

INTERFERENCE WITH TRAPPING BY ANTI-TRIAL ACTIVISTS

The National Trial Manager has prepared the attached data on interference with trapping by anti-trial activists. The Group is invited to consider and advise.

SECRETARIAT
June 2002

INTERFERENCE WITH TRAPPING BY ANTI-TRIAL ACTIVISTS

The ISG are invited to consider the *attached* data:

Annex 1 – A3 Proactive Follow-Up Cull (30 April 2002-24 May 2002)
Number of Cage Traps Damaged, Lost/Stolen, Interfered With

Annex 2 – A3 Proactive Follow-Up Cull (30 April 2002-24 May 2002)
Daily Total of Traps Put Out of Service (Damaged, Lost/Stolen, Interfered With)

Annex 3 – F1 Proactive Follow-Up Cull (7 May 2002-31 May 2002)
Number of Cage Traps Damaged, Lost/Stolen, Interfered With

Annex 4 – F1 Proactive Follow-up Cull (7 May 2002-31 May 2002)
Daily Total of Traps Put Out of Service (Damaged, Lost/Stolen, Interfered With)

Annex 5 – Badger Culling Trial – Interference with Trapping : All Operations To Date (1998-End May 2002)

These data show that in A3 during the setting to catch period a minimum of 10% of traps and a maximum of 27% of traps (average over the 11 nights 22%) were disabled by anti-Trial activities. The comparable range of figures for the F1 operation were 6% to 17% of traps (average over the 11 nights 15%).

This extent of trap disruption must affect the quality of the scientific data obtained and represents a quantifiable cost to the Department in lost or damaged cages of approaching £40k. (Trap loss and damage (>4000 traps) during the Trial to date in excess of £200k).

Although there appears little pattern in the nature of trapping disruption (between traps being damaged, moved (lost/stolen) or just interfered with) it is clear that the extent of anti-Trial activity develops during the operation to peak when traps are set to catch. This occurred during both the recent operations despite a cooperative and considerable Police deployment.

It is the view of the WLU and Police that the overall level of disruption to the Trial and damage to DEFRA property would be reduced if the length of operations could be shortened, by reducing to a minimum the time delay before traps are set to catch and yield badgers.

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Present Trial design necessitates traps to be on the ground and serviced daily for pre-baiting for 10-20 days before any badgers are caught, resulting in time for anti-Trial activists to become aware of WLU staff presence and the location of setts and traps.

The ISG are invited to consider modification to Trial design that would reduce the pre-trapping preparatory period. Possible options could include:

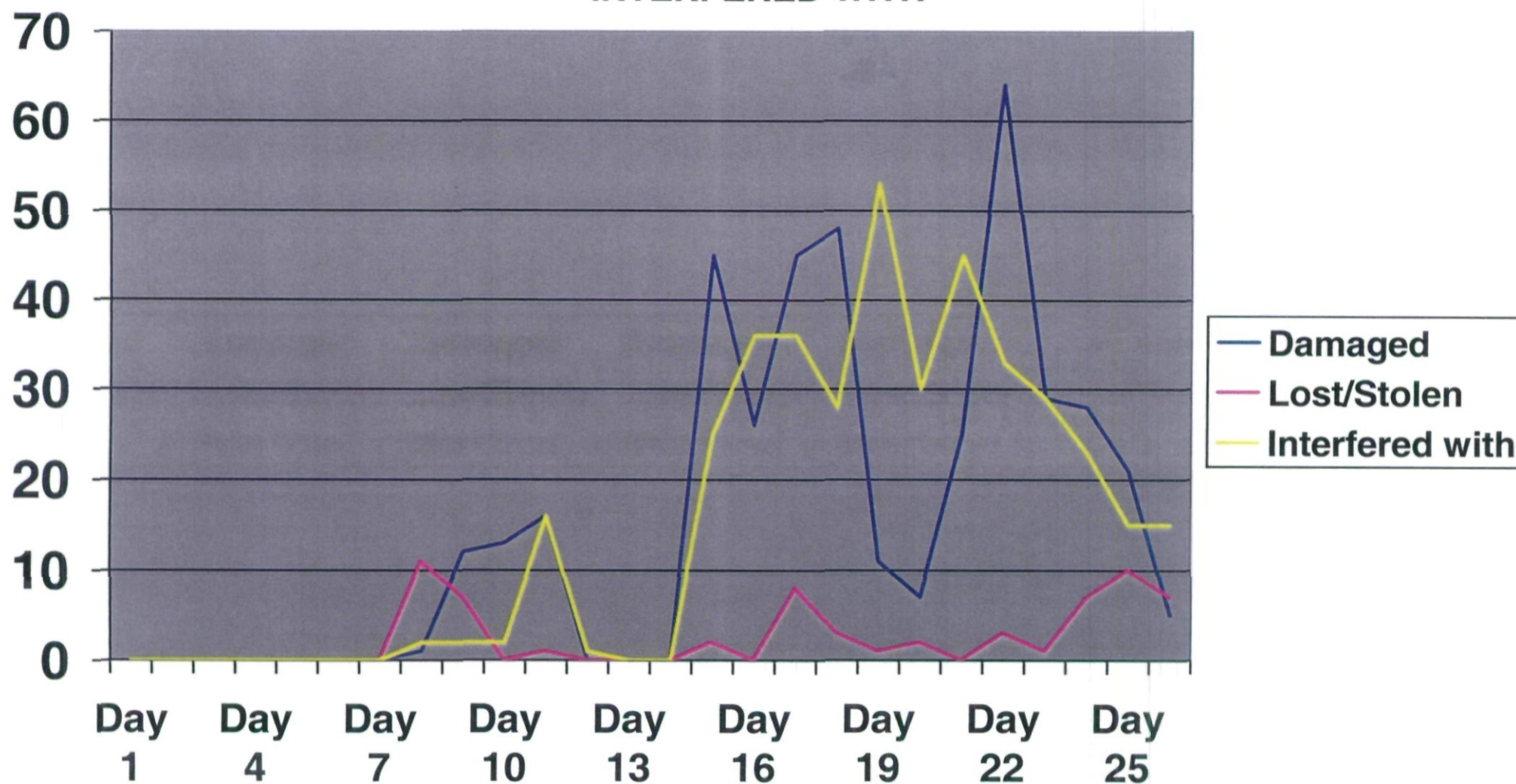
- (1) setting to catch once traps are sited and first baited
- (2) routinely use point baiting (if a period of pre-baiting is considered essential) with trap deployment and setting at point bait sites once the trapping period commences

