

[REDACTED] (Defra)

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Sent: 26 February 2013 10:47
To: [REDACTED] (ERG-BIO)
Subject: snares in europe
Attachments: Free running neck snares can legally be used in France.doc

[REDACTED]
I have added some information on Belgium that I have found out. In addition I am getting further clarity on the position in Italy.

Cheers
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Free running neck snares can legally be used in France, Spain, Belgium, Ireland and UK.

Spain

Ferreras (2007) found that cage-trapping efficiency in Spain could range from 3 to 10 foxes per 1,000 trap-nights. Whereas snaring was between 1 to 3 foxes per 1000 trap nights.

Trapping (e.g. with cage traps) and snaring (neck or leg) is permitted in some administrative regions. Currently, there is an important debate on the adequacy and effectiveness of these control methods, the need for their evaluation (Amar *et al.* 2010, Newson *et al.* 2010) and, where appropriate, the requirement to professionalize the use of these (Vargas 2002). Government workshops and research have indicated that fox snares do not meet the requirements of the AIHTS, and are not sufficiently selective. There is an ongoing discussion as to the future of snare use in Spain. Snares are mainly used for control of foxes on livestock and small game estates. The game that they shoot is rabbit and partridge.

France

All snare users must have a licence, to obtain a permit/licence must complete theory and practical assessment. Permit needs renewing each year, and activities are associated with a particular area of land. Where hunting/trapping taking place this should be communicated to local Marie.

Republic of Ireland.

No license requirement, but specific requirements for snares in legislation which are

(b) a stop snare with a minimum length from noose to stop of 33 cm, in case it is intended to snare foxes, and 16.5 cm, in case it is intended to snare rabbits, and which complies with the following conditions:

- (i) it incorporates a swivel to facilitate twisting,
- (ii) it is designed so that when it is used it will be securely tied to a fixed object, and
- (iii) it is designed so that, for the purpose of avoiding catching large animals (for example deer, cattle or horses) by the leg when it is used, a jump bar, that is to say, a cross-bar at least 60 cm above the ground and supported by a pair of forked sticks not less than 60 cm apart, may also be used,

Belgium

In Belgium snaring can only be practiced in the Wallonne Region. In Flanders foxes can only be trapped using box traps. There are training courses for trapping in Wallonie, but these are not mandatory. The requirement is that the trapper holds a hunting license and has permission from the landowner. In principle a stopped snare can be used for Fox, Feral cat, Stone marten and Polecat. Although due to the specified characteristics of the snares (fitting of a stop), Stone Marten and Polecat would most likely escape, or jump straight through without being caught. In July 2015 control of Feral cats by hunters will be banned, but in any case it is not a common practice.

Rough translation of regulation:

- The snares should have a stop attached to provide a loop circumference of a minimum of 21 cm to avoid strangulation. When set the snare loop should have a maximum diameter of 20 cm.
- The attachment for the snares should be connected to a fixed or mobile point, which must include at least one swivel to allow for movement of the captured animal, avoiding twisting of snare
- It should be visited every day by the trapper in the morning. The killing of the animals referred to in this section must intervene immediately and without suffering. In case of accidental capture of another animal, it must be released without delay

Badger would be a non-target expected in Belgium.

No EU member state is looking to introduce neck snaring as an additional fox management technique.

Germany, Austria, other EU member states. use of snares is prohibited, but foxes are controlled for conservation purposes. The means of control is either shooting or box traps, German hunters believe these methods to be effective at controlling fox numbers. Proposal in some states to remove predators from General Hunting Licence.

~~Sweden, Finland, Norway. Use of neck snares prohibited. Can use foot snares when snow on ground. But most either shot or box traps. Annual bag indicates that 60,000 foxes killed in Sweden.~~