, as they try to escape, the snare can become tangled or damaged and will cut deeper and deeper through skin, muscles, bones or organs. Strangulation or death from injuries caused by snares are well documented. The snare might even trap an animal around the abdomen or leg, and animals have been known to try to chew off their own limbs to escape. Their pain and distress is unimaginable. Those who do not die of their injuries may be eaten by predators or can die of starvation or thirst. If a snared animal has babies, they will probably starve to death.

By law, a snare should be checked every 24 hours by the person who set it, and any 'non-target' animal caught in it should be released. However, it is well documented that non-target animals, such as cats, dogs and badgers, are trapped, injured and killed by snares.

Who uses snares?

Gamekeepers use snares to trap, and later kill, foxes and other wildlife, who are thought to be a threat to the survival of game birds. However, the cruel irony is that these birds are only being kept alive until the start of the shooting season when they will be blasted from the sky. Farmers also use snares and they have even been found on urban allotments.

What is the alternative to using snares?

It is vital that humans learn to tolerate and live alongside wildlife. If people want to deter foxes or rabbits, there are kinder ways to do this, such as the use of electric fencing, wire netting or lights.

Support for a ban on snares

Celebrities, such as Chris Packham, Peter Egan and Deborah Meaden, have backed the campaign to ban snares.

A 2021 YouGov poll found that 69% of people support a ban on the use of snares, whilst only 14% oppose such a ban (the remainder were undecided).



Find out more and help the campaign to ban snares at: www.animalaid.org.uk/bansnares

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