# UK households face prison sentences for misuse of glue traps



UK households are now facing potential prison sentences for the misuse of glue traps in their gardens, following the enactment of new legislation under the Labour Party government. Since last summer, it has become an offence to use these traps for rodent control unless properly licensed. Compliance with this new regulation is crucial, as violations could lead to severe penalties.

The Glue Traps (Offences) Act 2022 has established stricter guidelines with the intention of addressing the humane treatment of not only target rodents but also other animals that may become inadvertently ensnared. This law allows for the use of glue traps exclusively by licensed professional pest controllers, and only under exceptional circumstances where no satisfactory alternative exists.

As stated in the act, "A person guilty of an offence under subsection (1), (2) or (4) is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 51 weeks or a fine (or both)." This highlights the seriousness with which the government views the misuse of these traps, promoting a shift towards more humane pest control methods.

Claire Bass, Senior Campaigns and Public Affairs Director for Humane Society International/UK, expressed support for the new law, asserting: “We are delighted that it is no longer legal for members of the public to use these horrendously cruel traps which cause immense suffering to animals, who have been known to chew off their own limbs in a desperate attempt to escape.” However, she pointed out a significant loophole, noting that "although it is now an offence for the public to use glue traps, it is not illegal to sell or buy them," which raises concerns that consumers may inadvertently commit an offence.

Individuals caught using or setting glue traps without the appropriate licensing could face serious consequences, including imprisonment, fines, or both. In addition, those who discover a glue trap that poses a risk to rodents have a duty to act to eliminate that risk, unless they can provide a reasonable excuse for failing to do so.

The legislative landscape surrounding glue traps is evolving, with the Welsh Government having introduced a complete ban on their use as of 2023. Awareness initiatives are expected to ramp up as organisations like Humane Society International work to inform the public about the implications of the new law and encourage retailers to cease stocking glue traps altogether. As enforcement of these regulations takes shape, households across the UK must navigate the new legal framework regarding rodent control in their gardens.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.bornfree.org.uk/news/born-free-welcomes-ban-on-glue-traps-in-england/> - This source confirms the implementation of the Glue Traps (Offences) Act 2022, which makes the use of glue traps by the public illegal in England and highlights the support for the legislation from animal protection organizations.
* <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/26> - The Glue Traps (Offences) Act 2022 is presented in its full text, detailing the penalties for misuse and the conditions under which glue traps may still be used legally.
* <https://www.humaneworld.org/en/news/england-bans-public-use-inhumane-rodent-glue-traps-animal-charity-warns-consumers-against> - This article discusses the ramifications of the Glue Traps (Offences) Act, the illegal status of glue traps for public use, and comments from Claire Bass regarding the potential for consumers to inadvertently break the law.
* <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-66449856> - This coverage provides context on the new legislation surrounding glue traps, including the public's potential legal liabilities, which align with the claims about the seriousness of the act's penalties.
* <https://www.rspca.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/glue-traps> - The RSPCA's stance on glue traps emphasizes the cruelty of these methods and supports the legislative action taken against their use, corroborating the article's claims about the humane treatment of animals.