

[Rik](#) · 14 hours ago

"Tasty Wee Beasties" (Simon Cox)

I have always thought that the annual slaughter of these lovable critters is a stain on the otherwise civilised Scots. They should be left free to roam the highlands and glens of Scotland in peace.



[Grumpy\\_Old\\_Fool](#) [Rik](#) · 14 hours ago

'Morning Rik

It's a cruel sport. They can't fly and they can't run fast enough to escape the hunters. In fact, they don't even try to move.

[Rik](#) [Grumpy\\_Old\\_Fool](#) · 14 hours ago

Morning GOF

Exactly I always thought the phrase "the unspeakable in pursuit of the inedible" was coined about Haggis Hunters



[ladyofthelake](#) [Rik](#) · 9 hours ago

The thing is, the farm raised ones just don't taste as good. It must be something to do with the heather they eat in the wild.



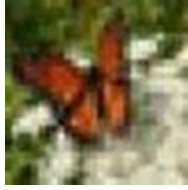
[The Central Scrutiniser](#) [ladyofthelake](#) · 7 hours ago

Certainly don't buy one from Iceland.

Phtooy!

[sherrell](#) [Rik](#) · 13 hours ago

Not in fact .... Oscar Wilde on fox hunting ....



[anneallan sherrell](#) • 13 hours ago

Well, that went right over your head.



[ilPugliese](#) [anneallan](#) • 11 hours ago

My wife is out hunting for one this morning, and I resent her being called unspeakable. I fear the Waitrose estate will have run out and she might have to go to the wilds of Tesco.



[Grumpy\\_Old\\_Fool](#) [ilPugliese](#) • 10 hours ago

'Morning ilpugliese,

She could try importing one of the frozen ones from Iceland.



[assymetric](#) [Grumpy\\_Old\\_Fool](#) • 10 hours ago

Indeed GOF. They are hardy creatures and are apparently spreading further north and may be responsible for the shrinking of the ice at the north pole.



[The Central Scrutiniser](#) [Grumpy\\_Old\\_Fool](#) • 10 hours ago

Haggis from Iceland are an inferior introduced species. They were cross-bred with beavers, I believe, and have a distinctly "woody" flavour.

This is why some people believe that Haggis from Iceland are filled with sawdust.



**Oberstleutnant** [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 7 hours ago

It's puffin in disguise, TCS.



**ladyofthelake** [Oberstleutnant](#) • 7 hours ago

Please don't mention birds or ducks! Were you here yesterday?



**assymetric** [ladyofthelake](#) • 7 hours ago

Yes, don't tern the clock back.



**Oberstleutnant** [ladyofthelake](#) • 7 hours ago

No.. in Wales.



**ladyofthelake** [Oberstleutnant](#) • 6 hours ago

If you feel brave, look at yesterday's comments and you will see about 400 puns on duck and birds! Not for the faint of heart;-)



[The Central Scrutiniser](#) [ladyofthelake](#) • 5 hours ago

I wonder who will pay the (sand)piper tonight?



[JohninKent](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 5 hours ago

TCS Your creative juices have been flowing well today - I salute you!



[ladyofthelake](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 8 hours ago

The climate is not conducive to them in Iceland either. They do not breed as freely. I believe there is a plan to introduce them into the northern moors of England to see if they thrive.



[One Last Try](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 9 hours ago

I always thought beavers were sweet smelling.



[peddytheviking](#) [One Last Try](#) • 9 hours ago

No, that's otters, according to Winter Watch last week.



[The Central Scrutiniser](#) [One Last Try](#) • 9 hours ago

Yes, but have you ever *tasted* one? I don't recommend it.



[richard\\_on\\_disqus](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 8 hours ago

Beaver tails are good.

Or at least the sweet deep fried doughnut style concoction that is smothered in sugar and maple syrup is tastily bad for you.



[sherrell](#) [Grumpy\\_Old\\_Fool](#) • 14 hours ago

Their other problem is that their legs on one side are shorter than on the other, as a result of having to run round hillsides ...; which means they can only attempt escape in one direction ... which could, fatally, be straight into the line of fire!



