HOWL

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Hounds off our wildlife

MAGAZINE OF THE HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION
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AIMS: To save the lives of hunted animals by legal, non-violent direct means and bring to the attention of People and Parliament the barbaric cruelties involved in the hunting of animals until such time as these practices are banned by law.

ARE YOU BEING 'FOXED'?

ASKS J M Bryant

THE IMAGE of the fox as a devilish, marauding killer of poultry and lambs, is so deeply ingrained in the minds of the public, that the fox will probably be the last British wild animal to be granted legal protection from the cruelties of the snare, the gun, poison and the 'chase'. And yet, if the fox does eventually gain the status of a 'protected animal' it will be due to Man's insatiable appetite for scientific knowledge – ironic when one considers the number of animals which have suffered satisfying that same appetite.

Unfortunately, the fox's image is not only ingrained in the minds of the disinterested general public, but also in the minds of many of those who are loud in their opposition to traditional fox hunting. The result is a continual argument between hunt supporters and 'antis' as to which is the best method of killing foxes. Not surprisingly, hunt supporters often come off better in these arguments, simply by pointing out the cruelties of snares, traps, poisoning and indiscriminate shooting etc.



A rescued fox-cub, safe in caring hands.

CONTROL

To control or not to control, that is the question, – the question which only the human animal is capable of asking but which is asked by far too few. I believe that the 'antis' spend far too much time and effort arguing the question of whether it is morally right for human beings to use the animal kingdom for pleasure, profit or so-called advancement. The anti-vivisection movement has at last recognised this and are having considerable success by using scientific argument against the scientists. After all, sentiment and moral argument are unlikely to impress people who believe that to inflict venereal disease onto a chimpanzee is worth the Nobel prize!

So it must be with the anti-blood sport movement. Scientific research into the fox is not extensive and is somewhat fragmented, but there has been enough documented to give the anti movement a more impressive argument than any they could present on moral grounds – no matter how important that argument may be. The question of whether foxes actually need controlling seldom occurs to the man in the street. This is because he has been conditioned to believe that foxes are vicious creatures of the night which kill poultry and lambs purely for fun. Take a look at a few childrens' comics, childrens' books and even television cartoons. The fox is always portrayed as the 'baddy' – as of course, is the much maligned wolf. The 'cunning' image is so popular that the fox has even been given a special place in the English language. If one has been 'foxed' then one has been out-witted by some sort of superior cunning, and many a clever criminal has been endowed with the nickname of 'foxy'.

If one asks the average person whether the fox population must be kept down, he is likely to answer in the affirmative and if asked to explain why, he is likely to explain that foxes live off hens and lambs. In fact, the British public can be excused believing this, considering for instance, that in the usually reputable *Daily Telegraph* on 17th July, 1973 an article on pests included the statement, "Foxes have been known to carry off pet cats, but generally their prey consists of chickens or lambs".

The tragedy is that such statements provide invaluable propaganda to those who kill foxes, either for sport or profit and any moves to protect the fox are doomed to failure while the great majority of the public remain so mis-informed. So how do we find the truth about the fox?

HUNTSMEN

Obviously those who know most about foxes are naturalists, biologists and of course, 'professional' huntsmen. Strangely, if one cares to look deep enough, it becomes apparent that many huntsmen are prepared to defend the fox in hunting literature. For instance, a British Field Sports Society fox hunting leaflet written by a Master of Fox Hounds, ventures the opinion that less than five per cent of all foxes ever taste domestic poultry and that they live largely on beetles, frogs, rabbits, wild birds, carrion, rats and mice. In fact the author of the leaflet credits the fox with being the 'biggest destroyer of rats and mice in the world'. If that Master of Hounds is correct, then 95 out of every 100 foxes which he hunted to death, had never been guilty of killing even one chicken. Perhaps it should also be remembered that when that leaflet was first published, free range chickens were very much more in evidence than they are today and therefore the figure of five per cent is probably much higher than would be a present day estimate of 'poultry killers.' As Doctor A. D. Scott, zoologist and writer, wrote in a recent letter to me, "How many people have experienced foxes raiding chicken houses? Only those who were either too lazy to lock up their hens for the night, or too careless. No-one can expect a fox to walk through a pen of unshut-up hens singing yield not to temptation. And foxes don't go around carrying screwdrivers with which to open locked hen houses. Anyway, the way the majority of hens are kept nowadays, most foxes don't even know what a hen looks like. So that lets the fox out as a poultry killer".

