"Not to hurt our humble brethren is our first duty to them, but to stop there is not enough. We have a higher mission — to be of service to them whenever they require it."
St. Francis of Assisi

HSW

15p

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Getting Ready

Former secretary of the Grove & Rufford F.H., Peter Boddy, who has called sabs "sick" in the past for displaying a piece of his handiwork in Newark Market Place – a dead fox-cub, has launched an alternative to killing foxes for fun – the 'Readyfields Drag Hunt'.

He told reporters that 'foxhunting seems certain to be abolished in the next few years because it is such a hot political issue, so I started my new pack to have something up our sleeves."

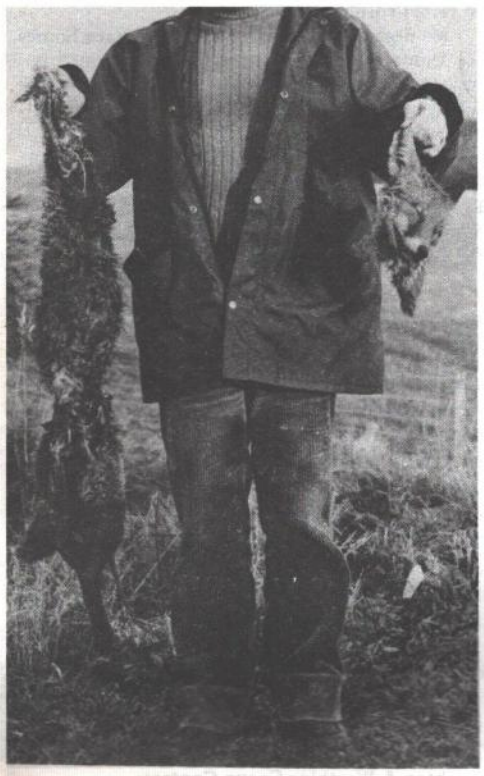
He went on to say: "The great advantage of a man hunt is that human quarry can take a course which does not damage crops and provides lots of fences for the riders to jump."

Mind you he's taken his time to get the message, anti bloodsports campaigners have been echoing those sentiments for decades.

In the meantime however, the drag hunt only meets on Sundays so as not to clash with any fox hunting fixtures, and Mr. Boddy still regularly rides to hounds with the Grove & Rufford.

For many years now the H.S.A. has publicly offered to organise drag hunts as an alternative to fox hunting. However, this proposal has in the past been rejected by the hunting fraternity as impracticable. Perhaps Mr. Boddy's foresight will now encourage more hunts to take up the drag!

PRESENTING THE EVIDENCE



Sab displays the "torn remains" of the fox. (Photo by Central Scotland H.S.A.)

Late in the afternoon of January 10th, after drawing numerous 'blanks' the Linlithgow & Stirlingshire F.H. took their pack to a known fox-earth (a hole in a derelict hen house). The hounds were lined up outside, a terrier sent in and minutes later a dog fox was bolted. Unfortunately as he was struggling through a gap in a fence a female hunt supporter kicked him back into the jaws of the pursuing hounds.

The fox did not receive the 'sporting chance' and 'immediate death' usually claimed by the hunt, in fact the animal was 'broken up' by the hounds whilst still alive.

The sabs who witnessed this barbaric act said afterwards that they "will find it virtually impossible to remove the sounds of bones being cracked and crunched, the dull groaning of the fox and laughter of the followers."

The Hunt intended to kill the remaining fox (a vixen) by the same method. Luckily the hounds' attention was attracted by the sabs, consequently when the vixen bolted only three or four of them gave chase and she escaped over the fields.

Two days later HSA members presented the mutilated remains on a coffin shaped board to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals at their H.Q. at 19 Melville Street, Edinburgh; as a protest aimed at highlighting the Society's hypocritical attitude to bloodsports and the presence of hunters on their ruling Board of Directors.



THE QUARRY and...

...THE 'KILL'



Photo courtesy of London Express News Service

FOX FANS

Every now and then along comes a peach of an idea. HSA supporter David Rayns was always sickened by the fact that his favourite football team Leicester City were nicknamed "The Foxes" due to the hunting traditions of the area. So David started handing out H.S.A. leaflets at the AGM of the Leicester City F.C. Supporters Club – London Branch and was approached by the Chairperson of the club, who encouraged David to enter a motion demanding Leicester City F.C. identify themselves with wildlife conservation, with the aim of calling for a ban of all bloodsports. If successful David intends to carry on entering a motion at the main Supporters Club AGM in Leicester and then eventually at the AGM of the club proper. It's an excellent move and we all wish David well.

PRAWN BALLS

Careful whose Chinese restaurant you patronize in Warrington for one owner Stephen Leung has recently joined the Cheshire F.H. It's enough to make you bring up your mixed vegetables for it is a "dream come true" for Mr Leung.

"This is where I belong, old boy" he said. "Of course I'm accepted. I get on well with everyone. My social life has never been better, what!"

Take away brains obviously.

A NAME'S A NAME

The Field Master with the Goathland F.H. is a Major Danger. Local foxes beware – this man could seriously damage your health.

BLOOD ON THE AIRWAVES

With the start of the foxhunting season all the media hacks have been crawling out of the woodwork to help along their favourite 'pastime'. Lantern jawed ex-footballer Jimmy Hill told the Yorkshire Post he "enjoyed it (foxhunting) for all sorts of reasons". A regular with the Heythrop he was formerly anti hunt because he was from London "but since coming to the country and listening to country people I understand more about it" and "I have a similar attitude to most country people". (Does he hunt them as well?)

Phil Drabble, TV 'Friend of the Badger' declared in the Evening Mail that due to the threat of Rabies he shoots foxes whenever the opportunity arises. Can't someone inform Phil that rabies is not present in the UK. Still why let a little point like that spoil a days shooting?

Perhaps not as well known as Hill and Drabble, Anthony Parking, producer of the Archers and the Farming Today radio programmes has been out following the Wyre Forest Beagles, as well as speaking at their Hunt Dinner last summer.

Do not be fooled into thinking John McCririck of Thames TV's 'Sports Report' confines his 'sporting' interests to horse racing either. McCririck is a hare coursing reporter for a so called 'sporting newspaper' the Sporting Life and fanatical hunter, or a "passionate advocate of field sports" if you read the Daily Telegraph.

FUR TRADING

Like a bad smell that just won't go away, Britain's largest wild fur trading company is going as strong as ever, exporting to several European countries.

The firm, West County Enterprises, gives its official address as P.O. Box 12, Bude, Cornwall. It actually operates from an old station in the town with a sign warning "callers by appointment only" at the entrance. It is run by Robert Cobbledick, a man in his 20's. His real address is 15 Seawell Road, Bude. (Tel. Bude 3187).

He employs 8 people to deal with the masses of fox, mink, stoat, mole, polecat, ferret and Scottish wildcat skins, and blue jay and woodcock wings which come in. Prices range from 10p for a dry squirrel tail to £8-£25 for an undamaged full winter fox coat. There are no stipulations as to how the skins may be obtained. The animals may be shot, snared, stabbed or clubbed to death. Some fox killers have been known to dig out a vixen and chop its legs off one by one in front of its cubs, according to Plymouth vet Phil Hunt.

The firm's literature, which incidentally bears WAGBI's trademark, gives full instructions on how to skin and dry the animals. It also advertises for sale free running and self locking fox wires (the latter may be banned according to the Wildlife & Countryside Bill).

It has now arranged with the security firm Securicor to collect skins from anywhere around the country for delivery to Bude.

Many English fox pelts are made into garments in this country. North London furrier, Sidney Gale uses 2000 English and Irish skins every year. He makes jackets that sell for around £220.

Michael Edelson, of Manchester, supplies well known stores, including the Dingles chain.



Dear HOWL,
The Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in a recent letter, stated their views on fox-hunting and 'blood sports' very clearly:

'Scotsman' 14th October 1980

"Some of your readers seem to have misconstrued recent correspondence as implying that the Scottish S.P.C.A., is in favour of fox-hunting. This is not so. ***The Society does recognise however, that many sincere supporters of the animal welfare movement do themselves take part in fox-hunting and/or other field sports.*** On the other hand, many people who are concerned about animal welfare, disapprove of all forms of hunting – and some the taking of wild life by any method.

The Scottish S.P.C.A., therefore leaves the decision whether to take part in field sports to the personal judgement of its members. This allows the Society to concentrate on the larger issues of animal protection on which there is general agreement.

This policy has been unchanged since the society was founded over 140 years ago."
G.F.S. Brian,
Secretary.

Surely, there can be no middle of the road when the main object of the Society is the PREVENTION of CRUELTY to Animals. The chasing and the 'tearing to bits' of defenceless creatures is totally barbaric and to also, actually allow men and women who take part in such atrocities to sit on the governing Board of an animal welfare society, only adds insult to injury.

Therefore, in an attempt to change their "140 year old" policy, we ask for the help, at present, of the Scottish based members of the Hunt Saboteurs Association. Please join the Scottish S.P.C.A., by forwarding the annual membership of £2.50 pence to their Headquarters at 19 Melville Street, Edinburgh and therefore by so doing, you will be able to vote at their next Annual General Meeting which will probably take place in April 1981. A Motion against 'blood sports' will be presented at this meeting and as they do not allow proxy voting, attendance is vital. It would be appreciated that once you have confirmation of membership, that you pass your details by telephone to Denny 822768.

Many thanks for your anticipated support and continued success to your organisation.

A. Fox

Dear HOWL,
It was great to see two reports of Animal Liberation Front (A.L.F.) activities in HOWL 16.

A.L.F.'s militant struggle against animal exploitation continues. We have over 50 local groups which are involved in carrying out raids on vivisection labs, factory farms, hunt kennels etc.

Since the A.L.F. was formed in 1976, many thousands of animals have been rescued from cruelty by our members and well over £1 million worth of damage has been caused to property used to inflict suffering.

We urgently need more activists, more homes for animals we rescue and a lot more money in order to enable us to step up our campaign, which we believe forms an essential part of the overall movement for animal liberation.

If any of your readers feel they can help us in any way, please can they write to us as soon as possible, at Box 190, 8 Elm Avenue, Nottingham.
Best wishes,
An A.L.F. Co-ordinator.

Dear HOWL,
Apparently some 50,000 people were on the recent CND march. Seen on that march were various HSA group banners and the familiar Animal Liberation banner. Yet only the day before a supposed national joint hit against a coursing meet in Cambridgeshire was attended by a mere 32 sabs, half of them being on their first hit. We suggest therefore, that the many HSA members who attended the CND rally and those who attended another one a few weeks earlier, on the same day as a joint hit against the Oxfordshire Coursing Club should get their priorities right. Hunt sabotage, especially the sabotage of hare coursing, where a large number of sabs is vital is much more important than attendance at marches.
Brenda Everett & Philip Shore
Brighton & Worthing Group Contacts.

Owing to lack of space it hasn't been possible to print all the letters sent into HOWL – Ed.

LIBERAL HUNTERS?

Members of the Liberal Animal Welfare Group (L.A.W.G.) met on Saturday December 6th to debate the following

1. "The L.A.W.G. asks for the outlawing of fox, hare, stag and otter hunting, and organised hare coursing."
2. "The L.A.W.G. expresses its deep concern about cruelty and stress inflicted on animals hunted in organised field sports. It calls for research into this subject and education of the public. If this fails and the result of the research justifies it, it pledges support for making such activities illegal."

Both were lost 19 to 20 and 16 to 17 respectively.

It became obvious as the meeting progressed that these results were not typical of the views held by true Liberal animal welfarists, and that bloodsports supporters had infiltrated the L.A.W.G. only a few weeks before the meeting. In fact many of those voting against the motions were well known beaglers from the Birmingham and Worcester areas.

League Against Cruel Sports committee member John Bryant then put forward a proposal calling for the protection of wild animals from unnecessary suffering and death, (as defined by the 1911 Protection of Animals Act). This would virtually outlaw all cruelty to wild animals, including hunting. The bloodsporting sympathisers present at the meeting apparently didn't realise the implications of the proposal, and so consequently it was passed with a large majority.

It was then agreed to hold a postal ballot on the bloodsports issue in an effort to get a true reflection of Liberal opinion on this matter, it will be interesting to see the extent of pro-hunt infiltration of the L.A.W.G. when the results of the ballot are known.