[surfaceman](#) [sherrell](#) • 13 hours ago

Our Haggis Hounds are, in fact, trained to turn them around on the hillside so that they fall over. They can then be caught and killed without the noise, and expense, of shooting.



[Grumpy\\_Old\\_Fool](#) [surfaceman](#) • 13 hours ago

Presumably using a sharp crack on the back of the neck with a golf club - do you use a mashie or a niblick?



[surfaceman](#) [Grumpy\\_Old\\_Fool](#) • 13 hours ago

A mashie of course, in honour of the potatoes served with the haggis.



[The Central Scrutiniser](#) [Grumpy\\_Old\\_Fool](#) • 11 hours ago

The correct and time-honoured way to dispatch a haggis is by drowning it in single malt. Anything else is barbaric.



[Grumpy\\_Old\\_Fool](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 10 hours ago

'Morning TCS

Shurely you jest. I'd never use my valuable and scarce SM any way but internally.



[The Central Scrutiniser](#) [Grumpy\\_Old\\_Fool](#) • 10 hours ago

No no no. The wild haggis is such a revered beast that it is treated with the greatest of respect.

There is a particular variety of highly prized single malt from Glenbuggery which is returned to the barrel after the drowning of the season's haggis catch. This results in an extra peaty flavour, imparted by the feet of the animal which are never washed beforehand, with just a tiny overtone of haggis wee. It is utterly unique and very rare.

This particular drink is little known about in the UK as it is so expensive. It is exclusively sold to the Japanese, who pay upwards of 10,000,000 Yen for a small bottle.

There are a few very exclusive private clubs in Kyoto where only this particular whisky is served. They are the only clubs in Japan where Scotch whisky is drunk neat, as it should be. Everywhere else they drown it with water and ice and call it "misuari" which sounds remarkably like misery (very appropriately).

For a short time in the 1950s and 60s the drinking of Glenbuggery Special Reserve Haggis Single Malt was made illegal in Japan because the supply chain had been taken over by the Yakuza crime syndicate. But after a crackdown by the Japanese Police with the aid of an elite detachment of the Highlands Special Forces, the link to organised crime was broken and Glenbuggery could be enjoyed by all once more (providing one could afford it, of course).



[surfaceman](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 10 hours ago

First, eat the haggis THEN drown it in single malt - anything else is a waste! My regular SM of choice is Ledaig ( currently £19.26 in Morrisons ) ... other brands are available.



[anneallan](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 7 hours ago

Does it have to be eaten with a napkin over the head?

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[The Central Scrutiniser](#) [anneallan](#) • 6 hours ago

If you can't source a Tam O'Shanter locally, a tartan tea-cosy will do.



[ladyofthelake](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 6 hours ago

I am glad to see you are so fully into the spirit (!) of Burns' Night;-)



[madmick](#) [surfaceman](#) • 10 hours ago

I thought they banned the hounds and one had to use Haggis pointers to flush the beasties out to be caught by a Haggis Harrier.



[The Central Scrutiniser](#) [madmick](#) • 10 hours ago

Haggis Hounds were a recent introduction after farmed haggis were introduced late in the eighteenth century. Prior to that the haggis were caught by luring them into nets.

Haggis Harriers are far more sporting than hounds though, as they replicate the natural predation.

And the present "traditional" way of serving the haggis, i.e. minced in a bag made from a sheep's stomach, is thought to be derived from the training lure that was used to train Haggis Harriers, in much the same way as the bait that is swung around on a rope in medieval falconry.



[Seth F Reeker](#) [madmick](#) • 9 hours ago

People what chase haggises are puddings.





[assymetric](#) Seth F Reeker · 9 hours ago

Is that the correct plural term Seth?

I understood it was "haggii" having been termed by the Romans when they attempted an invasion of the north but were repulsed by hoards of them.



[The Central Scrutiniser](#) [assymetric](#) · 9 hours ago

Sorry Assy, but that is an urban myth. Nobody had any hoards of haggis until commercial haggis farming was started in the late eighteenth century.

Prior to that they were a widely dispersed species, being largely solitary and spending most of their time underground, except during the mating season.

Haggis are never found in "hordes" in their natural habitat.



[assymetric](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) · 9 hours ago

I have been misled then TCS. I thought the Scots changed to tossing the caber after they had lobbed virtually all of their haggis stocks at the Romans and those haggis that were left scattered and became a solitary species.



[The Central Scrutiniser](#) [assymetric](#) · 9 hours ago

The chronicles of Tacitus are nothing more than Roman propaganda. The truth of the Roman invasion of Scotland is recorded in runes that were recently discovered in the

basement of a wine bar in Inverness during restoration work.

When the Romans first invaded they knew little of the people of the north, and what they came to know they learned from the captured Caledonians who they dragooned into their own army. (It was common practice for the Romans to do this when conquering far-flung regions where their supply chain was stretched to breaking point).

The Caledonians were canny, however, and they started telling embellished tales about the native haggis, describing it as a fierce wild beast, standing seven feet tall with huge fangs and claws. It was a ploy to scare the Romans and slow their advance into the highlands.

When this became known by the highland tribes, they would go into battle wearing a head-dress that made them look much taller and gave them the appearance of a huge wild animal. When accompanied by wild screams as these apparitions came out of the highland mist, the Romans would believe that the haggis were after them and flee in panic.

(There is some evidence to suggest - taken from scraps of the soldiers' letters home discovered on the site of old forts - that Hadrian's wall was actually erected as a haggis barrier and had nothing to do with keeping marauding Scots at bay).

These tales were spread through the ranks of the Roman army when officers returned to Rome, and the stories became adapted so that eventually every officer returning to Rome from a stint in a far-flung outpost would tell a similar tale. This is where the stories about the Abominable Snowman are believed to originate.

The "haggis impersonating head-dresses" first donned by the Caledonians to scare the crap out of the Romans are the forerunners of today's bearskin hats that are worn by many armies throughout Europe.



[Stigenace](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) · 7 hours ago

You're on fine form today, TCS. That was excellent.



[Grumpy\\_Old\\_Fool](#) [Stigenace](#) · 7 hours ago

'Afternoon Stig

Is it any wonder that foreigners are confused by the erudite nature of these comments?



[ladyofthelake](#) [Grumpy\\_Old\\_Fool](#) · 6 hours ago

I tell you Mr. Grumpy, that anyone reading these comments today will come to one of two conclusions...1) That we are all pi\*\*\*d. 2) That we have all escaped from a secure facility.



[The Central Scrutiniser](#) [ladyofthelake](#) · 6 hours ago

I cannot deny that my own stock of the Special Reserve is rather depleted after last night's birdfest and this may have some bearing on today's contributions.



[ladyofthelake](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) · 6 hours ago

I do so understand. There is rather a low level in a very large bottle of Merlot here.



[zxcv1](#) [ladyofthelake](#) · 5 hours ago

So it Wasalot? (As I recall the 't' isn't silent down in Tar Heel country)



[ladyofthelake](#) [zxcv1](#) · 3 hours ago

The T is nearly always pronounced...not always where you'd expect it though;-)



[jillthelass](#) [ladyofthelake](#) · 6 hours ago

Very rarely is a bottle not finished in this household once opened. But Merlot is not one of our usual quaffs!



[jillthelass](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) · 6 hours ago

What have you done with Cleo, has the Haggis frightened her away?



[The Central Scrutiniser](#) [jillthelass](#) · 5 hours ago

No she is still here, but considering the subject matter today I thought I would use the avatar of Bill McBen - he is one of the world's leading experts on haggis husbandry.



[Flobbadob](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 5 hours ago

He ain't heavy - he's my brother!



[ladyofthelake](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 4 hours ago

At the William McGonagall Institute we refer to his works all the time. His tome on The Life Cycle of the Native Scottish Haggis is in a class of its own.



[The Central Scrutiniser](#) [ladyofthelake](#) • 12 minutes ago

That is kind of you to say so, I will pass on your compliments next time I see him.

I see his brother has also put in an appearance. I haven't seen him for many years! What an amazing way to get back in touch.



[The Central Scrutiniser](#) [Grumpy\\_Old\\_Fool](#) • 36 minutes ago

I am hoping it is also confounding to retired neurosurgeons.



[ladyofthelake](#) [Stigenace](#) • 7 hours ago

When it comes to haggis, Gavin is unstoppable. Years of trying to bag one I suspect.



[The Central Scrutiniser](#) [ladyofthelake](#) · 6 hours ago

They don't make good pets.

They chew the furniture and are impossible to house-train.

There is no problem with the poo, of course, but the wee smells disgusting and they spray it everywhere. It may be OK when heavily diluted in single malt, but rather like ambergris the raw material in its concentrated form is as far from perfume as one could ever imagine.

(edited correction)



[madmick](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) · 5 hours ago

I'm told there is a small horde of them in the North York Moors.

Apparently they migrated south following Scots who travelled to Yorkshire to work in the steelworks. They found it more comfortable to stay on higher ground and didn't cross the Vale of Pickering.



[Seth F Reeker](#) [madmick](#) · 3 hours ago

Ach! They couldnae get up Sutton Bank.



[ladyofthelake](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) · 6 hours ago

Yes, I see. So not a good idea to ask for one for Valentine's day. The dog would chase it anyway.



**The Central Scrutiniser** [ladyofthelake](#) · 6 hours ago

A dog would terrify a haggis and just make it wee all the more.



**The Central Scrutiniser** [Stigenace](#) · 6 hours ago

Thank you kind sir.



**assymetric** [The Central Scrutiniser](#) · 7 hours ago

I'm intrigued by the wine bar reference TCS. If this is correct then are the rumours true that the invasion of Scotland (as it was later to be called) was a failed attempt by the Romans to obtain the details of their fermenting process suitable for colder climates?



**The Central Scrutiniser** [assymetric](#) · 6 hours ago

I don't think the wine bar was there when the Romans invaded!

The runes were apparently kept safe on an island for many centuries and guarded by many generations of the same family. But when the English were repeatedly sending raiding parties northwards it was decided to move them to a less remote location so that they could be more heavily guarded, and somewhere that the English would not think of looking for them.

A secret band of warrior monks, rather like Celtic Ninjas, were then trained to do this job of protecting the Runes. It is

believed that there is some ancient link between them and the Freemasons in England, but there are no written records that confirm this. There is however a significant overlap between some of the symbology used by the Freemasons and that on the Inverness Runes, which points to the commonality of their origins.

There are also indications of a link between the keepers of the Runes and the Knights Templar, as all such secret societies from those days tended to have communication tendrils that extended all round the world and into the strangest of places.

A depiction of a "haggis rampant" is even carved into one of the battlements of the walled city of Carcassonne, just over the Western Gate. Perhaps to conceal its significance it has always been described as a badly carved lion and it is described as such in the guide books. Those who have seen a haggis will recognise it immediately, however.

It is believed that an envoy sent to the city from the highlands of Scotland would reveal his membership of the secret society guarding the Runes by making a coded reference to the beastie on the battlements, thus identifying it as a haggis (which of course the locals and most other visitors to the city would never have seen).

This would then act as the password admitting the envoy into the inner sanctum to conduct whatever business was in hand.



**madmick** [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 5 hours ago

Crikey this is good stuff. When does the film come out?



**The Central Scrutiniser** [madmick](#) • 5 hours ago

I had heard that Dan Brown was working on a draft screenplay for this, but the sponsors apparently kept



laughing whenever he mentioned haggis so I am not sure if the project was ever funded.



[madmick](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 5 hours ago

Maybe we should recruit David Attenborough to do the documentary first.



[The Central Scrutiniser](#) [madmick](#) • 5 hours ago

They won't let him near a haggis since the scandal with the polar bears.



[richardl\\_on\\_disqus](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 4 hours ago

Especially with the episode of him attacking polar bears when he was filming the rare prairie haggis in northern Manitoba.

This variety, the only one available through government run outlets over here has adapted to the flatlands by growing an extra pair of legs that allows it to run in straight lines.

Unfortunately, the genetic modification has resulted in a port albani affliction amongst those that imbibe.

Spicy haggis legs are very popular as a snack while we pour scorn on american football exextravaganza



[ladyofthelake](#) [richardl\\_on\\_disqus](#) • 4 hours ago

Is that the haggis that was bred by crossing with a groundhog?



[ladyofthelake](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 4 hours ago

Maybe a Scots writer would be better versed in the subject.  
Ian McEwan possibly.  
But it must be handled sensitively and no haggis can be harmed.



[The Central Scrutiniser](#) [ladyofthelake](#) • 37 minutes ago

You should see the mechantronic haggis they use for film work nowadays - indistinguishable from the real thing, especially when filmed in natural lighting conditions because you can't really see them. Just like the real ones.



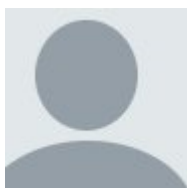
[ladyofthelake](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 27 minutes ago

Well that's good to know. I was wondering about the availability of haggis wranglers, I am sure they must be a rare breed as well.



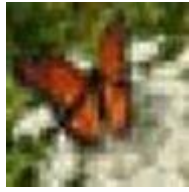
[The Central Scrutiniser](#) [ladyofthelake](#) • 18 minutes ago

I think that is an American invention, no? If undertaken in the Scottish highlands such activity would be extremely hazardous to one's sporran.



[madmick](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 5 hours ago

Good point. Are we stuck with film-makers who only make stuff up?



[anneallan](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 7 hours ago

Are they solitary animals like pandas?



[ladyofthelake](#) [anneallan](#) • 6 hours ago

Even more shy I believe but I refer you to the expert...

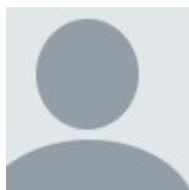


[The Central Scrutiniser](#) [ladyofthelake](#) • 5 hours ago

Spot on LOTL. The female generally remains in her nest for most of the year and spends her time raising her young. The smaller males are banished after the mating season and wander the hills and mountains aimlessly for most of the year. But they are extremely wary of humans and are almost never observed, coming out only at night.

The only photographic record of a haggis in the wild is a recent infra red video taken using a PIR sensor to trigger the camera, and this is how it is know for certain that haggis eat their own poo.

Even this is claimed to be a hoax by some who even deny that the haggis still exists in the wild, and they try to claim it is just an out of focus polecat. Academics, however, are convinced of the authenticity of the video evidence



[madmick](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 5 hours ago

I believe the correct term for the Haggis nest is a scrape.



**The Central Scrutiniser** madmick · 5 hours ago

That is indeed the English term. The original Scottish name is "crannie", which is where the familiar term "nooks and crannies" comes from.



**madmick** The Central Scrutiniser · 5 hours ago

Thanks for that. The terms "a narrow shave" and a close shave" are corruptions of "narrow scrape" and "close scrape" both traditional haggis hunting terms. The narrow scrape being that of an in-calf haggis out of season. (at least it is in England).



**The Central Scrutiniser** madmick · 5 hours ago

I shall make a note of that. Being primarily interested in the natural history of the beastie, I am not fully conversant with all the hunting terminology, so thanks.



**ladyofthelake** The Central Scrutiniser · 4 hours ago

I have been asked to issue an invitation to you to visit us here at the Institute so that you may see our research for yourself and meet Hamish in person. He's rather fun especially at feeding time.



[ladyofthelake](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) · 4 hours ago

That is indeed what I had heard. We had to create a replica of a crannie for Hamish, our captive haggis. If we are successful in finding him a mate, it will have to be made bigger.



[peddytheviking](#) [assymetric](#) · 9 hours ago

Haggis sounds like an irregular 4th declension noun to me, so the plural is the same: haggis. Hagii would be the genitive singular. ;-)



[The Central Scrutiniser](#) [peddytheviking](#) · 8 hours ago

it is considered extremely rude to decline a haggis, Peddy.



[assymetric](#) [peddytheviking](#) · 9 hours ago

I quoted from the haggisclopedia, Peddy. I'm unaware that Hitler (genitive singular) was involved.



[Grumpy\\_Old\\_Fool](#) [sherrell](#) · 13 hours ago

'Morning sherrell

An example of a failure of evolution.



**The Central Scrutiniser** Grumpy\_Old\_Fool • 10 hours ago

OK, I shall just have to repeat my story from a month ago then.