Another naturalist, David Stephen expressed the same opinion in his book **Watching Wild Life**, as did yet another naturalist, Roger Burrows in his book **Wild Fox**. Their informed views were supported by another Master of Fox Hounds Lt. Col. E. F. S. Morrison who pointed out in his book **Fox and Hare in Leicestershire**, that when one compares the number of reported farmyard raids, with an estimate of the fox population, it becomes obvious that the regular diet of the fox is not poultry.

It appears then that the naturalists and the professional huntsmen agree that the fox's reputation as a poultry killer is largely unjustified. What then of lamb killing? The fox has a terrible reputation among sheep farmers, of that there is no doubt. In parts of Scotland especially, many think that no form of death is bad enough for the fox, and it is therefore ruthlessly exterminated with snares, guns, terriers, gas, poison and up to April 1973, with gin traps. Popular opinion amongst highland sheep farmers is that any form of death is well deserved by the fox. But is such vehement persecution really justified?

LAMBS

That foxes eat lambs cannot be denied, but the important questions are whether foxes actually kill lambs and if so, how many? Once again one must turn to those who know foxes best – the naturalist, the biologist and of course, the professional huntsman. And not just any huntsman! Take the words of the Duke of Beaufort, President of the British Field Sports Society and **THE** Master of Fox Hounds, written in the *Sunday Times,* March 13th 1955. "My ewes are lambing in a field bordering one of my own coverts where foxes abound, and so far I have not lost a single lamb, although owing to bad weather some are weak."

Another Master of Hounds, Frances Pitt, who is also a naturalist, was a contributor to the book **In Praise of Hunting**. She also defended the fox, saying that although foxes will occasionally take small lambs, they are in her opinion, usually dead before they are carried off. Miss Pitt explained that foxes do quite a bit of scavenging for afterbirth and dead or dying lambs during lambing time.

(continued overleaf)

Hi there!

With the new fox-hunting season now starting, Saboteurs can undoubtedly look forward to another winter of physical attacks, abuse and sensational accusations.

Unfortunately, over the past year we have learnt to expect criticism and allegations not just from our opponents, but also from our supposed friends.

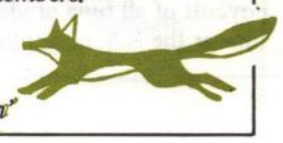
We have read allegations from an ex-member that we are all a bunch of "lefties". (Last year the national press was making exactly the opposite allegation!)

We have been ostracised, to one extent or another, by various "pro-animal" groups, claiming that we were involved in damage to vivisection laboratories and the theft of two beagles.

So it looks as if we shall have to reiterate once more: HSA owes its affiliations to NO political faction.

HSA is a non-violent organisation. HSA is not responsible either for the political or for the extra-curricular activities of its members.

Clear?



Good anti-huntin'

Latest Hunt Bedlam

SUFFOLK SAVAGERY

On Saturday February 15 a cat belonging to Mrs. Rush of High Street, Long Melford, Suffolk, was severely mauled by the hounds of the Suffolk Hunt, which were rampaging through the village. The hunt "sportingly" agreed to pay the veterinary bill for the cat's treatment in hope of hushing up the incident.

SCOTTISH VANDALISM

Three huntsmen of the Fife Foxhounds who destroyed part of a schoolchildren's nature trail on their way home from a meet have promised to make good the damage. The joint master of the hunt, Mr. John Gilmour, son of the East Fife MP, claimed that the hunt was not responsible for the damage, since the huntsmen were on their way home. "We have no control over them at that stage" he said. Mrs. Yvonne Paton, a local primary school teacher described the damage as being "vandalism as senseless as that committed by any bovver boy".

BADGERS DROWNED

Some farmers in the West country are destroying badgers by pouring gallons of liquid farm manure down their setts. This practice is quite legal, even under the so-called Badger Protection Act.

HOWLER

In the last issue of HOWL we mentioned Boots as an example of a firm which tests cosmetics on animals. However, it now appears that Boots *own* brands are *not* tested on animals, although other brands in a Boots store almost certainly will have been.

Overseas News

FRANCE

Many visitors, including Britons, have been attending cock-fights in Northern France, particularly Britany. This 'sport' was outlawed in France (as it is in Britain) in 1963, but the law was reversed by President de Gaulle just one year later. By the end of the summer over 5,000 birds, many of them imported from England, will have died in French cock-pits.

