Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

HOWL

Spring/Summer 1996
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Free to members

Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association



If you went down to the woods this season, you were in for a big surprise...

HOWL 61

Magazine of the Hunt Sabotuers Association
PO Box 1, Carlton, NOTTINGHAM
Telephone or Fax 0115 959 0357
e-mail: hsa@gn.arc.org
World Wide Web:
http://envirolink.org/arrs/HSA/hsa.html.

Please note - our address is soon to change!!!

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letters

Cover Story:- Riot Cop at the..yes, you guessed it, Crawley and Horsham, March '96. See page 9 for more details.

Editorial

Welcome to Howl 61 and, more importantly, to the end of the 1995-96 season. As the front cover highlights, many sabs will be happy to see the back of a season which has seen the arrival of riot police to police hunts in their usual neutral manner.

This edition includes a couple of articles to keep you busy over the coming months - see 'Suing the Police' on page 8 (for your benefit) and 'How to make your Own Wildlife Refuge' (for the animal's benefit) on page 16.

The most observant amongst you will have noticed the price rise form £1 to £1.50 as stated on the front cover, this price rise is in line with the membership price increase at the EGM (see page 24). The main idea behind this is to be able to distribute Howl through other outlets, with the option of making a bit of dosh to boot, which can then, of course, be passed back to groups via donations and the like. The cover price of Howl has not increased for almost 6 years, and as I plan to increase the size of the magazine to a whopping 28 pages, I hope you still view Howl as a veritable bargain. However, as always, the size and content of Howl is pretty much dependant on how much feedback/ideas/photos/group news etc comes in, so at the end of the day it's only as good as **you** make it!

See you at the Ytene (allegedly!) - Dawn

Co-operative happenings in Shadwell land!

Dearest Howl,

Christ man, what a turnout!!! We're talking of course about the incredible Beaufort hit.

Thanks ever such a lot to all the groups that turned up.

Our groups have had a long history of sabbing the Beaufort, yet with the escalating violence they are prepared to dish-out, they've not been successfully sabbed for almost 2 years.

This all changed of Saturday the 17th February with one of the best displays of quick, mass tactical decision making and people looking after each other I've ever seen on a sab.

One quick plea however, please keep your local contact informed of your current group contacts number and address. At least one contact told us that no-one was active in that area, which was later discovered to be incorrect!!

Anyhow, thanks again and see you all again next year mebee?!!

Cheers!

Bath and Bristol Sabs

Gadgets and Gizmos

Dear Howl,

The two gadgets we have found most useful in recent years are megaphones and gizmos. We have used megaphones to good effect at Boxing day demos, live export protests etc.

There is a way of getting two for the price of one and all for about £25 for anyone who can solder in a resister, or a few pounds more if you need to get someone such as a radio or TV repairer to do it for you.

Tandy sell a musical "powerhorn" made by Realistic, which is essentially a small megaphone with a programmable synthiser - so useful to provide a musical accompanyment for those boring sabbing journeys! However, the main thing is the megaphone which is nice and loud and has a microphone socket from which a walkman can be attached if a 100 ohm resister is soldered internally from the microphone socket to prevent the walkman blowing the megaphone's transister.

The result is a very effective Gizmo and a most useful megaphone.

Yours

Simon,

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Editor or the HSA.
Nothing in the magazine should be taken as encouragement to commit illegal acts.

forum...

following A Sheppard's letter on angling in Howl 60, more fishy goings on in sab land are reported below...

Dear Howl

I am writing in response to the recent furore regarding angling and the bloodsports fraternity. Firstly, I applaud the level-headed approach shown by A Sheppard in Howl 60 - seemingly the opinion of a person who understands or partakes of the pleasures of angling.

I wish to state my position here & now - I am an avid anti-'bloodsports' supporter, and at the same time an extremely keen freshwater fisherman. I fish for pleasure and to relax, if I catch a fish I put them back ALIVE and unharmed. Not exhausted, torn to shreds, damaged or even dead. Some days I catch nothing but still enjoy my day out. 99% of anglers I know do not want to be 'tarred' with the brush 'Bloodsports participator'.

Most anglers are keen to keep river banks clean and clear of rubbish, enjoy the wildlife, notice when there is a change in water conditions, pollution etc and clear out clogged and overgrown waterways. I like to think of myself as a watchman of the riverbanks.

Angling has taken on board many changes in an effort to ensure that above all the wildfowl and fauna do not suffer from irresponsible people who carelessly leave lead weights, line and hooks etc that could damage unsuspecting passing animals and birds. With the introduction of non-lead weights, barbless hooks, improved lines and dissolving, recyclable products used in setting up a rod and line (often at great expense).

I know very few fisherman, (freshwater), who remove fish or kill them for whatever reason (to eat, mount in cases, stock other waters etc), and most will tell you they do not support any so called 'sport' which involves the needless, disgusting pursuit and death of innocent animals. I appreciate that there will be those with in the HSA and other such organisations that will say that fish suffer when hooked, played and landed. I answer this:-

i) I do not, and I doubt whether anyone knows how a fish feels when it is hooked, but using barbless hooks reduces the risk of injury and I would say 90% of fish landed show no sign if injury, yet they may have been caught dozens of times. (Except injuries caused sub-surface by Pike, Zander etc).

ii) Use of strong lines and new reels with massive take-up of line allows for ease of play with the fish, usually allowed to 'run' when it wants and 'dive' without harm. It is played to the net and usually returned immediately - UNHARMED.

iii) If a fish is despatched into a net, (mainly due to matches), then large nets with a minimum length of 12ft and minimum diameter of 20" BY LAW are used, with no knot mesh to avoid fin and scale damage, and anchor points to sink the net. And all fisherman are warned on their licence to return fish to the water as soon as possible, (especially in hot, direct sun) avoid handling with dry hands and dry nets or cloths, and always return the fish alive and in good condition. There are, sadly, some fish that die or are injured - and yes we must all do what we can to avoid this, but I suspect this is never done an intentional manner.

