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| **Licence application form –** [**Preventing serious damage to livestock, woodlands or crops**](https://www.nature.scot/doc/licence-application-form-hunting-dogs-preventing-serious-damage-livestock)For the use of more than two dogs for the management of wild mammals above ground to prevent serious damage to livestock, woodlands or cropsLegislation: Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Act 2023 (the ‘Act') |

If you need assistance filling in this form please contact the NatureScot Licensing Team:

Email: licensing@nature.scot Telephone: 01463 725364

Please answer all relevant questions fully.

Who should use this application form

This form is for new applications for anyone who wishes to hunt a wild mammal using more than two dogs for the purpose of preventing serious damage to livestock, woodland or crops.

Amendments

If you wish to apply for an amendment to a current Licence please email NatureScot Licensing Team with the Licence number, the details you wish to change and the reasons for the proposed change.

Section A: Licensable Purpose and Licensable Activity:

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| The applicant is applying for a licence for the Purpose of preventing serious damage to either: (select the appropriate category) | **[ ]  Livestock**  **[ ]  woodlands [ ]  Crops** |
| The proposed Licenced Activity is for (i) searching for, stalking or flushing from cover a wild mammal, with the intention of killing it for the purpose of preventing serious damage and (ii) searching for and retrieval of a wild mammal which has been killed as a result of the proposed Licensable Activity.  |

Section B: Applicant

Please provide the name and address of the person applying for the licence. If a licence is granted, the Applicant will be designed as ‘Licence Holder’ on the licence and will be legally responsible for ensuring that all licence terms and conditions are met and for submitting a return to NatureScot at Licensing@nature.scot at the end of the Licence Term (as defined in the licence).

|  |  |
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| **Title**  |       |
| **First name**  |       |
| **Surname** |       |
| **Email address** |       |
| **Address** |       |
| **Postcode** |       |
| **Type of address**  | Home       Work       |
| **Contact telephone number(s)** |       |
| **Nature of interest in farm/property** *(e.g. Land owner/tenant/manager)* | Land owner [ ] Land manager [ ] Livestock manager [ ] Land Agent/ Factor [ ] Tenant [ ] Other (please state)       |
| **Have you or anyone who it is proposed will work under the licence being applied for been convicted of a wildlife crime** **or disqualified from owning or keeping dogs?**  | [ ]  **Yes** [ ]  **No** |

**Section C: Dog Handler Details**

The Dog Handler is the individual who will be in control of the dogs during the course of any Licensable Activities. They will be named on any licence and, subject to them having the prior written authorisation of the Licence Holder, may undertake the Licensable Activities on behalf of Licence Holder.

The Licence Holder shall be responsible for ensuring that any Dog Handler reads, understands and complies with the terms of any licence to follow. Any act or omission on the part of any Dog Handler which is contrary to the terms and conditions of such a licence shall entitle NatureScot to revoke that licence.

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| **Do you intend to carry out/oversee this activity yourself?** |  [ ]  **Yes** [ ]  **No**  |
| **If ‘no’, please provide details of the Dog Handler** |
| **Title**  |       |
| **First name**  |       |
| **Surname** |       |
| **Address** |       |
| Organisation/consultancy name (optional) |       |
| **Email address** |       |
| **Contact telephone number(s)** |       |
| **Has the Dog Handler or anyone who may be assisting him in relation to any Licensable Activities been convicted of a wildlife crime** **or disqualification from owning or keeping dogs?** |  [ ]  **Yes** [ ]  **No**  |
| **If a licence is granted may we email a copy of the licence to the Dog Handler?** |  [ ]  **Yes** [ ]  **No**  |
| **Do you give permission for the Dog Handler to request amendments to any licence issued pursuant to this application?** |  [ ]  **Yes** [ ]  **No**  |

Section D: Named Assistants

If the Licence Holder or the Dog Handler are likely to require assistance in carrying out any Licensable Activities, for example to aid in the control of the dogs, they can make use of “Named Assistants” for that purpose.

The name(s) and contact details of any individual who the Applicant wishes to be a Named Assistant on any licence following upon this application, must be provided where indicated below.