Such a refinement would lead to a more efficient use of WLU and Police staff resources and assist the WLU in timetabling a heavy work programme during the current culling year. Additionally, laboratory submissions might become more even.

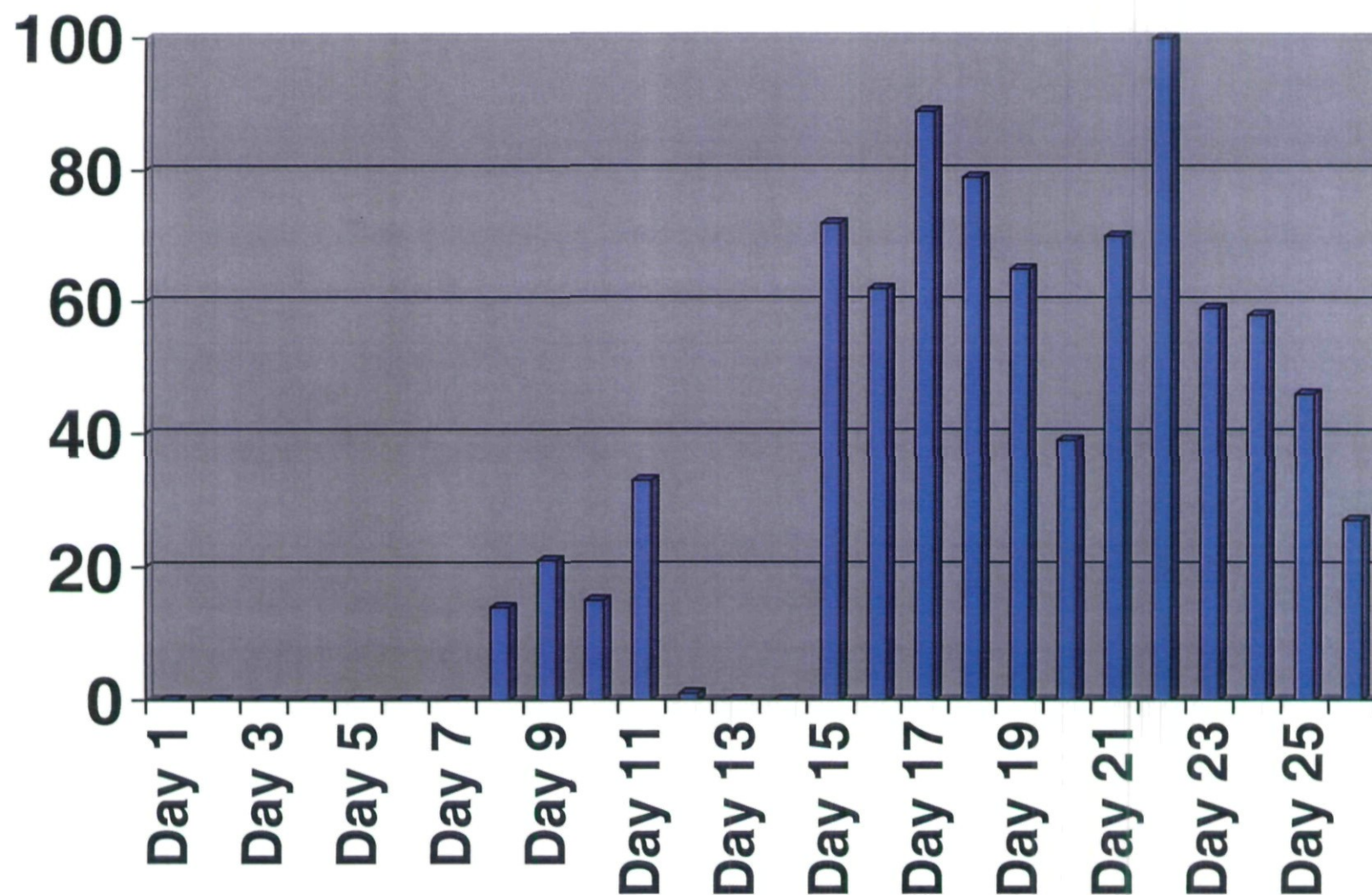
The WLU would be happy to trial modifications to trapping timetables during forthcoming Proactive operations.