There was a failed attempt at cross-breeding to produce more meat and less waste. They cross-bred left-handed and right-handed haggis to try and produce offspring with all short legs.

It backfired - they produced a new breed of champion long-legged runners which promptly escaped into the wild and nobody has ever been able to catch one since.

Apparently these were the inspiration for the "Road Runner" in the Looney Tunes cartoons, although Warner Bros. adapted things so that children among the home audience would not be terrified by it. They also replaced the sound of bagpipes with a "beep beep" sound to excellent comedic effect.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?...>

"Enjoy"



**The Central Scrutiniser** The Central Scrutiniser • 10 hours ago

And to continue on the educational theme:

The bagpipes were originally developed as a haggis lure, with the drone being a representation of the female haggis' mating call (the female is dominant and much larger than the male).

However, in the days when haggis were truly wild and their highland habitat was largely impenetrable by man it was very rare to catch one. They only came out from their hiding places among the caves and crags for a very short period in order to mate, and this was the only time when they could

be lured and caught, which is why they were so highly prized as a delicacy and only enjoyed by the Laird.

In order to while away the long dreary days out on the haggis hunt, the beaters and pipe players used to adapt their bagpipes by adding other flutes so they could play tunes. The dancing that accompanied this entertainment (which could only be carried out well out of sight and earshot of the Laird, because rather than attracting the haggis it would scare them away) was primarily a way for the beaters to keep warm as well as relieving the drudgery.

However, over time the playing of the bagpipes and the dancing became known to Laird McTavish of Achnasheen, and one year he asked for his beaters and pipers to put on a display performance for his guests when the haggis they had bagged was brought into the dining room. This proved to be such a popular event that word of it spread far and wide among the landed gentry, and it was eventually reproduced all over the highlands.

This is how the ritual of the piping-in of the haggis came about.



[One Last Try](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 9 hours ago  
Bag pipes aka The Porridge Gun.



[ladyofthelake](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 8 hours ago  
The things you learn in these threads;-)



[The Central Scrutiniser](#) [ladyofthelake](#) • 8 hours ago

It's all in my book - "Scrutinising Modern History, The Myths Debunked" available from MacMillan Press and shortly to be released as a talking book spoken by David Tennant.



[ladyofthelake](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 8 hours ago

I shall look out for it. Good poolside reading or listening, especially with David Tennant reading....



[The Central Scrutiniser](#) [ladyofthelake](#) • 8 hours ago

You can place an advance order by electronic transfer of funds to my bank account in the Cayman Islands. I will send you the details shortly by e-mail.



[ladyofthelake](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 7 hours ago

Sounds good. I shall transfer the funds from my local bank...The Monopoly Savings and Loan.



[gizzee](#) [ladyofthelake](#) • 8 hours ago

I think it is a wind up lol LOTL



[The Central Scrutiniser](#) [gizzee](#) • 8 hours ago

How dare you suggest such a thing, gizzee?



I'll have you know I have an MA in the subject from Glenrothes University (the Scottish Cultural Department of Heriot Watt) and 25 years of personal experience carrying out haggis archaeology in the field.

Unfortunately there are few undisturbed remains left to be found in Scotland because most relics were scavenged by Victorian fossil hunters when the railways came north and they are now in private collections.



[ladyofthelake](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 7 hours ago

I have heard that studies are underway to determine the diet of the wild haggis. Experts in scatology are scouring the evidence and will produce a definitive report in due course. My MSc is from the William McGonagall Institute of Blaeberries.



[The Central Scrutiniser](#) [ladyofthelake](#) • 7 hours ago

Ha! The Americans - they think they know it all!

It is well known by Scottish naturalists (as opposed to naturists) and it has recently been confirmed by an infra red video recording made by Dr Angus Macaroon of The Fife Haggis Conservation Trust that haggis conceal their whereabouts in the wild by eating their own faeces.

That is why nobody on a highland ramble has ever stepped in haggis poop. If they say they have, it was probably a Highland Terrier that did it, not a haggis.

It may also be why haggis is something of an acquired taste.



[ladyofthelake](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 6 hours ago

The scat has been searched for over many years and a few rare samples are in the research lab being extensively examined. Also, a single haggis in captivity has been providing samples although the scientists did have to be quick, before it ate it.

As for Scottish naturists, unlikely. Something to do with outstanding thistles I believe...

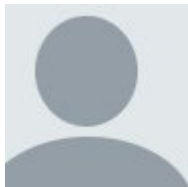


[The Central Scrutiniser](#) [ladyofthelake](#) • 5 hours ago

I'm not sure which variety of haggis they have in captivity, LOTL.

If it is the cross-bred one from Iceland I have a feeling it will mainly eat trees, since the beaver's genes appear to be dominant.

Of course, there are not many trees left in the highlands of Scotland *or* in Iceland. Perhaps the haggis are to blame after all?



[madmick](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 5 hours ago

I think you'll find that is a tale told by the beaver nuts. The cross-bred haggis (which was introduced to Iceland by Irish Monks) is sterile after three generations and therefore could not have caused the damage reported.



[ladyofthelake](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 4 hours ago

The one we are using for our research is a rare specimen. The Lesser Spotted Tree Eating Haggis. It is fed pine branches and cones thrice daily and allowed a certain measure of whisky as a condiment. Pine trees are plentiful

in these parts so it thrives.

We are trying to find a female as it appears lonely and we are hoping to begin a breeding programme.



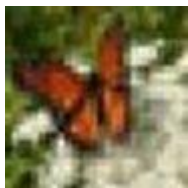
[The Central Scrutiniser](#) ladyofthelake • 23 minutes ago

Farmed haggis fed exclusively on pine cones do taste exceptionally good, although if anything other than Douglas Fir is used this can produce a slight overtone that is a bit like disinfectant, which can be a bit off-putting if you get a nostril full as you are tucking into your neeps.



[ladyofthelake](#) The Central Scrutiniser • 21 minutes ago

Hamish gets Long Leaf Pine and cones which he does enjoy. His preferred dram is GlenBogle but we are trying to wean him of that and onto something with a more robust palate. He is very sweet and quite playful, if you catch him in the right mood.



[anneallan](#) ladyofthelake • 7 hours ago

'Twas in 1872  
That I fust tasted the berries blue.  
A treat so rare  
That I lost mae hair and noo mae heed's all bare.  
Mae sporrans noo nude  
The minister told me it waer rude.....

I did try to work in the Tay Bridge disaster.



**assymetric** [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 7 hours ago

TCS, those are not haggis remains, they are their eggs. You may well have put the future of the haggis species in danger.



**The Central Scrutiniser** [assymetric](#) • 7 hours ago

Haggis eggs are a myth like dragons' eggs, assy.

Haggis are mammals.

You should try a drop of haggis milk in your single malt - it's *nectar!*

It is particularly good in Glenbuggery Special Reserve Haggis Single Malt. The habit of putting a drop of highland spring water in whisky is derived from this - it is an imitation of something that only the Lairds could afford to do.

Those who do this claim that it makes the whisky taste better, but they are just pretending that they are putting haggis milk in the Special Reserve.



**Seth F Reeker** [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 3 hours ago

Fair fa' your honest, sonsie face,  
Great chieftain o' the pudding-race!  
Aboon them a' yet tak your place,  
Painch, tripe, or thairm:  
Weel are ye wordy o'a grace  
As lang's my arm.

The groaning trencher there ye fill,  
Your hurdies like a distant hill,  
Your pin was help to mend a mill

In time o'need,  
While thro' your pores the dews distil  
Like amber bead.

His knife see rustic Labour dight,  
An' cut you up wi' ready sleight,  
Trenching your gushing entrails bright,  
Like ony ditch;  
And then, O what a glorious sight,  
Warm-reekin', rich!

Then, horn for horn, they stretch an' strive:  
Deil tak the hindmost! on they drive,  
Till a' their weel-swallow'd kytes belyve  
Are bent like drums;  
Then auld Guidman, maist like to rive,  
Bethankit! hums.

Is there that owre his French ragout  
Or olio that wad staw a sow,  
Or fricassee wad make her spew  
Wi' perfect sconner,  
Looks down wi' sneering, scornfu' view  
On sic a dinner?