USA

Friends of Animals, of 11 W. 60th Street, New York, have started a campaign to Save The Porpoise. Every year hundreds of thousands of porpoises are killed when they become tangled in the nets of tuna fishermen in the Pacific fishing grounds. In fact, tuna fishermen deliberately cast their nets where they find schools of porpoises, since they know that tuna and porpoise often accompany each other. In 1974, 200,000 porpoises were wantonly destroyed by American fleets alone. Friends of Animals are calling for a boycott of all tuna products until such time as the U.S. government bans the use of seine nets and orders the industry to revert to line fishing, which is harmless to porpoises, and is used quite effectively by the fleets of many other fishing nations.

SWITZERLAND

The people of Geneva recently had the chance to vote in a referendum on the subject of hunting. By 25,000 to 10,000 votes the people voted to ban all hunting in the canton of Geneva.

AUSTRALIA

A campaign has started to outlaw the gin-trap, still in wide use down under. A scientific survey by Dr. Elwood Darke in Victoria, showed that over three months, 32 government-paid trappers set gin-traps over a 300 square mile area. The traps caught 26 "vermin" (9 foxes, 9 wild cats, 6 wild dogs and 2 dingoes) but at the same time caught 257 protected animals, including 105 goannas, 34 eagles, 34 lyrebirds, 53 wombats, 16 wallabies, 3 echidnas and 7 pigeons. The suffering endured by any animal caught in a gin-trap is unimaginable. Many animals break free by biting off their own limb, many others die of starvation.

BFSS FAIR A FLOP

The 1975 BFSS Country Fair turned out to be rather a disappointment for the organisers. Only half the anticipated 30,000 supporters turned up, partly due to the wet weather, partly due to the declining interest in cruelty and partly because person or persons unknown had removed AA signs leading to the Fair during the night.

FOXES BRED TO HUNT

Foxes are fed by gamekeepers on the 30,000-acre estate of Lord Yarborough in Lincolnshire. Lord Yarborough, joint master of the Brocklesbury Hunt,admitted that dead rabbits and hares are placed at strategic points where the foxes have learnt to come and feed. The earl said that the foxes were fed for two reasons; firstly to keep them away from his pheasants, which he enjoys shooting, and secondly to provide a reasonable stock for fox-hunting. This candid admission contradicts what the British Field Sports Society have been claiming for years as a 'reason' for maintaining fox-hunting – that foxes are a 'pest' and have to be controlled.



Dear Editor,

The only criticism I have about HOWL and the HSA movement is your war against the Royal family I personally agree with your disgust at their participation in blood sports I agree they should be setting a good example and not encouraging such barbarism, but speaking to other members I find a lot of them agree that you do more harm than good.

Yours sincerely,
Derek Carroll
86 Alexandra Road
Birmingham 5

Dear Editor,

I have been anti-hunting ever since I can remember (I am now well over 60) and my old father was as well. He was a G.P. and refused to attend people who hunted with the Mendip Hunt! We lived near Radstock in Somerset. There were coal mines, and often the men were on the dole and I remember sitting on top of our large gates to watch the miners hare coursing in the field opposite. I only watched twice. Once I was violently sick and the second time I ran away and locked myself in a loo and cried and cried.

We agree with all you say in HOWL and wish you all the best.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs. H. G. Goodall
7 Barrack St
Bridport
Dorset



Are you being 'foxed'? *(continued)*

Brian Vesey-Fitzgerald, author of **Town Fox, Country Fox,** also pointed out in his book that finding lambs at foxes' earths does not indicate that they were in fact killed by the fox. Doctor A. D. Scott, B.Sc., Ph.D., M.B.O.U. has analysed countless numbers of fox droppings as well as the stomach contents of many animals. He found that game birds and poultry were insignificant in the fox's diet and that the only two lambs he ever found at foxes' earths, were in fact dead before they were brought in.

The last word on lamb killing should surely go to a sheep farmer. Brian Hamilton and his shepherd were doubtful whether the fox's reputation was justified and so they arranged to collect from ten other farms, all lambs which had been allegedly mutilated by foxes. They carried out post-mortems on two hundred lambs and found that in every case, the lambs had been dead before mauling. Mr. Hamilton said that he had twice seen foxes leaving his lambing fields with lambs in their mouths and had he not frightened them into dropping the lambs, he would have been certain that the foxes had killed them. In fact, post-mortems revealed that the lambs were dead before being carried away, and therefore in 1962 when Mr. Hamilton found four foxes prowling around his flock, he was not concerned because he knew they were waiting for afterbirth or dead lambs.

