

Gandhi - On Animals

Not suitable for students under Key Stage 3

**The greatness of a nation can be judged by
the way its animals are treated.**

Gandhi

The quote above is by Mahatma Gandhi.

Perhaps we should think about this and consider how we treat our animals in modern Britain.

Read the following articles.

<http://www.jattdisite.com/>

**779 raptors killed illegally in Scotland
during last 20 years says new report**



The report reveals 104 red kites were killed

A detailed 20 year review of the illegal killing of birds of prey in Scotland, published by RSPB Scotland, confirms that 779 protected raptors were illegally killed between 1994 and 2014.

In total, 468 birds of prey were poisoned, 173 were shot and 76 were caught in illegal traps. There were also seven attempted shootings. The figures include 104 red kites, 37 golden eagles, 30 hen harriers, 16 goshawks and 10 white-tailed eagles.

Daily Mail

A report in the Daily Mail in 2015 stated that dog-owners were bragging on Facebook about illegal fights with foxes. The Mail's investigation uncovered more than 1,400 photographs of injured animals.

- The photographs showed dogs covered in wounds, scratches, scars and blood.
- The dog owners bragged about inserting their dogs into foxholes and badgers setts
- The dogs were terriers such as Jack Russells, Lakeland and Fell Terriers
- Conservationists say that calls reporting this type of hunting have doubled recently

By COLIN FERNANDEZ FOR THE DAILY MAIL

PUBLISHED: 01:37, 19 December 2015 | UPDATED: 08:51, 19 December 2015

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3366652/Dog-owners-brag-Facebook-illegal-fights-foxes.html#ixzz3unF7zAX6>
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The dog-owners who were involved in these fights with foxes and badgers were openly boasting about the practice on social media.

The investigation found more than 1,400 photos of dogs whose owners had boasted that they have been involved in illegal fights against the wild animals.

The images, mostly found on Facebook, showed the dogs covered in blood with, wounds, scratches and scars to their faces. (The baiters call them the dog's 'medals').

The dog owners insert their pets in badger setts or foxholes for sport. (It is a criminal offence to introduce a dog to a badger sett.)

The anti-fox hunting group, League Against Cruel Sports, collected the images after being contacted by members of the public on its 'Crimewatch' phone line.

It reported that calls to its phone line reporting 'underground hunting' had doubled in the last year. The League Against Cruel Sports is calling for 'underground hunting' to be specifically banned.

THE LAW ON HUNTING

In England and Wales, the Hunting Act stipulates that dogs may only be used to hunt a mammal underground for the purpose of reducing serious damage to game birds or wild birds being kept or preserved to be shot, and that the person must carry with them written permission and intend to shoot the fox as soon as possible after it has been flushed from under the ground.

Only one dog may be used below ground at any one time

In Scotland, the Protection of Wildlife Mammals Act permits hunting underground for the purpose of protecting livestock, timber, fowl and crops, as well as for the purpose of obtaining food for consumption, the protection of human health and disease prevention, pest control and population management of the target species. Any number of dogs may be used.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3366652/Dog-owners-brag-Facebook-illegal-fights-foxes.html#ixzz3unFq02tP>

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Did you know that the North East of England is the 'Animal Cruelty Capital of Britain'?

The number of badger-related crimes in 2014 filled 5 A4 pages!

Across Britain, we lose around 10,000 badgers each year to badger baiters.

(And around 50,000 on the roads!)

Badger diggers/baiters will approach a sett during the day, when badgers are asleep. They will use a dog with a radio collar to locate the badgers. Then they'll dig down and extract the badgers. The animals are then put into sacks and loaded into a van.

The baiters will often drive to an urban area, such as Manchester or Sheffield, where there are quiet places and few people, where they believe the police are not watching. Inside the venue - perhaps an abandoned warehouse - they will build a 'boxing ring' with hay bales. A badger will be taken from the van and put into this 'pit'. Then 3 or 4 fighting dogs will be introduced, and betting will begin as to how long it will take the dogs to tear the badger limb from limb.