FOOTNOTE: A constitution is to be drawn up now for the purpose of preventing infiltration in future by groups with a vested interest in cruelty. It is therefore essential that those of you with Liberal sympathies should support this organistion.

Membership is £2 per annum and can be obtained from: L.A.W.G., 16 Valingers Road, Kings Lynn, Norfolk.

GUILTY UNTIL PROVED INNOCENT

Eleven members of the H.S.A. who are student teachers at Hertfordshire College of Higher Education, fell foul of the hunt and the long arm of the 'law' at a meet of the Enfield Chase during a cub hunting fixture.

Police were waiting for them when they were asked to "get orf maih land" by that old bastion of 'sport', BBC TV commentator Raymond Brooks-Ward – with a little 'gentle' persuasion by several hunt heavies that he called over. All eleven were arrested, taken to the police station, strip searched and detained for over four hours! They were denied any access to legal advice before being hauled in front of a specially convened court the same day, where they were all found guilty of action likely to cause a breach of the peace!

We have good reason to believe that this was a set up job, arranged some days before, because the Enfield Chase (E.C.) have been the subject of regular weekly hits by sabs for a number of years now. But the group who normally hit the E.C. were not there that day, and so escaped the police raid. However, only a month later six of them were bound over following another incident on the E.C. (see elsewhere this issue).

Some of the students are appealing against the decision, but it is likely that the hunting season will be over by the time it gets to court! Meanwhile, sabbing of the E.C. continues as normal, the attempt to get it stopped having failed miserably!

Council Cuts

A controversial plan to include reference to bloodsports in a new visitors guidebook to Oxford have been blocked by 23 votes to 10, at a full meeting of the City Council. The decision followed a recommendation from the tourism management committee to delete the section on bloodsports "because of the cruelty associated with them". During the heated debate Councillor Andrew Turner accused the committee of making a "squalid class attack". But the Chairperson of the committee insisted that bloodsports were cruel and barborous, and since none of them took place in Oxford itself, the committee saw no reason why it should publicise them.

Season of Goodwill?

Boxing Day is the traditional day each year chosen by the hunting fraternity to parade themselves in front of gaping townies. The fact that these mindless oafs would be out just as quickly with their polaroids to snap public hangings, plane crashes or invading foreign tanks makes no difference to the hunters. Adulation from any quarter suits them. It's also the day when the police choose to turn a more than usual blind eye to the chaotic traffic jams which these hunt meets produce.

There were good turnouts of sabs at this year's festivities, ranging from Clydeside to Cornwall and thousand of League Against Cruel Sports leaflets were distributed to the crowds. This is how just some of the demos went.

The South West Anti Bloodsports Group staged a mock hunt at the Taunton Vale's meet with haggard vampire huntsmen and women to scare the kids and adults.

In Bridport the Cattistock's glory was only just retained when the publican of the Bull Hotel spotted a red painted message: "Hunt Scum Out" on his freshly whitewashed wall. Just an hour before the meet the offending words were painted over with another coat of white paint as the first riders arrived.

One of the **Tunbridge Wells** sabs' banners at the Erridge meet proclaimed; "What a lovely day. Let's go out and kill something."

Brighton & Worthing sabs were threatened and assaulted by Southdown F.H. heavies at the actual meet in Leives, in front of hundreds of spectators, many of whom had been bussed in by the National Bus Company as part of their Christmas holiday break.

The Surry Union F.H. meet in Guildford was picketed by chanting sabs and the usual trail to the first draw well doused with 'special', Sabs told two youths flushing foxes with terriers to "clear off", which they did!

North Herts & Luton sabs joined local antis in a demo on Redbourne Common, where the Aldenham Harriers met. This was the scene of the October referendum which narrowly voted in favour of retaining the Boxing Day meet, (see HOWL 16). Attempts to get the hunt to change to a drag for the day failed- Lady Lyell, the joint master, was adamant that the hunters prefer to hunt live animals. For the first time spectators were prevented from patting hounds, by police worried about possible anti-mated hands. The common was churned into mud, the cricket pitch was damaged by horses and horse boxes - which led to a new outcry to ban the hunt next year - and a girl was trampled. The **Luton** sabs present had previously pre-meeted the Whaddon Chase meet at Winslow Market Square. BBC TV cameras were there and the demo was screened that evening.. The Essex Farmers F.H. meet was picketed by **50 antis including Mid Essex H.S.A., Maldon Young Liberals** and several multi coloured punk rockers.
One mickey taking hunter asked "which one of you girls is going to give me a kiss then?" A female anti went up to him, looking obliging, and spat on his pink coat. He stopped taking the mickey! During the day three foxes were seen and their tracks sprayed. Hounds lost the scent!

Clacton sabs were joined by local RSPCA and L.A.C.S. members at the Essex & Suffolk F.H. meet one hunter told a reporter: "I thought the young protesters behaved themselves, some of the elderly were there to stir things up". Octogenarian aggro rules O.K.!

45 sabs from the **East Midlands, Leicester** and **Chesterfield H.S.A.** groups harrangued the Meynell & S. Staffs F.H. meet with banners and a loud hailer, after pre-meeting the area. Gallons of 'special' were used throughout the day and the pack was taken from the huntsman at least three times, leading some irate riders to lash out with whips and riding crops. ITN filmed the demo but nothing appeared on the television.

Mersyside sabs were out with banners at the Cheshire Forest F.H. and Royal Rock Beagles meets, after pre-meet spraying tracks and artificial jumps on the fox hunt. Four mounted antis demonstrated at the beagle meet.

In the lake district effigies of huntsmen with nooses around their necks were hung in the centres of Keswick and Ambleside where the Blencathra and Coniston fell packs were due to meet. The Blencathra is John Peel's old pack. Someone obviously doesn't "ken" him.

The demo against the Surry Union F.H. by **Guildford** sabs was filmed by CBS and shown in America and Canada early in the new year.

Over the border the Lanarkshire & Renfrewshire F.H. was hit for the first time in its 200 year history by the **Central Scotland H.S.A.** One sab was dressed in a pantomime gorilla suit at the meet. Horns and 'special' later helped save at least one fox.

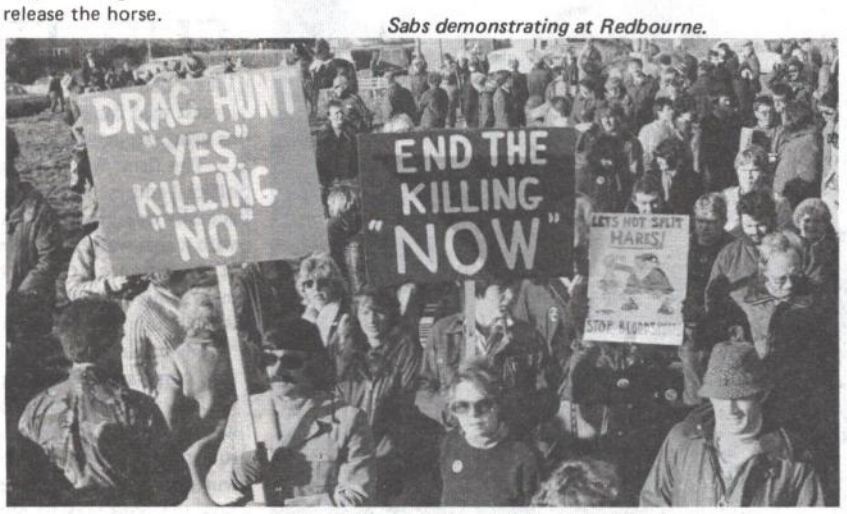
Sabs even got mentions in the media for *not* being at some hunt meets.

Following the Vine & Craven F.H. meet one rider, a doctor, was thrown off his horse to end up waist deep in a bog. It took over an hour to release the horse.


R.A. Frampton

Sabs dressed as vampire huntsmen serving stirrup cup at the boxing day meet of the Taunton Vale F.H.

Sabs demonstrating at Redbourne.



NEW YEARS DAY 1981

With faces bleary from the previous night's celebrations, many sabs somehow managed to disrupt the first foxhunts of 1981.

Luton H.S.A. report that the Enfield Chase foxhounds were taken into every covert which the group had sprayed. There were no kills. Two foxes seen playing together early in the day were scared away from the danger area.

Fox bedding was trailed around the East Essex F.H.'s children's meet by **Mid Essex sabs.** Hunt supporters were later seen hollering hounds across a busy main railway line.

After a warning "not to spray again, or else" from the West Kent's terrier man **S.E. Federation** sabs managed to spray between a fox and the pursuing hounds, helping it to escape. As a result they were assaulted by the terrier man, so they decided to call the police following further threats. Sevenoaks police arrived and were very fair, promising to stay around as long as the sabs wanted them to.

East Midlands sabs successfully hollered the South Notts huntsman and hounds over from a genuine line and pointed them in the wrong direction. Most coverts drawn had been pre-meeted.

Central Scotland sabs witnessed a dog fox being devoured by hounds at a meet of the Linlithgow & Stirlingshire F.H. see elsewhere this issue.

Hampshire H.S.A. members were out against the Meon Valley Beagles successfully forcing the hunt to finish early. Hounds repeatedly rioted across roads and a golf course. A car was forced to break when a hound strayed into the road, this in turn forced another car to brake so violently that it turned over, but luckily the occupants were all alright. The hunt blamed the sabs for the accident and the police believed them despite the fact that they didn't witness the accident themselves. As a result a sab has been warned that he might face a breach of the peace charge.

SAVE OUR STAGS NEWS

On January 1st about 25 sabs converged on the Quantock Staghounds meet at the Blue Ball, Triscombe. After a couple of hours the hounds were spotted running across Robin Upright's Hill so fourteen sabs raced through the woods and cut them off on the top road, resulting in a slight skirmish with a couple of riders as they were scattering the secondary pack. The hounds then ran across Black Hill and were obviously onto a good scent, so the sabs drove around to Hodder's Combe where it looked as though the hounds were heading. Within a few minutes of arrival at Hodder's Combe they saw a large hind running through the trees about 10 yards ahead, she was foaming at the mouth and streaked with sweat. The sabs froze until she reached a little stream at the bottom of the valley and then drenched the area with 'special'. After about 5 minutes the entire pack appeared, but were held up by a combination of the 'special' and the sabs' calls. The Master, Walner Robins was the next to arrive on the scene with a female rider, who together attempted to collect the hounds, which they achieved with great effort and not a few oaths. The sabs were then forced to beat a hasty retreat due to pressure from heavies to their rear, but not before they saw the Master take the hounds up the opposite side of the valley away from the hind.

The sabs had succeeded in stopping the hunt in its tracks and prevented a kill that could have only been minutes away! It had been one of the most remarkable sabotages of the S.O.S. campaign.

Other hits undertaken last year were also very successful, the most notable being the one on the 29th of November from Crowcombe Park. Phil Shore's group from Worthing attended this one and Ralph Cook from Exeter kept the hounds occupied for some ten minutes with a fine display of horn work. There was no kill, and it is interesting to note that only two occasions have seen the Quantock Staghounds murder a deer when saboteurs have been present!

We are now preparing for the second year of our campaign against the Quantocks S.H., but with no Saturday hunting now it is going to be difficult to arrange hits. So would any sab who has a spare day in midweek get in touch with S.O.S., Guernsey Avenue, Broomhill, Bristol 4.

Finally, to all who have travelled singularly or in groups, in particular Dave Callender and the Merseyside group, Jeanette Jones and her people and especially John Hale and Miriam Hollis who have made a number of trips with the W. Mids group, many, many thanks.

WHO SAYS FOXHUNTERS DON'T LIKE FOXES?

Irene Asquith, a former master of the Badsworth F.H., reduced to riding to hounds on a bicycle since her horse died, is so keen on hunting that she has recently given a piece of land near Doncaster to be made into a fox-covert.

Rabid Myth

One reason for the unpopularity of the fox is its association with rabies. The fear of rabies has been fuelled by scare campaigns, strict quarantine rules and gruesome tales of people frothing at the mouth and dying in agony, all of which have led many to argue that the killing of foxes, by whatever means, is justified. Although rabies has not yet reached Britain, already the government has drawn up contingency plans for large-scale slaughter of the fox population if the virus strikes. Whilst one cannot deny that rabies has been spread across Europe by foxes since the war, nonetheless recent research by Bacon and MacDonald suggests that the killing of foxes as a means of rabies-control is counter-productive since culling disrupts the social life of the fox thereby encouraging migration and hence the spread of the virus. (See P.J. Bacon and D.W. Mac-Donald, 'To control rabies: vaccinate foxes', *New Scientist,* 28th August, 1980).