NATIONAL TRIAL MANAGER
JUNE 2002

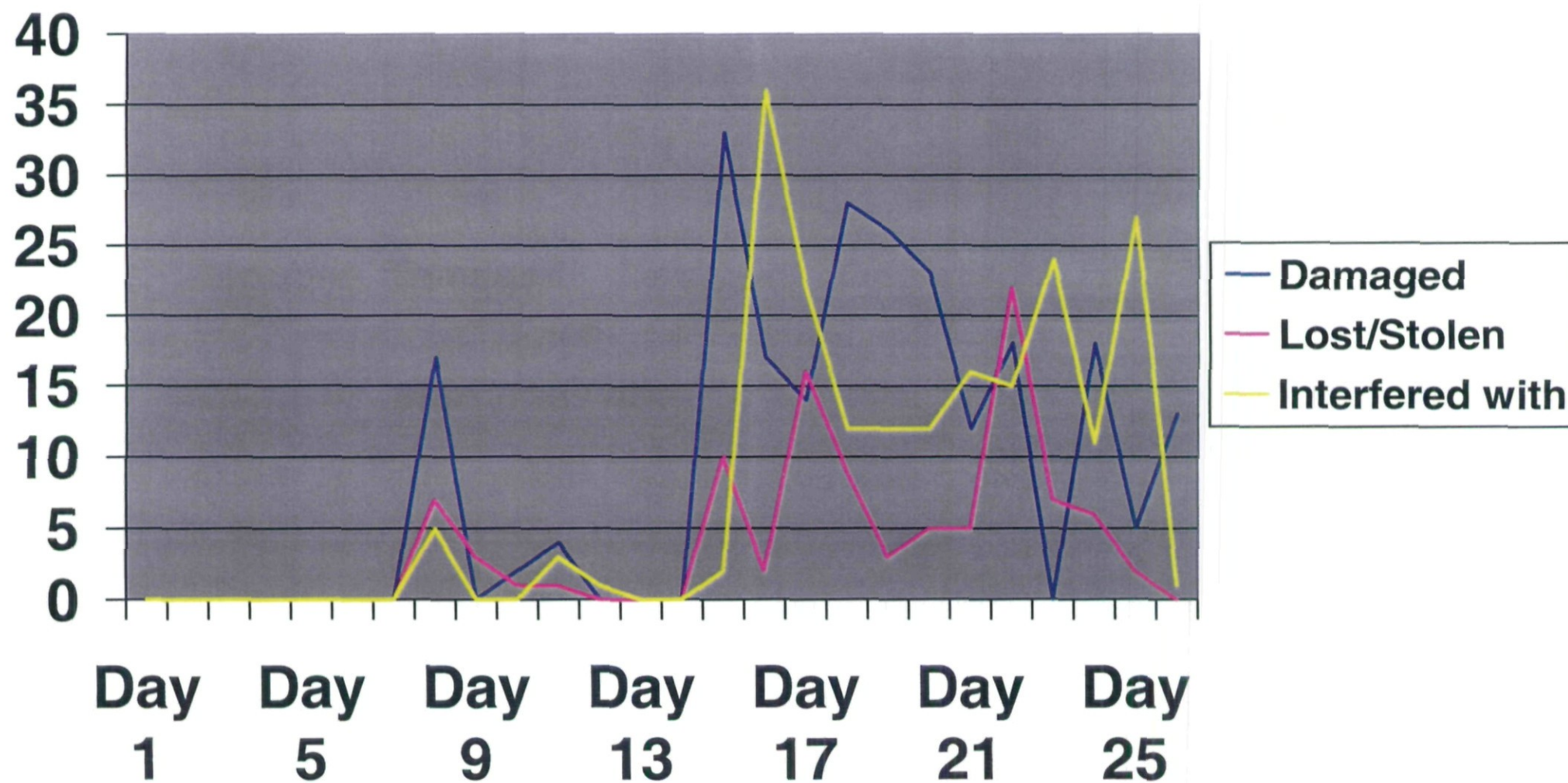
A3 PROACTIVE FOLLOW-UP CULL (30 APRIL 2002-24 MAY 2002)
NUMBER OF OF CAGE TRAPS DAMAGED, LOST/STOLEN,
INTERFERED WITH



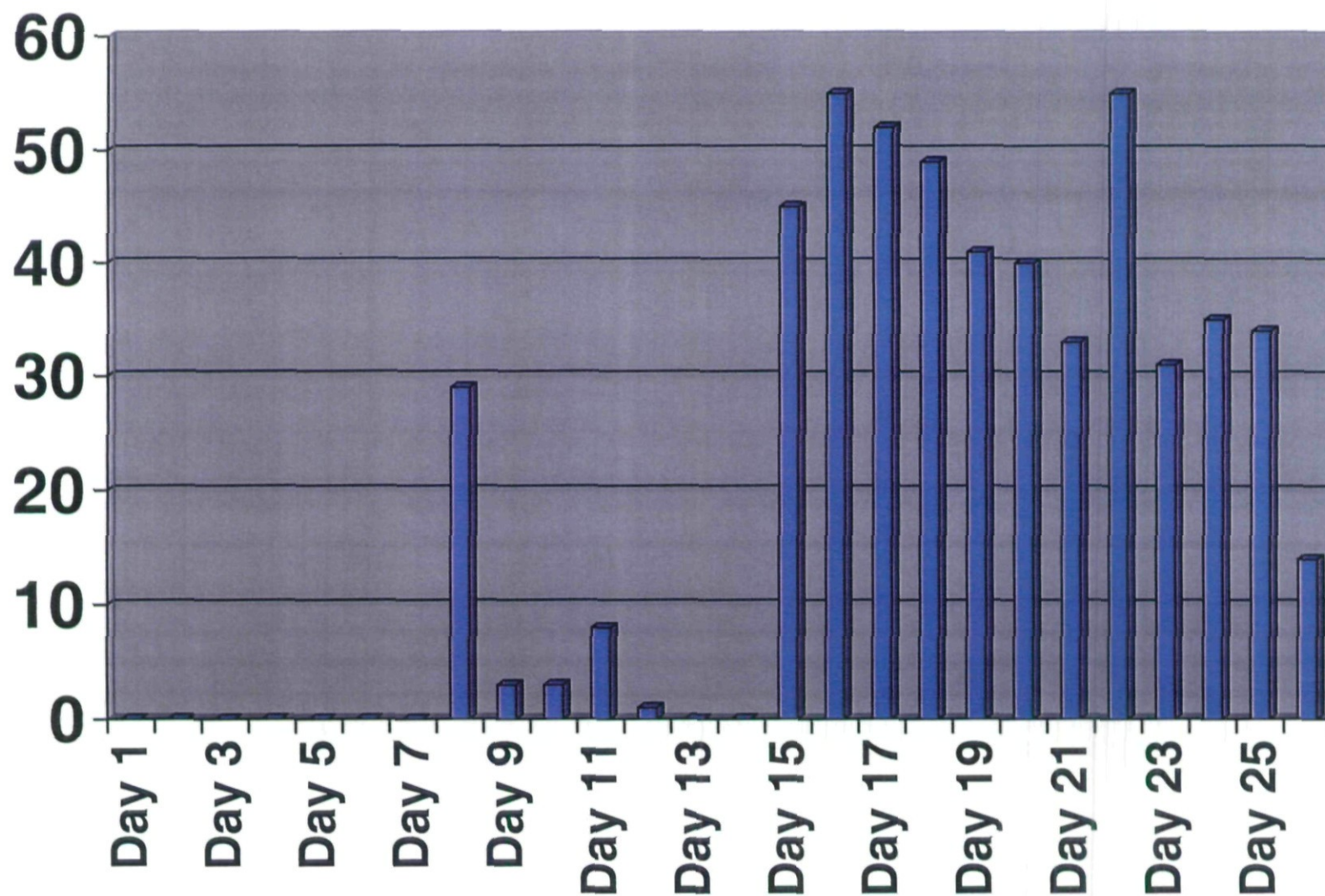
A3 PROACTIVE FOLLOW-UP CULL (30 APRIL 2002-24 MAY 2002)
**DAILY TOTAL OF TRAPS PUT OUT OF SERVICE (DAMAGED, LOST/
STOLEN, INTERFERED WITH)**