The freshwater, (not game), 'lobby' consists of many millions, and it would be dangerous to alienate a group of people who are mainly 'ANTI' fox hunt/cub hunt/badger baiting/ hare coursing etc and want no truck with the recent apparent tie-up with those Huntin', (Fishin') & Shootin' snobs who are so adrift from public opinion and reality that it is frightening. How can it be 'sport' to hunt exhaust, rip and slaughter an animal? It is not - and as freshwater angling does not follow this code please do not confuse this point.

I fully support the HSA and am proud to do so and admit it totally, without fear of anyone, but I will still enjoy my days by the river - fishing rod in hand.

Yours,
A humane angler
B Davis, Norfolk.

Dear Howl,

B Davies, (previous letter), is one of the many anglers who, while abhorring hunting, somehow cannot see that impaling fish on hooks and dragging them into a suffocating, alien environment is a barbaric pastime. Why is this? Perhaps because fish do not have the attractive appearance of cuddly foxes or majestic stags. However, this does not mean that angling is not just as much an obscene bloodsport as hunting or shooting.

Scientists across the world have recognised that fish, as vertebrates with a complex nervous system and pain receptors throughout their bodies, do suffer pain, stress and fear when caught by anglers. Even the RSPCA - hardly renowned for their radical views, has stated in their policy document since the early '80's that angling causes suffering.

Anglers repeatedly say that because some fish are caught many times, they do not find the experience unpleasant. They ignore the fact that fish need to feed to survive and that anglers do their best to disguise the hook.

It doesn't matter whether the fish is thrown back after capture or killed by being smashed over the head - it does suffer. Would it be acceptable if 90% of foxes hunted got away showing no sign of injury? Just as with other hunted animals, even if released alive, an unknown number of fish die later as a result of the trauma and injury suffered during capture, particularly those which have swallowed the hook. B Davies admits that 10% of fish caught are injured by anglers - this amounts to millions of animals suffering to provide amusement.

Supposed improvements to the welfare of the fish are mentioned by B Davies, but the only improvement that will stop the suffering is to abolish angling. Anything else is 'welfarist' compromise. This would also prevent the agonising death and injury caused to thousands of swans, ducks

and other animals due to hook and line, lost by all anglers when it gets entangled in vegetation.

How can it be a sport to impale a sentient creature on a hook and exhaust it, before dragging it suffocating from the water? There are plenty of ways to relax in the countryside without tormenting our wildlife. Could I suggest that rather than abusing fish, B Davis use his time to get out sabbing, or perhaps remove traps from shooting areas, monitor hunt activities with his local League group or fundraise for the HSA.

Yours for animal liberation,

Marianne Macdonald

Pisces, National Secretary.

Dear Howl

I read with dismay the letter by A Sheppard in Howl 60. S/he begs us to proceed 'softly' opposing angling, and gathered that in competitions the fish are carefully handled and returned to the water. This is utter crap.

We should fight for the fish as we fight for the fox. It is a proven fact that fish feel pain - should we really ignore them for now just because they aren't cute furry creatures?

As for the careful handling of competition fish, if s/he would spend time watching - or hopefully sabbing anglers as we have - then s/he couldn't fail to see that fish are not handled carefully. In fact, no one really knows how many of the fish put back into the water survive. They may damage their protective mucus coating during handling, they have the stress of capture and confinement. They are held in keep nets for the duration of the competition - this may cause suffering due to the overcrowding if there's more than one fish in the net.

We really shouldn't discriminate between species. We should stop angling and save the lives of fish - and thereby other animals that are affected by angling. Don't forget the tackle victims (in March a rare white billed diver was hooked by an angler on the River Witham in Lincolnshire - the bird, a 5ft wing-span fish eater, died). Don't forget the cormorants, who are being slaughtered on behalf of the angling fraternity just because they eat fish.

Fishing is a bloodsport.

D Westwood

Midlands Animal Rights Coalition.

More hound deaths...

Just two months after the launch of the League's 'Track record' report, which details the death of over 100 hounds on the UK's road's and railways, comes the addition of another 13 hounds, killed within the space of two weeks.

The first incident occurred mid-February when hounds belonging to the Sinnington Foxhounds strayed onto the A170 and where subsequently involved in an accident with a car. Two hounds were killed.

Less than two weeks later 11 hounds belonging to the South Dorset Hunt met an untimely end when the Waterloo-Weymouth Express train ploughed into the pack. Hunt Secretary, the appropriately named major Dangerfield, seemed so shocked by the incident that he managed to produce two differing sequences of events prior to the collision. The first explanation stated that the Huntsman was not in control of the hounds as they had gone after a fox, and he experienced difficulty locating a bridge to cross the river between him and his pack (don't bother asking how the hounds crossed the river!). And the second stated that the delay in hunt staff following hounds was due to having to attend to a rider who had fallen and then been in collision with another horse.

Whatever the real explanation, the only comment from Dangerfield which made any sense was that "It's not very easy to stop 35 hounds in full cry".

Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996

This is due to come into force on the 30th April 1996, and, although the sections which would have effectively outlawed hunting with hounds have been removed, the Act represents the first British legislation to protect all wild mammals from some acts of cruelty, and should be welcomed in its provisions.

