

## REPORTING A WILDLIFE CRIME

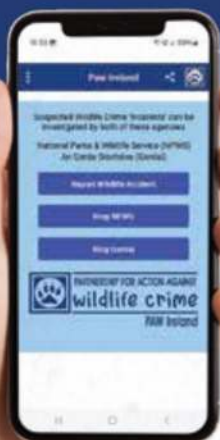
If you SUSPECT a wildlife crime is taking, or has taken, place – REPORT IT!

First report it to the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) – tel: (01) 888 2000, [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie) and email [WildlifeEnforcement@npws.gov.ie](mailto:WildlifeEnforcement@npws.gov.ie)

If an incident is happening in real time, or if there's a risk of a breach of the peace, call An Garda Síochána on 999 and email [envi.wildlife.crime@garda.ie](mailto:envi.wildlife.crime@garda.ie)

If there is a LIVE animal that has been injured at the scene, use [www.irishwildlifematters.ie](http://www.irishwildlifematters.ie) to find a vet or rehabilitator.

Detailed Reporting & Crime information:  
[www.wildlifecrime.ie](http://www.wildlifecrime.ie)



You can also use the PAW Ireland Wildlife Crime Reporting App – scan the relevant QR code below for a free download.



ANDROID



iOS

Visit [www.wildlifecrime.ie/paw](http://www.wildlifecrime.ie/paw) to learn more

## WHY FIGHT WILDLIFE CRIME?

Ireland is legally obliged to protect internationally important habitats and the species that depend on them.

We have a moral obligation to advocate on behalf of birds or mammals protected by the law.

No animal should be subjected to unnecessary pain and suffering.

Wildlife are an essential component of healthy ecosystems and contribute to ecosystem services crucial for a healthy planet and the wellbeing of all species.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP

Be prepared: download the 'PAW Ireland' App to easily report a wildlife crime



Report ANY suspicious activity



Distribute this flyer



Contact NPWS for talks on wildlife crime  
[www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)



Promote the Wildlife Crime website  
[www.wildlifecrime.ie](http://www.wildlifecrime.ie)



# WILDLIFE CRIME AND THE LAW IN IRELAND



What is wildlife crime and why does it matter?

## LEGISLATION

**Wildlife crime is any act that contravenes current legislation governing the protection of wild birds, mammals, plants and their habitats.**

Examples include:

- Bird persecution – poisoning or trapping birds, or disturbance of birds near a nest containing eggs or chicks
- Deer poaching – illegally hunting deer
- Use of illegal traps, snares and nets
- Unlicensed hare netting or illegal coursing
- Badger persecution – including baiting, trapping and disturbance of setts
- Fish poaching – illegally hunting or capturing fish
- Bat persecution – including disturbance to roosts
- Removing / damaging protected wild plants / habitats
- Cutting hedgerows during the bird nesting season (Mar-Aug)
- Disturbance of seals and basking sharks
- The trade in protected animals and plants, including species covered by CITES (Endangered Species)

The Animal Health and Welfare Act makes it **illegal** to cause or permit unnecessary suffering.

The Department of Agriculture, the Gardaí, and the ISPCA should be notified of cruelty to any animal.

## RECORDING A CRIME

1

Do NOT put yourself in harm's way – do not approach a suspect or touch anything you suspect may be poisoned

Before you do anything else, it is very important that:

- You do NOT disturb the scene
- You do NOT move any items at the scene
- You do NOT mark the site
- You do NOT do anything illegal yourself

2

Once sure that it is safe to do so:



Record the transport and registration – this is very important!



Record the date and time



Record the person



Record the scene



Record the location

## PROTECTION & DEROGATIONS

### Enforcement of Protection of Wild Animals

Anyone who hunts, kills, injures or possesses a protected wild animal otherwise than under and in accordance with a licence, or who wilfully interferes with or destroys its breeding or resting place is guilty of an offence (Section 23 of the Irish Wildlife Act 1976).

With a licence granted by the Minister under the Wildlife Acts, derogations (exemptions) can be made to the protection afforded to these animals and their habitats.

## IRELAND'S PROTECTED SPECIES

**LAND MAMMALS:** Badger, Deer Species, Hedgehog, Red Squirrel, Otter, Hare, Stoat, Pine Marten, all Bat species, Pygmy Shrew

**MARINE MAMMALS:** Dolphin, Porpoise, Seals & Whales

**CARTILAGINOUS FISH:** Basking shark

**REPTILES:** Common Lizard, Marine Turtle

**AMPHIBIANS:** Common Frog, Common Newt,

**CRUSTACEAN:** Freshwater Crayfish

**MOLLUSCS:** Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Kerry Slug

**ALL WILD BIRDS**



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Let's put an end to Wildlife Crime – download PAW Ireland Wildlife Crime Reporting App and report suspicious activity!

Produced by PAW Ireland  
Design by NaturalWorldDesign.ie,  
artwork by Aga Grandowicz