F1 PROACTIVE FOLLOW-UP CULL (7 MAY 2002-31 MAY 2002)
NUMBER OF CAGE TRAPS DAMAGED, LOST/STOLEN, INTERFERED
WITH



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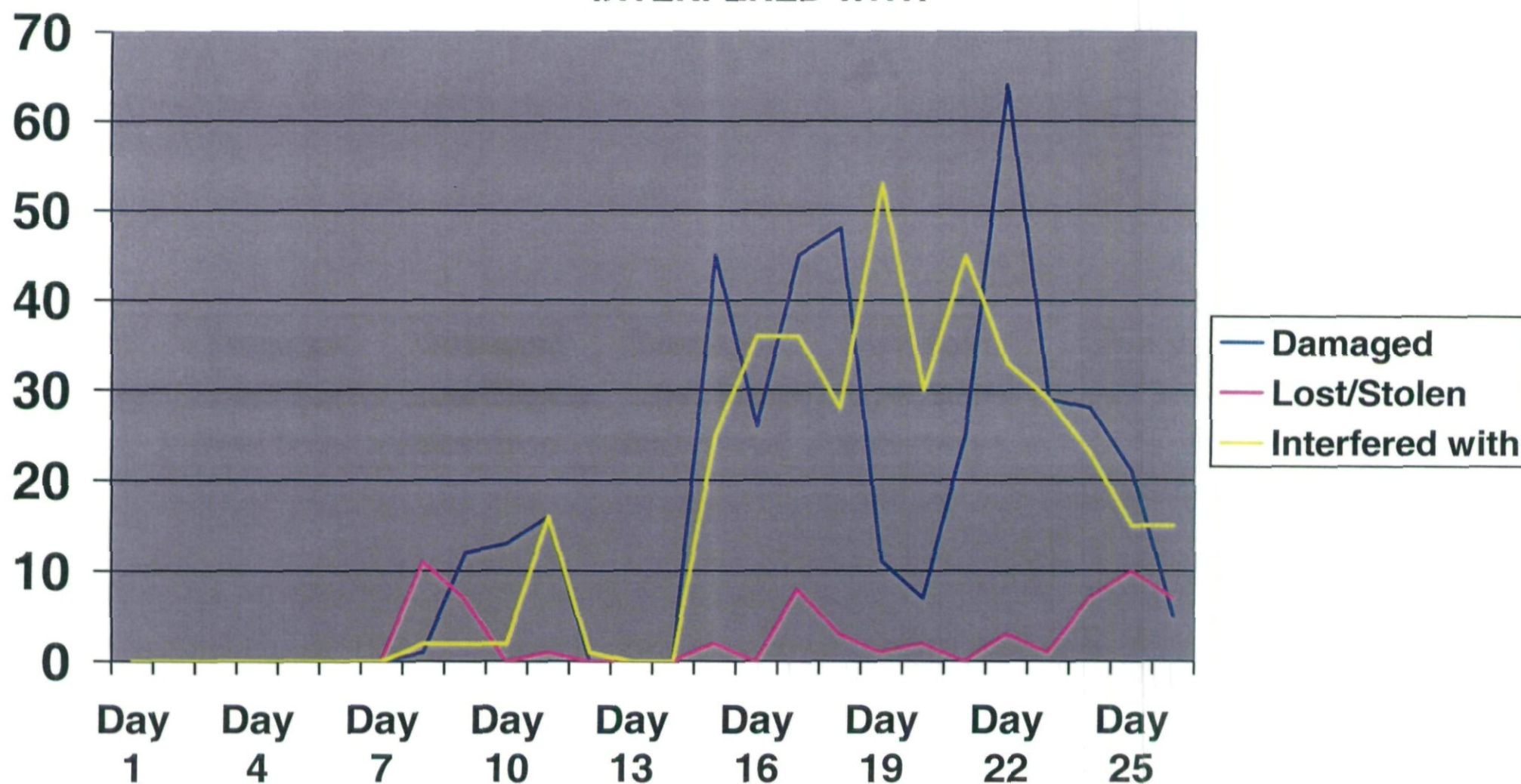
ANNEX 5

BADGER CULLING TRIAL – INTERFERENCE WITH TRAPPING ALL OPERATIONS TO DATE (1998-END MAY 2002)