The disease is usually spread by a bite or by social grooming when an animal may inadvertantly lick an infected wound; entering the wound, the virus attacks the nerve cells, travels to the spinal cord, from there to the brain and then out to organs such as the salivary glands. The infected animal may become very aggressive 'furious rabies' and attack other foxes, or placid and friendly 'dumb rabies': either way the animal is more likely to engage in social contact and the survival of the virus is guaranteed. Moreover, the fox needs only to infect one or two other animals to ensure the spread of the disease. As the major factor affecting the transmission of the disease is social contact, the culling of foxes has so far proved ineffective because it has resulted in social disruption. As foxes in a particular area are wiped out, new foxes enter the area which leads to border disputes and the transmission of the virus thus becomes more, rather than less likely.

Bacon and MacDonald point to a far more effective way of controlling rabies, namely vaccination. By vaccinating a special control area, one can build up a band of immune foxes to prevent the spread of the disease. If migration does subsequently take place, immune foxes will be moving into the diseased area. Futhermore, since immune foxes will produce more off-spring than rabid foxes, eventually natural selection will operate in favour of the no-rabid animals. The authors refer to a recent experiment in the Swiss Alps to support this point: the distribution of food containing vaccine at the head of the valley prevented the disease from invading the valley. In practical terms, vaccination seems a promising answer to the problem. It is cheaper than culling and easy to administer as the foxes will vaccinate themselves by eating strategically placed laced bait. Techniques such as the analysis of soil fertility also enable field-workers to locate areas with dense fox populations. Vaccination would thus provide an acceptable alternative to the heavy-handed 'sledge-hammer' techniques planned by the government in the event of a rabies outbreak here and already used to combat bovine tuberculosis, for example, gassing the badger population. Efficient and humane rabies control will also help to undermine the negative stereotype many people hold of the fox.

Dr. Sue Easton
(H.S.A. Member)



Lashings of 'fun' for a West Country sab on the Quantocks S.H.

HARE COURSING HALTED



Closing in for the kill

FLASHBACK to Swaffham - Christmas '79



OXFORDSHIRE C.C. OCTOBER 1980

Combe, near Woodstock, Oxon, saw a large gathering of HSA members, who had met to prevent the Oxfordshire Coursing Club (OCC) from carrying out its annual October slaughter of hares.

Although the first hare of the day was, unfortunately, killed, it is believed that no other kills were made. This, however, is hardly surprising when you learn that the HSA demonstrators field invasion was so successful that the coursers were forced to give up 'static coursing' in favour of 'walk-up coursing'!

For over an hour the hunters trudged across fields in a vain attempt to shake off the sabs. Eventually most gave up in dispare and went home. However, a small group of hardened hare hunters, under the leadership of wildlifes' arch-enemy, OCC's Hon. Sec. Ralph Jefferies, attempted to complete the days card. They moved to Jefferies' own farm at Witney. Needless to say sabs, still jubilant over their earlier success, followed and prevented any coursing from taking place! Jefferies, almost in tears, was later quoted by the Oxford Times to have said, "Everyone is fed up – a good days sport has been ruined." – Shame.

ISLE OF ELY COURSING,

Sabs, outnumbered nearly 10 to 1, took on a David v. Goliath attitude when they attended a meet of the Ely Coursing Club, near Swaffham Bulbeck, Cambs. towards the end of October last year. The 35 H.S.A. members from Brighton & Worthing, Essex, London, Oxford and Lincs. H.S.A. groups, were undaunted by the 300 strong crowd of coursing fans who were out to see a bit of blood spilt – no matter to whom it belonged! After making a successful field invasion which broke up the morning's coursing, a couple of sabs were knocked to the ground and badly kicked. One of them, Marcus Rainbow, an undergraduate student from Oxford Univ. was knocked unconscious by repeated kicks to his head!

As the coursers took to the field for the afternoon session the sabs made a counter-beat, pushing a number of hares out of the area. During this beat four sabs were arrested – apparently for blowing whistles!

This, left the area unattended by the police and consequently when the remaining sabs took to another field close by, beating hares away as they went, a large mass of coursers weilding greyhound slip-leashes charged into the field after them. All the sabs turned and headed back to the road, hoping to find safety there. The coursers had other ideas and were determined to get the vengeance that they sought. Few sabs escaped them unscathed as the hunters ran amongst them kicking to the ground all who stood in their way. The police arrived after receiving a 999 call from a sab, they found that Marcus Rainbow had come off the worst again! He had sustained a number of injuries including cuts and bruises to his head and was taken to Cambridge Hospital, but was later released after recovering from shock. Fortunately Marcus' attackers were identified by a couple of witnesses and the police later arrested two men, Kenneth Arthur Allsop and Thomas Day, on suspicion of committing Actual Bodily Harm. The four sabs arrested were also charged with Action Likely.

SWAFFHAM ON THE RUN

Word leaked out that a proposed National hit against the Swaffham Coursing Club in early November last year, resulted in the coursers cancelling.

It had been planned to send over 150 HSA members along but when it was learned that they had been scared off the hit was cancelled. Unfortunately, about 8 sabs who did not get the message in time still turned up to the r.v. at Swaffham Market Place, where they were confronted by a large number of confused press and policemen. The sabs, determined not to waste the day, went on to hit the West Norfolk FH.

The coursers attitude is typical of their kind, they cannot face up to anything like fair odds. As with the hares they chase, so it is when they try to deal with sabs – if they cannot be sure of absolute victory then they stay away!

GROUP NEWS

The season has so far been a good one for us and the *hunted animal* with a healthy sprinkling of new H.S.A. groups in hitherto poorly covered areas. Exisiting groups have been as active as ever before, offering no respite to the bloodsports fraternity. Main tactics have been the use of sprays, patting hounds with anti-mated hands, calling to hounds in the same harsh, unintelligible voices as the huntsmen and blowing hunting horns.

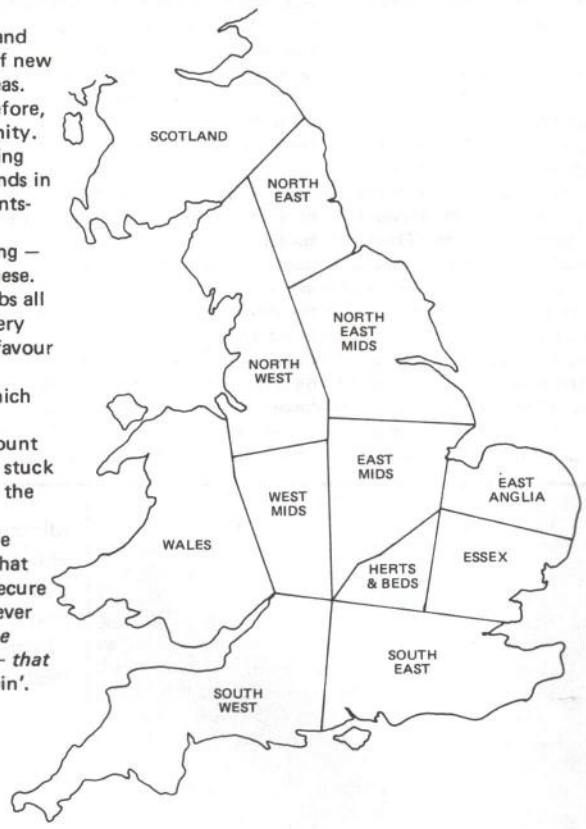
An early start was made against cub hunting — you have to be up before dawn for most of these.

The fox hunting season proper has seen sabs all over the country hitting their local hunts every week, many forewent Christmas shopping in favour of going out sabbing.

Press and T.V. coverage has been good, which can only help to hasten the end of hunting.

In spite of hunt provocation and large amount of police harassment in many areas, sabs have stuck to the rules and avoided bad language etc — the alternatives don't help the hunted animal.

The weather has been favourable to the hunters, but it is clear from their attitudes that they know the future for their 'sport' is less secure than ever before and their public image has never been so bad. *But it's up to us to keep up the pressure until they finally sink into oblivion — that day is not far off now.* Happy and safe sabbin'.



SOUTH WEST FEDERATION

Cornwall H.S.A. have used horns and sprays to save a number of foxes' lives. They split the Mid Cornwall F.H. pack with hollers and a bosun's whistle on one occasion before being ordered off a farmers land because he didn't like them — he also threw the hunt off because he didn't like them either.

The group staged a banner demo at the St. Just Feast, an annual religious festival, during the parade of the Western F.H. (whose master, D.H. Lawrence fans might like to know, is named John Thomas!)

Exeter sab Ralph Cook successfully defended himself on a breach of the peace charge at Woodstock Magistrates' Court in Oxfordshire. It was alleged that he swore at a hare courser on October 4th.

Yeovil sab Steve Call had his hunting horn stolen and broken in two by a hunt supporter after the sabs had taken the pack off the Blackmore & Sparkford Vale F.H. and kept them for over half an hour, so Steve chased after the supporter and punched him while trying to retrieve his horn, which led to his arrest for assault, although that charge was dropped in favour of the familiar breach of the peace. But to the suprise of all the sabs the hunt supporter who stole the horn had to go to court as did a female rider who was spotted by a policeman riding into sabs. Both Steve and the supporter were bound over in the sum of £50 for 12 months, but the supporter was also ordered to pay £7.50 compensation to Steve for the damage to the horn. The rider who had been riding at sabs, Patricha Michell of West Down Farm, Poyntington, Somerset was given a 'conditional discharge'.

The **Bristol** and **Yeovil** groups have been going regularly together against hunts in Somerset including the Quantock Staghounds, Cattistock F.H., Clifton Foot Beagles and the Park Beagles among others.

On January 17th the two groups were out together against the Clifton Foot Beagles, when the master was spotted by two members of the public damaging cars belonging to the sabs and called the police after warning the sabs of what was happening. The police are currently investigating the incident. Since then the Master has offered to make an Out of Court Settlement!

At a meet of the Park Beagles sabs had three tyres deflated by hunt supporters after they'd prevented any kills from being made.

The **Bristol** group organised a gig at a nightclub in the city centre where two local bands played, after all the overheads had been paid a profit of nearly £150 was made.

The **Yeovil** group had a rough time when they hit the Cattistock F.H. when they had their vehicles kicked in and rammed by a Land Rover after a car chase. Later six sabs were attacked by a group of heavies who left them with head injuries and severe bruising. The Master of the Hunt who was watching did not attempt to intervene. Afterwards the police told the sabs that it was their own fault.

The **Exeter** group has been suffering from lack of funds recently but has still managed to get out on a number of occasions against hunts in the South West, as well as attending several joint hits against hare coursing.

After meeting with a very 'heavy' response at the opening meet of the Seavington F.H. the group moved on to hit the Park Beagles, where police dogs were used to clear the fields of sabs.

On the 14th of November the Silverton F.H. put up so many foxes that sabs really had their work cut out, but no kills were made. On January 20th a debate between sabs and local hunt supporters at Exeter University was cancelled when the hunt backed out at the last minute.

Four days earlier a benefit concert called SNARE staged in the city grossed £250.

SOUTH EAST FEDERATION

Apart from hitting local fox and hare hunts and helping to co-ordinate the pressure on Brighton Council to ban foxhounds from its land (see HOWL 16), **Brighton & Worthing H.S.A.** have travelled to many joint hits, notably stag hunts and coursing events (2 members were arrested on the Isle of Ely hit).

Together with the **Hastings** group they helped rescue a hunter's horse which had fallen into a drainage ditch full of water up to its neck, whilst most other riders simply carried on hunting. The master of the normally violent East Sussex & Romney Marsh F.H., was "very grateful" and actually offered the sabs some brandy.

When the Wye College Beagles recommenced advertising their meets after a 2 year break they were immediately sabbed. So they just as quickly ceased advertising again. Their explanation of the renewed advertising was their "massive local support" — there were only 20 supporters out with them that day! The master told one sab "if we didn't kill hares your loaf of bread would cost a fiver." Work that one out.

Both groups were joined by **Mid Sussex, Tunbridge Wells** and **Central London H.S.A.** groups and **W.A.P.S.** (Wild Animals Protection Society, incorporating **South London H.S.A.**) in a 60 strong demo at the Eridge F.H. opening meet, the demo being featured on BBC TV's "Newsnight" programme 13 days later. One girl was deliberately ridden down. Another sab chased away two hunt terriers seen savaging the throat of a ewe — despite a gaping and bloody wound she somehow managed to move off later. The terriers would have almost certainly killed her had they not been caught in time. Police were called to investigate but wouldn't allow sabs to help search for her. A fox that was run to ground an hour before dusk was saved from certain death by over 30 sabs who occupied the earth and prevented any dig-out from taking place. The hunt boxed up and went home instead!

One of the sabs' regular targets, the Old Surrey & Burstow, in an attempt to avoid charges of snobbery, actually fixed their October 23rd meet for the "Council Dump, Wych Cross". The huntsman Jack Champion, was heard to mutter "bloody bad day, no scent" after a heavy spray job by **W.A.P.S.** and **North Kent** sabs. Many of the hunt's cubbing fixtures were hit.

The Surrey & North Sussex Beagles this season, have been spending half their time looking for sabs instead of hares.

North Hampshire and **Surrey Border H.S.A.** have been hitting the Aldershot Beagles every week-end and midweek too, with as many as 5 sabmobiles going out on a Wednesday against them. Bad weather has helped demoralise the hunt even further, and half of each hunt is now spent looking for hounds rioting after deer, fox and police motorbikes. On November 15th, with sabs nowhere in sight the pack split and ran amok. Huntsman, Roy Clinkard and the whippers-in couldn't gather them. Eventually, in failing light, the hounds were spotted by sabs and police who directed the hunt to them, clearly showing that sabs are concerned with the safety of all animals.

Other hunts regularly "getting done" by the group are Mr. Goschen's F.H., the Hampshire Hunt and the Chiddingfold F.H.

The **Farnham Animal Rights Movement** (FARM) had a display stand at Farnham Town Show. 274 H.S.A. badges and 74 tee-shirts were sold, and 22 new H.S.A. members were recruited on the spot. Several more have joined since.

The fox, beagle and buck (deer) hound packs in the New Forest have been receiving the regular attention of the **Southampton, Bournemouth, Christchurch** and **Ringwood H.S.A.** groups. Whilst sabbing the foxhounds one day, they inadvertently attracted the beagles and kept them for 2 hours before the huntsman caught up. The Buckhound hit was a total failure because the police telling the hunt where the sabs were. On the 22nd November sabs found one of their cars with a smashed windscreen and lights. Another car and motorbike were also damaged. Police, afraid of retaliation, have asked both sides to keep cool. Huntsman, Jeremy Whaley said: "It was not known who was responsible and everyone in the hunt thought it was an absolute disgrace. If we find the vandals they will be reported to the police and if they are members of the hunt they will probably be thrown out."

Local sabs joined forces with several other animal rightist groups for a demo at a Bournemouth hotel fur show. Labels were stuck on leather and sheepskin coats, stink bombs were thrown and the show's organiser had paint stripper poured on her car, causing £400 worth of damage.

The **University of Surrey Anti Bloodsports** group has been out nearly every week during term time hitting fox hunts and beagle packs. The group has managed to get a grant off the Students' Union big enough to cover all their expenses.

Sabs were accused of killing a hound on the Chiddingfold, Leconfield & Cowdray F.H. that was actually knocked down by a supporter, whilst all the sabs were sitting in their cars trying to figure out exactly what the mounted field were doing at 2.30 p.m. on a village green.

WEST MIDLANDS H.S.A.

The Albrighton Woodland F.H. has been singled out for special treatment this season by sabs from the **West Midlands H.S.A., Wolverhampton Poly** and **Birmingham University**. The hunters persist in their allegation that the students are not only being paid £8 a day, but are also getting a free packed lunch to boot!



Hunt supporter using 'reasonable force' to remove a W. Mids. H.S.A. member on the Albrighton Woodland.
photo courtesy John Hickman

In two months of perpetual sabbing things have got a little heated at times and there have been several arrests. In November, 14 sabs were arrested after being penned in by supporters, following allegations by a girl rider that she had been sprayed in the face — she had simply got a whiff of some spray that had been sprayed in front of the pack from the van. 3 days later another two sabs were arrested on suspicion of cutting down a fence. The death of a foxhound killed by a car was also blamed on them.

West Midlands H.S.A.'s Press Officer, John Hickman, was hit with a whip handle by one rider after a foot follower has unsuccessfully tried to throw him into a pond and then choke him — all because he had a camera. John's claim that joint master Robert Paskin saw the attack and restrained the rider from further assaults was holty denied by Paskin — "Nobody was assaulted in my presence, I haven't heard of any trouble at all." He also denied knowledge of the deliberate deflation of 3 sabmobiles' tyres and the smashing of several rear lights. Naturally police refused to take action when John reported the attack. Later Kidderminster Chief Supt. Malcolm Cummings actually said he'd had no reports of trouble!

At the end of the month sabs were chased and blocked in by 6 car loads of supporters and threatened with a 3ft piece of wood. They were told: "If you get out I'll lay you out one by one." The senior joint master denied knowledge of any trouble.

In December 20 sabs occupied an earth that was being dug out by the hunt. They were deliberately roughed up, ridden at and trampled. H.S.A. National Executive member, Miriam Hollis was kicked in the back several times by a horse and had to be taken by ambulance to Kidderminster General Hospital for treatment of suspected kidney damage. She was allowed home later. Police were supposedly "investigating" the incident.

Huntsman Normal Stubbing claimed they were trying to flush the fox, not dig it out: "We don't kill foxes in their holes, we're not that bloodthirsty." (At least 95% of british foxhunts **do** dig out, so what does that make them?)

On one hunt some ornithologists claimed that sabs had disturbed roosting hen harriers by spraying a dingle (yes, a dingle!) which they said the hunt had promised to leave. But every wood (and dingle) the group had sprayed was subsequently entered by the hunt.

Up to 50 sabs at a time have been getting out, often up with the lark to spray anti-mate and unblock earths stopped up with plastic bags and sticks, (earths are blocked by a hunt supporter known as an 'earth stopper' to prevent the hunted fox from reaching sanctuary — all part of their fine sporting tradition!)

The groups in the West Midlands have also been successful in organising a number of lucrative fund raising events.

EAST MIDLANDS H.S.A.

The **East Midlands** group has been out almost 40 times this season against local foxhunts, including the Belvoir, South Notts, Meynell & South Staffs but concentrating on the Quorn, Prince Charles' favourite gang of killers.

Pre-meet sprayed areas have usually drawn blank. Gallons of 'special' have often been poured on the road just ahead of hounds before a quick getaway. Nicely timed hollers have wasted much hunt time and the group has had an almost 100% success in preventing any kills.

Police harassment in Leicesterhire (county coat of arms, which appears on the police car doors, shows a running fox!) hasn't been as bad as previous years, but there have been occasions when sabs have been pulled in and detained for ridiculous reasons — such as one police officer "believing" that a sabmobile had been stolen simply because the driver didn't have his documents with him. The "looking for stolen property" excuse has been used too.

Whilst sabbing on a Quorn cub hunt, sab vehicles had their tyres let down, both engines tampered with and headlights damaged. Police sgt. 1294 took statements and then told sabs they'd be done for 'breach of the peace' if seen spraying. He later claimed that sabs had been vandalising horse boxes by turning on their lights, so running down the batteries. One sab was later attacked by a nutter wielding a long pole with a blade on the end.

On a South Notts cub hunt hounds were pulled off a hunted fox with horns. Later in the day the pack rampaged through Mansfield Crematorium grounds. Then as the hunt was drawing a large wood a hound ran out and was hit by a car but struggled free and ran off, (a phone call to the kennels later revealed that is was OK). At one point stray hounds were all over a main road with no hunt supporters in sight and sabs had to slow down traffic.

A week later 4 sabs faced with 500 riders and supporters of the Quorn were limited in their activity by the constant traffic hold-ups. Supporters were stopping all cars and asking for contributions to hunt funds.

The vicar from Aston-upon-Trent was seen following hounds in his car one day — presumably he was praying for people's souls the next day.

In December, whilst out against the Quorn, some rough shooters were spotted. A sab in tweeds and flat cap jumped out of his car after tooting the hooter for 2 minutes and told them to "get off his land" and that he was "off to call the police". They cleared off. At the end of the day the hounds finished up chasing a flock of sheep.

After giving a sab car a thorough check over P.C. 1191 Dewhurst told a sab that he could finish up with some bruises if he was obstructive with a "less patient police officer". He later claimed that his radio wasn't working properly when asked to verify what the sab driver had told him. When asked why he couldn't use his colleague's radio 10 yards away he replied "his radio might not be working either."

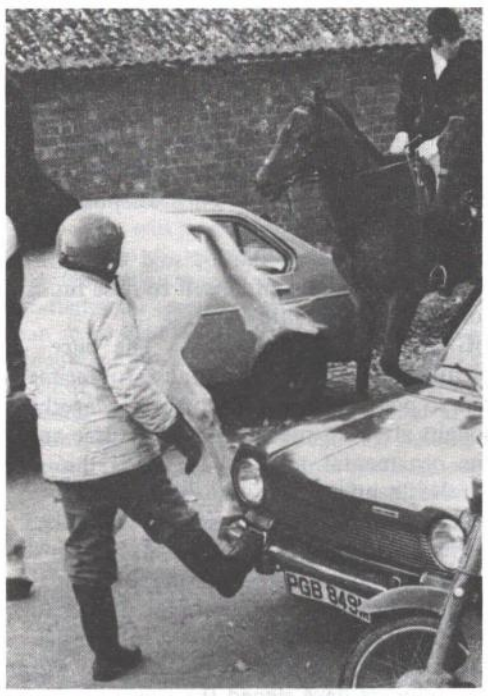


E. Mids. sab remonstrating with a P.C.

A week later on January 3rd 5 sabs were stopped and had their car searched by four police cars, after saving two foxes from the Quorn hounds. There were the usual threats of arrest. Soon after another sabmobile was chased at high speed by 3 hunt vehicles, blocked in 3 times, escaped 3 times and eventually rammed by a landrover (FRY 659L) — whilst inspecting the damage about a mile up the road, another hunt car, a red v.w. polo (OAY 581W) drew up and starting firing ball bearings with a catapult, further damaging the car. The attitude of the police at Ashby was that it was "appalling", but if sabs complained they would be "likely to end up being charged themselves." When a complaint was made at Derby the

next day, P.C. 777 said; "don't you think you deserve what you get?" After about half an hour he told the sabs that he'd handed it back to Ashby police to deal with, but they told a local paper that the sabs had "dropped the charges." Quorn Hunt Secretary, Major Humphrey, was "suprised to hear of the incident." He "cannot condone such action towards the hunt saboteurs."

4 days earlier 3 sabs out with the Meynell were blocked in by heavies' cars — sugar was poured into their petrol tank, the wing mirrors were ripped off and two doors were kicked in. It was the driver's first time out!



Blind neo nazi hunt supporter goose-steps into sabmobile.

Of the other hunts hit by the group, it was noted that the Belvoir's fence menders were on first name terms with the police. The High Peak Harriers were hit the first time they advertised after a lapse of 3½ years.

The group are still producing a bi-monthly newsletter for group members. Several members have been interviewed by local papers and radio and some have been involved in local phone-in programmes. Several fund raising events, including flag days, have been staged raising several hundred pounds.

The group has often been joined by the newly formed **Leicester H.S.A.** who have been concentrating mainly on the Fernie F.H., including a number of midweek hits in which earths have been unblocked and woods sprayed before going to work. Up to 30 gallons of 'special' have sometimes been used to douse the roads ahead of hounds. Hollers have been successfully used to divert hounds onto false lines fooling the huntsman in the process.



Sabs spraying verges from car.

The group has organised a raffle and supplied vegan refreshments at the recent H.S.A. tactics meeting in Rugby.

The **Chesterfield H.S.A.** has managed to raise enough money through various fund raising events including flag days to buy a mini bus, which they have been using to harass foxhunts and harrier packs in North Derbyshire and North Nottinghamshire. As a method of keeping group funds to a healthy level they have been using the mini bus to take parties to late night clubs and discos.