Poor devil! see him owre his trash,  
As feckles as wither'd rash,  
His spindle shank, a guid whip-lash;  
His nieve a nit;  
Thro' bloody flood or field to dash,  
O how unfit!

But mark the Rustic, haggis-fed,  
The trembling earth resounds his tread.  
Clap in his walie nieve a blade,  
He'll mak it whistle;  
An' legs an' arms, an' hands will sned,  
Like taps o' trissle.

Ye Pow'rs, wha mak mankind your care,  
And dish them out their bill o' fare,  
Auld Scotland wants nae skinking ware  
That jaups in luggies;  
But, if ye wish her gratefu' prayer  
Gie her a haggis!



**Stigenace** Seth F Reeker • 3 hours ago

I didn't follow much of that but it looks impressive.



**madmick** The Central Scrutiniser • 4 hours ago

Quite right. However it was originally thought that they were egg-laying mammals. This is now not thought to be true but, as with much of what we know, there isn't a great deal of evidence.



**anneallan** assymetric • 7 hours ago

Quatermass battling against alien Haggi under Edinburgh Castle. They swarm up the Scott Memorial and the SNP refuse to mobilise Trident.  
We're All Doooooooooomed .....



**ladyofthelake** anneallan • 24 minutes ago

Thank you Private Fraser;-)



**The Central Scrutiniser** anneallan • 6 hours ago

May I suggest taking a little more haggis milk with the single malt, Anne?



**Stigenace** [The Central Scrutiniser](#) · 6 hours ago

Well, if it isn't old Tammy Shanter.



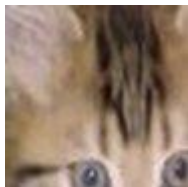
**gizee** [The Central Scrutiniser](#) · 7 hours ago

So, if I had (hypothetically) copied and pasted it to my FB page, Would you sue me?



**The Central Scrutiniser** [gizee](#) · 7 hours ago

I am not litigious, but I would hope for an *ex gratia* payment to my Cayman account - I'll get LOTL to send you the details.



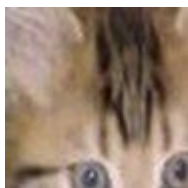
**gizee** [The Central Scrutiniser](#) · 7 hours ago

Will you accept upvotes instead?



**The Central Scrutiniser** [gizee](#) · 7 hours ago

Well, since it is you...



**gizee** [ladyofthelake](#) · 8 hours ago

Don't you think they would make wonderful bedtime stories for the kiddies?.....need to be a bit scarier though.



[ladyofthelake](#) [gizzee](#) • 7 hours ago

I don't know about that...I think it's all getting a bit scary now;-)



[Grumpy\\_Old\\_Fool](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 10 hours ago

Have you got a Loch Ness story as well?



[The Central Scrutiniser](#) [Grumpy\\_Old\\_Fool](#) • 10 hours ago

That's all made up for the tourists.



[ladyofthelake](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) • 8 hours ago

Maybe Nessie was coming ashore and eating the wild haggis...could be another reason why they are so rare.



[The Central Scrutiniser](#) [ladyofthelake](#) • 8 hours ago

Some believe that the Nessie story was another one of the tales invented by captured Caledonians to scare Agricola's navy, but there is no mention of this in the Inverness Runes.





[zxcv1](#) [sherrell](#) · 13 hours ago

So true. And when they get to the top of the hill they topple over.



[peddytheviking](#) [zxcv1](#) · 13 hours ago

.....so they have no choice but to spiral down again.



[zxcv1](#) [peddytheviking](#) · 13 hours ago

That's right Peddy.. Yet another cruel sport to be condemned by Geoffrey W



[The Central Scrutiniser](#) [sherrell](#) · 11 hours ago

Did you read my post about the haggis cross-breeding experiments a few weeks back?

EDIT - I have re-posted it in here to save you searching for it.



[ladyofthelake](#) [The Central Scrutiniser](#) · 8 hours ago

I thank you for that informative discourse. The fact that I can barely see my monitor for laughing is a minor detail.:-)