



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

**Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs**

Belfast City Council  
Legal and Civic Services Department  
City Hall  
Belfast  
BT1 5GS

Emailed to: [steelesara@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:steelesara@belfastcity.gov.uk)

28 January 2022

Ref: SS 10.01.2022

Dear Sara,

**RE: End of Hunting of Mammals with Dogs**

I write on behalf of the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (AERA) and further to your letter of 21 January 2022 outlining that Belfast City Council passed a motion on 10 January 2022 expressing its disappointment at the lack of legislative progress on banning the use of dogs to hunt mammals.

The Committee considered this correspondence at its meeting on 27 January 2022 and agreed to write to the Council, affirming its shared commitment to ending animal cruelty and supporting animal welfare.

For the purposes of clarity – the proposed Bill to which I am assuming the motion relates proposed banning the use of dogs to hunt **wild** mammals. There are existing legal protections to prevent dogs attacking and maiming animals which are owned by individuals.

Further, the decision that the Bill should not pass Second Stage, which immediately precedes Committee Stage, was taken by the Assembly as a whole and the Committee therefore did not have an opportunity to engage in scrutiny of the legislation.

The Committee however stands ready to review and scrutinise any new piece of legislation which may be introduced in the new electoral mandate to facilitate enhanced protection for wild animals.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Henry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

**Nick Henry**  
**Clerk, Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs**