



## Poaching

### Why is this important?

Poaching is the killing or taking of wild birds, mammals or fish without legal right or consent from the landowner. Poaching wild animals is a crime and can have a significant impact on protected species and conservation. It is often under reported and can be linked to organised crime.

### What do you need to do?

Reduce poaching with simple crime prevention measures. Working together, land owners, rural businesses and members of the public should be vigilant reporting any suspicious activity to the police - noting vehicle details, descriptions and accurate location.

### How can you prevent this?

- Landowners and managers, where possible, should secure gates and block unused entrances
- Do not accept game from non-reputable sources, be aware of unhygienic and unsafe meat entering the food chain
- Be visible - consider the use of electronic surveillance such as trail cams and the use of signs showing the area is privately patrolled or monitored
- If you see or are aware of poachers on any land, notify the police using 999
- Anyone able to offer information relating to poaching is asked to email [101@dc.police.uk](mailto:101@dc.police.uk), call 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 783 0137
- Join Devon & Cornwall Alert, Watch schemes and local social media groups so that you can find out what is happening in your area

**The Devon and Cornwall police rural affairs team have produced a calendar which highlights rural issues throughout the year to focus problem solving activity for police, partners and public with key messages and prevention activity.**