The Act makes it an offence for any person to mutilate, kick, beat, nail or otherwise impale, stab, burn, crush, drown, drag or asphyxiate any wild mammal with intent to inflict unnecessary suffering on any wild animal.

One particularly interesting section of the act in relation to hunting deals with the despatch of animals taken or injured during lawful shooting, hunting, coursing or pest control. In respect of these activities the legislation states that the quarry must be killed in a 'reasonably swift and humane manner' or the person responsible could be liable to prosecution under the Act.

The maximum fine for an Offence under the Act is £5,000 and/or imprisonment of up to 6 months.

The Bloody-Expensive Movement...

Further to Howl 60's report on the formation of The Countryside Movement (CM), early reports indicate that all is not going as planned. A letter from Lt Col JRD Kaye, (no formalities there, then - Ed), East Anglia's Regional Director of the BFSS dated 16th February, states that "Since its launch in November, only 25,000 people have joined the CM. **This is not good enough. It is our duty to join, and to make everybody that we know enlist for the CM, in order to protect our way of life in the countryside"** (original emphasis). Taking into to account the number of sabs who probably sent off for the bumpf for a laugh, and the fact that **it doesn't even cost anything to join** this is absolutely abysmal!

Kaye states in his letter that the CM plans to spend £5 on high-profile advertising and media campaigns in order to get members...right, so that's £5m a year, with only 25,000 members in the first 4 months....which works out at a grand outlay of £67 by the CM for each 'supporter' that it manages to attract! Brilliant - onwards and upwards, darlings!!!

New campaign to ban livebaiting

Livebaiting is a barbaric practice in which anglers implae LIVE fish on treble hooks through the lips, body or even eyes, to use as bait to catch predatory fish such as perch and pike. The terrified fish is then cast out into the water where it can only struggle in agony on the hooks, until it is eaten by another fish (which is then reeled in by the angler) or it dies from its injuries.

To quote Professor Verheijen of the University of Utrecht, Netherland,"...fish used as live bait are exposed to prolonged and inescapable terminal stress...this state must be assume to be indicative of severe suffering".

Livebaiting exemplifies the worst aspects of angling; Britain's most popular bloodsport, which inflicts pain, stress and fear on countless millions of sentient creatures to provide amusement.

Pisces, the anti-angling group, is launchng a campaign to ban livebaiting to coincide with this year's National Anti-Angling Week (Saturday 15th - Saturday 22nd June '96). To find out how you can support the campaign, please send a large SAE to Pisces, PO Box 90, Bristol, BS99 1ND.

Staghounds cause public outcry

The County Down Stag Hounds, based at Hillsborough, Northern Ireland, found themselves the recipients of unwanted media attention and the cause of public outcry following an incident at the end of February.

The hunt, which freely admits that it rears stags with the sole purpose of hunting them, was filmed hunting a stag into the waters of Strangford Lough, were it then began floundering on the mud flats, obviously exhausted and distressed, as hounds gathered only feet away. After its ordeal the stag was returned to the hunt kennels to allow it to 'recover' - although a request by the Belfast Telegraph to be allowed to photograph the recovering stag was refused by the hunt. When questioned by Sunday Life as to why he involved himself in stag hunting, Joint Master of the County Down Stag Hounds Des Gibson stated merely that it was 'part of farming life'. Gibson was also reported as saying that stags were hunted on a rota basis, meaning that "...one stag might only be out once every 14 months or so. There's no way it is hunted every week".

The incident attracted massive media attention as the whole episode was filmed and then later broadcast on Ulster television. Public disgust at the incident was highlighted by the biggest postbag ever received by the Sunday Life newspaper who reported it in detail, together with the later kennel blockade which put a halt to the hunts planned outing the following week, when over 40 protestors converged on the kennels, chaining the main gate and conducting a sit-down protest.

Increasing violence - there has been an increase in the number of hunt thugs acting as security at the Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray Foxhounds. On several occasions violence has been threatened including threats of 'visits' to known sabs' property. On one occasion a sab was kicked to the ground by thugs and another appeared to be deliberately run over. Despite the seriousness of these incidents the police remain uninterested, but always seem able to find the resources to completely over-police meets, with an average of 8-10 sabs attracting 3 police landrovers, at least 2 trail bikes and a communications centre!. Arrests have been frequent, although this has not deterred sabs from returning week after week.

News in Brief

Countryside vandals...?

i) An avid Kent angler is reported to have spent over £1,000 on repairs to river bank seats that he has damaged whilst following his favourite past-time.

ii) Devoted twitchers (thats bird-watchers to me and you) who travelled from far and wide to catch sight of a white-billed diver in all its glory instead only saw it strangled to death on an anglers line.

(Not) landing himself in the shit..

The Conservative MP for Basingstoke, Andrew Hunter, is currently seeking to bring back The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Bill which fell in the Lords at the last attempt. Hunter, who is the Chair of the BFSS Falconry Committee, is thought likely to remove the sections which would have forced hunts to bring pooper-scoopers to meets to enable them to clear up after their hounds.

No love lost...

There was certainly no love lost between local residents and the Purbeck and Bovington Beagles on Valentines Day when the hunt allegedly trespassed onto National Trust land for one and a half hours. One resident claimed that the hunt has a 'blatant disregard for the public' after 20 hounds and around 30 foot followers trespassed on the land.

Deadlines:

Group News - 17th August
Letters/Articles/news etc - 1st August.

Letters should ideally be limited to c200-300 words; articles to one page in length (c1000 words) unless otherwise arranged by the Editor. Please DO NOT write directly on the back of any photos sent in!

The Editor reserves the right to edit both articles and letters in respect of length and content. (Oh, the power!!!)