Australian research has also shown that the fox's significance as a lamb killer is nullified by post-mortem evidence, revealing that of every hundred infant deaths only a maximum of two could be attributed to fox and crow predation. There are many such snippets of documented evidence which seem to prove that the persecuted fox badly needs a massive 'public relations' job – a thought perhaps shared by Roger Burrows, B.A., M.I.Biol., who in his book 'Wild Fox', wrote, "unfortunately, the fox suffers probably more than any other British mammal through a misunderstanding of its way of life. Popular misconceptions about the fox are so deeply ingrained that people find it difficult to be objective when talking or writing about them".

NATURE

So there it is. With nothing but a slightly sympathetic shrug of the shoulders from the supposedly animal loving British public, fifty thousand foxes – a quarter of the fox population – are slaughtered every year by Man, either in the person of the Hunter, the Game Keeper, the Farmer or the Pest Control Officer.

Fortunately, Mother Nature in her usual miraculous fashion, adequately rebuilds her fox population to around the 200,000 mark each year and perhaps here we could learn our greatest lesson. Controlling so-called pest populations by killing is proving to be an expensive waste of time. Nature dictates the populations of her animals by the availability of food supplies and there seems to be evidence to prove that the killing of a species actually stimulates greater breeding in order to restore the numbers to fit the food supply.

In Northern Ireland for instance, there has been a bounty scheme for fox kills since 1943. Up until 1954 the bounty was ten shillings per fox, and has been one pound since. About seven thousand bounties are paid each year but there is little evidence that there has been any change in the overall density of the fox population since the scheme started. The story has been the same with rats, mice and squirrels. The bounty scheme introduced twenty years ago in an attempt to exterminate the grey squirrel, cost £100,000 and had no apparent effect on the size and distribution of the squirrel population. Like-wise, the recent decision to approve the use of Warfarin poison in yet another attempt to reduce the squirrel population, will probably prove to be costly and except for some temporary effect, insignificant in terms of population reduction.

This is not mere conjecture. When Warfarin was introduced for the control of rats and mice, it was hailed as the ultimate weapon, and yet we hear increasingly of 'super-rats' and 'super-mice', which have not only become immune to the poison, but which actually thrive on it. Nature has taught her animals that Vitamin K is a natural antidote to the Warfarin, which kills by causing internal haemorrhage. The more Warfarin is used to kill susceptible rats and mice, the more the resistant animals breed and therefore the resistance spreads.

RABBITS

Similarly with rabbits upon which Man inflicted the horrific disease of myxamatosis. Despite the devastating effect on both the rabbit and our sensitivities, the rabbit population is now rapidly recovering, having been endowed with increasing immunity to the disease by wise,Old Mother Nature. Having 'learnt' that myxamatosis is transmitted by fleas in the warrens, more and more rabbits are living above the ground. The more 'warren rabbits' which die from the disease the more the resistant rabbits breed, and therefore the resistance spreads.

So it can be seen that the more so-called pests we kill, the more pressure there is on the species to breed replacements and the evidence appears to indicate that with or without killing, the population always returns to a figure equatable with the suitable environment and food supply. Surely that is a far more effective argument against hunting (or any other form of so-called control) than a mere moral or sentimental opinion.

The art of compassion is in assuming the identity of the sufferer, whether human or animal, but once we have attained it, we must reinforce that compassion with strong logical, scientific and even economic arguments for the humane treatment of living creatures. Each unsubstantiated argument, every false motive, and all prejudice utilized to promote and preserve cruelty, must be clinically dissected with the knife of truth.

No knife was ever as sharp!

BFSS RUMOUR-MONGERS

Highly placed sources in the British Field Sports Society tell us that the BFSS is to embark on a scheme of black propaganda, whereby they are going to produce 'evidence' that HSA is planning to introduce rabies to the fox population to get hunting stopped. (Fox-hunting has been proved to be the greatest single factor in the spread of rabies, through scattering [rabid] foxes).

Schools for Scandal

An item in the *Shooting Times* of May 15 on the subject of Beagling at public Schools may be of more than passing interest to HSA supporters:

"Possibly a future threat to the existence of these packs is the fact that most of the schools concerned are now demanding a high academic standard of entry, and children from sporting backgrounds who are likely to be interested in hunting at school are not always students of the academic standard required."

This does tend to confirm the sneaking suspicion that Saboteurs have had for some time now – that huntspeople tend to be a little on the thick side ... must be all that inbreeding that does it.

