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HOWL

Direct Action Against All Bloodsports www.huntsabs.org.uk

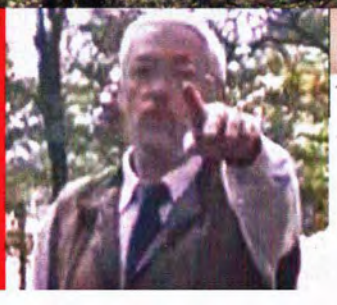
Hunt sabotage: class war or animal rights?

Fundraising the HSA way!

News from Planet Badger











LETTER FROM THE CHAIR:

First, a correction; in the last Howl I stated that in the past two years we have given out over £50,000 to local sabs groups, as well as supplying equipment for the cull zones. It seems that I am not that good at 'blowing our own trumpet!' As our treasurer pointed out, we actually gave out £50,000 to sabs groups in just 12 months! The plan will be to better that that this year, with your valuable support. Every pound donated is another nail in the coffin of blood sports.

As I write the bloody badger cull has started, and hunt sabs are on the ground at the bed rock of the coalition to defeat this evil government plan (and I do not use the word 'evil' lightly). Against all the scientific evidence, which shows that badgers are not the vector of BTb (Bovine Tuberculosis) and that a cull does not reduce BTb, this cull is going ahead and in more areas than before. You have to question: why?

I am not given to conspiracy theories but you must wonder, if the legal protection given to Badgers (starting in 1835 when the Cruelty to Animals Act prohibited badger baiting and followed by the Protection of Badger Act 1993 which protects badger setts), hasn't been viewed by landowners and those who find it fun to inflict cruelty to animals as a target species. With the exception of, possibly, bats, no other animal is so highly protected. Badger setts, of course, take up land preventing land owners from exploiting it as they deem rightful, and many a planning application has been halted in its tracks by a badger sett. The removal of badgers from land can therefore free up highly lucrative land deals or development and you have to wonder if part of the insane drive by the NFU, DEFRA and this government has not got a wider agenda?

Between 2012 and 2014, the taxpayer spent £16.8 million on the culling of 2,476 badgers; that's nearly £6800 per badger death (and remember this is to support an industry that in 2012 made an annual capital expenditure of £210m). If they only invested that money in good water and land management then BTb would be not an issue. This is the reality of what we are fighting; but, as Margaret Mead famously stated:

Never underestimate the power of a small group of people to change the world. In fact, it is the only way it ever has (been changed).

Hunt Saboteurs are that group...



www.huntsabs.org.uk

Hunt Saboteurs @HuntSabs

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The Hunt Saboteurs Association has been in existence for over 50 years, and is dedicated to saving the lives of hunted animals directly. Prior to the Hunting Act of 2004, hunt saboteurs used non-violent direct action (nvda) to prevent the horrific deaths of thousands of hunted animals every year. Post hunt ban the primary tool of hunt sabotage has switched from the hunting horn to the video camera, as saboteurs monitor hunts with the aim of capturing their illegal activities on film. This in turn can immediately save lives on the day, and can lead to police action against the hunt concerned. Our range of pre-ban nvda tactics remain in active service, and saboteurs will continue to use them should they be deemed the best way forward on the day for the hunted animal at risk.

The HSA committee is made up of a maximum of 12 voting members, supported by as many non-voting members as is deemed necessary. As a member of the HSA your contribution is vital – thank you.

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Photos @DenGlanzig, Simon Gardner stacywoolhousephotography.weebly.com, HSA Archive, Sab groups all over the country - Ta folks!
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Howl is printed on recycled paper using vegetable inks.

EDITORIAL

By the time this goes to press hunt sab groups around the country (and in other countries, see the report in Group News from the Belgian Hunt Sabs) will be back in the field intervening in illegal hunt activity and ensuring that our wildlife continues to live the way it should – free and unmolested by intellectually-challenged wasters in red coats.

Unfortunately, we start the season once again with most sabs not having had even a slight respite over the summer; most have been involved in sabbing mink hunts, watching for the start of cubbing activity and sett surveying in preparation for the ever more ludicrous Badger Cull.

Seven new cull zones, bringing the total now to ten and huge target figures (over 9,000 badgers in the sites of the blood junkies) have meant saboteurs have had to stretch themselves even thinner over the country. The good news is that the public continues to support us, new sabs (many local people from inside cull zones) join us daily and the outrage against the cull continues to grow. For many people who do not feel able to be active as hunt sabs, involving themselves in the cull zones is an excellent alternative and they continue to swell the ranks of long-term sabs.

Other groups have been fundraising to get equipment, repair vehicles and recruiting at the same time; see the article about Fundraising further on in Howl for some of the usual (and not so unusual) ways in which groups and individuals have boosted their funds.

Also, as we get this ready for the printers, we learn that the disgraceful riding down of one of our number several months ago has failed to be taken seriously in court. The Dorset huntsman, Mark Doggrell, was charged with knocking a female supporter off her feet after he galloped his horse straight at her. The sab had seven broken ribs, a collapsed lung and several other injuries. The huntsman was found Not Guilty as an 'expert witness' explained how he 'wouldn't have known he had knocked her over…' If he's that unaware, perhaps he shouldn't be on a horse, or even roller skates… It can only be speculated on as to who the 'expert' was, possibly his mother, or another close family member. Needless to say, the pressure will continue on this hunt; word has it that even some of his fellow hunters are disgusted at this outcome… Our very best wishes are with Nid.

A huge welcome all our new supporters, whether in cull zones, hunting field or at home giving us moral and financial support; let's hope for a violence-free season with no kills and a nice new Landrover for Christmas! Well, I did say *hope*!!



HUNT SABOTAGE: CLASS WAR ...OR ANIMAL RIGHTS?

Hunters love to accuse Hunt Sabs of only being interested in hunting as an act of Class War; nearly always in the same breathe as pointing out that many participants in hunting are not rich and are 'working class'. This all becomes counter intuitive, as are many hunters' arguments, and to untangle this messy argument needs some thought.

