

## HARE PRESERVATION TRUST

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### **Hares Preservation Act 1892**

From 1 March until 31 July it is illegal for hares to be sold or offered for sale. This also means that hare must not be on the menu in restaurants. In 2008 Royal Warrant holding butchers Donald Russell claimed that hares could be shot outside the prohibited period, then frozen and sold within it. We proved them wrong and they had to stop hare sales. There is, however, an exemption for imported hares. Anyone suspecting illegal sale of hare should contact the local Trading Standards Authority or the Police.

### **Madge the albino hare - still thriving**

In mid-November 2009 we reported that a hand reared albino hare, later named Madge, had been released at a secret location and she was seen alive and well in mid-December. So we were delighted to receive this further recent report from "John":

"Just a quick note to let you know that I saw Madge yesterday safe and well. We have had quite a lot of snow and very cold temperatures over the last few weeks and I wondered how she was coping. She was in the same field where I saw her before about 100yds from her last sighting. She was rooting about on the edge of the field. Just for your information there were another half dozen brown hares in the same field, two of them boxing. I saw several on my way to the field. We really are lucky round here to have so many."

Madge's white coat will help her cope with the cold weather since white bodies radiate less heat than dark ones. As mentioned in Bulletin 79, the same is probably true of mountain hares with their white winter coats. A member of the public reported seeing a black hare recently and we believe these are known as King Hares. Can anyone confirm this?

### **Snaring incident has happy ending**

A cat has had a lucky escape after it was caught in a snare in Beccles. Felix, a black cat with white markings, was found recently by his owner attached to a car exhaust pipe by the snare which was around his neck. The cat was not injured but he was traumatised by his ordeal. Owner Gail Fulford said: "It is lucky Felix wasn't injured in the snare to start with or when the wire became stuck on something else like the exhaust pipe. He doesn't go very far at all so the snare must have been set nearby, which is very worrying." RSPCA inspector Marc Niepold said: "There could easily have been a much less happy ending to this story. We have seen snares cause terrible injuries to pets and wild animals."

Under the new Scottish snaring laws snares must be inspected at least once a day at intervals of no more than 24 hrs. We have challenged Environment Minister, Roseanna Cunningham, [to state why she thinks it acceptable for a terrified animal to be left thrashing around in a snare for that period of time, without food or water, perhaps in extreme weather conditions and helpless to attack by predators. To find out how you can help the campaign to ban snares go to: \[www.antisnaring.org.uk\]\(http://www.antisnaring.org.uk\)](#)

### **Duke of Edinburgh shoots hares**

Following their recent six week winter break at Sandringham, the Duke of Edinburgh, 88, did not accompany the Queen for the 100 mile train journey to London, He is believed to be staying behind on the 20,000 acre Royal estate in Norfolk so that he can enjoy hare shooting parties with friends. The hare shoots traditionally take place at Sandringham in February after the end of the pheasant shooting season. Believe it or not, the Duke of Edinburgh was International President of the World Wildlife Fund from 1981 - 1996 and is now President Emeritus.

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