



Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Act 2023

2023 asp 1

PART 2

TRAIL HUNTING

Offences

14 Offences relating to trail hunting

- (1) A person commits an offence if—
 - (a) the person engages or participates in trail hunting, and
 - (b) the exception in [section 16](#) does not apply.
- (2) In this Part—

“trail hunting” is the activity in which a dog is directed to find and follow an animal-based scent which has been laid for that purpose,

“animal-based scent” means—

 - (a) a scent which is derived from a wild mammal, or
 - (b) a scent which mimics, replicates or resembles the scent of a wild mammal (or which is designed to do so), whether or not that scent is derived wholly or in part from artificial ingredients.
- (3) A person commits an offence if—
 - (a) the person—
 - (i) is an owner or occupier of land, and
 - (ii) knowingly causes or permits another person to engage or participate in trail hunting on that land, and
 - (b) the exception in [section 16](#) does not apply to the trail hunting.
- (4) A person commits an offence if—
 - (a) the person—
 - (i) owns or is responsible for a dog, and
 - (ii) knowingly causes or permits another person to use the dog for trail hunting, and
 - (b) the exception in [section 16](#) does not apply to the trail hunting.

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the
Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Act 2023, Section 14. (See end of Document for details)*

- (5) A person who commits an offence under [subsection \(1\), \(3\) or \(4\)](#) is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or a fine not exceeding £40,000 (or both).
- (6) It is a defence for a person charged with an offence under [subsection \(3\) or \(4\)](#) to show that the person reasonably believed that the exception in [section 16](#) applied to the trail hunting.
- (7) In this Part, an “owner” of land includes, in particular, a person who—
- (a) manages or controls that land, or
 - (b) is authorised to give permission for that land to be used for trail hunting.

Commencement Information

I1 S. 14 not in force at Royal Assent, see [s. 31\(2\)](#)

I2 [S. 14](#) in force at 3.10.2023 by [S.S.I. 2023/262](#), [reg. 2](#)

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Hunting with Dogs (Scotland) Act 2023, Section 14.