First of all, you need to define what aspect of hunting is being discussed, Fox and Stag hunting by their nature are not cheap activities; a year's membership of most hunts is over £1,000 with some hunts still demanding 'cap' money during the days hunting. In addition to this is the cost of horse ownership, a horse box, vehicle to pull it and all the other riding paraphernalia (not to mention the time needed to maintain a horse) and you have a very expensive 'hobby'. It costs a minimum of 8k to 10k a year, outside the reach of most working people on an average salary. You can, of course, be one of those very sad individuals who roam the country in cars peering over fences in the hope of seeing a hunt in the distance (known as 'hunt followers') but these are becoming a very rare breed. This is not the whole of hunting. There is also hare and mink hunting both of which are followed on foot and then, of course, you have dog fighting and badger baiting with very little outlay involved.

Shooting sits somewhere in the middle, cost wise (depending on whether the participant partakes in rough or organised shooting) but it is clear that hunting is available to all classes and finances, if killing animals for fun is what you find enjoyable. The ability to get a gun license is not as easy as it used to be, with many doctors refusing to sign off licenses on moral grounds.

"Fox and Stag hunting by their nature are not cheap activities; a year's membership of most hunts is over £1,000 with some hunts still demanding 'cap' money during the days hunting. In addition to this is the cost of horse ownership, a horse box, vehicle to pull it and all the other riding paraphernalia (not to mention the time needed to maintain a horse) and you have a very expensive 'hobby'".

Fox hunters in particular mostly live in the past, evidence of which can be seen in the fact that this is a pursuit where the field is 80-90% female but all the 'huntsmen' are actual men. The history of Hunt Sabotage can be viewed by hunters as a tactic of class war, actually for some very sound reasons.

In the early days of hunt sabbing, getting the word out and recruiting were major problems. At times, there were articles in newspapers and some TV documentaries about hunt sabs but these never gave people the information to contact the HSA; a notable exception in the 1970s being a small advert in the Daily Mirror (sneaked in for free) and a mention in Custom Car magazine (about other activities you can do at the weekend apart from polishing your 'souped up' car), with full contact details! Channel 4 launched in 1982 and within days had shown 'The Animals Film,' which included a large section on hunting and hunt sabotage.

Even with these limitations Hunt Sabbing took off largely in the 1970s and 1980s, and was boosted by the Punk music scene, which promoted self-published fanzines. These, in many instances, drew the reader's attention to hunt sabbing, because many of the bands promoted animal rights, political activism, and direct action opposing traditional methods of achieving political change.

In particular Crass (1977-84), Conflict (1981 – present) and Chumbawamba (1980-2012) all promoted Hunt Sabotage with literature and benefit gigs. This was at a time when there was little ability for political groups to be recognised except by word of mouth, underground literature and alternative book shops. Around the same time, the squatting scene was part of a larger political movement opposed to the dawning of Thatcherism and this whole mix brought people together into hunt sabotage where they could have an effect on some part of the political agenda, rather than remain passive bystanders. The political group 'Class War,' has actively supported hunt sabbing in its literature as a way of highlighting the class divide.

During the 70s/80s/90s it was expected that, as a sab, you would be arrested (although not charged) numerous times each season; so it took a certain mind-set and political outlook to continue as a sab, not to mention being able to deal with the constant violence from the hunting community. Altogether this limited those willing and able to partake in hunt sabbing (as it does to this day) and naturally meant those involved were likely to come from a certain spectrum of society, where violence was a more everyday possibility, harassment from the police almost a way of life but the will to make a positive change was promoted.

Naturally, all of this this meant that hunt sabbing was dominated by anarchists and other people on the far left of the political agenda, many already involved in other forms of politics, or disenchanted with traditional means of political change.

As an organisational structure the HSA has a written constitution, subscription membership and holds AGMs each year, where the details of the organisational structure and its direction are hotly argued (the inclusion of opposition to fishing was a very memorable occasion); the local group structure was, and is to this day, less formal.





In fact, is hasn't changed much since the 1960s where any group of people can set themselves up as a sab group and, providing they keep to non-violent tactics and ethos, will be welcomed into the fold.

Anti-hunt MPs haven't helped. Following the Hunting Ban Labour MP Peter Bradley said: "Now that hunting has been banned we ought at last to own up to it, it was class war."

Dennis Skinner (The Beast of Bolsover), was famously quoted as saying it more pungently: "This has nothing to do with animal welfare, this is for the miners."

Whilst the latter quote has been constantly repeated by the Countryside Alliance (and its paid stooge, ex-LACS director Jim Barrington), they fail to mention the other statements Dennis Skinner has made against hunting, which clearly show his interest in the fight against the cruelty involved.



"At times, people may have turned up just 'wanting to stick it to the toffs', but it soon becomes clear that this is not our main objective..."

Notably, in his book, 'Sailing Close to the Wind,' he states; "I've been against blood sports ever since, as a kid, I saw a hunt's dogs chasing a fox. That is not a sport. It is animal cruelty, barbarism." This, of course, has nothing to do with the motives of hunt sabs, but it is often quoted by the hunting community and is a part of the agenda that they like to push.

So, to the hunters viewing us from the outside, it would seem that during our formative years (and even today) those involved in hunt sabbing are only in it to 'stick it to the toffs.' The reality on the ground is that sabs, although mainly coming from the working or lower middle-class, are being opposed by the fists and bats of a similar class of people from the other side of the hunting divide. The only real difference seems to be that those with money are rarely seen on the side of the hunted animal. The attitude of the police (veering from complete indifference, to active support of hunting), bolsters the entrenched opinions on both sides.

There can be an element of class conflict in the confrontation between the hunt and the sabs. Hunters and their supporters are, in the main, the rural land-owning class, many of whom are still a bizarre sect who are almost completely separated from the rest of society and yet have great influence over political and economic affairs. As they have been heard to say: "we are the bloody establishment!" It can be most satisfying to have the opportunity to ridicule them at one of their important social functions, and to watch the way some of them talk down to (and command the attention of) the police; this, on many occasions, has the opposite of the expected effect due to their arrogance. As hunt saboteurs we are witness to the all-out war against wildlife which, at times, seems to be the main activity in the countryside.



At the end of the day hunt sabbing is strenuous, challenging, dirty and dangerous with the side line that the police generally continue to harass sabs and threaten arrests. At times, people may have turned up just 'wanting to stick it to the toffs', but it soon becomes clear that this is not our main objective (which is, and will always be, saving a hunted animal), and so hunt sabs remain as they have always been; a left-leaning bunch of people whose prime motivation it is to prevent the injury and death of wildlife. Those with other opinions (which do not uphold the protection of animals as their main goal) soon move on to other pursuits. So, no doubt when they fail to pin the 'class warriors' badge on us, they will revert to the 'bunny-huggers' label. Either way, the opinions and attitudes of hunters mean little to hunt sabs; it is their actions we oppose and, on the glorious day they stop those activities, we will walk away... hopefully never having to interact with them again.

sabgroupnews



Beds & Bucks Hunt Sabs

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As I write this we are preparing for the disgrace that is the badger cull to kick off. We've been active in the North Cotswolds area throughout the summer, surveying and preparing maps and kit. Like all the other groups we'll do our best to minimise the killing.

Closer to home, we had a very successful stand at Milton Keynes Vegan Fair which raised lots of cash and we spoke to many people who were all very complimentary about our efforts. It's always worth engaging and raising awareness of what goes on in our countryside at these events.

We'll also have a team staying closer to home during the cull, monitoring the Oakley Hunt and disrupting their attempts at cubbing. They have a new young huntsman (Jack Harris) and we intend to make his hunting life hell. Word on the streets is that he's hugely unpopular and some masters have even resigned over his appointment. This is, of course, all great news for us.

The court case for the prosecution of the Fitzwilliam Hunt was adjourned and is still ongoing. By the time you read this, there should have been more in the national media. Along with a witness from South Cambridgeshire Sabs it is our evidence which brought them before the courts. We hope for a successful outcome; it could have huge implications for other hunts around the country which use the Bird of Prey Exemption.

We'll also be meeting with local police forces in an attempt to improve their response to hunting and treatment of sabs in the field. So far we believe progress has been made, however the real results will be seen when the season gets into full swing.

Thanks once again to all those who donated and supported us, we couldn't do it without you.





South Cambridgeshire Hunt Sabs

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Although the summer has been a welcome opportunity to recuperate and prepare for the coming season we have continued to be busy throughout.

The majority of our group spent a week in Dorset badger sett surveying, members have also been helping to set up the West Dorset camp for the upcoming badger cull. We intend to have a presence during the duration of the cull.

We have also been busy fundraising and raising awareness of illegal hunting and other issues. We have been supported by friends in the local music scene, who have allowed us to have regular stalls at gigs, including a stall for two days inside one of the main stages at Boomtown Festival. We have set up our own fundraising events in addition to this, including an Open Mic night and a Vegan Three Course Meal.

This, alongside some generous donors and a much needed grant from the HSA has enabled us to purchase a more reliable vehicle and better equipment.

As a new group, last season we had been struggling by with what we could afford or borrow, so we are feeling much more prepared this season to safeguard our wildlife more effectively.



Cirencester Illegal Hunt Watch

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Sadly, we are now embarking on protecting badgers in Gloucestershire for the fourth year running. Natural England has issued 7 new licences to cull badgers and the killing began officially on Monday 29th August 2016. Hereford and North Cotswold are new areas for monitors, sabs and patrollers to protect this year.

Outrageously, almost 10,000 badgers are due to be killed as part of this year's cull in 6 counties by the end of November and yet the government has released no evidence that farmer-led culling is helping to control cattle TB.Evening meeting point will begin from tonight and run every night until the cull ends. 7pm every evening, Llewall St Car Park, Newent.

In a lead up to this, we have been out in the fields and woods surveying setts ready for the cull and at the same time gathering essential knowledge for monitoring cubbing and main season fox hunting. The amount of wildlife crime out there is very disturbing especially the number of blocked badger setts, traps and snares that you come across whilst taking country walks. It seems to be the norm to have landowners run pheasant shoots, cull badgers, set traps and snares without giving our precious wildlife another thought. The police are currently investigating some wildlife crimes that we have uncovered and we hope for a positive outcome.

We monitor hunts in and around South Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and The Cotswolds. We regularly go out during the week and weekends if you're local or new to the area and interested in getting involved.

We would like to say thank you to our good friends Three Counties Hunt Sabs and 'Outpaced' for their legal and practical support and to all the sab groups that come to help Gloucestershire during the cull.

Also good luck to the other counties currently under siege from shooters – stay safe.

www.outpaced.org/
www.facebook.com/Glosbadgeroffice/
www.facebook.com/groups/Unitedactivebadger/

East Kent Hunt Sabs

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East Kent Sabs have been busy over the summer getting ready for the cub hunting season to arrive once more. We have been fundraising (with a memorable day at the Kent Vegan Festival) and launching a new range of merchandise that can bought via our Facebook page.

Sadly once more, the combined forces of Kent Police and the CPS have made sure that any allegations of illegal hunting we have made to them have been crushed due to "insufficient evidence."

This evidence is being compiled by us though, to show the public what hunting under the ban actually means, and added (as it is ready) to our YouTube channel, which can be viewed at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSzbiK99zugXAgiv2ZIB38A

Looks like this season will be business as usual. Lots of new people have expressed an interest in coming out, so the local hunts had better keep looking over their shoulders...



Croydon, Brixton, Kingston & Hook Hunt Sabs

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Following the violent end to last season, much energy has been expended over the summer trying to persuade Sussex plod to read some law books and nick some criminals; so far to no avail.

We will give you the full story once the case is settled. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters and the HSA, both our Landies are now back on the road and ready for next season.

Our attempts to close down the local mink pack seem to have worked as they have not been seen since the third week of their season, despite our best efforts.

Members of the group have been active in the Devon and Gloucestershire badger cull zones, as well as undertaking some projects closer to home that should pay dividends next season.

Our alarm clocks are set and we will be out on the cub hunts from this Saturday, so if you fancy joining us our contact details are above.

Devon County Hunt Sabs

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We have spent most of the summer since the end of the fox hunting season doing regular sett surveying in the new badger cull areas. Devon is particularly hard hit this year with the rollout and the area covered is huge.

While surveying we have come across snares, piles of dead sheep, assorted traps, signs of past dig-outs and the usual suspicious angry farmers. While there are many thousands of badgers in the zone at risk, in parts the impression we have is of a depleted badger population due to persecution over the years. We are doing all we can to protect the many that remain.

Two notable hits we can report involved the same thoroughly unpleasant hunt, the Cheldon Buckhounds. Exmoor is infamous for its stag hunts and other forms of deer persecution, so on 14th May we headed there with sabs from Bristol, Dorset, Southampton and South Devon Animal Rights. The Cheldon met at the Sportsman's Inn, with about 40 riders and 80 vehicles, to chase roe bucks. In contrast to stag hunting, where long distances are covered, roe bucks stay within a small range and are chased around to exhaustion.

That day, sabs were assaulted by the hunt's thugs, and support blocked roads to prevent the police from getting through. Worse was to come when we returned on 30th May. The Cheldon's hounds went into cry in a wood but as sabs tried to intervene they were punched, knocked to the ground and had a camera stolen. Hunt support laughed as the ambulance attended. Worst of all was one sab receiving a serious skull fracture. He has since had surgery and is doing well. Police investigations are ongoing.

We will not be deterred by hunt violence, or the government's determination to wipe out ever more badgers. See you in the field!



Northants Hunt Sabs

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The summer, for us, has been spent fundraising, fixing and finding!

We've held fundraising stalls at many events around Northamptonshire and Leicestershire, from Vegan Markets to Bardic Picnics! Support from the public never ceases to amaze us and helps to fuel and fund what we do; we've also enlisted some committed new recruits at these events for both sabbing and the badger cull.

Thanks go to those who have given up their summer weekends working on fixing up our van ready for the season that is now already underway as we write this.

Also just started, yet another year of the badger cull, we've been out regularly finding new setts and checking up on old ones.

In July we organised a protest against the hunt calendars prestigious Festival of Hunting at the East of England Showground. It is a day of ridiculous back slapping and glorification of a group of people who really are just a bunch of bloodthirsty criminals, in some vain attempt to legitimise what it is they do by calling it a 'dog show'. Protestors and sabs turned up from all over the country to peacefully remind them of the 83% who are against hunting with hounds and aren't fooled by all the pomp and circumstance. Thanks to everyone that made the journey to attend.

We're out there now saving foxes and badgers, if you want to join us get in touch!

Nottingham Hunt Sabs

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We've been out in the cull zones every weekend since the fox hunt season ended mapping badger setts. This preparatory work is vital so that once the killing starts we are in the best position possible to save badgers lives. It's really positive work as we find loads of amazing badger setts and inspires us to do our best to protect them once the killing starts.

We've also been busy fundraising and recruiting ready for the forthcoming hunting season. Recruitment has gone well, we've met loads of enthusiastic new volunteers and are confident we'll fill both our vehicles in the coming season.

See you in a muddy field somewhere.
If you want to get involved, see details above.



South Coast Hunt Sabs

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Hold on, seems like only yesterday we put our boots away and then took them out for the Mink Hunts. Since the end of the season, sabbing mink hunts has been hit and miss, as they are (as ever) elusive. On the few occasions we did, they stood around looking sad and then called the cops, who also stood around until the hunters went home. An easy day's sabbing.

Beyond that, some of our stalwarts have been off in the Badger cull zones mapping out the setts and will, as you read this, no doubt have been foiling this government's dastardly attempts to kill as many of our beloved badgers as they can get their hands on.

As we write, cubbing has just started and the prop shaft decided to fall out of our Land Rover. So hopefully that will be resolved by the time this gets into your hands, but any donations will help to keep it running...just back to cars for the moment.

As always we are looking for new recruits so if you are in our region drop us a line at our email address....We promise mud, sweat, tears, a few laughs and cakes...not to mention driving around like loons in a big red Landy, laughing at bumpkins.

South Wales Hunt Sabs

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Since the foxhunting season ended in March, we have been working in the Herefordshire cull zone, mapping sett locations and then checking for signs whether the cull company has started their operations.

As we write, the cull licenses have been issued and the cull is underway in some zones.

We've found some absolutely beautiful setts, it's always a thrill to be so close to these lovely creatures and knowing that they are sleeping beneath our feet.

It's going to be a very intense time for us during the next 6 plus weeks whilst the shooters are out in the fields. But whilst they are there - so will we be. Thank you to all our supporters.



West Midlands Hunt Sabs

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We've had a busy summer putting together a documentary based on all the footage we filmed last season of the Atherstone Hunt chasing and killing foxes, assaulting sabs and joking around with a dead goose. We put on a film showing in Leicester which was well attended by members of the public, who were shocked at what is going on.

The Atherstone Hunt have also had a busy summer fund raising in an attempt to sort out their serious financial problems. James Sharland, joint master of the Atherstone, put up a GoFundMe saying "persistent sab presence over the past 18 months has led to a dramatic drop in our subscribers."

We decided to hold a demonstration outside their kennels during a hound racing fundraising evening. A week before the demo we exposed the Atherstone's new whipper-in, Danny Tomlin, who had posted some very offensive racist posts on Facebook including a Nazi swastika, Britain First Videos and a joke about child porn. Tomlin has spent the summer learning to ride his horse, which shows how desperate the Atherstone have become. Tomlin will also be acting as the hunt's terrier man this season.

Despite revealing what Tomlin had posted, the Atherstone refused to condemn these views and continue to employ him. As a result of this, we held an anti-hunt/ anti-racist demo outside the kennels. The Hunt again refused to condemn the views of their new employee.

We've had three cases of assaults against us by Hunt Stewards dropped just a month before they were due to go to court, and another case involving an Atherstone Hunt supporter adjourned and then dropped just two days before it was due in court. One of the stewards, Ben Wilkinson, has previously admitted to having an uncle in CID.

West Sussex Hunt Sabs

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WSHS kept busy during the summer involved in various campaigns, mink hunts and the cull zones whenever possible. A good deal of time has been spent in the countryside regularly checking for traps and snares for the Anti-Snaring campaign. A lot of work has gone into petitioning at Arundel to get the use of snares banned from the Duke of Norfolk's estate. We have also, since May, held regular Anti-snaring demos outside Arundel Castle.

Cub hunting season started for the Crawley & Horsham hunt in early August and we have caught them a few times already. We now know they will go for an early morning hunt, and then out again for an evening hunt on the same day! We have caught them doing this a couple of times so far. Members of the C&H were blatantly cub hunting with hunt staff using whips, screams and shouting. They were quite shocked to get caught out on a killing spree twice in one day and quickly packed up and headed home after we turned up. And so it begins...

If you want to join us or help in any way give us a call, email or message us on Facebook.

Belgian Hunt Sabs

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Since September 2015 we organised about 10 actions, some of which were very successful, as well as over double that amount of explorations in different parts of Belgium. Now that we have got used to various types of terrain and hunting methods, next season will be a bit easier. Our skills are sharpened and expanded with the help of more experienced activists.

We have also been handing out flyers at animal rights events and have gained more volunteers for next season. People are giving us more information than before and many others are asking what they can do on their own.

This summer we have been keeping an eye out in a region we know well by now. First we observed a hunt's preparations of a field and recently we discovered very clear indications of an illegal hunt planned for next month.

NEWS FROM PLANET BADGER

Unimaginably, this year the government decided not only to continue its policy of culling badgers, but to roll out the cull into seven new areas. With the Somerset and Gloucestershire zones now in their fourth year of killing and North Dorset in its second, new zones in Herefordshire, North Cotswolds, West Dorset, Devon and Cornwall began killing in late August and early September.

Whilst, obviously, the rollout of the cull means that hunt saboteurs are more thinly spread (with over double the number of areas to cover), we are a determined lot and will be there to sabotage this horrific cull until the bitter end. As such, sabs from all over the UK have once again topped up their Thermoses, donned their raincoats, grabbed their torches and have headed down to every zone. Every year of killing has provided us with the opportunity to hone our skills in effective direct action and each local group involved in resistance to the cull has now become an experienced unit with the expertise to very effectively find and disrupt the killers.



Most sabs have poured into the new rollout zones, leaving the older zones in the very capable hands of local people who have spent the last few years working alongside and sharing skills with sabs.

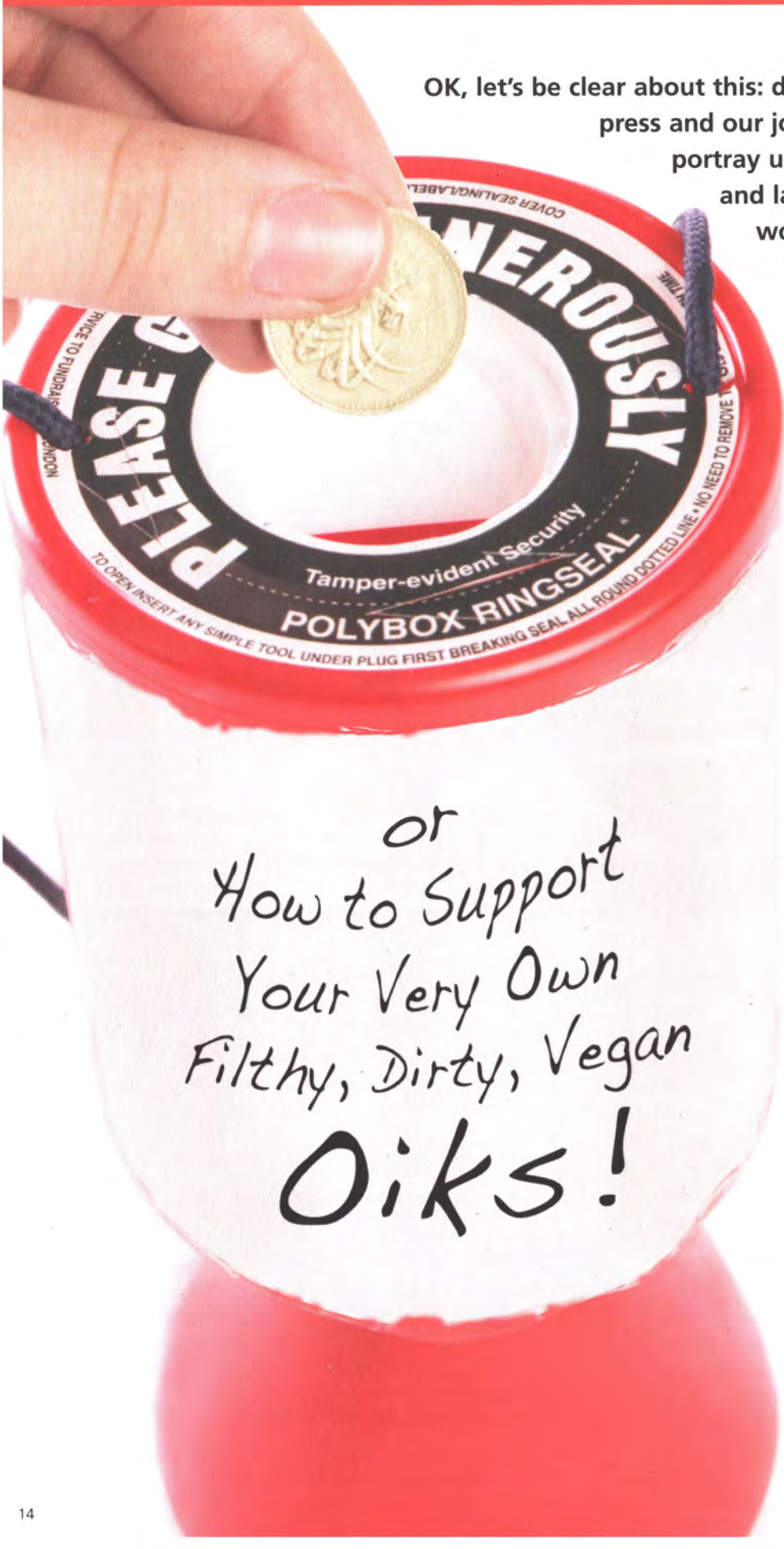
The HSA has provided local groups with high-end thermal imaging and night vision equipment, meaning that sabs are equipped with increasingly higher spec kit year on year. This equipment, coupled with invaluable intelligence from local people makes sure our efforts are strategically placed and that we're highly effective in sabotaging the badger killers.

In the three years previous, with a combined total of 52 weeks of culling, around 4,000 badgers have been killed. In this year alone, however, the minimum number of badgers to be killed across the ten zones is 9,841 with a maximum number of around 14,000. Such a brutal massacre of wildlife is something that we, as an organisation, simply won't let happen and at the time of writing sabs are working tirelessly both day and night to make sure the targets are missed and as many furry lives are saved as possible.





FUNDRAISING.



OK, let's be clear about this: despite the best efforts of the press and our jolly red-coated nature-abusers to portray us as dole scroungers, parasites and layabouts, most hunt sabs do work (be it paid or voluntary), and often support others too. Hunt sabs hail from every walk of life (be aware Hunt Scum – some of us teach your children, care for your mother in a nursing home or decide how much anaesthetic to use when we lance that painful boil!)

However, sabbing is not a cheap 'hobby'. Quite apart from the petrol money contributed every week, there is the personal need for decent clothing and boots, information gathering equipment, such as video cameras, as well as items that help keep people and vehicles safe, mobile phones, gps trackers.

The HSA does its damnedest to make sure that funds go where they are needed: new vehicles, repairs to existing vehicles and equipment, as well as ensuring that there is money for campaigns; the Badger Cull, the Seal Cull last year and helping to send teams to other countries (such as the success that was the campaign to stop the slaughter of wild birds in Malta).

However, the HSA does not have a bottomless well of money (otherwise surely every group would be gifted a Chieftain tank) and when a group puts in a grant request, they will often be asked to contribute a proportion of the cost. And this is where local supporters come in...

There are many ways and reasons that people may get involved.

THE HSA WAY!

SPECIFIC CAMPAIGNS

Sometimes supporters decide to fundraise for a specific campaign or project (such as to send to a badger cull zone for equipment, or to get a damaged vehicle repaired). The HSA cannot always guarantee that an individual contribution will be used to buy something very specific; there has to be a consensus of opinion.that this is the best use of funds, so if individuals have a very firm idea of what is needed and where, it is better that they liaise with their local group/ get involved in a specific campaign so that they can use funds effectively.

Fundraising that provided every group in the country with a gizmo (a portable recorder that plays an amplified soundtrack of hounds in cry, confusing a pack and pulling them off a live scent) was much appreciated by all groups, whilst decent video recorders were much gloated over and gratefully received.

Often, specific campaigns (running repairs on a hunt sab Land Rover, providing night vision equipment for a group in one of the badger cull zones) are quickly and effectively dealt with by a GoFundMe appeal or something similar so it is always best to check what is already in place. (See next page for on-line fundraising).

PARTICULAR GROUPS

Most people who fundraise on a regular basis do it for their local group. This may take the form of a one-off event (a table sale, music gig or stall), or may be longer term and based on the abilities or skills of one person (selling cards, photographs or produce from an allotment, sponsored sitting in a bath of baked beans – well, it takes all kinds, right?!)



HOW MAY WE COUNT THE WAYS...?

In recent years we have had people raise money for various reasons and in a great variety of ways. For instance:

- ✓ **Table sales/ Boot Fairs/ eBay with donated items** (takes a bit of effort but once into a routine can be quite a money spinner. Table sales and Boot Fairs charge a fee but eBay gives some free listings).
- ✓ **Gigs** (these take some organising but having a sympathetic local band can make these a regular source of income).
- ✓ **Sponsored walks and runs** (no organisation needed from you but be aware that you will need to declare the cause for which you are competing).
- ✓ **Having a stall at an event** (if you do not have your own items to sell, you will need merchandise. The HSA can help with this but you will need to do this in conjunction with your local sab group, so you will need to contact them first). Be sure that the event is appropriate – Farmers Markets and other Bumpkin Bashes can get a bit hairy!
- ✓ **Using your own particular skills** (cooking a meal and charging a set amount, selling your own produce such as cakes, art or fruit and vegetables. It is worth noting that most sabs are vegan, and certainly vegetarian).





AND THE MORE UNUSUAL WAYS THAT SUPPORTERS HAVE RAISED MONEY AND AWARENESS:

- ✓ Parachute jump (see right)
- ✓ Selling animal portraits with a proportion going to the local sab group
- ✓ Raffling a hand painted clock
- ✓ Animal Face Painting
- ✓ Vegan Cake Day at a local bakers
- ✓ Making patchwork fox soft toys (every one different and we couldn't get enough!)

ON-LINE FUND RAISING

There are of course ways to raise fund without leaving your home. Over the past years web sites such as Kickstarter have spawned other sites to raise money for purely charitable reasons, notably the two below:

GoFundMe - uk.gofundme.com/
Just Giving - www.justgiving.com/

The Hunt Saboteurs Association, local Sab groups and anti-Badger Cull activists have not been slow in using these sites to raise money in this fashion but there is nothing stopping individuals using such methods to raise much needed cash; in fact you may be able to tap into social networks not already being reached by your local sab group.

Setting up a page in either of these sites is quite easy but there are some tips on how to maximise the response for your fund raising request:

- Get a good photo which shows what you are raising the money for; if it is, for example, for a video camera get a picture of the one you wish to purchase or something similar. Failing that a picture of a fox or badger works well.
- Make it very clear in the text what the money is for, where it is going and any dates, if relevant. Don't be vague; people are more likely to respond if they know exactly where their money is going.
- Don't ask for too much. We have found that people are more likely to send money where the requests are for £200 - £300 or less, and at times you end up getting much more than that. If the equipment you are buying is much more than that is OK but if you are asking for over £1,000 consider requesting less and state in the text you are raising money elsewhere. You can always do another page later on to hopefully raise the remaining money.
- Always use the web sites ability to thank your donators, that way they may donate again to other requests
- Publicise as widely as you can....

Setting up the initial page is only the start of the work, the next step is to advertise it as much as possible, and you can do this by putting it on your personal social media site (Facebook, Twitter etc.) and by emailing directly to friends and colleagues you feel may be sympathetic.

On social media you can also approach 'groups' asking them to share it onward and this can be the most effective way of getting out to a wider number of people.

Don't just post it once and think that will do, post and repost, find other like-minded groups who may be interested and ask them and individuals to repost your request.

And when you have achieved your goal and handed over the cash or the new equipment to your local sab group, don't forget to also publicise that this has happened. That way when you do it again, people are confident that their money is being used appropriately and feel happy to support you further.

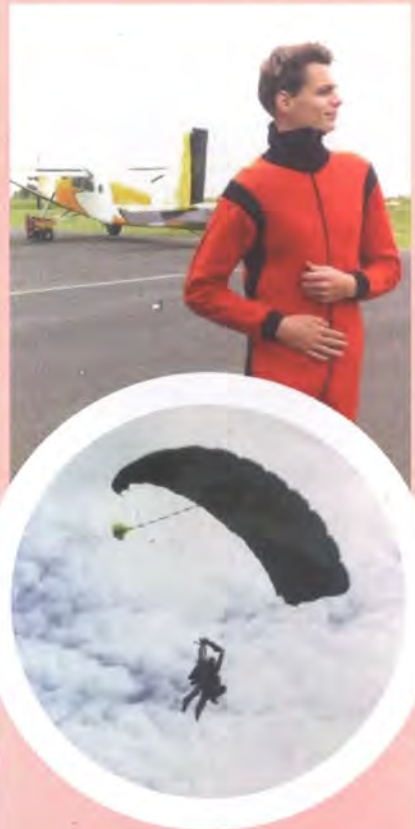
However you decide to help, it will be appreciated. Every event that helps raise money or awareness has an impact and keeps active sabs in the field saving wildlife and spoiling the fun of those old enough to know better. And remember, even by keeping up your membership of the HSA you are already ensuring that we have a regular income – knowing that we have that means informed decisions about where funds go, which in turn keeps the bank balance healthy.

Skydivin' Sab

One of Southampton sabs' finest helped to raise much needed funds for the group by doing a sponsored sky dive and, as can be seen from photos, he looks just as good in orange as in his traditional black!

It was a tandem 4000m jump and raised £135+ but the main thing was that it was the "chance to do something amazing and raise money for my (ex)local sab group that was brilliant."

There is no truth in the rumour that he was, in fact, pushed from the plane by other sabs. But if any other groups would like to nominate a sab who they would happily eject from 4000m, we will publish details here.



Please let us know about your own fundraising events and ideas – you may inspire someone else!



SUPPORT ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS

Please write cards or letters to the following prisoners. Even if you just send a card with a brief message, receiving a message of support from the outside world can make a huge difference to the prisoner. Remember all correspondence is read by prison staff. Also don't expect a reply as there is a limit to the number of letters each prisoner can write.

UK Prisoners

Debbie Vincent #A5819DE
HMP Send, Ripley road, Woking, GU23 7LJ
Debbie was sentenced to 6 years in prison followed by a 5 year ASBO for allegedly conspiring to blackmail people connected to HLS. The prosecution did not claim that Debbie carried out the blackmail, merely that she must have known about it. Debbie was further sentenced to 1 year in prison, to run concurrently with her previous sentence, for 'interfering with a contractual relationship,' again in relation to 'animal testing companies.' Debbie welcomes letters, but please remember that all correspondence can be read by prison staff.
Debbie's birthday is 12 January.



Overseas Prisoners

Walter Edmund Bond, #37096-013
USP Marion CMU, PO Box 1000, Marion IL 62959, USA
Walter Bond is serving a total of 12 years for his actions as the ALF Lone Wolf. www.SupportWalter.org
Birthday:16th April

Joseph Buddenberg #12746-111
USP Lompoc, U.S. Penitentiary, 3901 Klein Blvd., Lompoc, CA 93436, USA
In early 2016, Joseph Buddenberg and Nicole Kissane signed non-cooperating plea agreements in which they pled guilty to Conspiracy to Violate the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act. Joseph and Nicole were accused of releasing thousands of animals from fur farms, and causing damage to associated businesses in 2013. Joseph was sentenced to two years in prison. Nicole's trial has not begun yet.

Marius Jacob Mason (formerly Marie Jeanette Mason, 04672-061)
FMC Carswell, Federal Medical Center, P.O. Box 27137, Fort Worth, TX 76127, USA.
Marius was sentenced on 5th February 2009 to an outrageous 21 years and 10 months imprisonment for ELF/ALF actions. www.facebook.com/supportmariusmason/ and http://supportmariusmason.org, In July 2014, Marius announced that he would no longer be using the name Marie, and will be using male pronouns. Until his name is legally changed, mail sent to Marius in prison will need to be addressed to "Marie Mason."

Rebecca Rubin #98290-011
FCI Dublin, 5701 8th Street - Camp Parks, Dublin, CA 94568, USA
In January 2014, Rebecca was sentenced to 5 years in prison after pleading guilty to arson, attempted arson and conspiracy charges.

Justin Solondz #98291-011
FCI Loretto, Federal Correctional Institution, P.O. Box 1000, Loretto, PA 15940, USA
In March 2012, Justin was sentenced to 7 years in prison for arson and conspiracy charges related to actions in the U.S. claimed by the ELF/ALF.
www.supportjustin.org
Birthday:3rd October

Brian Vaillancourt #M42889
Danville Correctional Center, 3820 East Main Street, Danville, IL 61834, USA
In February 2014, Brian was sentenced to nine years in prison for a McDonald's arson.



HOW YOU CAN HELP END BLOODSPORTS

Organisations such as the Countryside Alliance are backed by some of the richest people in Britain, and can spend millions on advertising and paid campaigners. Their wealth and power gives them a stranglehold over most of the media and some of the most influential people in government.

The Hunt Saboteurs Association, in comparison, runs solely on funds from you, the public, who keep the organisation afloat with donations and membership. It depends on the small band of volunteers who give over their spare time to keep the HSA running smoothly, produce leaflets and salesgoods, staff stalls, manage websites/social media and deal with the press. And most importantly of all it depends on the dedication of the men and women who, week in, week out, defy the hunts on their own turf, and in the face of increasing violence and police powers, *still* manage to save the lives of thousands of hunted animals every year.

There are several ways you can help the HSA.

- Get in touch with your local sab group (details from the office) and either go sabbing yourself or help in other ways such as fundraising, mechanics or donating financially.
- If you are not already a member of the HSA, please join now by using the form below - or join online at www.huntsabs.org.uk/index.php/get-involved/join-the-hsa
- If you are already a HSA member then please photocopy the form and pass it on to someone else you think may like to join us.
- Ask the office for back copies of HOWL to leave in places where they can be read by members of the public (ie. doctors waiting rooms). If you are still at school or college why not leave a copy in the library reference section?
- Support us by buying HSA T-shirts and other merchandise - see enclosed salesgoods catalogue or visit www.huntsabs.org.uk/index.php/merchandise
- Let the hunters know what you think! Like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, contact your local newspaper's letters page and your MP to let them know your views on Government plans either regarding hunting or hunt saboteurs.



HSA MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

PHOTOCOPIES WELCOME

I would like to become an active / supporting* member of the Hunt Saboteurs Association
(**delete one*)

I enclose my membership subscription of: (*tick one*)

❒ £20 (1 year subscription) ❒ £200 life membership

❒ I enclose a donation of £..... to help fund the HSA's work

Name.....

Address .....

.....

..... Postcode .....

Telephone Number.....

Email.....

Cheques / PO's should be made payable to "HSA".

Please return to HSA, BM HSA, London WC1N 3XX

For a standing order form, to pay via paypal, or for more information please email us - info@huntsabs.org.uk or visit www.huntsabs.org.uk

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Animal Justice Project
www.animaljusticeproject.com

Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group (ALF SG)
PO Box 1107, Northampton, NN7 9BT
info@alfsg.org.uk www.alfsg.org.uk

ARPS (Animal Rights Prisoner Support)
PO Box 2174, LEIGH-ON-SEA, SS9 0AZ
www.arprisoners.org
info@arprisoners.org

The Black Fish
www.theblackfish.org info@theblackfish.org

The Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade (CAFT)
PO Box 38, Manchester, M60 1NX
0845 330 7955 caft@caft.org.uk www.caft.org.uk

Digging Out (Campaign for the Abolition of Terrier Work)
BCM Digging Out, London, WC1N 3XX
info@diggingout.org www.diggingout.org

Earth First!
www.earthfirst.org.uk www.eco-action.org

The Fox Project
The Lodge, Kings Toll Road, Pembury, Kent, TN2 4BE
01892 842111 mon-fri 9am-12 noon
fox@foxproject.org.uk www.foxproject.org.uk

Hounds Off
PO Box 162, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 7AZ
www.houndsoff.co.uk

Hunt Watch
PO Box 487, Norwich, NR5 8WE
07952 550054 contact@huntwatch.info www.huntwatch.info

The National Anti-Snaring Campaign (NASC)
PO Box 3058, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN16 3LG
info@antisnaring.org.uk www.antisnaring.org.uk 07580455223

National Fox Welfare Society
135 Higham Road, Rushden, Northants, NN10 6DS
01933 411996 natfox@ntlworld.com www.nfws.org.uk

POWA (Protect Our Wild Animals)
enquiries@powa.org.uk www.powa.org.uk

Sea Shepherd
Sea Shepherd UK, 27 Old Gloucester Street, London WC1N 3AX
Tel: 0300 111 0501 admin@seashepherduk.org
www.seashepherd.org.uk

SPEAK Campaigns
PO Box 6712, Northampton, NN2 6XR
0845 330 7985 07906 497317 info@speakcampaigns.org
www.speakcampaigns.org

Stop the Cull
www.badger-killers.co.uk

Vegan Prisoner Support Group (VPSG)
BM 2107, London, WC1N 3XX info@vpsg.org www.vpsg.org

The Vegan Society
Donald Watson House, 21 Hylton Street, Hockley, Birmingham, B18 6HJ 0121 523 1730 0845 458 8244
info@vegansociety.com www.vegansociety.com

Veggies Animal Rights Calendar
www.veggies.org.uk/arc

save us some dosh if you're moving!

If you move house please tell us. The HSA has a disproportionate number of returned envelopes due to unknown addresses, this inevitably means wasted funds.

Please make sure we have your current address!





HELP SAVE A LIFE AFTER YOUR DEATH

REMEMBER THE HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION IN YOUR WILL

You may think that it is not worth your while making a Will but you may be surprised at how much you are worth, especially if you own your own home. Most people in this country die without making a Will and that means that the government gets more than their fair share. Making a Will need not be complicated or time consuming and it could save your loved ones a lot of unnecessary heartache. If you do not have a Will when you die there is no guarantee that those closest to you will benefit from your wealth and property. In addition, many people like to know that the organisations they support whilst alive will continue to benefit after their death.

The Hunt Saboteurs Association relies entirely on the generosity of its membership to function. As the organisation strives to function on minimal running costs more of the money coming in can be put to good use where it counts most – in the hunting field. Leaving a gift to the H.S.A. in your Will helps to ensure that the good work carried out by active hunt saboteurs can continue. With a ban now in place, and so many hunts blatantly flouting it, the role of sabs has never been more important, so your gift will still be put to good use – the HSA will continue until no sentient creatures are abused in the name of sport.

A Will is a legally binding document and needs to be prepared properly. The services of a solicitor should be employed. A solicitor is the only person who can give professionally qualified advice. Have a look in Yellow Pages (under 'Solicitors') or call the Law Society on *020 7242 1222*. If you already have a Will you can include a gift to the H.S.A. by adding an amendment (known as a 'codicil') – you will need to consult your solicitor about this.

If you are able to remember the H.S.A. in your Will it would help if you could let us know.

I plan to / have already prepared a Will and have remembered the Hunt Saboteurs Association as follows (please tick as appropriate):

☐ **Residual Legacy** - a percentage of my estate once my family and friends have been provided for.

☐ **Pecuniary Legacy** - a cash gift of £.....

☐ **Specific Gift** - an individual item of value e.g. jewellery.

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Signature.....

Date.....

HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION

MAKING HUNTERS RED-FACED AND NARKY SINCE 1963

JOIN * SAB * DONATE



www.huntsabs.org.uk