

## **Emergency call out for Dispatch of injured animals in Road Traffic Collisions**

The Dispatcher should be experienced; the majority of Dispatchers will be stalkers or Gamekeepers, who will know exactly what to do.

Police should ensure that motorists and pedestrians are kept well away from the injured animal and the Dispatcher, allowing the Dispatcher to go about his business unhindered.

The animal should be moved out of sight after dispatching to ensure motorists couldn't see the carcass, rubber necking results in accidents. A minimum of 5 meters is recommended.

If the dispatcher is unable to remove the carcass, the local authorities should be informed and a GPS or grid reference given for recovery and incineration. In some cases it may be used for animal or human consumption.

Firearms should be at the discretion of the Dispatcher. Section 5 pistols may be in a variety of calibers from .22 rimfire through to .45 for the larger species of Deer and Feral pig or Wild Boar.

Recent tests found the 9mm Parabellum with a soft point-expanding bullet as being an ideal all rounder, although a heavier bullet such as the .45 and .45 ACP may be more suited to large wild boar and larger species of deer.

The Dispatcher should have their own Public Liability insurance specifically for the Dispatch of wild animals injured in Road traffic Accidents.

Dispatchers should be familiar with the anatomy of Deer, it may be that an injured animal has retreated into cover; the Dispatcher must track the animal. In the case of a Doe, there may well be attendant Kids, these would also have to be dispatched., as if left orphaned they may die slowly.

It should be noted that many call outs will be at night or in the early hours, and in inclement weather, Shotguns and rifles should be fitted with a light.

In the case of not being able to get close to an injured animal a shotgun should be employed fitted with a light and loaded with Triple A, LG or #6 shot depending on distance.

**Captive bolt guns should not be used despite a recommendation from the British Deer Society, as in most cases it is not possible to get close enough to the animal.**

The Dispatching of a domestic Farm yard animal and the dispatching of an injured wild animal are worlds apart.

The Sportsman's Association maintains that in the interest of safety and precision a self loading pistol should be used, or an unrestricted revolver, so there can be no error when administering the shot.

I speak regularly with people who deal with animal road casualties. I have supplied a variety of handguns, including some with moderators for quiet dispatch when bystanders could be shocked and traumatised, this applies to racecourses. At a crowded racecourse screens are placed round a racehorse and a moderated pistol is used, the barely audible coup d' grat does not attract unwanted attention.

I have often wondered about this fixation by the police about two shot .32 humane killers.

In days gone by the RSPCA sent operatives to all parts of the British Empire. In 1919 after World War 1 the Indian Raj Authorities banned all handguns above .32 caliber. The RSPCA had to buy .32 humane killers in lieu of the .455 ones that they had been using up until then. Someone in the RSPCA decided it was not cost effective, as funds were tight after the war, it was deemed wasteful to provide two types of pistol and ammunition, hence the switch to .32. The Indian Raj Authorities are responsible. In 1920 Webley adapted their .32 auto pistol for this purpose, blocking the magazine to two rounds with a block of wood.

Mike Wells

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