



Devon Badger Group

Membership
Number

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Renewable annually on date you joined

Membership run dates from _____ to _____

PLEASE PRINT IN BLOCK CAPITALS TO AVOID MISTAKES

Subscription:- Individual member: £6. Family: £10. Senior/Student: £5

I/We wish to join/renew my/our membership and enclose	£	_____
I/We also enclose a donation of:	£	_____
Total	£	_____

Name:	First Name:
(Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr)	Surname:
Address:	
	Postcode:
Tel- Home:	Mobile:
E-Mail (please supply if you have it):	
Occupation:	
Skills with which you may be able to assist the group:	

We are very grateful for the financial support you give as a member but also need active help. In order to keep our records up to date, and even if you have previously told us, please tick boxes below if you are able to assist with any of the following.

<input type="checkbox"/> Attend General Meetings.	<input type="checkbox"/> Self Surveying
<input type="checkbox"/> Responding to dead badger calls.	<input type="checkbox"/> Responding to Injured badger calls
<input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring setts, underpasses etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Checking Planning Applications
<input type="checkbox"/> Help with Sales Stalls at Country Fairs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Educational Programs

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Please make cheques payable to: Devon Badger Group, and send with a completed form to: Tony Volante, Membership Secretary, 10 Falkland Drive, Kingateignton, Devon, TQ12 3RII

These records are kept on a computer system for administration use only.



Contact Helpline on 07729 568 468

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Devon Badger Group



Affiliated to the
Badger Trust



This is Belle. A Badger rescued by us and nursed back to health at the Devon Wildlife Centre & Hospital, Denbury Road, Newton Abbot where you can visit her.

The Devon Badger Group was formed in early 2011. It is designed to help with Badger related problems. Either of the Badgers themselves or of people who have Badgers on or visiting their land.

We are a self-funding group, funded solely by member's subscriptions and donations as well as bric-a-brac stalls at events in Devon. We are also associate members of the Badger Trust.

Working alongside the Badger Trust, we carry out surveys of Badger Setts for you and give advice on all Badger related problems. If we cannot help we will find someone who can.

As well as offering advice and rescuing injured Badgers we also run a helpline for sick and injured Badgers. For this facility please contact 07729 568 468

Make a note of the phone number, you never know when you might need it.

Are Badgers protected?

Yes, and so are their holes - or Setts - that they live in. Under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, in England and Wales (the law has been amended in Scotland) it is against the law to:

- ◇ Wilfully kill, injure or take a Badger.
- ◇ Cruelly mistreat a Badger.
- ◇ Dig for a Badger.
- ◇ Intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy a Badger Sett – or obstruct access to it.
- ◇ Cause a dog to enter a Badger Sett.
- ◇ Disturb a Badger when it is occupying a Sett.

But the protection is not absolute - there are exceptions. Licences to undertake some actions can be issued if it is justified. Take a case where a badger sett is found on a proposed site for a road or housing development. Just bulldozing the Sett would risk killing or injuring the badgers and be illegal so the authorities may license action allowing the Badgers to be carefully excluded from the Sett, making them move elsewhere in their territory.

But, with the proposed slaughter of badgers being blamed for the Bovine TB problem, is this the only way future generations will ever get to see a badger ?



IN A GLASS CASE AT A MUSEUM !!

To Kill or Not to Kill....That is the question

This article comes from a farmer who owns a 48ha pasture farm in Gloucestershire. He comes from a local farming family and has kept his own cattle since the 1980's in a TB 'hot-spot'. The business has included a commercial beef and calf rearing unit but the herd has never been under TB2 restrictions.

"I've always run my own farm on the basis that, while I may have chosen to farm livestock and manage my land in a particular way, I would consider it a complete failure on my part if I could only make my business succeed by killing all the wild animals that interfered with my plans. We are meant to be the most intelligent of all the species and it is a sad reflection on farmers in general if our first reaction in the 21st century is still to blast away rather than make every effort possible to prevent problems in the first place.

My objective is to see changes made to the current policy with the aim of a long-term solution which will, first and foremost, benefit cattle farmers and their businesses. It is up to cattle farmers to assess these ideas, see how they could work in practice and decide if they would rather stick with Defra's 'Test and Slaughter' policy coupled with the continual decimation of badgers or whether they would prefer a 21st century farmer-led, cattle health scheme giving them back responsibility and control of their own herds.

This is a perfect illustration of the level of concern with which we would react to Bovine TB in all animals if it were not for the outdated EU directive aimed at cattle, which stipulates unrealistic 'accelerated eradication' whilst banning the use of cattle vaccine at the same time. We can't go on killing badgers when we should be changing the rules instead".



An alternative to slaughter !

Vaccinating badgers against bovine tuberculosis (Bovine TB) is an affordable and viable alternative to culling according to a new report by the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

The 'Badger Vaccination Deployment Programme', which took place this summer, was the first of its kind in the UK undertaken by a private organisation. Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust ran the programme at seven of its nature reserves, including a dairy farm; a total of 170 hectares. The report provides proof that there is an affordable alternative to the proposed cull.

The report outlines the full costs involved in the trial and demonstrates that if groups of land owners join together to vaccinate badgers against Bovine TB, it would become affordable with no associated negative impact. Culling, as its most vocal supporters admit, may increase Bovine TB in neighbouring herds through perturbation and as yet no proven benefit. The report provides proof that there is an affordable alternative to the proposed cull.

Bovine TB is a big problem but local culling of one of our much-loved native animals is not the answer. Scientists have spent the last 12 years investigating whether killing badgers will halt this serious disease in cattle and the answer they are getting is that it could well make the problem worse.

The report suggests that at only £51 per hectare it is a viable alternative to slaughtering the badgers. The Government and landowners should take badger vaccination seriously as a viable alternative to the proposed cull.