Hunt Master cautioned after 'phone call

David Woolley, Joint Master of the 'prestigious', (some would say 'notorious' - Ed), Cheshire Foxhounds has been cautioned after making an early morning 'phone call to the North West Regional LACS rep, Janet Smart. Mrs Smart stated in press reports that Woolley, of Lane End Farm, Brereton Park, Huxley, Cheshire rang her at around 2 am and said "I am going to fucking kill you, you bitch". The call was said to have left her frightened and distressed as she was alone in the house with her two small children at the time.

Woolley, who admitted making the call but denied allegations that it was in any way threatening, stated that it came out of frustration caused by anti-hunt protestors who he believed to be responsible for damaging hunt supporters property after a meet in Tarporley, Cheshire. He was caught after Mrs Smart reported the incident to the police, stating at the time that she had her suspicions as to who the person responsible was. On checking Woolley's mobile phone bill, police found the call to Mrs Smart's number clearly marked and questioned him on the matter.

Following the caution the League Against Cruel Sports called for Woolleys immediate resignation.

Cornish sabs attacked...and then arrested!

During a meet of the Western Hunt were the Cornwall sabs in attendance, one supporter allegedly grabbed one sab and began pushing him around. Despite the complete absence of any aggressive moves on behalf of the sabs, 3 protesters were arrested - but later released without charge. One sab, who the police seemed intent on arresting, had to seek sanctuary in the home of some local sympathisers and, thanks to their kindness, successfully evaded the long arm of the law.

At a meet of the same hunt 3 days later, a sab was knocked to the ground after allegedly being hit on the head by a rider, who used the bone handle of his whip for the attack. Despite the sab concerned collapsing and sustaining a severe laceration to the top of his head, the police chose not to target their efforts on his attacker, but instead arrested another sab for an alleged breach of the peace, and only agreed to take the injured sab to hospital after other sabs present pleaded with them. Reports form the group indicate that it is only after the persistence of the injured sabs' colleagues that has eventually led to the police taking statements, and at last appearing to take the matter seriously.

Legal Incident forms

The HSA needs to maintain up-to-date information on sab arrests. Your group contact should have a copy of the legal incident form - if you are arrested please complete and return this as soon as possible. If you require forms, please contact the office and we'll send some your way as soon as possible. The main details required are date of arrest; hunt concerned; sab group involved; Cops involved; charges (if any); court dates (if any); bail conditions (if any); solicitor concerned and basically anything else you think is necessary!

Sussex police pay out...again

Sussex police have agreed to pay a West Sussex hunt sab £200 as an out-of-court settlement, following an incident at the Crawley and Horsham Foxhounds during cubbing in October. Simon Wild, of West Sussex Wildlife Protection, was held for around an hour following his arrest at the meet, and was later released without charge.

Wild stated "This is the fourth out-of-court settlement made to me by Sussex Police since 1992. Previously they have paid me a total of £1,100 in settlement plus full legal costs. Given that the police like the courts to fine the public who act unlawfully, it seems appropriate that I should fine the police when they act unlawfully".

Sussex police were keeping decidedly quite on the matter, stating only "We have no comment to offer".

Not Guilty!

A North-West anit-hunt protestor, convicted of using threatening behaviour after a visit to the home of Peter Jones, Huntsman of the Royal Rock Beagles, has had her conviction quashed on appeal at Chester Crown Court in March.

It had originally been alleged that the protestor, during the visit to the Jones' house in Lime Park, Tarporley, Cheshire, had subjected Mrs Jones to 20 minutes of abuse, and that other protestors present had beaten on doors and windows, and flooded part of the house after pushing a hosepipe through the letterbox. Three other protestors were found not guilty at the time of the original trial.

On appeal, Judge Stephen Clark said that there was no case to answer, and set aside the conviction and the accompanying 150 hours community service. The protestor concerned is currently considering a legal action against the Cheshire Constabulary (not another one! - Ed).

The Victor Meldrew spot (i.e. 'I don't belieevvee it!'):-
'...although fox hunting is one of the least effective ways of killing foxes compared with other methods, hunts certainly do have their success.' Gamekeeper Mark Howard writing in the Countryman's Weekly - 5/4/96.

11 sabs arrested at Cheshire Forest - no charges!

A late season venture into Cheshire for one group of sabotuers seemed more like a venture back in time, when the all too familiar 'round 'em up and lock 'em up' tactics were resurrected from previous seasons. All six sab vans present were detained in a police blockade, despite the fact that all sabs (apart from the drivers and map-readers) had disembarked into fields in pursuit of the hunt, as vans travelled down the A49 near Northwich towards the meet of the Cheshire Forest. The police managed to hold the vans for only 25 minutes until all 6 vehicles escaped and went in search of the hunt. With the help of an enormously expensive spotter plane which circled overhead for several hours, the police later called in reinforcements to track down the vans. Once this had been achieved all drivers and navigators were arrested (to 'prevent a breach of the peace') and each vehicle impounded, leaving around 50 sabs stranded in the middle of one of the country's most notorious blackspots for hunt violence. The 11 arrested were then held at Northwich police station for over 3 hours until the hunt finished, and then released without charge - effectively an admission that they had committed no offence, but were being held to prevent any opposition to the hugely influential Cheshire hunting community. The police later claimed that they had not infact been arrested, merely detained - a legal nonsense.

This is far from the first time that Cheshire police have used mass arrests to unlawfully detain sabs without any charges being brought. Last season 126 sabs were arrested in Cheshire, with many in batches of up to 30 at a time - of these 126 only 2 were ever charged with an offence! Until Cheshire police can provide a convincing alternative, one can only assume they are in the habit of arresting large numbers of people who quite manifestly have committed no more criminal act than being opposed to hunting. This is a habit that they will soon have to change, once the many civil cases against there inexplicable policing practises come to fruition pay dividends to the sabs concerned.