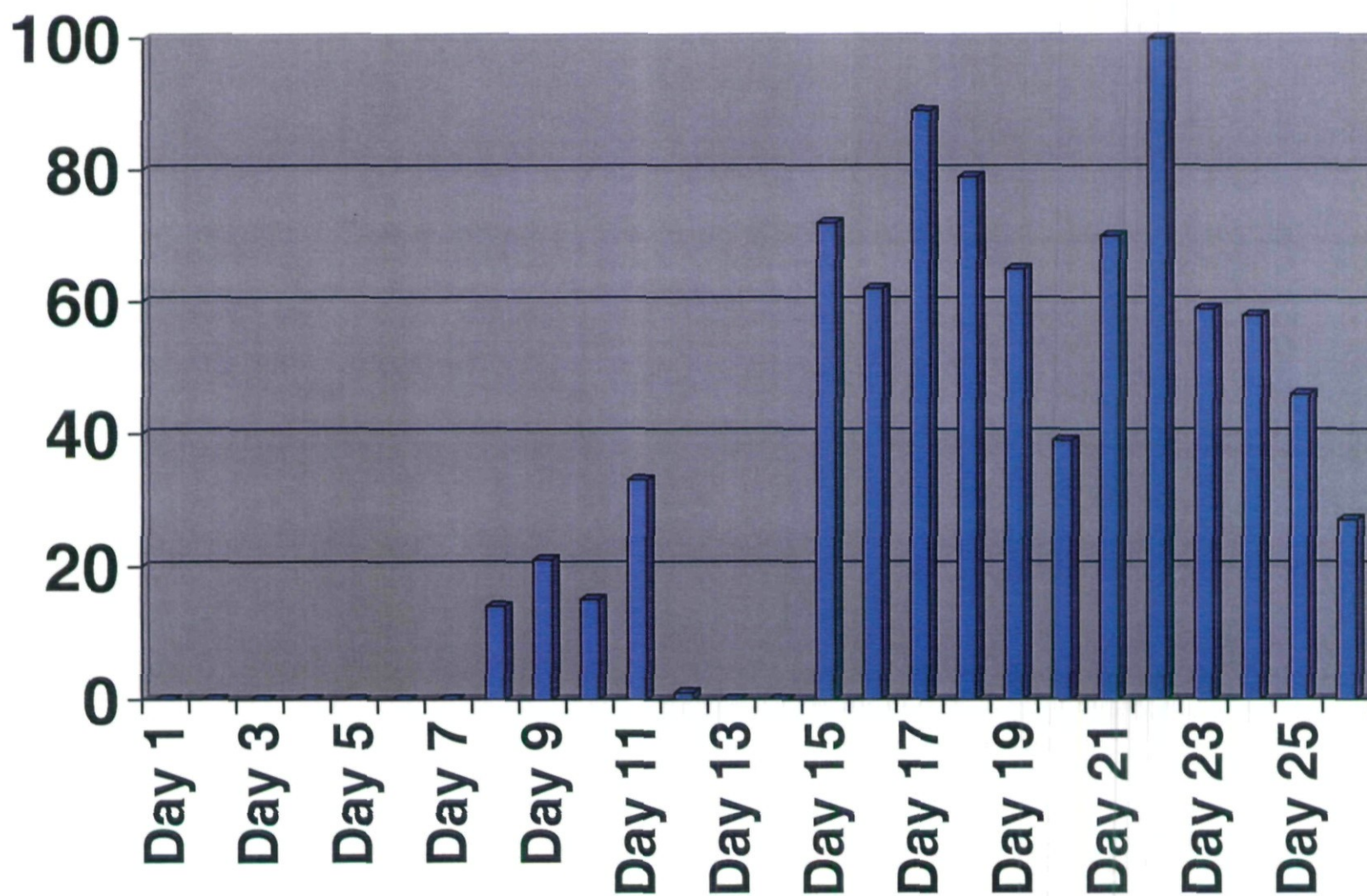
TRIAL AREA	OPERATION	MONTH(S) /YEAR OF CULL	NO. OF TRAPS	NO. OF TRAPS STOLEN/LOST	NO. OF TRAPS DAMAGED	NO. OF TRAPS INTERFERED	BADGERS RELEASED	BADGERS TAKEN
A3 - Proactive	Initial	01/2000	310	50	118	85	5	55
	Follow-up	05/2002	375	63	396	391	3	149
A1 - Reactive	1-4	07-11/2000	49	0	0	2	0	34
B2 - Proactive	Initial	12/1998	700	42	88	64	3	238
	Follow-up	12/1999	584	34	226	80	3	85
	Maintenance	08/00-01/01	390	6	87	1	0	74
B1 - Reactive	1-2	06/1999	116	24	6	8	1	51
	3	12/1999	125	23	13	3	2	22
	4	9/2000	81	1	55	6	2	34
	5	12/2000	30	16	36	25	2	0
C3 - Proactive	Initial	10/1999	840	116	148	99	6	246
	Follow-up	01/2001	460	22	390	33	6	111
C1 - Reactive	1-5	5/2000	204	14	49	210	9	128
	6-7	8/2000	102	10	32	124	9	50
E3 - Proactive	Initial	05/2000	741	167	333	604	10	603
	Follow-up	01/2001	494	25	140	54	3	142
F1 - Proactive	Initial	07/2000	513	344	510	264	16	451
	Follow-up	05/2002	335	99	230	199	16	248
G2 - Proactive	Initial	11/2000	631	41	91	54	25*	428
H2 - Proactive	Initial	12/2000	568	20	69	32	2	162
TOTAL			7648	1117	3017	2338	123	3311