Another item on May 8 tells of a party of eleven school leavers visiting the Kennels of the Essex and Suffolk Hunt with their careers master, with a view to taking up hunt service as a career. The event raises several questions in the mind of the casual observer. Did the careers master select the eleven "least academic" children for the visit, knowing that hunting was the only local industry the children would be intelligent enough for? Or did he select those children who had a record of torturing the school cat? Whichever was the case, what did the children's parents and the local education authority have to say about school children being encouraged to go in for the professional persecution and destruction of wild animals?

FORUM

Spring traps

If one walks in the woods, away from the footpaths in areas extensively used for pheasant breeding one often comes across one of the great hidden evils of our countryside. Apart from the senseless slaughter of thousands of pheasants and other game-birds, their breeding involves the killing of at least four million mammals every year to preserve the birds for their violent death.

A large proportion are killed by spring traps, set in wooden tunnels or under the roots of trees, and strung up as gibbets. The traps Fenn III and Fenn IV are used extensively and the Ministry of Agriculture has approved others such as the Imbra, Sawyer and Lloyd. They are activated by an animal stepping on a trigger plate which causes two round steel jaws to flick up and trap it, under the power of a strong spring. Apart from the lack of teeth, they are essentially similar to the gintraps banned in 1954 in England. They are legally set for squirrels, stoats, weasels, rats and rabbits but are ridiculously unselective, catching other animals (e.g. blackbirds, thrushes, partridges and hedgehogs).

Spring traps cause as much pain as gins, if not more. The caught animal dies of starvation,dehydration, exposure or the "gamekeeper", if he arrives. Being untoothed, the jaws do not pierce the skin, so unlike gins there is no possibility of relief from blood-poisoning. Twelve percent of all the traps I have seen contained an animal trapped for at least a few days. So the claim that they are visited once a day is baseless. Only one died quickly, the rest being caught by the legs or waist, contrary to the statement that they are backbreakers. I've seen how one gamekeeper kills his "pests". He allowed his young son to hit a trapped squirrel with a stick eight or nine times before it died.

The terror of an animal trapped in a Fenn is a sickening sight.The bogus hunter's argument that animals cannot suffer "from apprehension or the after-effects of fear to the same extent as human beings" is shown for the fallacy it is when one hears and sees a squirrel desperately clawing at the tunnel sides when one is trying to get it out. It is absurd that a government can get the gin banned, describing it as "a diabolical instrument of torture", and then tolerate the spring-trap. Perhaps it is because of the connotation of "toothed". The snare is just as barbaric. It is mainly used for catching rabbits but I once found a pheasant in one!

Pheasant breeding is now big business, many millions being spent on it. Unfortunately, where money is involved, as usual, little can be done. I believe that the repulsive pastime of rearing gamebirds (along with all other forms of wildlife exploitation) which causes so much avoidable misery should be attacked and dragged along the bloodsoaked path back into history. Unfortunately, living in such a materially-geared society with so little respect for life there doesn't seem much hope in this sphere in the immediate future. One day the light will shine through.

Depending upon the season, about 10,000 animals will die, or be waiting to die, *today*, many in traps for the preservation of unnatural gamebird stocks.

Paul Newton.

Animal Activists

Many of us who are opposed to hunting must surely be equally horrified at the horrors of bull-fighting, factory farming, live exports, vivisections, furs, etc, and feel that some form of direct action is needed to counter these atrocities. Unfortunately, most established animal welfare societies often spend their time and money either preaching to the converted or collecting more funds.

The HSA was, until recently, the only direct-action group in existence, but it must, if only because of its name, confine itself to action against bloodsports. The HSA has proved that direct-action methods can and do work. Those who would like to see HSA-type action take place against ALL animal abuse may be interested in a new direct-action group called Animal Activists.

Animal Activists will, bye and large, leave anti-hunting activities in the hands of the HSA. Other cruelties, however, will come under the attack of Animal Activists, who will use every non-violent method possible to counter large scale cruelty – our funds are used immediately and not allowed to accumulate.

Animal Activists believe that active HSA members are doing valuable and useful work against hunting and we therefore offer half-price A.A. membership to active HSA members.

Because of our fight against ALL abuse of animals, full membership is reserved for vegetarians and vegans (all our organisers are vegans): however, associate membership is offered to flesh-eaters. Animal Activists has already had very successful demonstrations, lobbies and pickets against vivisection, circuses and hunting. We are currently pressing ICI to end the "smoking beagles" experiments.

If you would like to help Animal Activists, please write to

2, Farriers Road, Middle Barton, Oxon.