Only persons named as such on a licence will be Named Assistants. It is an offence for any person who is not the Licence Holder, the Dog Handler or a Named Assistant to carry out Licensable Activities pursuant to a licence.

The Licence Holder shall be responsible for ensuring that any Named Assistant(s) read(s), understand(s) and comply(ies) with the terms and conditions of any licence to follow. Any act or omission on the part of any Named Assistant which is contrary to the terms of such a licence shall entitle NatureScot to revoke that licence.

Named Assistants can only work under the personal, direct supervision of the Licence Holder or the Dog Handler.

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| Please provide the following details of any persons you wish to be Named Assistants. Note: this does not include details of named guns. They are not required in an application but in the event of a licence being issued, they must be recorded at the time of the activity and be available for inspection by any Police Officer or official of NatureScot on demand. |
| **Full Name** | **Postal Address** | **E mail Address** | **Contact number**  | **Work Undertaking** e.g. dog handler |
|       |       |       |       |       |
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Section E: Licence details

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| **Licence details required** | **Provide required information below** |
| **Site name** (where you consider that serious damage is occurring or likely to occur- this is how your application will be referred to in all future correspondence) |       |
| **Address***(please include full postal address for the farm if different from above)* |       |
| **Farm CPH number if relevant**  |       |
| **Six figure grid reference of location of serious damage (actual or likely).** (e.g. NX100200. If multiple locations please provide references for each).) |       |
| **Have you received landowner permission to undertake the Licensable Activities?** |  [ ]  **Yes** [ ]  **No**  |
| **Species of wild mammal which you wish to control** *(which is causing or likely to cause serious damage e.g. fox)* |       |
| **Is the species of wild mammal a protected species?** For more information see our [website](https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/protected-areas-and-species/protected-species/legal-framework#:~:text=In%20many%20cases%2C%20it's%20an,law%20to%20pick%20some%20plants.)  | [ ]  **Yes** [ ]  **No** |
| **What breeds or types of dogs will be used any Licensable Activities?** |       |
| **Proposed start date(s) and end date(s) of any periods of Licensed Activity** |       |
| **Requested total number of days for the activity(s)** (e.g. 3 days) *This must be justified with reference to evidence and can be no more than 14 days* |       |
| **Date you require a licence** *(i.e. date you need confirmation that a licence will be issued to allow preparation for the activity)* |       |
| **Does any part of the proposed activity fall in and/ or adjacent to an area covered by a nature conservation designation?** *(e.g. Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation etc. –* [*see our website for site locations and information*](http://gateway.snh.gov.uk/sitelink/index.jsp)*)*  |       |

**Section F: Licensable Activities**

The Applicant must describe all locations where they wish to undertake the Licensable Activities. **Please also enclose a location map, this should be at an appropriate scale, clearly labelled and outlining each such location, any areas of cover within or nearby such locations and the location(s) of the livestock and /or woodlands and or / crops requiring protection.** A method statement should be submitted along with the application detailing how any Licensed Activities will be managed- See Annex I at the end of the form.

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| **Name of the area of land within which the Licensed Activities will be undertaken** (this should correlate with the map label) |       |
| **Location 1**(Six figure grid reference from centre of the area) e.g. NX100200 |       |
| **Description of the proposed area where the Licensed Activity is proposed** (e.g. conifer plantation):      |
| **Justification for why the control of the wild mammal by the use of more than two dogs in this location, at the times proposed, will prevent serious damage to livestock** (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):      |
| **Proposed minimum number of guns** |       |
| **Justification for the number of guns** (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):      |
| **Proposed number of dogs** (this should be the minimum number which would be effective at achieving the licensable purpose) |       |
| **Justification for the number of dogs (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):**      |

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| **Name of the area to be licenced** (this should correlate with the map label) |       |
| **Location 2** (Six figure grid reference from centre of the area) e.g. NX100200 |       |
| **Description of the proposed area where the Licensed Activity is proposed** (e.g. conifer plantation):      |
| **Justification for why the control of the wild mammal by the use of more than two dogs in this location, at the times proposed, will prevent serious damage to livestock** (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):      |
| **Proposed minimum number of guns** |       |
| **Justification for the number of guns** (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):      |
| **Proposed number of dogs** (this should be the minimum number which would be effective at achieving the licensable purpose) |       |
| **Justification for the number of dogs** (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):      |

Additional locations can added using the tables provided in Annex II at the end of the application form.