More sab arrests....

At the Fitzwilliam Hunt 11 sabs were blocked in by hunt supporters and were astonished when the police arrived to be told 'there's nothing we can do'. In fact, such behaviour, encompasses about half a dozen public order and road traffic offenses. A Sgt Eaton from Corby police then announced he had been told that sabs had been trespassing so that he could 'probably arrest you all under Section 69 of the Criminal Justice Act'. When it was pointed out to him that he was just making this up, he replied 'Right, that's it. I'm arresting you all to to prevent a breach of the peace', presumably conceding the point that he had in fact been making it up. It is difficult to see how such arrests can be justified when the 11 sabs in question were sat in a van on a public road. All 11 were held until the hunt had finished and then released without charge. This amounts to an unofficial (and unlawful) 'internment' policy. It is a tactic we have seen before elsewhere in the country, most notably Cheshire (see above), where 11 arrests were made under similar circumstances the weekend before. Similar unlawful arrests in the late 1980's cost various police forces over £1/4 million in damages after sabs sued. Unfortunately for the taxpayers of Kettering, their local police haven't got enough sense to be biased properly - six sabs already in the field on foot continued to sab the hunt successfully, ensuring no kills were to be had.

Meanwhile, at the Essex Hunt taxpayers' money was being thrown about with wild abandon as 50 officers and the force helicopter were called in to deal with about 40 sabs. Again the police were not quite so interested in dealing with offences committed by hunt members as with harassing sabs - the officers, from Braintree, took no action against a hunt rider who deliberately rode his horse over a woman protester while busying themselves with illegal searches of sab vehicles and confiscation of equipment. One van alone was searched four times, an obvious abuse of power as a delaying of tactic. Staves and baseball bats were found in the hunt stewards' vehicle and these were confiscated, but despite the obviously violent intention of anyone carrying such items, none of the stewards were so much as cautioned. In contrast, the highlight of the day for the inaptly named Braintree Police came when sabs entered a field some distance away from the hunt. Despite the fact that they were doing nothing more criminal than walking across a field, a task force of police Land Rovers skidded across the field from all sides and officers leapt on anyone they could grab, making 10 arrests for 'aggravated trespass'.

Thanks to:- Feature writers - Simon, Steve, Al & Anita, Kate, & Paul T. Also to Paul D, Paul G, Paul T & Paul S (yes, I am a fully paid up member of the Paul Fan Club), for all their help with everything else!!!!! XXXXXXXXXXXX

Suing the Police

(Its a dirty job, but someone's got to do it!)



Not so funny at the time maybe, but he who laughs last...(laughs all the way to the bank?)

Our close working relationship with the police, (not), often means that you may be involved in incidents or arrests which you feel aggrieved about. The key thing to remember here is that nothing is ever likely to change unless you attempt to do something about it. You can go out sabbing week after week and constantly be confronted by police tactics that you feel to be unwarrented, unnecessary and down right out of order - but unless you get your arse in gear and take some action on these issues then you've really only got yourself to blame. So, here's a basic guide to taking action and all the details you need to do so.

Suing the Police Most people want to sue the police because they have been wrongly arrested, assualted by the police or prosecuted for something they didn't do. Here are some things you should know about these types of action:-

Wrongful arrest - Unlawful arrest and detention is called false imprisonment. The police must justify any arrest and detention, so if you think they have acted outside their powers it is worthwhile getting further advice. False imprisonment can happen on the street, in your home, in a police vehicle and, of course, at a police station - in fact any place where the police control your freedom.

Assualt - This is much wider than people think. You are assualted as soon as someone touches you without lawful reason to do so, and when they put you in fear of violence. Of course, it includes being punched and kicked and being subjected to illegal body searches. If you are assaulted by the police it is important to see a doctor straight away and for your injuries to be noted. You should also take photos of any injuries, if possible.

Prosecuted for something you didn't do - This is called malicious prosecution. You have to prove that the police had no reasonable cause to prosecute you and that they had a 'wrongful motive' in doing so. You also have to win your case, which means either (a) any charges were dropped before the case went to court, or (b) you were acquitted in court.

Other complaints - You can also sue the police for negligence, trespass to land and goods, and a few other civil wrongs.

Suing the police takes place in the normal civil courts such as the County Courts or High Courts. You are suing the police for compensations for the wrongs done to you. It may, though, take two or three years for the matter to get to court...but the possibility of a grand or two at the end of it is always a good incentive to pursue the case to its conclusion. From the date of the incident you wish to take action on, you have up to 6 years to start the case - what have you really got to loose? If you are granted legal aid you legal representatives' bills will be paid for by the Legal Aid board, although it may be requested that you contribute to these costs from you compensation if you win. Another key thing to remember here is that a high percentage of civil cases **never** even get to court - the defence often conceeds defeat and makes an offer to settle the matter on monetary terms out of court.



The car in front was partly financed by the Constabulary behind

What to do - As soon as possible after the incident write a full statement of what happened. It is essential not to put this off as important details are easily forgotten. Include, if possible, the names and numbers of any police officers involved. Send this, with a covering letter giving a brief outline of the situa-

tion and a note saying that you are wanting to begin a civil action, to a solicitors - someone in you sab group should have the details of a sound solicitor, if not ask around (you're not telling me that a sab group exists that has never needed a solicitor?! - if so, I'd like to go out with them next season please!!!). Also include your custody record (if applicable) - write to the relevant police station and request a copy.
If the solicior agrees that you may have a case and that s/he can take you on, you will receive a set of legal aid application forms. It is important to fill these in and to return them as soon as possible so that work can begin on you case (presuming you are granted legal aid in one form or another), or that you have personal funds with which to finance the case. It is advised that all individuals taking action in relation to the same incident should use the same solicitor and keep in touch on progress in the case.