A dozen HSA activists ran onto the arena at the South of England Show at Ardingly in June. The activists were protesting at the Show's promotion of blood sports by featuring a display of Surrey Union Foxhounds.
Photo: Courtesy of *Mid Sussex Times.*

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OUTLETS WANTED !

Next time you visit your local health-food shop or vegetarian restaurant, why not show the manager a copy of HOWL and ask if they would be willing to stock it on a sale-or-return basis. We can offer generous discounts on all bulk orders.

BOOKS FROM HSA

We still have in stock a few dozen copies of **The Otter's Tale** by *Gavin Maxwell,* which is the children's edition of **Ring of Bright Water.** Although usually priced at 25p, this well illustrated book is available from us at only 10p plus 10p postage.

PHEASANT FELONS FOILED

Stiff sentences were handed out at Winchester Crown Court last March to a gang of pheasant poachers. One man was jailed for eighteen months, and several suspended sentences were handed out to his accomplices. The crooks also had to cough up several hundred pounds in fines and compensation, as well as forfeiting a £1,500 Mercedes which was used on the raid.

And following a police chase, three men were arrested near Wareham after a gamekeeper reported deer poaching in the middle of the night. During the chase, a deer was thrown from the back of their van, into the path of the persuing police car. The deer was later found to have teeth marks around its throat. The men, who claimed that the three dogs in the back of their van were used for rabbiting, were fined a total of £240.

MONKEYS, BEAGLES POISONED

ICI's 'smoking beagle' experiments are being copied with monkeys at a research centre near Edinburgh. And beagles are also being injected with deadly paraquat weedkiller in experiments at Glasgow University.

TAXES SUPPORT HUNT

The British Tourist Authority, a government department, has spent thousands of pounds of tax-payers' money in laying on village festivals, where fox hunts receive lavish promotion. One of the festivals, at Chiddingfold in Kent was actually launched by a hunt display in the village.Two dozen HSA activists turned up to protest against bloodsports and the government's promotion of them. The local police, who feared another "Red Lion Square" in the village (pop. 2156) stopped and searched the sabmobiles outside the village, before allowing them in. However, the sabs had no hardware to check-in at the town limits. The demonstration went off peacefully, despite arrogant provocation from the joint-master, who said "If I had my way I would have them removed.Demonstrations are not part and parcel of the countryside and village life." Presumably traffic jams caused by hunt supporters *are* part and parcel of the rural way of life, under the hunts warped sense of logic.

COAL BOARD SUBSIDISES HUNT

The National Coal Board allow the Banwell Miners Hunt to have their kennels on NCB property for free.

FURRY FORD

Susan Ford has been given a graduation present from her parents President and Mrs. Ford of a street length muskrat and fox fur coat. Miss Ford claimed that she had been assured the pelts were not from trapped animals. Miss Ford must have some supernatural powers to be able to tell, for not even fur experts are able to trace the origin of skins at a fur auction.

DUNG RE-CYCLING

New trials at the Poultry Research Centre in Edinburgh have shown that owners make more profit if poultry were fed with a 10% dung diet. At 20% the profit was even higher. The practice, which is already widespread, of mixing poultry dung with feed inevitably means that 'Fresh Farm Eggs' will contain even less protein than they do already.

COUNTRY LIFE



The Terrier man, *peasantus servilus,* is undoubtedly one of the countryside's most enigmatic phenomena. Although to all intents and purposes he may appear to be identical to his urban counterpart, in fact the rural version of *peasantus* is a puzzling survivor from Mediaeval times, preserved almost intact with the same attitudes and social behaviour as his ancestors five hundred years ago. His vocabulary is rich with the same "master," "hunt servant" and "sir" as was his ancestor's, and most certainly his expletives date far back into rich, basic Anglo-Saxon. The intrepid naturalist who ventures further afield into remoter backwaters may also even be able to observe the curious motor-behaviour of the terrier man, when he encounters one of his masters. Notice the reflex doffing-the-cap, the easy-to-miss touching-the-forelock, and the increasingly rare, though still extant, curtsey. Above all, do take care when encountering the terrier man; his temper is as primitive as his behaviour.

GREENPEACE EXPEDITION ENGAGES SOVIET WHALERS

Early this summer, two ships set sail from Vancouver, Canada, to sabotage this season's whale hunting in the North Pacific. The sabotage was organised by the Greenpeace Foundation, which in the past few years has sent ships into nuclear test areas to protest against the test's damage to the environment. Their first such venture was to Alaska, where the Americans were detonating a nuclear blast at Amchitka in the Aleutian chain. However, the scheme was bungled when the Canadian crew set foot in Alaska without first reporting to U.S. Customs & Immigration. Their ship was impounded and the planned nuclear sabotage aborted.