**Section G: Details of serious damage to livestock, woodland or crops.**

Provide details of the location where the serious damage is occurring/ expected to occur, describe the severity of damage that is expected/ is occurring, and when the serious damage is likely to occur / reoccur. **Please enclose a location map of the property showing the area (e.g., specific lambing field(s)) where the damage has occurred or is expected).**

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| **Location of where the serious damage is occurring or likely to occur**(e.g. lambing field A) | **Name of the Livestock or woodlands or crops at risk (e.g. new-born lambs)** | **Period when damage is expected to occur / reoccur** (e.g. start and end date of vulnerable lambing period)  |
| **Start date** | **End date** |
|       |       |       |       |
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| **Please *describe the serious damage which you consider will occur if the Licensable Activities are not undertaken.*** *The extent of the anticipate damage should be quantified (e.g. numbers of animals killed / injured, and the financial cost). Quantification should be supported by evidence.**Where the justification provided includes reference to historic damage, the extent of that damage should be described and quantified with reference to evidence, including evidence which shows that such damage did in fact occur**For both historic and anticipated damage, evidence must be provided which shows that it was / will be caused by the species* of wild mammal being targeted.  |
|       |

**Section H: Alternatives**

Before granting a licence we need to be satisfied that there is no other solution available to prevent serious damage to livestock, woodlands or crops.

There are a number of recognised measures which can achieve the licensable purpose without the need for Licensable Activity. Some of those are set out in the table below.

In order for NatureScot to assess whether or not there is any alternative to licensing, we require evidence as to the efforts the applicant has made to implement non-licensable measures.

For each of those known measures, applicants will require to confirm whether or not they have been attempted.

Where any known measures have not been attempted, the Applicant should say why and should provide evidence which shows why, in the Applicant’s view, those measures would not prevent serious damage from occurring.

Where those known (and any other) measures have been attempted, the Applicant should provide evidence which shows that those attempts were implemented (including details of the method of implementation, locations, dates of implementation and evidence of outcomes) and evidence which they consider demonstrates that such measures will not prevent serious damage from occurring.

Stating that there is “dense cover” and there is “no alternative” is not appropriate *(e.g. have you attempted control by firearms, moving the sheep to lower risk areas, bringing sheep into lambing sheds etc.)*

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| **Measure** | **Explanation and evidence** |
| **Use of firearms:** please provide details of effort (including dates, times of day, location(s) of attempts, outcomes of those attempts, and why you consider that this has not been and cannot be an effective solution in this case). If this has not been attempted, please explain why not and, with reference to evidence, why you consider that it could not be an effective solution. |       |
| **Using up to 2 dogs** (can the searching for, stalking or flushing from cover be achieved by using up to two dogs) |       |
| **Land or stock management** (can the livestock be moved to a less vulnerable location? Can the livestock be housed in lambing sheds at lambing? Have you tried or considered enhanced shepherding?)  |       |
| **Use of physical barriers** (fencing type and location e.g. map) |       |
| **Snaring**: (if used, please provide snaring log) |       |
| **Other alternative solutions attempted/considered** |       |

**Section I: Required documents checklist**

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| **Confirm by ticking the box below that all the information we require to assess your application has been submitted. If information is omitted, your application may be refused as a result. We may also request further information from you if we consider that it is required in order to properly assess your application.****[ ]  Location map(s)** clearly showing land on which the Licensable Activities are to take place, the proposed locations of that activity (this should be outlined), any areas of cover on or adjacent to those areas, the locations where you consider that serious damage will occur if the Licensable Activities are not undertaken.**[ ]  Evidence that damage will occur/ is occurring** *(e.g. photos of historic damage if relied upon)***[ ]  *Any other evidence in support of the application*** *(e.g in support of number of guns).***[ ]  Annex I Method statement (of activity)** **[ ]  Annex II –Additional locations of activity if applicable** **[ ]  Herbivore management plan** (*for Preventing serious damage to woodlands or crops only*)  |

**Section J: Declaration**

* I understand that it is an offence under The Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Act 2023 to knowingly or recklessly provide false information in order to obtain a licence, and I declare that the particulars given in this application and any accompanying documents are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I apply for a licence in accordance with these particulars.
* I understand that failure to comply with any conditions included on any licence granted in respect of this application may constitute an offence.