Three groups were out on November 1st — the opening meets. A Belvoir nutter on a Honda (SAU 667R) kicked the front of one sabs car in. When the police arrived they searched the sabmobile looking for "Stolen property" and "noxious chemicals". One sab sprayed the "chemicals" into his mouth to prove they weren't noxious.

NORTH EAST MIDLANDS FEDERATION

was formed in October and includes groups from **Doncaster, Sheffield, Northallerton, York, Bradford, Leeds** and **North Lincs.** The latter five became fully operational this season. **Doncaster** and **Sheffield H.S.A.**, in their second year of existence, have become much more organised and have arranged a number of Federation hits in the area.

Teams were out at several opening meets of foxhound packs in the region. Much pre-meet spraying has been done and numerous foxes and hares have been saved.

Main targets have been the Badsworth F.H. and Ecclesfield Beagles. On one occasion Badsworth supporters slashed all the tyres on two sabmobiles leaving a £160 bill to be paid. Police reaction? "Obviously we may be interviewing members of the hunt in connection with this." Joint Master, Gordon Cressey's reaction? "I know nothing at all about this."

In November the Ecclesfield Beaglers, outnumbered 3 to 1, unsuccessfully tried to shake off 40 sabs and failed to catch a hare. They deliberately split the pack in two in an attempt to lose the sabs but only managed to lose some of their own hounds in the woods — they had to put the remaining hounds in the van while they went looking for the lost ones.

30 sabs hit the York & Ainsty (South) F.H. in November. Hounds were patted with anti-mate in the woods. One rider intent on riding down sabs was restrained by milder riders. But later on the whipper-in whipped a sab in full view of a number of police officers, however, they "didn't see anything", although they did take a look at the injury. No action was taken! No kills were made. One female rider claimed to be a vegetarian, anti nuke etc. Another conversation went like this:—

Hunter — Why do you disrupt our hunt.
Sab — We don't agree with killing foxes for sport. It's cruel . . .
Hunter — We don't disrupt your discos.
Sab — But discos don't kill anything.
Hunter — Yes they do. They kill people.
Sab — Don't be silly, people don't die at discos.
Hunter — It's the noise that kills them.

Obviously a case of typical hunt mentality in full swing!

In December 50 sabs, including 'outsiders' from Newcastle, Manchester and Liverpool converged on the Y. & A. (South). ITN were present but there was no national news coverage as the hunt packed up after only 10 minutes hunting, claiming that the "gale force winds" were "too strong" (they weren't). Sabs moved on to the Y. & A. (North) where they immediately stopped hounds on a scent by shouting and horn blowing. **Sheffield H.S.A.'s** van was stopped and spot checked by the police, and a whipper-in tried to ride sabs down. One lone sab who was guarding the vehicles was threatened with a jack handle. The hit successfully forced the hunt to pack up 2 hours early.

At a meet of the Colne Valley Beagles this season, **Sheffield** sab, Joanne Burton was arrested for 'conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace', when whe was seen spraying anti-mate near the hounds who were on to a hare.

At Huddersfield Magistrates Court Joanne was found guilty of the charge and was subsequently bound over for 12 months in the sum of £50, and an order was made that the anti-mate be destroyed!

Doncaster members took part in a sponsored walk in September and raised over £100 for group funds. A member of the Badsworth F.H. even sponsored one sab! A joint **Doncaster/Sheffield** disco is planned.

This season saw the formation of the **N. Lincs.** group based at Louth. Although still small, interest in the area has been growing. During cub hunting the local pack, the Southwold, were infiltrated and a lot of valuable info was gained as well as many foxes saved.

During the opening meet of the Southwold two H.S.A. members were arrested and held for 8 hours before eventually being released without charges having been brought!

On Boxing Day Louth cattle market witnessed the towns' first ever Anti-hunt demonstration by 20 H.S.A. members and supporters. They handed out leaflets to a receptive public and took the edge off the hunts' big day.

The group has had good media coverage throughout the first half of the season, including local radio and T.V. interviews.

HERTS & BEDS H.S.A.

Luton and **North Herts H.S.A.** have been out pre-meeting several local foxhunts and the South Herts Beagles. Several hunted animals have been flushed out of danger areas. On one occasion the beagles were actually hunting their hare by sight, but stopped because sabs yelled "leave it". Hounds of the Oakley F.H. were also called off a viewed fox onto sprayed land. The fox escaped.

Members of the Aldenham College's **Students Assoc. for the Protection of Animals** have staged successful demos against local hunts and fur shops. They are currently appealing against a binding-over order imposed on them by Enfield Magistrates for disrupting the Enfield Chase F.H., see elsewhere this issue.

ESSEX FEDERATION

Four groups are operating in the county now. Their targets are the five Essex based foxhunts.

The 30 strong **South East Essex H.S.A.** has mainly concentrated on the Essex Union F.H. which has now stopped advertising its meets. Despite agreements reached last season, with the hunt's master, Tim Asplin, that voilence would be avoided, it has in fact still occured. Within the first month of the season a sab's car was scratched and sabs were attacked by six heavies, leaving one male sab with a black eye and badly cut lip. Two girl sabs were also punched and kicked and another sab had his glasses broken. Mr. Asplin "didn't see anything happen".

The Mid Essex H.S.A. together with **East London H.S.A.** have concentrated on the Essex F.H. Horn blowing and spraying have saved many foxes. The ex-vicar of Roxwell, the Rev. Philip Wright, who has his own farming column in the magazine — Essex Countryside, was seen out supporting the hunt one day, complete with dog collar (sorry — "hound" collar!). Following threats of violence by Essex F.H. huntsman "Red Robbo", 60 sabs hit the hunt successfully on January 10th, achieving good publicity in the D. Mirror as a result.



Some members of the Aldenham College's Students Assoc. for the Protection of Animals at a demo.

NORTH WEST FEDERATION

Merseyside H.S.A. complete with several "bound over" sabs have been concentrating mainly on the Cheshire Forest F.H. and the Royal Rock Beagles. Spraying, pre-meeting, closing gates left open for the hunt and letting off the occasional firework to scare the hunted animal away have been the main tactics. The group has often split into two to keep the pack running between both sections. Hounds have sometimes followed the hare's scent the wrong way. The group has caused chaos amongst the new season's beagles and the hunt has regularly changed its meets to avoid sabs.

On its opening meet the Royal Rock Beagles, faced with 80 sabs, changed its traditional venue losing about 200 supporters in the process along with the cap money that would have been paid. However, the sabs still managed to locate them and the hunt packed in as soon as the sabs arrived on the scene. A car driven by an elderly whipper-in ploughed into about 20 sabs who were slow hand clapping, knocking 3 down, including a 12 year old boy who went over the bonnet. The badly bruised and shaken sabs needed some controlling. The joint master's car who was following, had its roof banged and all farm exits were blocked until the police arrived. The police wouldn't act though, because they were on private land. (The general attitude of the police has been one of harassment). Meanwhile the hound van had broken down and had to be towed home, while the joint master gave three sabs a lift home, and the whipper-in who had knocked down the sabs was apparently physically assaulted by his wife for doing it. He's only been seen out once since.

On Christmas Eve, the same pack crossed the Wirral Way 4 times, contrary to local bye-laws.

Following a hit by 8 sabs on the Melancthon Basset Hounds pack with its 7 hunters, during which the pack was split with hunting horns, sabs found their tyres deflated. So a whipper-in's tyre was deflated in return.

The group has often teamed up with the **Manchester H.S.A.** On November 1st 25 sabs hit the Cheshire Forest F.H.'s last cub hunt of the season. They split the pack using hunting horns causing much delay. Meanwhile student Iain Masters, who was looking after the group van nursing a broken leg in plaster, was dragged out by hunt supporters, beaten over the head with his own walking stick, which snapped in two and kicked whilst on the ground. The press and Knutsford police (who had been advised of the demo beforehand and had been OK all day) clearly appreciated that the hunt are the one to start the trouble each time, (they put an iron bar through a sab windscreen last year).

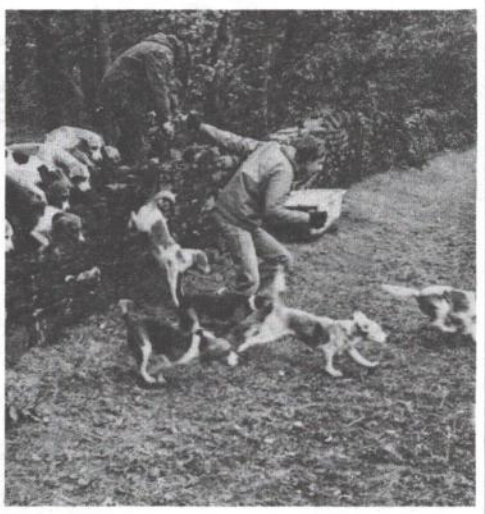
A few days later 30 sabs demonstrated at the Cheshire Forest's opening meet at the appropriately named Peover Hall, despite great hunt secrecy, (sabs simply trailed the horse boxes). Police made a thorough search for Iain's attackers to no avail. There were no kills made all day.

The Holcombe Hunt are still attacking any sab they see with a camera. One rider not involved with one such attack offered £5 to a sab whose camera had been stamped into the mud. The reason for the damage to the camera on this occasion was that it had been used to photograph the horsewhipping of another sab a few minutes previous.

Manchester H.S.A. had another meeting with the Cheshire police. The Asst. Chief Constable had been besieged by hunt officials trying to get him to do something about the sabs. So he subsequently followed some hunts disguised as a farm labourer to see what went on. He thought that the sabs were too noisy and should cut down on the number of horns used, but otherwise last year's agreements could be maintained — i.e. arrests only for violence and, with fair notice, a guarantee of half local police and half from the nearest large town to maintain a balanced police presence.

An anti-fur march and demo in Manchester organised by the **Northern Animal Liberation League** attracted 40 animal rightists. A fur coat was burned outside one fur shop.

The **North West H.S.A.** has joined forces with the **Merseyside** group on a number of occasions to hit various fox and hare hunts throughout the North West as have sabs from **Cumbria.**



The Ecclesfield Beagles running with sabs

SCOTLAND

Central Scotland H.S.A. which includes sabs from Stirling University, accepted hunt master Tom Boland's invitation to visit his Linlithgow & Stirlingshire F.H. kennels in September on an open day. The 50 sabs present well and truly outnumbered members of the public. The 7 hunt supporters who were fined £2800 in August for beating up sabs last March (see HOWL 16) were also there. There was no violence this time though.

A week earlier sabs had been out on a Linlithgow cub hunt. Boland claimed that the hunt wasn't out that day, despite the fact that they were actually seen to be out.

Clydeside H.S.A. was set up this season and has already saved a number of foxes in the area.

IRELAND

The **Irish Council Against Bloodsports** has picketed a number of enclosed hare-coursing events near Cork and a St. Stephens Day foxhunt in County Meath.

The **Northern Ireland Anti Live Hare Coursing Society** has conducted silent protests at coursing events throughout Ulster.

REGRESSION IN RETROSPECT

Since the June elections the RSPCA Council has been ruled by a majority of those who would see the RSPCA return to its ineffective, mollycoddling ways of the pre-Reform Group days. The new Council has acted ruthlessly and has paid scant regard either to animal welfare (indeed 'animals' are rarely mentioned nowadays at meetings) or democracy in its bid to overturn the progressive influence of previous years.

The major aim of the traditionalists has been to oust the radicals and their developments and to prevent their future influence in the Society by restructuring the Council so that it becomes not answerable to or elected by the membership (but rather appointed by Branch Committees). Since the Annual General Meeting in June:

(i) The controversial FAWC decision (not to allow two employees, Brown and Hopkins to serve on the Farm Animal Welfare Council) was overturned by the first meeting of the new Council – without the necessary two-thirds majority. They thus destroyed all the developments the previous Council had worked to win by sticking to their decision.

(ii) At the first meeting three people were co-opted. One of them, Alan Jacobsen, had at the EGM in February slandered the radicals on Council, accusing them of political motivation. His co-option was not supported by a majority of those present and able to vote. Despite protests the Chair declared the co-option legal. Before the next meeting John Bryant proved that the co-option had in fact been illegal and it was thus re-presented to the next meeting. However the Curriculum vitae of another candidate, Roy Crisp, were not circulated to the meeting. Yet although this contravened the rules once more the vote was taken and Jacobsen was co-opted again – with the help of the other two co-optees who knew neither candidate. To add insult to injury, Jacobsen was then elected Vice Treasurer. This despite the fact that he had failed to get the support of the members in the elections this year, and despite the fact that he had previously written a paper condemning the practice of co-opting people who had been unsuccessful in the elections. Jacobsen joined the meeting shortly after the co-option . . . he just happened to be around!

(iii) There have been attempts by the staff and the traditionalists on Council to keep the campaigning President and Vice-Presidents from Council meetings. They were told they should not attend the second Council meeting. However Lord Houghton, Lady Dowding and Richard Adams (Vice-Presidents and President, respectively) did attend (Vice-President Clive Hollands was unable to do so). Although the original move, to keep them from all Council meetings, was watered down, and despite protests that Presidents and Vice-Presidents who actually took an interest in the Society's work were a change that should be warmly welcomed, a motion was passed that they be allowed to attend only as observers. This was highly insulting to such people as Lord Houghton, Lady Dowding, Clive Hollands and Richard Adams who have all done so much for animal welfare.

(iv) You may recall that the last Council agreed to hold an Inquiry into communications and the accusations levelled at staff and Council members as matters were obviously so bad. Following the receipt of a number of resolutions for the AGM it was agreed that the Inquiry should also examine the issue of the composition of the Council, and whether more or less seats should be made available for Regional Representatives. The AGM motions were thus duly deferred to the Inquiry. The new Council made it clear that they were going to overturn the Inquiry decision in October (when the 'six months' rule meant that a two-thirds majority would not be needed). In anticipation of this a compromise was proposed by the radicals – that the Inquiry would be scrapped in return for a postal ballot of the members concerning the composition of the Council (the issue at the crux of the strife and disagreement). This was agreed **unaminously**. The motions in the postal ballot were to present the two alternatives: (a) for the Council to be ruled by a majority of Regional Representatives appointed by the Branch Committees; (b) for the Council to be completely open to free election by and for the full membership. The next Council meeting was to consider the motions – considered and agreed by a Working Party. However, the motions presented to the meeting were biased completely towards the Regional Representatives. One motion was that the Council be ruled by Regional Representatives, the other that the composition remain as now (12 elected, 8 Regional Representatives, 3 co-opted). Even before these could be discussed the traditionalists proposed to the meeting that the poll be scrapped and that Mrs. Wigmore's resolution (proposed and passed under very dubious circumstances at the 1979 AGM) be implemented. (This would allocate a majority of Council places to Regional Representatives.) This proposal was put to the Council meeting but failed by one vote (9 to 5) to get the necessary two-thirds majority.

(v) Richard Ryder has received some 30 allegations of financial impropriety and misconduct over the last 12-18 months, from confidential and anonymous sources. Other Council members have also received such allegations. All the allegations involved senior staff at RSPCA Headquarters, at Horsham. Following legal advice Richard documented these and circulated them to other Council members and to the Charity Commissioners. Instead of showing concern the Council condemned Richard for circulating these allegations which, according to the Chair, he should have ignored. Since then the Officers and traditionalists have perpetrated a witch-hunt against Richard Ryder and have with the aid of the staff succeeded in insulting Sir David Napley, who has acted for the Society, by telling him that if he represents Richard in this matter he must consider all his other ties with the Society broken.

(vi) Another person who has done so much for the Society for over a decade, in the Reform Group, on the Council and as Vice-Chairman last year felt compelled to resign at the goings-on, in particular at the blatant breach of the Rules. The final straw was a claim by Horsham to a National newspaper, reportedly that the Society had no intention of implementing its resolution of 2½ years ago that the Council would, by the end of 1980, set a date for the cessation of destruction of healthy dogs and cats in its homes and rescue centres. Horsham, it is said, called the resolution 'stupid'.

(vii) Finally, the date of the AGM has been changed; it is not on a Friday (1981), overturning the resolution last year to hold AGM's on Saturdays, to enable working people to attend. The reason given for this change was that the only hall available in London on the chosen Saturday was not large enough (holding only 1200 people) – and an earlier Saturday (even one week earlier) would not give the staff time to prepare the Reports etc.

The RSPCA has been taken over by people not averse to using unconstitutional ways and means to obtain their ends. The ends themselves will lead to the stagnation and impotence of the RSPCA. Those who look forward to an aggressive, campaigning RSPCA can do little until the AGM next June.

FOREIGN NEWS

TEXAS, USA - Police raided 'The Texas Derby' last year the highpoint of the dog-fighting season in the USA. 200 spectators who paid 45 dollars each admission fled from the pit but 175 were caught and 10 of the organizers charged. There are now over a 1000 organized dogfights in the USA every year and 35 in Canada. Thousands of dollars change hands in bets.

BERMUDA - David Wingate Bermuda's chief 'Conservation officer' shot a very rare Siberian Flycatcher bird after an incredible 8000 mile flight. Wingate claimed it was an "agonizing decision justified on scientific grounds". It was sent to the US Museum of Natural History in New York for positive identification.

FRANCE - Brigitte Bardot sold off 70 colour photographs of herself to raise funds for the World Wildlife Fund.

UGANDA, EAST AFRICA - The once plentiful White Rhino continues to decline due to poaching. The Rhino horn is eagerly sought after for medicinal, aphrodisiac and for ornamental reasons. In 1970 the wholesale price for Rhino horn was 33 dollars a kilo it has now reached 675 dollars. Governments are trying to fightback against poaching, co-ordinated by the Kenyan government under President Moi. Successful measures in Zambia has seen a substantial rise in the numbers of the Black Rhino. Most governments have signed the Covention on International Trade in Endangered Species and it is up to the population to make sure it is adhered to. One of the countries that does not is Britain who still allows imports of hunting trophies and threatened animals. The USA, France and Italy have halted such imports.

ITALY - 4 people were killed and 30 wounded in the first two days of the Italian hunting season second phase. 1,700,000 hunters were estimated to be out in field. Phase one which opens in August allows hunters to shoot migratory birds. Phase two starts in September and allows hunters to shoot at 59 other species of wildlife, including boar and pheasant.

CANADA - Deer hunters have been warned by the Forestry Commission to be sure their toilet paper is coloured. A hunter answering a call of nature was spotted by another hunter mistaking the white paper for a tail of a deer and shot him dead.

SOUTH AFRICA - 3000 seal pups were killed off Seal Island. Hunters then swopped their clubs for rifles to kill 1000 bulls. The price paid for pup pelts on the overseas market was about R9/R10.

INDIANA, USA - Police arrested 98 people in a raid on a girl scout camp where a cock fight was in progress. 9 people were charged with professional gambling and 89 others for cruelty to animals. Police also confiscated 100 roosters and various cockfighting equipment.

PHILIPPINES - 2 men were killed and 80 injured in January when 2 grenades were thrown into a crowd of around 1000 who were watching a cock fight in Zamborgna City. Several rifle shots followed the explosions. A man was arrested for questioning.

ROYAL ROUND-UP

BIRTHDAY HUNT

HRH. Charlie Boy spent his 32nd Birthday out with the Quorn at their meet of Friday 14th November 1980. One Hunt member said "He's one of us, he comes here often." One fox was killed – Happy Birthday!

CHARLES "SMUGGLED" TO HUNT TO AVOID SABS

Prince Charles was smuggled along narrow country lanes to join the Opening meet of the Taunton Vale FH last November. His intended participation had been kept a closely guarded secret – to avoid sabs!

QUEEN NOT AMUSED

During her Royal visit to Morrocco King Hassan thought the Queen might be amused by a display of hunting falcons tearing pigeons apart! Apparently she was not amused. Not being one to give in, and not understanding the reason for her majesty's displeasure, good old King Hassan had the unfortunate birds served up for breakfast the following morning!

ROYAL GUNS RING IN THE NEW YEAR

The Royal family saw the New Year in at their Sandringham estate in Norfolk. Nearly every day during January various members of the Royal party have participated in driven pheasant shoots.

On one day a reporter from the Sun newspaper who was on the look out for Lady Dianna Spencer was warned by Prince Philip to leave the area, else she might get shot at! Being on a public road at the time she saw no reason why and stayed put. A few minutes later a shot rang out and her car was peppered by shotgun pellets! – The police are to take no action; even though it is illegal to fire a shotgun within range of a public road.

HANDICAPPED MANIPULATED

Handicapped people will soon be able to go hunting, shooting and fishing on country estates in a scheme being launched by the County Landowners' Assoc., whose members are hoping for grants to improve facilities on their land.

No doubt 'Riding for the Disabled' (a front for the B.F.S.S.) will be encouraging their members to take advantage of this project.

THE KILL IS INSTANT – SO THEY SAY!

At Crebilly, Ballymena, Eire on Boxing Day a hare which had been caught during a course was ripped from the jaws of the winning greyhound by a handler. It was thrown aside by him where it lay squirming on the ground for over 8 minutes whilst the handler 'enjoyed' the next course! He then kicked the unfortunate animal to death.

SEA SHEPHERD NEWS

The Sea Shepherd Fund, having raised enough money have bought a new ship – a British trawler from Hull.

Four of the British based members of the Fund, led by Dave McColl were in action at the beginning of the seal hunting season in the Orkney and the Western Isles, when they sprayed hundreds of seal pups with an indelible pink dye rendering their pelts commercially valueless. Predictably their action was condemned by the Scottish Office, who claimed that it was an interference with a "traditional industry".

Then on November 5th a fishing boat used for culling seals was sank in Troon harbour, after four holes had been drilled in the hull. The Sea Shepherd Fund denied any responsibility.

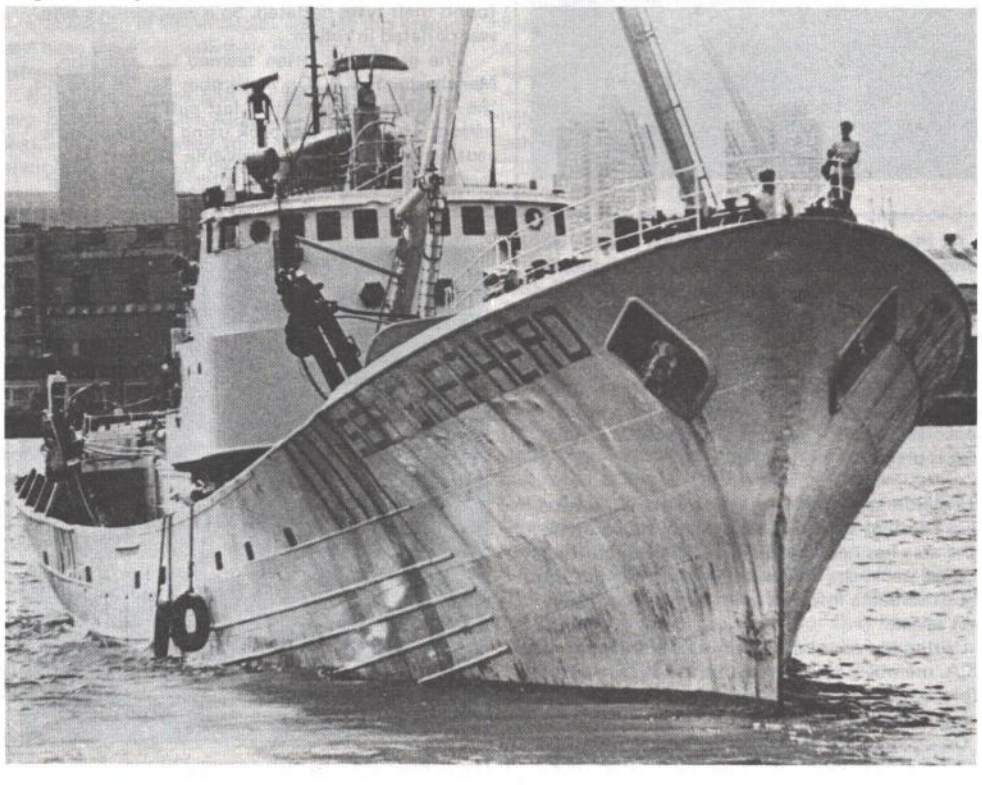
STOP PRESS . . . The Sea Shepherd II is now moored in the Clyde.

Volunteers are *urgently* required to help in a variety of jobs before the ship can set sail. People with technical experience would be much appreciated. No payment, but food will be provided. All you need is a sleeping bag and warm clothes. The crew list needs to be increased for some time in the future – any offers?