* 18 released by WLU staff on 31/10 due to extreme weather conditions making firearms use dangerous

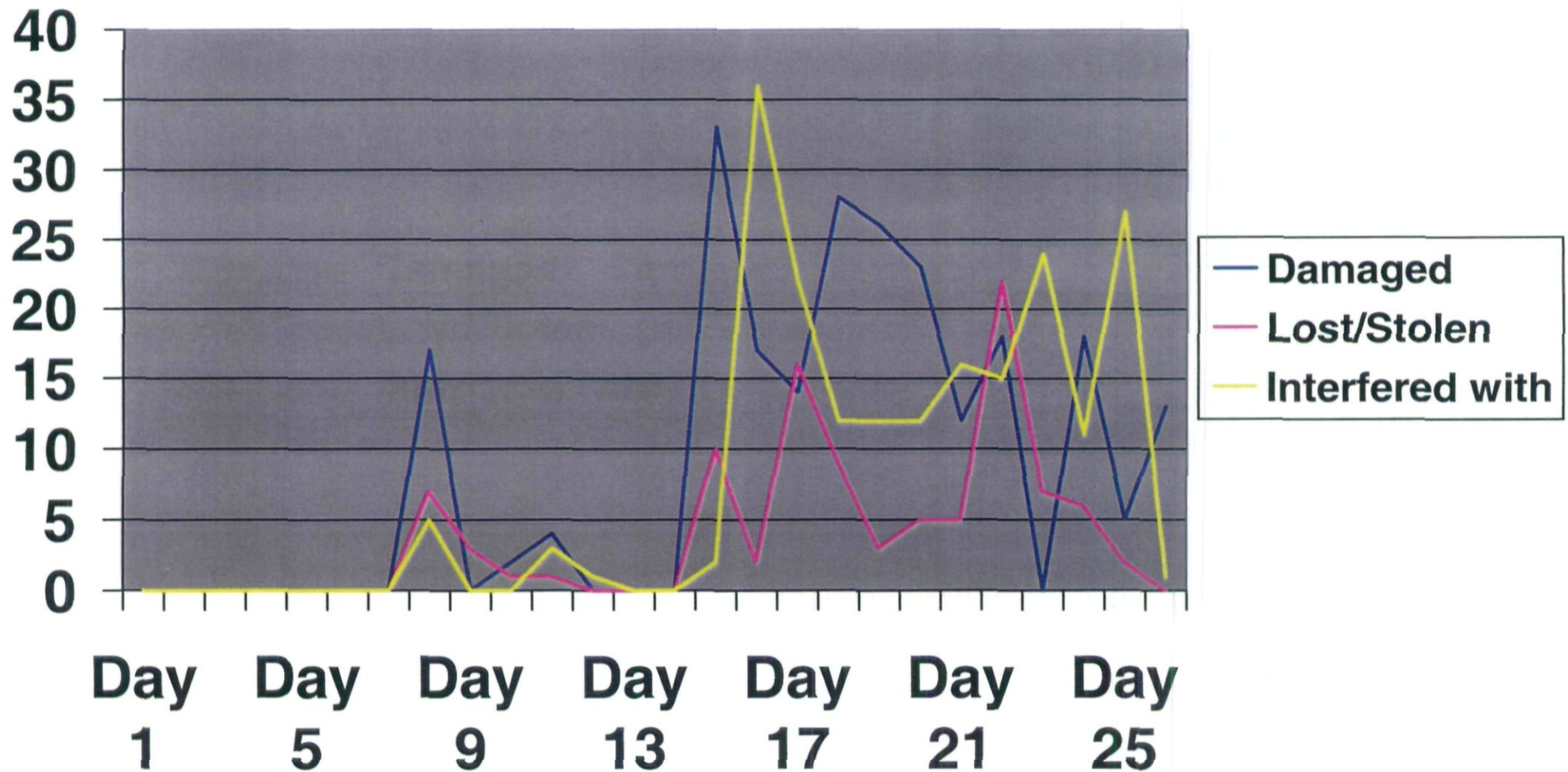
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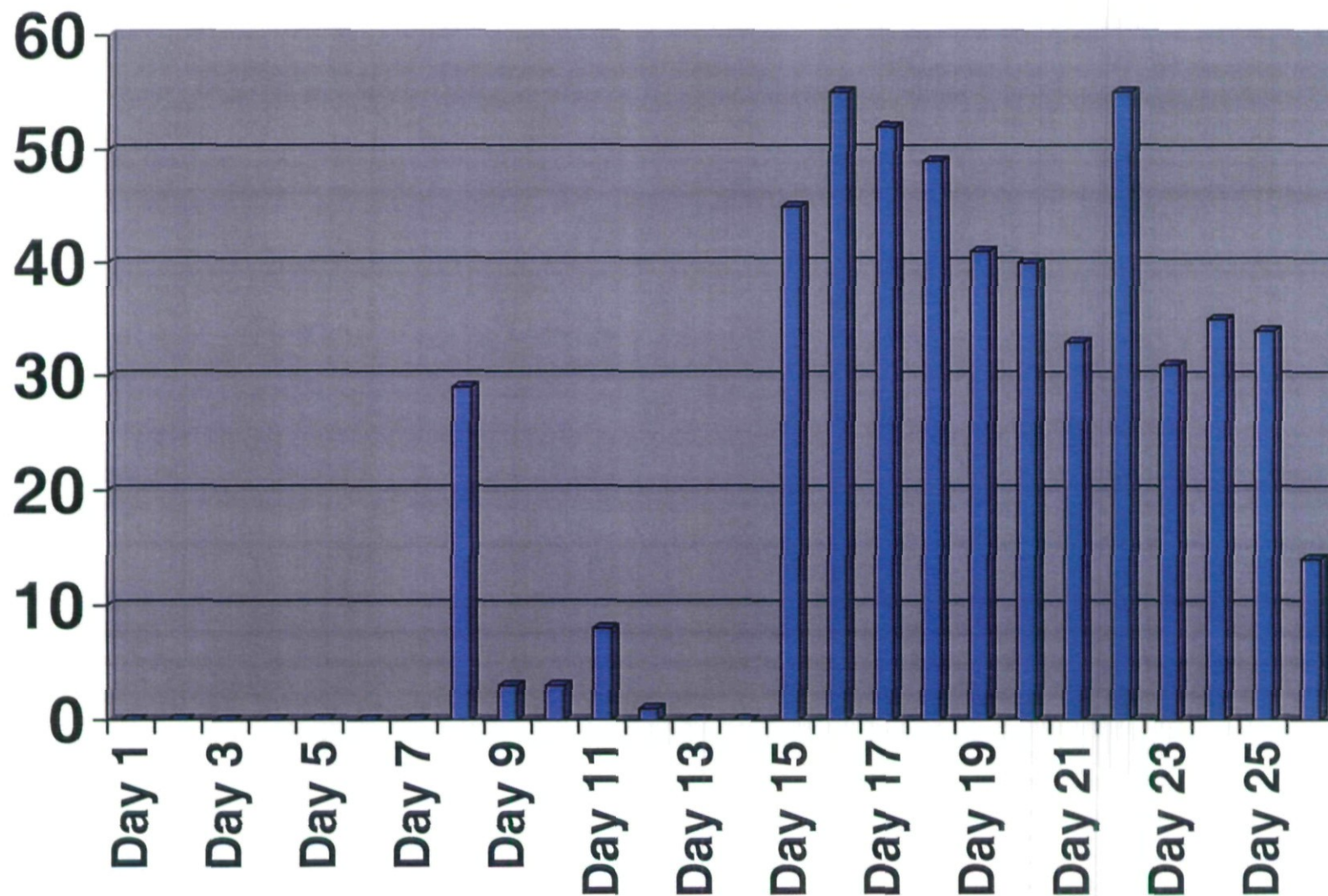
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ANNEX 5

BADGER CULLING TRIAL – INTERFERENCE WITH TRAPPING **ALL OPERATIONS TO DATE (1998-END MAY 2002)**

TRIAL AREA	OPERATION	MONTH(S) /YEAR OF CULL	NO. OF TRAPS	NO. OF TRAPS STOLEN/LOST	NO. OF TRAPS DAMAGED	NO. OF TRAPS INTERFERED	BADGERS RELEASED	BADGERS TAKEN
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