MURUROA

The second nuclear sabotage was in the South Pacific, where the French were testing a nuclear device in the atmosphere over Mururoa, near Tahiti. Dave McTaggart, a Greenpeace activist, sailed to Mururoa for each of the tests in '72 & '73, and each time his yacht was attacked by the French navy. The first time his boat was rammed, and the second time it was boarded and McTaggart beaten unconscious by French commandos. Both he and his vessel were seized **on the high seas,** and the ship held for over five months before the Canadian government paid for its return to Canada. Unfortunately, the Greenpeace Foundation failed to give McTaggart the support he deserved, and he has had to work as a boat painter in France while he brings a court action against the French government. He has recently won the first part of his case, forcing the French to pay for the damage to his yacht, but the court was not qualified to decide on the piracy charge, which will now have to go to a higher court.

FUNDS

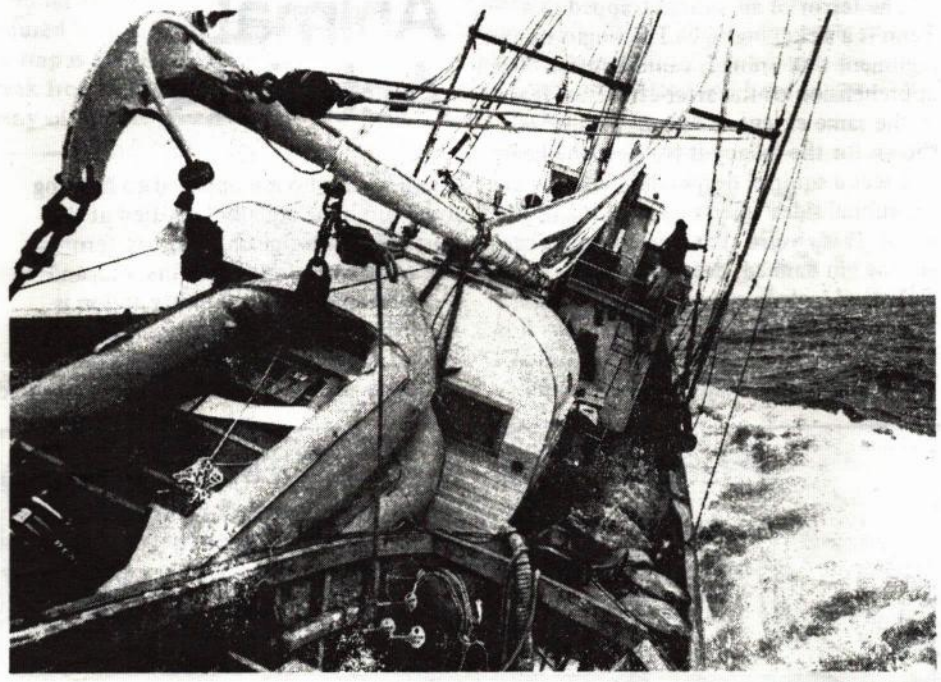
The Greenpeace Foundation are certainly not short of funds. They receive a substantial grant from the Canadian government's "Opportunity for Youth" programme, as well as a 10,000-dollar handout from the Canada Council to make a film of the expedition. The funding means that Greenpeace can employ a full time staff, and occupy an extremely comfortable suite of offices in Vancouver's Bohemian quarter. They have also attempted to raise some of their own funds, by raffling off some land which was donated by a supporter. However, the raffle has not been a raging success, since the expenses involved in running it (two professional "promoters" were specially hired) more than equalled the income from ticket sales. The foundation is now 30,000-dollars in debt.

The two Greenpeace ships set sail from Vancouver on April 27, but for refuelling and recrewing they used Winter Harbour, a small Vancouver Island port virtually owned by the family of one of the crew members. The crew was selected by Bob Hunter, the president of Greenpeace, who throughout the 2½-month expedition has continued to receive his salary from the *Vancouver Sun,* where he is employed as a columnist (readers will recall that he wrote a very sympathetic item on HSA last year).