For further details write to P.O. Box 19, London SE 22.

Dave McColl in action.





NUKE THE HUNTING VICAR

One particular endangered species we will all be pleased to see die out is the hunting vicar. Recently the Rev. Geoffrey Turner of North Waltham near Basingstoke, Hampshire; stated publicly from horseback at an open air service that "we are all being badgered left, right and centre by a lot of drivelling sentimentality" (and he isn't talking about the Church of England!).

The drivelling sentimentality was of course, the viewpoint of those opposed to bloodsports and battery hen production. "They are speaking out of sheer ignorance". Exhibiting outstanding imperical logic, Geoff attacked animal liberation, saying "let us not have propaganda that these creatures of God are like human beings, because palpably they are not". Compassion and "All Things Bright and Beautiful" all the way here.

This St. Francis of Assissi gone wrong later held a collection for the Disabled Riders Scheme which is unfortunately riddled with the hunting fraternity. The Wiltshire branch of the Scheme recently offered a days hunting with the Duke of Beaufort F.H. as a raffle prize. There must be many disabled people learning to ride a horse, gritting their teeth as they are taught by local members of the hunting fraternity out to attract good publicity. HOWL would like to hear from you and your experiences.

WHITEWASH

On October 30, Lord Zuckerman's report **Badgers, Cattle and Tuberculosis** was published and duly reported on without a murmur of criticism from the national press. It claimed that, after exhaustive enquiries, there was now sufficient evidence to justify the Ministry going ahead with its badger gassing programme in the South-West where, it is claimed, badgers are infecting cattle with bovine TB.

This is a highly controversial and politically charged subject. The Ministry has already published three reports before in defence of its gassing policy but so strong was the public criticism that Zuckerman, as the supreme political scientist of our time, was called in to supposedly produce an independent report.

In fact, as the World Wildlife Fund points out, it is "simply a review of the inconclusive evidence that was already available when the original gassing operations were suspended." Since 1975, 10,000 badgers have been gassed without any significant change in the basic situation.

Some background is necessary to understand how gassing came to be used in the first place. From the turn of the century onwards attempts have been made to eradicate bovine TB from the national dairy herd, culminating in an "area eradication" policy introduced in 1950 when some 250,000 cattle were killed and just under £200 million paid out in compensation. By 1960, bovine TB had declined to a negligible level – a triumph for the Ministry which earnt the Chief Veterinary Officer at the time, Sir John Ritchie, his knighthood.

But, in several areas of the South-West this control situation kept breaking down. The mystery was solved when, according to Zuckerman, "an observant Gloucestershire farmer . . . got the idea that badgers with setts on his land might be the source of infection." In 1971 he took one that had died in the open to Ministry labs where they confirmed it had bovine TB. In fact Mr Roger Muirhead, the observant farmer, was also a Ministry vet, who admitted to the **Western Daily Press** eight years later that evidence linking badgers, cattle and bovine TB is still "totally circumstantial."

THE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE

The Zuckerman report claims that a "series of important complementary studies" to establish the link between badgers and cattle were carried out at the Central Veterinary Laboratory at Weybridge, Surrey. No details of the scientific experiments are given in the report but a letter in **Country Life** by badger expert Phil Drabble reveals the details:

"These laboratory experiments entailed inoculating healthy badgers with a heavy dose of bovine tuberculosis and penning them with 'clean' calves, which were forced to eat their food off the floor where the badgers excreted. The experiment was then reversed and healthy calves were heavily infected with bovine TB and penned with 'clean' badgers, which were also forced to feed from the floor where the calves excreted.

"It is not surprising that in both cases, the 'clean' animals contracted the disease, but the work has not been satifactorily confirmed by experiments under natural conditions in the field."

David Coffey, a working vet who has spent many hours testing for TB in cattle, has worked on TB wards in hospitals, has had relatives who have died from the disease, and, in addition, actually worked at the Central Veterinary Laboratory at the time when the Ministry's tests linking badgers and cattle were taking place.

He confirmed Drabble's evidence but could not give details because of the Official Secrets Act. He argues, however, it is even more significant that this experimental work has never been published.

He says: "Any scientific work, to be meaningful, must be published so that the results can be reproduced." There is thus no experimental scientific evidence for the badger gassing policy. Unpublished work is not evidence.

AWKWARD QUESTIONS

Both Drabble and Coffey go on to raise a second set of awkward questions, as follows:

If badgers caught bovine TB from cattle, how did they escape its ravages before 1960, when up to 30 per cent of the national dairy herd was infected?

If they had the disease already, how was it possible to virtually eradicate bovine TB from cattle in the 1950's?

Why didn't badgers constantly reinfect the national herd, as it is claimed they are now doing in the West Country?

POPULATION DENSITY

All these questions are supposedly answered in the report by claiming that the transfer of bovine TB from badgers to cattle and vice versa occurs only where there are dense populations of badgers and cattle.

However, the Ministry's own maps, reproduced at the back of the report, clearly show that there must be other areas of the country where badgers and cattle occur in similar densities.

In East Sussex, for instance, there are 1,500 badger setts at a density of 3 setts per 1,000 acres, compared to 1,200 setts (density 1.8) in Gloucestershire and 1,400 setts (density 1.6) in Cornwall – two of the main areas where badgers have been gassed. There are also many other areas in Scotland and Wales with a high badger population.

Why haven't bovine TB outbreaks occurred in these areas?

COULD ANY OTHER ANIMAL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR INFECTING CATTLE WITH TB?

The Ministry's investigations of this question are "statistically inadequate" according to Coffey. Zuckerman admits as much. He writes: "It would help to meet the criticism that this animal has been made a scapegoat in the story of TB in cattle were surveys to be made systematically of all wild mammals that can be found on farms where herd breakdowns occur. To discover how vulnerable they are relative to the badger would, however, necessitate the testing of fairly large numbers."

More than 4,000 badgers and over 5,000 samples of badger faeces were examined by the State Veterinary Service whereas the total sample from 18 other species was only some 2,500 animals.

Traces of bovine TB were found in foxes, rats and moles. An appendix to the report admits that foxes "might act as a secondary reservoir of infection" and that rats "might act as transport hosts". Coffey also points out that no account is taken of factors like the difference in lifespan between badgers and other animals.

EVIDENCE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

Zuckerman claims that the evidence from other countries does not necessarily invalidate the British experience. But it would be interesting to know why Ireland, where the incidence of bovine TB in cattle is still high and traces of it have also been found in badgers, does not regard the animal "as a major factor in the spread of disease in cattle."

No mention is made in the report of the Russian research, cited by both Coffey and Dr Littler, a retired consultant TB and chest physician. This research shows that pastures may remain infected with bovine TB for up to twelve months and that guinea-pigs fed on grass grown on infected soil contracted the disease. Perhaps there are special soil conditions in the South-West, a factor not investigated by the Ministry.

HOW ELSE COULD CATTLE BECOME INFECTED?

There are many other factors that could be responsible. **Black's Veterinary Dictionary**, a respectable popular reference work, states:

"The prevalence of tuberculosis in animals bears a direct ratio to the intensity of the methods of agriculture in an area. Cattle closely confined, and housed to a great extent in buildings, are much more often affected."

Black says that cattle are "susceptible to humans suffering from bovine TB and serious 'breakdowns' in attested herds have been traced to cowmen suffering from the disease." Cattle can also contract it through wounds after de-horning.

Phil Drabble suggests that the real explanation of the problem is that there is "some infective agent which afflicts **any** animal which is susceptible."

GASSING IS A POOR METHOD OF CONTROL

Gassing is based on the Ministry's idea that there are "pockets of infection" within the badgers population, an assumption questioned by badger expert Eunice D. Overend. She argues that the footloose habits of the badger make it extremely unlikely that all infected animals will be killed in the gassing of a sett. The survivors join other groups. thus spreading the disease.

Ms Overend claims that TB is known to be "precipitated by stress' and that previously healthy individual, subjected to the upheaval of losing their social group, may develop the disease as a result.

There is further evidence that cleared setts are often repopulated.

A SCIENTIFIC NON-EVENT

The Zuckerman report further develops the Ministy's arguments that gassing is now necessary because TB is becoming a threat to the survival of the badgers themselves. This amounts to a get-out clause should it be proved that the badger is not the culprit in spreading the disease to cattle.

Ironically, Coffey claims that at one time the Ministry was encouraging farmers to get rid of badgers on their land by pumping slurry (liquid cattle manure) into their setts. He asks: "Have we created TB in badgers by this method?"

In summary, Coffey says: "I do believe that they've used the badger as a scapegoat. They are just not bothering to think about it. They're wrong about it scientifically. The standard Ministry policy is 'Let's annihilate everything'. This is their first line of defence in any disease programme – kill it! But you can't eradicate TB: it's a scientific non-event.

"I'm not saying they are absolutely wrong but they are being scientifically dishonest and that is dangerous. They could be doing something to the environment that is irreparable."

– John May

A farmer is restrained by police as he tries to prevent Min. of Ag. officials annihilate badgers on his own land, within days of the resumption of gassing.



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Snatch-a-Snare

Prominent animal welfare campaigner John Bryant, launched a new campaign at the beginning of the year in an effort to get snares outlawed.

The snaring of foxes is becoming more and more widespread with cats, dogs and badgers also falling victim. Inspection of the hedgerows in the South West has revealed up to 14 snares in a 300 yard stretch and there has even been cases where snares have been discovered only a few yards from housing estates.

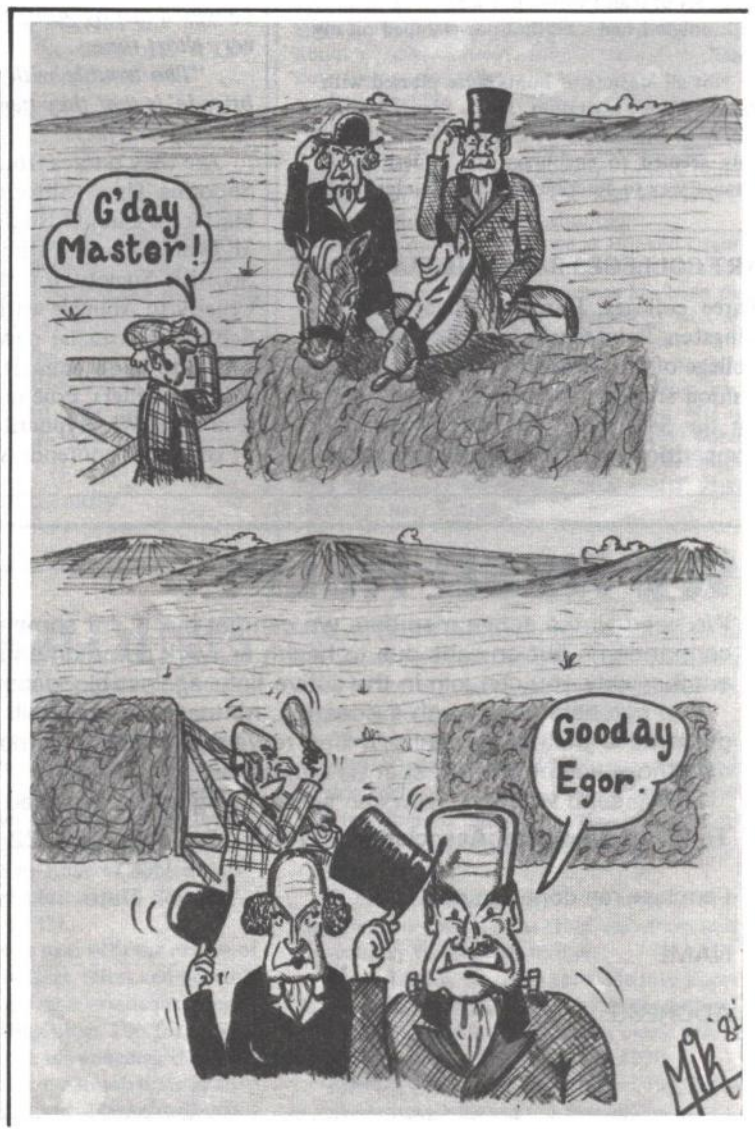
In an effort to persuade the Government to ban all snares through the Wildlife & Countryside Bill, John is encouraging people to go for walks in the countryside keeping an eye out for snares. When spotted they should be removed, taken home and the 'business end' cut off, then put in an envelope with a covering note and posted to Mr. Michael Heseltine M.P. at the House of Commons, London, SW1. If enough of these letters are sent it is almost certain to cause concern due to the fact that any envelope containing metal will probably be 'noticed' more than an ordinary letter!