(They will often disable the badger beforehand by knocking its teeth out with a spade, or hitting it over the back of its neck so that it can't raise its head properly.) Of course, the dogs also suffer terribly, and are never taken to the vet. Their wounds either get better on their own or the dog dies. (See above)

Badger baiting is a horrific crime, with a penalty of £5000 and 6 months in prison.

Remember: to get away with digging badgers, you have to get lucky every time.

For us to catch you in the act, we only have to get lucky once!

Badger digging and baiting often fuels the drugs trade, causing terrible damage to vulnerable people.

<http://durhambadgers.org.uk/>

The Northern Echo

Saturday December 19th 2015

Sanctuary owners sickened after finding fox 'mangled' on footpath day after four stolen



These four foxes were taken from Kays Hill Animal Sanctuary.

The owners of an animal sanctuary say they were "sickened" to discover a fox believed to have been stolen from their premises, gutted on a public path today (December 18).

Kevin Plummer and Leanne Wensley, of Kays Hill Animal Sanctuary, near West Auckland, said they could not describe how awful it was to find the fox and a foal just five minutes away from their own sanctuary, in the Brusselton area.

The pair had put out a Facebook appeal after thieves stole four red foxes, Mars, Venus, Artie and Dixie and an African grey parrot, called Cookie, on Tuesday night (December 15) and feared they were taken to be killed by dogs.

They offered a £1,000 reward for the safe return of the animals, but were shocked after a local resident alerted the pair to the remains while walking her dogs yesterday (December 17).

Ms Wensley said: "We think the fox could be one of ours; it was absolutely mangled as well as being sliced open."

"This is horrific. This cannot be allowed to go on. The foal could only have been three months old and it's just sliced open, it's awful," the 49-year-old added.

"I cannot put it into words how I feel right now, I feel sick and I feel frightened for what happened and that there's people out there that would do this sort of thing." He added: "I hope to God it's not connected to some sort of ritual, it's quite sinister."

<http://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/>

The Animal Trade by Numbers

Animals Traded			
<u>Reptiles</u>	145 species		Totals:
Turtles	238,913	Reptiles are the most commonly traded class of animals, and are usually used for leather goods.	335,562
Lizards	74,740		
Snakes	19,292		
Alligators	2,617		
<u>Birds</u>	92 species		
Parrots, etc	104,230	Birds are usually traded as pets. 38% were captured in the wild.	105,449
Birds of Prey	342		
Others	877		
<u>Fish</u>	15 species		
Sturgeon and Paddlefish	99,900	Caviar is the most valuable fishery product commonly managed by CITES. Wild-sourced exports have declined since 1999.	104,520
Seahorses	2,907		
Others	1713		
<u>Mammals</u>	2462	72 species	2462
Mammals accounted for 15% of the total value of Appendix 2 animal trade (2006 – 2010)			
<u>Amphibians</u>	11,646	13 species	11,646

Information
researched from
National Geographic
Magazine, July 2015

<http://www.national-geographic-magazine.co.uk/>

These are the numbers of mainly wild animals traded around the globe in 2012.

GOING ON HOLIDAY?

PLEASE DON'T:

- **buy things made from animal parts, eg. horn, bone, ivory, skins, feathers.**
- **buy things made from coral;**
- **buy living animals or plants;**
- **buy food made from wild mammals, birds or endangered fish, eg. sharks;**
- **have your photo taken with chimps, snakes or other wild animals;**
- **give money to people who use animals to entertain, eg. 'dancing bears';**



