



Ms Lesley Griffiths
Minister for Rural Affairs
Welsh Government
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@CarolynThomasMS



@CThomasMS

Thursday 26th August 2021

Dear Lesley Griffiths MS,

Re: Banning of Sale, Use and Manufacture of Glue Traps

I am writing to you as Minister for Rural Affairs in relation to the continued use of glue traps as a method of pest control in Wales. In June, the UK government backed a ban on glue traps following a campaign by our Westminster colleague Mark Tami MP, who submitted Early Day Motion 1477 calling for an urgent review into their continued use.

Despite their intended use as a means of pest control, glue traps are indiscriminate in the animals which are caught by them. As such, small mammals and birds are often caught in glue traps. Over the last five years, the RSPCA has received more than 200 reports of animals not considered to be pests caught in glue traps: including wild birds, hedgehogs and household cats.

Glue traps cause cruel and prolonged suffering to animals, often leaving those caught in them to die a slow, painful death – sometimes being left days to starve or suffocate. As a widely available and cheap method of pest control, glue traps are causing needless suffering. Animal rights organisations including the RSPCA and RSPB have spoken out about the cruelty of these traps.

Even as a means of pest control, they are a particularly cruel method – the wide availability of more humane methods makes the continued use of glue traps unnecessary. It is important that Wales does not fall behind on animal welfare standards, particularly in light of the commitment made by the UK government on this issue.

The banning of glue traps would be a necessary step in a progressive direction and could also provide the opportunity for Welsh Government to push more broadly for the use of humane, non-lethal pest control wherever possible. The often default inhumane methods of traps and poisons rarely provide long-term solutions yet cause the most suffering to animals.

I would welcome your commitment to banning the manufacture, sale and use of glue traps as a method of pest control to ensure that Wales continues to uphold and extend the highest standards of animal welfare, as outlined in the Welsh Labour Policy Forum consultation.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carolyn Thomas MS