**Applicant**

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| --- | --- |
| **Date**: Click here to enter a date. | **Print name:**      **Electronic signature:**  |

**Dog Handler**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date**: Click here to enter a date. | **Print name:**      **Electronic signature:**  |

**Submitting your application form**

This application **should be submitted by email from the Applicant** as named on this licence application. Please email the completed application form, together with all supporting information, to:**licensing@nature.scot**

Please do not send zip files as these may be blocked by our security system and not received.

Once we have received your application, you will receive an automated email acknowledging this. Please quote the reference number given in the email if you need to contact us in relation to your application.

If you do not have access to email, you can print out and send your application and supporting information to the postal address below. Please note if you apply by post you will not receive confirmation that your application has been received.

**Licensing Section**

**NatureScot**

**Great Glen House**

**Leachkin Road**

**Inverness**

**IV3 8NW**

[How we adhere with the Data Protection Act and the Scottish Regulators' Strategic Code of Practice](https://www.nature.scot/data-protection-how-we-use-your-personal-information-accordance-data-protection-act)

**Annex** I**-** **Method Statement**

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| This should provide detail of how the activity will be undertaken with reference to the licensable elements (e.g. **stalking and/or searching for and / or flushing from cover)** e.g. how will the Licensable Activity be conducted effectively, will the area be divided into management areas, and how the guns and dogs will be deployed. If there are multiple areas of proposed Licensable Activity, please provide a statement for each area.  |
|       |

**Annex II – Supplementary areas of proposed activity**

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| **Name of the area of land within which the Licensed Activities will be undertaken** (this should correlate with the map label) |       |
| **Location 3**(Six figure grid reference from centre of the area) e.g. NX100200 |       |
| **Description of the proposed area where the Licensed Activity is proposed** (e.g. conifer plantation):      |
| **Justification for why the control of the wild mammal by the use of more than two dogs in this location, at the times proposed, will prevent serious damage to livestock (**this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):       |
| **Proposed minimum number of guns** |       |
| **Justification for the number of guns** (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):      |
| **Proposed number of dogs** (this should be the minimum number which would be effective at achieving the licensable purpose) |       |
| **Justification for the number of dogs** (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):      |

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| **Name of the area of land within which the Licensed Activities will be undertaken** (this should correlate with the map label) |       |
| **Location 4**(Six figure grid reference from centre of the area) e.g. NX100200 |       |
| **Description of the area where the activity is proposed** (e.g. conifer plantation):      |
| **Justification for why the control of the wild mammal by the use of more than two dogs in this location, at the times proposed, will prevent serious damage to livestock (**this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):       |
| **Proposed minimum number of guns** |       |
| **Justification for the number of guns** (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):      |
| **Proposed number of dogs** (this should be the minimum number which would be effective at achieving the licensable purpose) |       |
| **Justification for the number of dogs** (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):      |

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| **Name of the area of land within which the Licensed Activities will be undertaken** (this should correlate with the map label) |       |
| **Location 5**(Six figure grid reference from centre of the area) e.g. NX100200 |       |
| **Description of the proposed area where the Licensed Activity is proposed** (e.g. conifer plantation):      |
| **Justification for why the control of the wild mammal by the use of more than two dogs in this location, at the times proposed, will prevent serious damage to livestock (Description of the proposed area where the Licensed Activity is proposed** (e.g. conifer plantation):      |
| **Proposed minimum number of guns** |       |
| **Justification for the number of guns** (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):      |
| **Proposed maximum number of dogs**  |       |
| **Justification for the number of dogs** (this must be supported by evidence which the Applicant can attach to or enclose with their application):      |