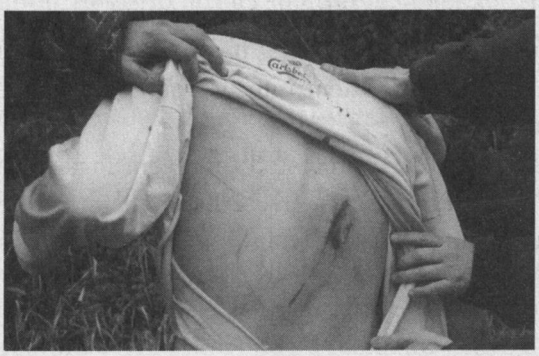
So, there you go - no excuse now for not pestering your local (or any other) constabulary for those essential monies as constantly required for you sab van; CB needs; mobile 'phone bills (and we all know how simply dreadful those can be...) etc... and at a substantially better odds than the National Sodding Lottery! Go forth and sue!!!
(Information taken from 'Suing the Police', produced by Haringey's Solidarity Groups & Hackney Law Centre, contact HSG at PO Box 2401, London, N8).



Thugs, wreckers, bullies...and riot cops!







A sab requires hospital treatment after being beaten senseless by hunt thugs armed with baseball bats and pickaxe handles (see photo) during a meet of the Crawley and Horsham Foxhounds on the 9th March. Sabs attended the meet at Titch Hill Farm, near Worthing with the sole intent of intervening in the days 'sport' in order to save defenceless animals lives when the sab was attacked towards the end of the day.

One sab vehicle was surrounded by up to a dozen hunt heavies, who proceeded to smash every window, injuring several passengers with flying glass, and then pushed the van into a ditch. It is not yet clear whether the van is a write-off but early reports indicate extensive damage. The driver of the vehicle was then dragged out and savagely beaten with a baseball bat. One of the main instigators of the attack is believed to be a notorious hunt thug involved in several previous attacks on sabs, with a criminal record for assaulting police officers. Police have yet to take any action action against the perpetrators of the attack.

This latest attack is just the latest in a series of violent incidents at this notoriously violent hunt (see Extremist Profile, Howl 60, for more details). The HSA's Press Office said from the scene "This was a vicious attack on an unarmed protester without any provocation. Sadly he is only the latest in a long series of sabs to have been hospitalised by this hunts notoriously thuggish supporters. The fact that the hunt have never condemned any of these attacks, or taken any action against the perpetrators is very worrying."

Sabotage in the woods -

Direct action against sport hunting in the USA.

An account of the rise of sabotage in the USA by Mike Markarian, Director of Campaigns for the Fund for Animals Inc.



Fund activists confronting a bear hunter in Pennsylvania (Photo: Robert J Salgado, 1990)

I was 16 years old in 1990, when I attended my first hunt disruption in a rural part of New York. Teams of activists, organized by The Fund for Animals, followed hunters through the woods, talking to them about the cruelty of sport hunting, and making enough motion to ward off any potential game. One hunter fired three shots over our heads and then lowered his gun and mumbled, "The next one's for you!". As readers of Howl have certainly learned, violence against anti-hunting activists has run rampant throughout the United Kingdom. By contrast, the afore-mentioned scene has been rare for those of us living in the United States.

The 'tradition' of pigeon shooting

The vast majority of attacks on American animal advocates have occurred, not in the woods, but at gun clubs and organized shooting events. One of The Fund for Animals' major campaigns, for example, is an effort to end live pigeon shooting contests in Pennsylvania, one of only five states to still hold such events. The states of Arizona, North Carolina, Texas and Utah hold one or two pigeon shoots a year, but Pennsylvania shooters hold them nearly every weekend. Incidentely, pigeon shooters have often defended their so-called sport by calling it a tradition that dates back to Eighteenth century England - they have never mentioned, however, that the UK outlawed live pigeon shoots in 1921.

Family Fun

The largest and most infamous of Pennsylvania's pigeon shoots has been held every Labour Day since 1934 in a small village called Hegins. The Hegins pigeon shoot is the world's largest live bird shooting contest, where every year 250 shooters have paid an entry fee to kill and cripple over 5,000 birds in a single day.

In recent years The Fund have documented that 75% of the birds shot have not been killed immediately, but rather wounded. The organizers of the Hegins shoot have traditionally left birds on the shooting fields writhing in pain for hours, eventually sending young children to collect them



Hegins Pigeon shoot. Labour day 1994 (Mike Dirks)

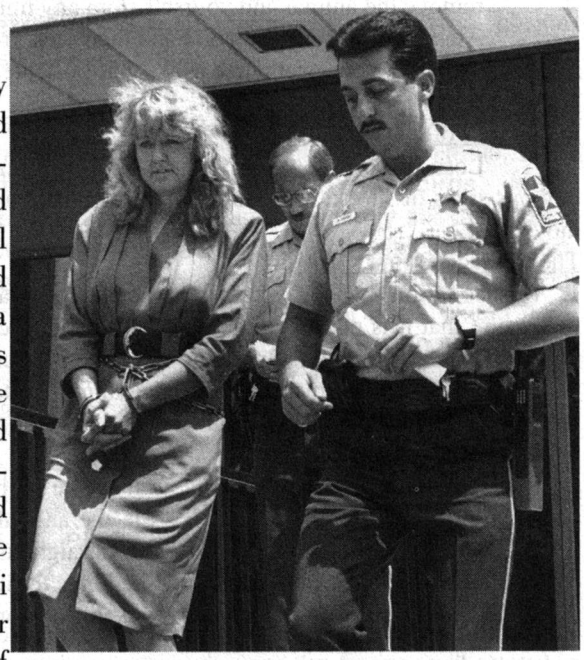
Thousands of spectators come to watch contestants blast away at captive birds, while drinking beer and eating hamburgers in a macabre picnic atmosphere. The youngsters have served as the entertainment for spectators, throwing wounded birds in the air, stomping on them, belly flopping on them, ripping off their heads, or simply throwing them into barrels to suffocate on top of each other.