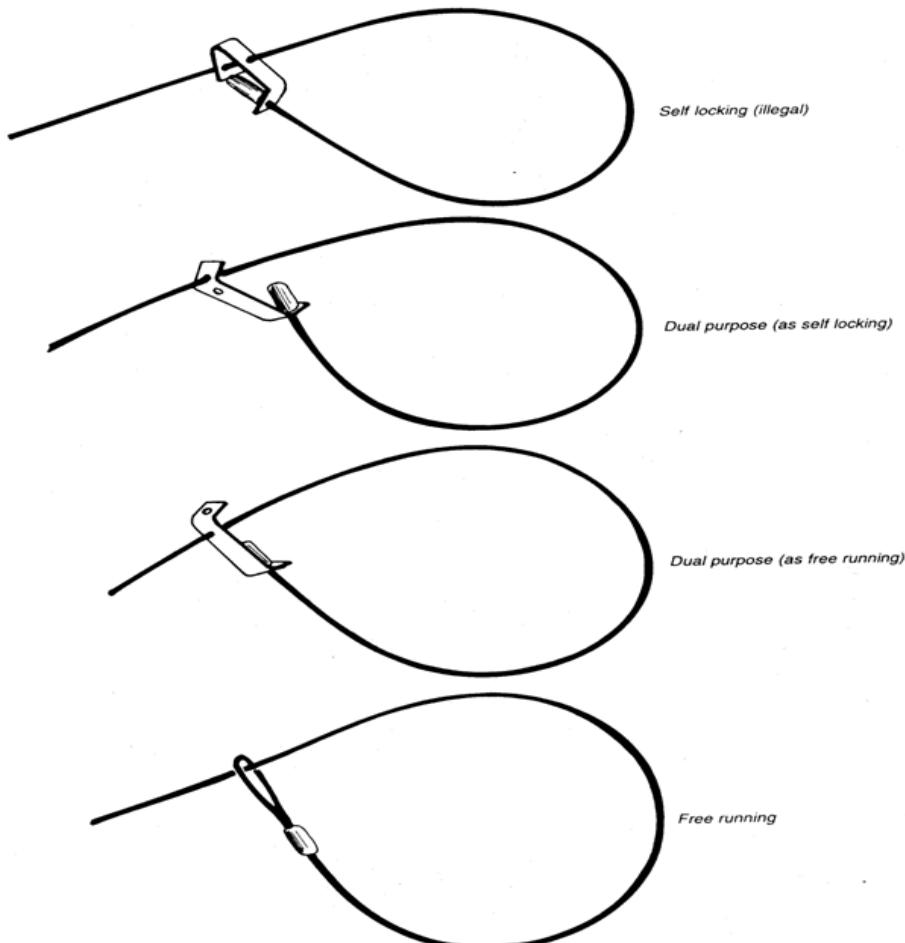
PLEASE DO: Have a great holiday! (Poster used to inform Key Stage 2 children.)

Snares

Free-running snares are not illegal in this country.

FIG 16 TYPES OF SNARE

However, self-locking snares ARE illegal.



If you find a snare in the countryside:

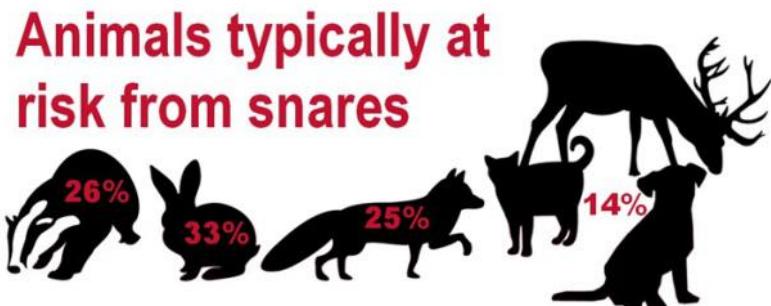
DO NOT TAKE THEM AWAY OR BREAK THEM.

(You would be committing an offence!)

Instead, just run them down until they are too small to catch an animal.

Report any self-locking snares to the police.

Animals typically at risk from snares



Graphic courtesy of LACS

These snares are regularly used in our countryside.



This is a gin trap. It is VERY illegal!

The number you need to call to report snares and traps is 101

The European Lynx <http://www.lynxuk.org/>

What happened to the British lynx, and why do we want to bring it back?

The lynx fits into the British ecology. It was forced out by man, and bringing it back today can fix a problem we've struggled to deal with for the last 1300 years. Lynx predate roe deer that are decimating our forests, as they have no natural predator. If the lynx is reintroduced, we should see rapid forest regeneration thanks to the fear factor and trophic cascades. A handful of lynx can have an excellent effect on a 1m strong deer herd and the damage it does to British forests; the potential is amazing.

Are lynx a threat to humans? How are we different to any other prey?

