



# The Time is Meow

## Banning snares

### Why it matters

Snares are inhumane and cruel, causing agonising injuries to cats and other domestic and wild animals. Because of their free-roaming nature, cats are particularly likely to step into and become trapped in snares. Cats not only suffer horrible injuries from being caught in a snare but a long, painful death if they do not manage to get free, or are trapped and not discovered.

The current code of practice on the use of snares is not working, with snares frequently left unchecked, and poor compliance by landowners. Changes to the code will not solve this problem, or prevent unintended species such as cats becoming trapped.

### What the government can do

Introduce an outright ban on snares. This is the only way to prevent them causing unnecessary suffering to cats and other animals. Regardless of whether they capture target or non-target animals, snares are outdated and inhumane. Specialised fencing is a more modern deterrent for rabbits and foxes.

### Snares: the painful truth

- A report by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on snares found that almost 30% of rabbit snare operators had caught a cat<sup>1</sup>
- 53% of those using snares took no measures to avoid the capture of non-target animals<sup>1</sup>
- Over the last five years, there have been 88 reports in the media of cats being caught in snares. Press reports are likely to show just a fraction of the real number of cat victims, with most snarings going undetected and/or unreported<sup>3</sup>

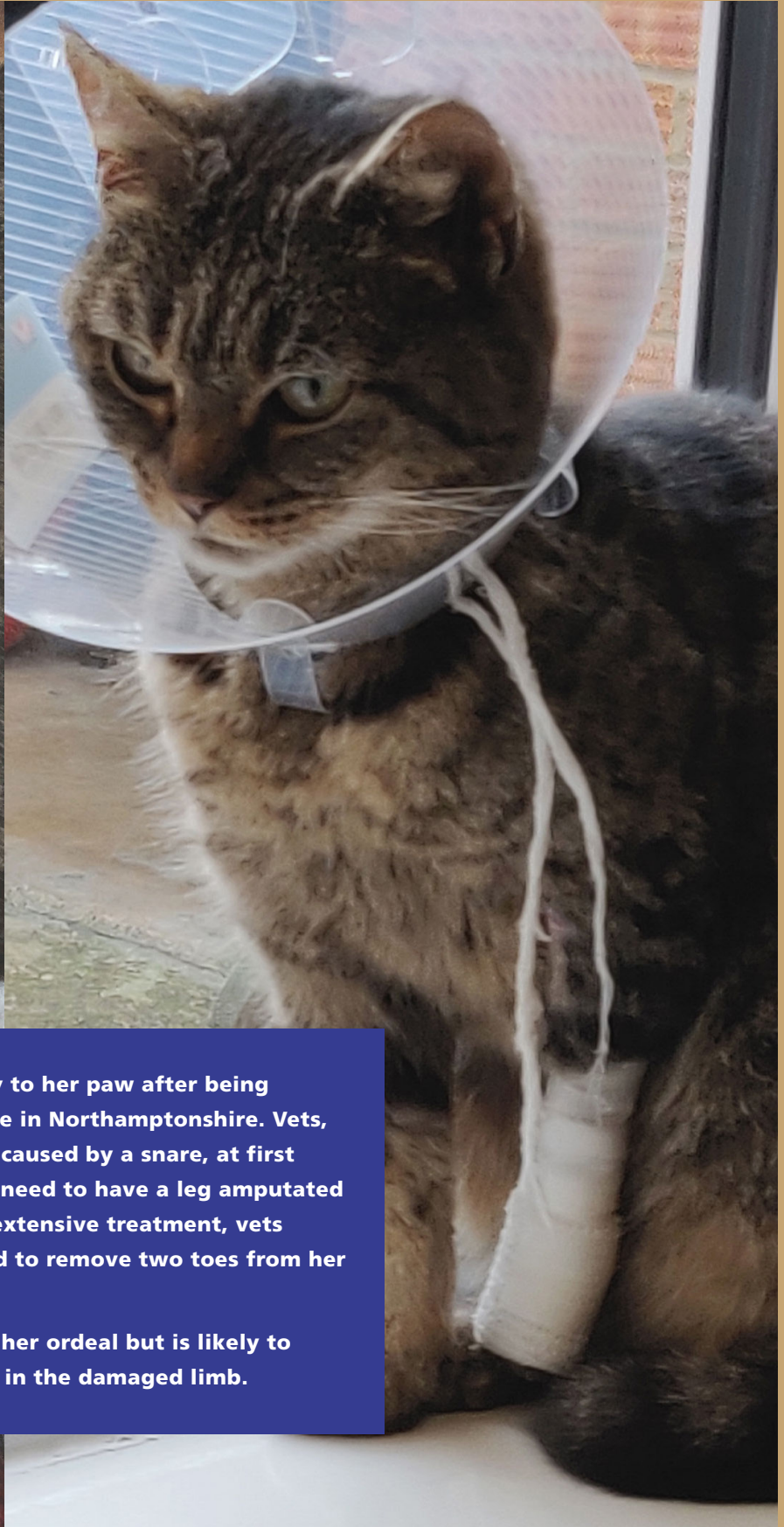


**“Cats which have been caught in a snare often sustain serious, life-changing injuries. Many will require extensive veterinary treatment for wounds around the body, neck or a limb. It is not uncommon that limbs are damaged beyond repair and have to be amputated. Cats and other animals may also suffer pain and injury in a desperate attempt to free themselves, and many, sadly, do not survive the ordeal.”**

- Dr Maggie Roberts  
BVM&S MRCVS Director of  
Veterinary Services, Cats  
Protection.

← Turn over to read Tala's story





**Tala was found with a serious injury to her paw after being missing for nine days from her home in Northamptonshire. Vets, who confirmed the injury had been caused by a snare, at first feared the 11-year-old tabby would need to have a leg amputated as the wound was so severe. After extensive treatment, vets managed to save her leg but needed to remove two toes from her paw.**

**Tala did make a slow recovery from her ordeal but is likely to suffer ongoing pain due to arthritis in the damaged limb.**

For further information about our advocacy work visit [www.cats.org.uk/timeismeow](http://www.cats.org.uk/timeismeow) or email [advocacy@cats.org.uk](mailto:advocacy@cats.org.uk)

1 Defra (2012) Determining the extent and use and humaneness of snares in England and Wales

2 Cats Protection's monitoring of press reports