The BFSS have already said that "they are not prepared to support the total banning of all traps and snares." (Shooting Times 1:Jan:81). As for WAGBI, they ran a course on "Basic Vermin Control" last December, where they explained the best position for tunnel traps, fox snares and mink cage traps. Then practical instruction on the setting of the traps and snares was given to round off.

John would like to have details of snaring in your area, sympathetic M.P.'s and the replies you get from Government departments. He can be reached c/o P.O. Box 19, London, SE 22.

Brighton activist, Clive Williams, was found guilty of commiting Criminal Damage to two Fur shop windows. £550 worth of damage was done when he hurled a couple of half bricks through the windows. Mr. Williams was given a three month prison sentence, suspended for two years and was ordered to pay £200 in compensation!

A Devonshire cat successfully struggled for over 30 hours to free itself from an illegal gin-trap which had been set in a hedgerow half a mile from its home. The cat somehow managed to tear the trap from the ground and dragged it home! A vet later had to amputate the cat's leg and the police were looking for the person who had set the device which was large enough to trap a child's foot.



BELL TOLD OFF

Maurice Bell, Master of the Wensleydale Fox Hounds (his own private fell pack), violently assaulted H.S.A. Supporters, Steve Watkins and Leila Keighley at a meet of the Wensleydale F.H. at Buckden, North Yorkshire on Sunday 7th September 1980.

Thirty five sabs had got together from the West Midlands, Chesterfield and Merseyside for a first-time hit on the hunt.

Bell took exception when he heard the sabs calling the hounds off a scent high up on the Yorkshire moors. He set about them with a stick, beating Steve to the ground. Steve was knocked unconscious and later had to have two stitches to a wound in his head. Bell then ran down the moors, obviously enjoying his newly discovered sport of sab-bashing, and caught up with Leila who was trying to escape from him over a high barbed wire topped wall. Bell knocked her to the ground, picked her up and, after dragging her along the barbed wire on top of the wall, threw her over.

Bell appeared at Hang West Magistrates Court on 5th January 1981 and was found guilty on both charges of assault, causing actual bodily harm to Steve and Leila. He was fined a total of £150.

Fourteen of the Sabs had already appeared at Hang West Magistrates Court on 12th December 1980 charged with action likely to cause a breach of the peace. Both Steve and Leila were charged and found guilty, although the police had been called to the scene originally by the sabs because of Maurice Bell's violent assaults on them.

Dave Callender, Craig Growcott, Jeff Lewis, and Roger Thom when asked by the Magistrates if they would agree to be bound over for a year in the sum of £50 refused to be so bound. This threw the Court into confusion and the Magistrates' had to retire



Photo courtesy of Kev. Brinklow

The bloodied face of Steve Watkins

a second time to decide what they should do. On their return they decided to imprison the four for a period of seven days for contempt of court. At the end of this period they would be brought before the court again and asked if they had changed their minds. However the period of imprisonment was suspended pending an appeal by Dave, Craig, Jeff and Roger against the binding over.

The Court refused a request by the sabs' solicitor to similarly bind over hunt supporters', who had been present in the Court as witnesses and observers, under the 1361 Justices of the Peace Act on the grounds that the Magistrates' considered it a "distasteful practise". Donations towards the cost of their appeal can be sent to P.O. Box 19, London, SE 22.

PROTECTION RACKET

Hector Monro, Minister of Sport, has said that full legal protection for the otter is to be extended from England and Wales to Scotland! So it won't be very long before the Dumfriesshire Otter Hunt start spreading stories of the damage caused by mink and of the threat posed to the fabric of Scottish society by this dreadful creature, in order to give them an excuse to continue exactly as before, with a change of name to that of a mink hunt marking the only difference! However, this particular ploy may fail as the mink north of the border haven't begun to ravage the Scottish countryside, as they have so obviously in England and Wales where newspapers carry daily reports of farm animals being carried off by these tiny terrors. Watch this space for further details, unless a mink gets you first!

Meanwhile, in Gloucestershire conservationists are setting up an otter sanctuary at a secret location. Hopefully it won't be anywhere near mink hunting country as the mink hunters concern for their former quarry, the otter, does not extend to keeping clear of otter inhabited rivers where the disturbance may result in the cubs in the holt being abandoned by their parents. Did someone say something about the otter being given full legal protection?



Full legal protection?

HEAVY DISGUISE

In November 1978 at the opening meet of the Enfield Chase, hunt supporter George Adair, a furniture salesman of Shillobeer Walk, Chigwell, Essex; and his accomplice Arthur Flint, assaulted a number of sabs including Kevin Ahronson who later needed four stitches to a head wound. The following week Adair damaged several sabs' cars, kicking the doors and smashing headlamps, wing mirrors and a rear window. An identification parade took place in February 79 and Adair was picked out by eleven sabs – despite his attempts to disguise himself by dying his hair and growing a moustache!

In August 1980 – the date set for his trial, Adair had disappeared and the police could find no trace of him. The trial finally took place at St. Albans Crown Court on the 17th of November last year. The police called six H.S.A. witnesses for the prosecution namely Mike O'Reilly, Kevin Ahronson, Rosemary Kline, Barbara Page, David Postlethwaite and Vivienne Tierney. Throughout the period leading up to the trial, the police had assured the sabs that they had nothing to fear by giving evidence for the police, not even the infamous 1361 Justices of the Peace Act.

By this time Adair had a fully fledged beard to try and confuse the witnesses! Judge Hickman (who lists his interests in the 1980 'Who's Who' as shooting, fishing and gun dog training) intimated to the jury that anyone who was opposed to fox hunting was incapable of rational thought, and that if the jury did not reach a unanimous decision, he would make the verdict himself.

In spite of evidence from a detective constable, a sergeant, an inspector and a superintendant testifying about Adair's behaviour and acts of violence towards the sabs, he was found not guilty of actual bodily harm. However, after changing his plea to guilty on the charge of criminal damage, he was fined £100 and ordered to pay £60 compensation for the damage he had caused to a vehicle.

The Judge then ordered all the sab witnesses to return to court a week later, when at a hearing lasting only a few minutes he bound each of them over to keep the peace for one year in the sum of £100 each. They were not permitted to say anything in their defence and Judge Hickman refused to comment on the nature of his own recreational pursuits.

FOOTNOTE: The same month Lord Denning made a speech in which he said: "Someone must be trusted let it be the judges".

POACHING PARSON

Yet another hypocritical member of the Clergy was exposed recently in the columns of the national media, when it was revealed that the Rev. Alan Mackenzie-Brannagan, who is the vicar for East & West Rudham, Norfolk, had been fined a total of £45 for poaching on an old Etonian's estate near Tattesford.

In Court Michael Churchouse, prosecuting, told magistrates that on October 30th two gamekeepers saw a yellow car pass by on the Pynkney Hall Estate, and half a minute later heard a shot. They found the car parked on a verge and standing nearby was the vicar adjusting his cassock as if he had just relieved himself. He told the gamekeepers he had just heard a shot. But a freshly killed pheasant was found in a gateway 25 yards away, and a gun was spotted in the vicar's car, which he claimed he used for shooting pigeons.

When the police called at the vicarage he denied killing the pheasant. However, a few days later he changed his mind and admitted to the police that he had shot the bird, and would plead guilty in court.

After the hearing the vicar told photographers to "bugger off" before being driven away in a police car.

PUB PUNCH-UP

Martin Phillips, a gentleman (?) with sympathies towards the hunt, was fined £325 and ordered to pay H.S.A. members Steve Lay and Steve Milner £25 compensation each, for injuries they sustained and £19 for damage caused to a pair of spectacles. Phillips took exception to their H.S.A. sweatshirts when they were drinking at a pub in Clowne. He lunged at them without provocation and Steve Lay needed two stitches to a cut on his face.

A couple of months later two other sabs were attacked for exactly the same reason in the Bluebell Public House car park at Dockenfield, near Farnham, Surrey. After the two left the pub they were approached by two men over 6ft tall and asked if they were 'members of the anti hunt people?" When they replied "yes", they were attacked and kicked unconscious, one of them had his nose broken and needed stitches for a head wound, while the other sab had several teeth loosened.

JUST OFF TARGET

An unsuccessful attempt to kill a record 1000 pheasants in a day was made earlier in the season, on an estate near Lundie, Perthshire. The 'best' drive of the day was 330 birds killed in 23 minutes of continuous shooting. The total bag was 900, excluding of course those birds who were wounded and managed to fly on, only to die a lingering death a day or so later.

HUNT OFFENSIVE

Last October the Master of Foxhounds Association invited all provincial newspapers to send reporters to attend a days hunting, or to inspect the hounds' kennels. The invitation was sent out by Raymond Brooks-Ward the BBC's showjumping commentator now public relations consultant to the MFHA. No doubt this post was created because of the continual bad press the hunting fraternity attract.

In the same month Old Etonian, 7th Baronet Sir Hugh Fitz-Gerald Arbuthnot, Master of the Jedforest F.H. was found guilty of causing a breach of the peace by killing a fox with his riding crop and throwing it to his hounds in full view of children.

It takes a deep, expert level of unintelligence and insensitivity to act in such a manner. John Junor in the Sunday Express described him as "the sort of man I would not wish to be in a room with unless I had a clothes peg clamped on my nose".

Not all Masters of hunts were pleased with Brooks-Ward's invitation. James Bloor, Master of the York and Ainsty F.H. said: "More publicity only seemed to encourage the undesirables". Strange way to describe his fellow hunters isn't it?

ART COLLEGES BACK THE FUR TRADE

Three colleges, Harrow College of Art, Kingston Polytechnic and Ravensbourne College of Art, Chislehurst; are encouraging fashion students to enter Fur coat designs for the Saga Mink Awards and another competition run by Boutique Furs Ltd.

WHALE OIL BAN?

The European Parliament voted on October 16th last year, to ban the imports of products using whale oil from next July. However, the vote will not unfortunately, be binding on any E.E.C. member country. So it remains to be seen just how effective this move will be.

PRUE DENSE?

". . . might realise that a quick death with a pack of hounds is a far more humane method of controlling the fox population . ."
". . . It also ensures the preservation of one of Britains remaining wild animals . . . "
. . . "If hunting was made illegal foxes would be wiped out by guns, traps and poison in a very short time . . ."
. . . "The trouble with the 'anti-hunting brigade' is that they never take the trouble to verify the facts . . ."

Are they quotes from a Horse & Hound/ Shooting Times editorial? BFSS mail out? Master on a hunt? No don't be silly its Prue M. Guild, Board of Directors member of the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals warbling on recently in a Scottish provincial newspaper. Re-assuring isn't it to know animals have such staunch loyal defenders. Prue quickly goes into the lead as **HOWL Hypocrite of the Year**. Know of any other contenders?

POOR PERCY

Well known television gardener Percy Thrower, got a taste of his own medicine at the beginning of the pheasant shooting season, when he was shot in the face and arm by another member of a shooting syndicate near Shrewsbury, during one of his regular outings with them.

The incident happened when Percy found himself in the way of another gun slinger, who was stalking one of the semi tame pheasants that are killed in their millions every year throughout the country.

It isn't known whether Percy's timely intervention saved the bird from injury.

Another champion gardener, William Shaw of Loxley Avenue, Wombwell, Yorkshire was so enraged when he found a neighbour's pet rabbit tucking into his prize veg that he battered the rabbit to death with a clothes line prop.

Pleading guilty in Barnsley Magistrates Court to 'causing unnecessary suffering', Shaw was fined (wait for it) £3.00. No doubt the magistrate was of the 'rabbit = vermin' school of thought. So much for 'Bright Eyes'.



Percy licks his wounds.

WE NEED HELP!

We need all the active members we can get but if, for some reason, you cannot come out on sabs due to health or work commitments, there is another way you can join in the active fight against bloodsports.

You can help us through a donation, no matter how small. You can be guaranteed that every penny will go towards our active campaign, since we have no office or staff to cost us overheads.

Please send whatever you can spare, filling in the attached slip if you wish.

To: Hunt Saboteurs Association, PO Box 19, London S.E.22

I enclose my donation of £..... Date.....

NAME.....

ADDRESS .....

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