

## Hair of dog traps badger baiters

BY STUART ROBINSON

A WILDLIFE group has joined forces with police using hi-tech methods to stop animal cruelty.

Wakefield District Badger Group aims to help stamp out badger baiting and lamping, using the latest DNA techniques.

Badger baiting involves setting dogs on a usually partially disabled badger in a baiting pit or makeshift arena. Lamping is hunting at night using powerful lamps and either guns or dogs.

"It's now possible to use the latest DNA technology to identify badger hair on dogs used for badger baiting," said Pamela Walters, chair of the Wakefield group.

"We are all working on developing a database so groups from different areas can be informed as quickly as possible of any problems and the culprits travelling to other areas."

### Contact

The Wakefield group monitors the welfare of the animals by regularly checking their setts.

PC Sally Smart, a wildlife crime officer with West Yorkshire Police, said: "We do a lot of work with badger groups around West Yorkshire and the Wakefield group, like all the groups in this area, are very good."

To contact the group, visit [www.wdco.org/site/Wakefield-District-Badger-Group/Links.htm](http://www.wdco.org/site/Wakefield-District-Badger-Group/Links.htm).