MUSICIANS

Amongst crew members selected by Hunter were several rather un-nautical rock musicians. The idea was that the Greenpeacers should "communicate" to the whales and dolphins by playing rock music to them. To this end, a 13-foot caravan had been parked on the deck, with an expensive array of electronic gadgetry installed inside, including two Moog synthesisers, three tape decks, four cassette recorders, one 250-watt and two 100-watt amplifiers, nine underwater speakers, five underwater radio-microphones and assorted mixing machines. To operate this 12,000-dollar worth of gear, the ship also carried a 6,000 watt generator. And just in case this should break down (an unlikely occurance, since the crew also included a roadie), the musicians could always make use of some of the four guitars, eight harmonicas, six flutes and assorted percussion instruments that the ship also carried. If any of the crew happened to be low on stimulus, they could always rely on the pound of Marijuana and pound of Mescalin that was included in the ship's stores, and paid for by the foundation.

However, to make sure that the wrong type of person did not attempt to join the crew, all forms of "sexism" and "racism" had been banned on board. And just to drive the point home, the ship flew the United Nations flag at the top of the mast, above both the Greenpeace and Canadian flags.



Greenpeace V's most valuable equipment – the dinghies and the sound caravan

RUSSIANS

After sixty days at sea, the Greenpeace expedition finally ran to earth a whaling fleet of nine Russian vessels off the coast of Oregon. The Russians appeared to have been killing whales at random, for one dead whale which the Greenpeace crew measured was only 23 feet long – well below the International Whaling Commission's limits. During the two days of confrontation there were some tense moments when the Russians threatened the demonstrators with high-pressure water hoses and even the harpoon guns themselves. The climax to the engagement came in the form of a high-speed chase as one of the Greenpeace rubber dinghies managed to place itself in front of a Russian harpoon boat which was persuing a pod of sperm whales at 15 knots. Suddenly, with an almighty crack, the hunters forced a harpoon into one of the whales, narrowly missing the dinghy. The demonstrators knew then that they would have to escape as quickly as possible, not because of the Russians, but because a fatally injured whale, or its mate, will turn and attack the nearest alien object – in this case probably the rubber dinghy. Another whale did make an attack bid – against the harpoon boat – but was gunned down as ruthlessly as its mate. The Greenpeace dinghy managed to return to its parent vessel without mishap. And, fortunately, the rest of the pod of whales managed to escape.

After two days of engagement, the Greenpeace vessel started to lag behind the Soviet fleet, which was now moving off to a new hunting ground further out to sea. Since fuel and food were dangerously low, a decision was made to disengage and head for the nearest port – San Francisco, where a local ecology group had arranged a welcome.

WHALE SHOW

The Greenpeace Foundation also dispatched Paul Spong and his family to London, to lobby the International Whaling Commission on their behalf. However, someone, somewhere forgot to tell the IWC that Spong was coming, and he was consequently refused admission. It was only by sneaking in through the back door that he managed to get in; to observe. Spong, who runs a whale research station in Canada and travels the world putting on multi-media whale shows liased in London with Friends of the Earth, who arranged accommodation for him in a Chiswick squat. FoE also advised Spong against liasing with HSA, since we are "unreliable and over-emotional" according to them. Consequently, Spong's Whale Show at the East Dulwich Palace of Peace (capacity 2000) attracted a mere 31 souls. To cap it all, when HSA managed to contact FoE to find out if any events *were* in the offing, we were told that the best way we could help would be to contribute towards the Spong's repatriation to Canada, since they had run out of funds – rather a cheeky request, since FoE has an office, full-time staff and a grant from the Rowntree Trust. Eventually the Greenpeace office in Vancouver wired the Spong family sufficient funds for their return to Canada, which was facilitated by their becoming instantly back-dated members of the Accrington Poodle Fanciers and World Travel Association.

Contact Addresses:

To hire or enquire about the Whale Show:
Paul Spong, PO Box 372, Alert Bay, B.C., Canada

To Help Dave McTaggart:
"Greenpeace III Legal Fund",
c/o Thierry Garby (solicitors),
39 Avenue Georges Mandel,
75016 Paris, France.

To help Greenpeace:
Greenpeace, 2007 W. 4th Avenue,
Vancouver 9, B.C., Canada.

ARRAN NIT

Lord Arran, who has from time to time introduced pro-animal sounding bills in Parliament, showed his true colours in the London *Evening News* of 26 February 1975. He admitted that he was 'not against fox-hunting' and followed up with the fatuous remark 'nor would the foxes be if you asked them'. He recounted how he had agreed to speak (tongue-in-cheek) at an Oxford Union debate against the booted-upstairs Lord Paget. "I was defeated by a handsome majority. That was my intention," he admitted.

Surely it is time someone in the pro-animal lobby told the tedious peer that his half-baked 'support' is not wanted?

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