Animal protection activists have protested the event for over a decade. In both 1991 and 1992, nearly 100 protestors were arrested after running onto shooting fields and freeing birds form traps. Several dozen activists spent weeks in jail.

Terror in the Woods

The Fund has organized hunt disruptions across the United States for over a decade. While verbal threats have been common, there have only been a handful of incidents where hunters have physically attacked protestors. A bear hunter in Pennsylvania fired a shot over an activist's head and then shoved her to the ground. Coyote hunters in Pennsylvania claimed to have set a bear trap to catch protestors in the woods, and a pheasant hunter in Massachusetts pulled my hat down over my face and then used the butt of his shotgun to hit me in the shoulder and knock me to the ground. Hunters have repeatedly claimed that animal rights activists are 'fanatics' and 'terrorists'. But it remains quite clear that the people who terrorize animals in the name of fun will sometimes terrorize people as well.

Who's harassing who?



Heidi Prescott, National Director of the Fund for Animals, after her court appearance in the 1989 Maryland 'hunter harassment' case (Photo: Jennifer Pangraze)

Imagine sport hunters armed to the hilt with high-tech weaponry claiming they need protection from anti-hunting activists armed only with their mouths. State and federal politicians have apparently taken this comic vision quite seriously. Since the Fund began organizing direct action protests against sport hunting, all 50 states and the federal government have enacted so-called 'hunter harassment' laws, making it illegal to 'interfere' with a lawful hunt on state or federal public land. Because these laws are written to be vague and overbroad, hikers walking through the public woods and inadvertently rustling leaves could be arrested for 'interfering' with a hunt if their noise scares away game animals. While government officials in the early days of the United States used to chase cattle rustlers, one could argue that they are now targetting leaf rustlers! The Fund's National President, Heidi Prescott, in fact became the first American to serve time in jail for violating a 'hunter harassment' law when she was accused of rustling leaves in a Maryland state park in 1989. The media has traditionally fallen head over heels for free speech issues, and we have used arrests such as Prescott's to spread the message that sport hunting is nothing more than legalized animal abuse. Courts in several states have found anti-hunting activists innocent and overturned these laws because they infringe on the rights of free speech and assembly. But other states continue to declare war on peaceful anti-hunting activists who dare speak their minds on public land.

This land is our land!

Thwarting efforts to arrest activists, The Fund has now launched a new approach to protesting at hunts - having a little fun and recreation on the public lands we pay for with our tax dollars. Coincidentally, these recreational outings have, for some odd reason, always occurred at the exact same times and locations as hunts were taking place. For example, the McKee Beshers Wildlife Management Area in Maryland plants and maintains two sunflower fields to attract mourning doves for sport hunters. The hunters sit around the edges of the fields, waiting for the doves to descend upon the sunflowers so that they may then blast the birds of peace into pieces at almost point-blank range. On the opening day of Maryland's dove season, The Fund sponsored a kite-flying contest at McKee Beshers. Over sixty activists attended, arriving before the hunters, and covered both sunflower fields by running and flying kites. Needless to say not a single hunter killed a dove that day.

Similarly, on Thanksgiving morning last year - which, coincidentally, was the opening day of Maryland's duck season - The Fund organized a 'clean up the trash' party at McKee Beshers. Activists walked through the woods, filling garbage bags with beer cans and other litter left by hunters. Our motion and human scent, combined with the fact that most of the trash we picked up was very close to the hunters - spared the lives of many woodland creatures. As The Fund's President, Cleveland Amory, quipped, 'Some day we'll get the Continued on page 18..

Basic Animal First Aid

So you've done your stuff as a sab and called the pack off a fox, but it's injured and needs help NOW.. what do you do?

This is a basic guide for sabs in the field who may come across a situation where an animal may be injured either due to the hunt, other individual or indeed nature being cruel.

The main things to remember here are:-

keep calm - your stress will communicate to the animal
prevent further suffering or shock
only move/handle or confime the animal if essential
remove the animal and yourself from any immediate danger
Attempt emergency first aid and then seek professional help, i.e. vet or vet nurse as soon as possible.



Indications of major injury:-

Loss of consciousness; difficulty breathing; major bleeding; obvious signs of shock; fractures; inability to stand and obvious pain on movement.

The Immediate first sid steps

1. Resuscitation - check whether or not the animal is breathing and make sure that it is possible for it to breathe and to continue to do so. Check that the nostrils are cleared and that there are no obstructions in the mouth. Breathing might be obstructed by the presence of a foreign body such as a piece of food or bone. An unconcious animal will need help to maintain or restart its breathing, once you have cleared any obstructions from the airways draw its tongue forward and align its head for a clear air passage - **but act fast as life is at risk.**

2. Resuscitation techniques - this is usally done by pressing in the chest at regular intervals - perhaps 10 or 20 times a minute depending on how big the animal is. Lie the animal on its right side and kneel beside it, spread your hands over its ribs just behind the shoulder blade. Keep your arms straight as you rock some of your weight forwards to apply firm pressure over the rib cage, then promptly rock back to allow the lungs to fill with air - rock forwards again at intervals perhaps 5 or 6 seconds after the release in the case of a dog or similar sized animal, for smaller animals use only one hand to press and release.