If we get into the psychology of the lynx, we see that we're off the menu. We are too colourful (in our dress), noisy when we walk, and smelly, with all of our potions. That spells 'super-predator' to a lynx! We also, often, walk with dogs!

Lynx and sheep predation; how big a problem is it and how can we prevent conflict?

Lynx are known to occasionally take sheep from farmers, but all signs are that impact is minimal and can be very easily compensated. (Lynx take around 0.4 of a lynx per year.)

Lynx, pets, wildcats and other wildlife; is there any threat?

In terms of interactions between dogs and lynx there's good news, just as with humans there are no recorded incidents of wild Eurasian lynx attacking dogs. The reasons why probably mirror the logic to lynx interactions with humans covered a few days ago; domestic dogs are outrageously confident moving around, they're often in groups, usually with humans, and most of them kick up an incredible amount of noise, especially if they spot something interesting. To a wild animal this is all the behaviour of something dangerous that is scared of nothing.

There's no clear evidence of wild lynx attacking pet cats, though, in a few studies, domestic cats have emerged within lynx diet. Of course, most domestic cats wouldn't prowl in the sort of area that lynx would inhabit.

Threats

Lynx are primarily threatened by *illegal hunting for fur*, though *habitat loss and fragmentation* and *lack of prey species* are also significant threats to the Eurasian lynx. Whilst it is enjoying a

period of stability and support in terms of reintroductions, it is important that this is maintained.



Natural threats are few, occasionally wolverines will kill lynx defending their young, and wolves will opportunistically kill them.

Lynx are protected by CITES and the Bern Convention having recovered from a population low of just 700 in Europe in the 1950s.

Discussion: Now that you have read the articles and figures above, consider and discuss within your group:

- Why do you think raptors are regularly poisoned, trapped and shot?
- Red kites have only just been released in some areas of the country. They don't tend to prey on live animals, but eat carrion they find dead on the ground; thereby cleaning up for us.
- White tailed eagles have been reintroduced into Western Scotland. They now bring at least £5 million into the Mull economy every year, and the tourism they generate supports 110 full-time equivalent jobs.

- Dog owners unleash their pets in badger setts or foxholes for sport.
- The League Against Cruel Sports, the anti-fox hunting group, said calls to its phone line reporting 'underground hunting' had doubled in the last year.
- Photos show dogs covered in blood, wounds, scratches and scars.

- Across Britain, we lose around 10,000 badgers each year to badger baiters.
- A badger will be put into a 'pit'. Then 3 or 4 fighting dogs will be introduced, and betting will begin as to how long it will take the dogs to tear the badger limb from limb.
- The badger will often be injured first, to make the dogs' job easier.
- Large boar badgers are fearsome animals when cornered, (though harmless in the wild, if left alone.)
- Female badgers will fight more fiercely if guarding cubs in the pit.
- Cubs will be killed too.

- The foxes stolen from the animal sanctuary were probably used to fight dogs.

- But why a foal?
- And a parrot?!!!
- From the sanctuary owner: "*I cannot put it into words how I feel right now, I feel sick and I feel frightened for what happened and that there's people out there that would do this sort of thing.*" He added: "*I hope to God it's not connected to some sort of ritual, it's quite sinister.*"
- Why would you want to take an animal from its wild habitat to lock it away as a pet?
- The reason we ask people not to have their photo taken with chimps, snakes or other wild animals is quite simple. The chimp that sits on your knee is a baby. A grown chimp would be too large and dangerous to use. (The chimp will also be drugged to sedate it.) The baby was probably taken from its mother in the wild – the mother would be shot. Once the baby grows too big, it will be disposed of; often by taking it out to sea and throwing it over board to drown, and another baby chimp will be caught to replace it.
- If we don't buy wildlife souvenirs or give money to people exploiting animals, the trade will die out.

Task: Now that you have discussed the material above with your group, you could research the topic more fully and write down your thoughts on the matters discussed.

Be the change that you want to see in the world.

Gandhi

- Was Ghandi right? Yes/No?
- How are we doing, in this country?
- How does that make you feel?
- Discuss with your group, any ways in which you might make a difference.

Your tutor might have other ideas of how they want you to treat this material.