

Wildlife Crime

HOW TO REPORT IT ...



www.PAW.Scotland.gov.uk

What is Wildlife Crime ?

Anything from poisoning a golden eagle to cracking open freshwater pearl mussels. Rare species are put at risk, familiar ones, like the badger or deer, suffer cruel torture and death.

In short, it's the illegal destruction and theft of animals, plants and habitats, both in the countryside and urban areas.

The Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime in Scotland (PAW Scotland) includes the police, land managers, conservationists and the Scottish Government. We have come together to fight this crime against Scotland.

What should I be looking for ?

Dead animals, including birds, in particular those found in suspicious circumstances.

Suspicious vehicles.

People you are unfamiliar with in your local area. Many offenders travel great distances to commit crimes in rural areas.

The Do's . . .

- ✓ **Do report.** Even if you are not sure - report the incident. The evidence of wildlife crime is not always obvious.
- ✓ **Do take a note of the date,** time and weather conditions.
- ✓ **Do identify a map reference,** GPS reading or accurate description of both the incident scene and location from where you witnessed the incident.
- ✓ **Do note a description of person/s involved** including gender, age, height, clothing etc.
- ✓ **Do write down any vehicle registration numbers,** make, model, and colour that may be involved.
- ✓ **Do identify other witnesses** and obtain their name and contact details.
- ✓ **Do video or photograph the scene,** or make a rough sketch.
- ✓ **Do cover up any suspected poisoned baits or victims** to prevent any animal/person coming into contact with them.

The Don'ts ...

- X Do not disturb** the scene by moving items or walking about unnecessarily.
- X Do not touch** dead animals or birds, especially if you suspect that poison may have been used.
- X Do not interfere** with legal countryside practices such as the legal use of traps and snares, hides, high seats and shooting butts.
- X Never** approach suspects or intervene if you suspect someone is committing a wildlife crime - **you may put yourself in danger.**



Who should I report to ?

Contact the relevant police force and ask to be put through to the Wildlife Crime Officer. If they are not available, you will still be able to report the incident.

Record the incident number given to you by the police.



Scottish Police Forces Service Centre Numbers:

Central Scotland Police
01786 456000

Dumfries & Galloway Constabulary
0845 600 5 701

Fife Constabulary
0845 600 5 702

Grampian Police
0845 600 5 700

Lothian & Borders Police
0131 311 3131

Northern Constabulary
01463 715 555

Strathclyde Police
0141 532 2000

Tayside Police
0300 111 2222

*To pass on information about a crime
anonymously call Crimestoppers:*

 **0800 555 111**



PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION AGAINST
wildlife crime