

WORLD ANIMAL DAY - 4 October

Letters to all 650 MPs on the subject of snaring are on their way to the House of Commons. Many thanks to Anna, Micha, Stephan, Cathy and Simon for their help with envelope stuffing. Should you wish to e-mail your MP with your views, then please do this on 4 October so the date is flagged up on your e-mail. For hard copy, any time now, but before 1 October to allow time for your letter to get through the security system. Apart from the letter I circulated www.antisnaring.org.uk is a source of information. Note, Defra's Code of Practice on snaring has no legal standing and is therefore not worth the paper it is written on.

DETECTION OF LEVERETS AND OTHER WILDLIFE USING DRONE MOUNTED THERMAL SENSORS

We have had an anonymous donation of £2,000 towards the cost of the drone. This should leave change of about £1,300 towards the cost of the sensor, but we will now be able to make progress gaining expertise piloting the drone up and down fields to cover the entire area. A research team in Denmark has had success finding roe deer fawns but these would have a much larger thermal signature than a leveret and thus easier to detect.

RE-INTRODUCTION OF MOUNTAIN HARES TO DARTMOOR

We need to do much more work surveying the Dartmoor flora and make contact with interested parties such as the Dartmoor Commoners Association. We also need to get Natural England on-side. However, the recent re-introduction of beavers to the River Otter has set a precedent for similar projects. With regard to climate - global warming could upset the Gulf Stream, thus making Dartmoor colder and increasing its suitability for mountain hares in the long term. The Animal Aid Christmas Fair in Exeter on 21 November will give us an opportunity to gauge public opinion on this project.
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Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of South-West Action For Hares.