3. Mouth-to-mouth resuscitation - cup your hand to channel your breath and blow direct into the animals mouth, use only enough to expand the chest to its normal size. Repeat this whole action until you have a pulse.

Wounds and Bleeding

There are two forms of bleeding:

i) internal bleeding means there could be damage to various organs such as the liver or spleen, or the rupture of a large blood vessel.

ii) external wounds are visible ones caused by contact with things such as knives, teeth or glass and are easier to deal with.

To stop the bleeding - apply pressure, in the case of a large vessel pressure should be applied using a bandage or similar item. a tourniquet should only be applied if other methods of arresting the bleeding fail, and in any event they should never be left on for more than 20 minutes or the limb will be permanently damaged.

Shotgun wounds

These can look deceptively minor on the outside but shot gun pellets spread when fired. If the gun is fired from a distance the pellets should be near the surface - attempt only to stop the bleeding and then seek a vet to remove the pellets.



Shock

Any distressed animal is likely to be in a state of shock, often the effects of shock are made worse by contact with humans. To minimise this try and comfort the animal, and don't crowd around while the first aider is trying to help. The most important first aid is to keep the animal in a warm, dark, quiet and comfortable environment. Most of this will be done by a vet once you have managed to get it there. To also minimise the shock, Arnica or Rescue Remedy can be used. Arnica is in tablet form (one tablet only), and Rescue Remedy is available in a bottle dropper - both should be available at your local health shop.

The Hidden victims of shooting

Q. Who kills the most wildlife in your area?
A. The Gamekeeper.



There are thousands of Gamekeepers and many under-keepers in Britain whose task it is to preserve game long enough for them to be shot for fun. Gamekeepers will destroy any creature that is likely to pose the remotest threat to their gamebirds. They will often display the creatures that they have shot, trapped, poisoned or hunted on a 'gibbet' line. The dead carcasses, seen as trophies, are thought to warn off other predators with similar ideas. The gamekeepers regular victims include foxes, stoats, weasels, squirrels and even cats.

Gamekeepers are thought to b partly responsible for virtually wiping out some species of predatory birds and animals, all of which have been regarded as a threat to gamebirds. Many species which are now protected by law inevitably still fall victims to the gamekeeper, including badgers, otters, wildcats and raptors. The revenue from shoots can be such that owners of shoot estates ensure that the maximum number of birds exists ti be shot. Despite what the cosy 'all fieldsports together' picture that the BFSS like to portray, there is often a conflict of interest between hunting and shooting interests - the hunt wish to ensure an adequate supply of foxes, hares or mink to hunt, and ideally the shooters want none of these in their area as all represent a threat to their game.

Pheasants and Partridges are almost always hand reared from incubated eggs and kept in pens until they mature. They are then released into keepered woods and encouraged to stay put by continued feeding. When the shooting begins, the birds are either driven over the guns by beaters, or, in the case of walk-up shooting, are walked up by guns with dogs.

As these important birds are released into the woods the most severe fox control methods are put into practice (usually in August). One favoured method employed by gamekeepers is 'lamping', were the keeper will go out in his vehicle and , with the aid of a powerful lamp mounted on his vehicle, will shine the bright lights into the darkness until a target is sighted. A shooter will then open fire on the transfixed animal. The amount of foxes a gamekeeper can destroy in this and other ways is often way in excess of the number that a hunt in the same area may achieve.



Grouse shooting estates, were the big money is made, are sometimes so rigorously keepered that they become areas devoid of all other wildlife. Many species suffer due to the artificial management of these areas, were the most rigorous destruction of natural predators is practiced. Grouse are not hand-reared, so the maintenance of a 'predator-free' environment becomes even more important if a good number of birds are to survive long enough to produce a profitable shoot. The average number of foxes killed on a single grouse moor estate each year in England is reported to be 13, and almost double that in Scotland with 23.

Sabs can take action against this destruction in a number of ways. there is no better way of ensuring that birds and animals are not caught in traps or snares than removing or destroying them. It is always worth checking for these near gates, around fences, near pheasant pens and so on. If you take a stroll through any wood be inquisitive and search for these deadly killers. At the beginning and end of shooting seasons in particular, gamekeepers and their associates can often be seen 'vermin' shooting. If you have enough people then normal shooting tactics apply - stroll with the guns and persuade them not to shoot. Sabbing the shoot itself is a good way of hitting the shoot estate were it really hurts - in the pocket, as well as achieving our aim of saving lives.. which with shooting can sometimes amount to hundreds.

Welsh week (aka 'Jibbers week')

This season saw the addition of a new week of action, this time targeting the oft forgotten Welsh hunts. And so follows our first report from the green, green grass of....sheepland...

Welsh week on the whole was a success for a new week of action - it provided an acceptable level of entertainment for visiting sabs, and halted all killing at the hunts visited. Due to the great level of professionalism and communication between all groups involved the week ran smoothly, and I am sure that the friendships made throughout the event will last forever, and wouldn't be surprised if there aren't wedding bells before long.

The first day was spent with the **Vale of Glamorgan,** a hunt not visited much and who only meet midweek. The day started with promise for the first ten minutes, until the appearance of the two police units complete with dogs who have yet to learn the new caution (the police, not the dogs). More police were mobilised throughout the day, until there were three riot vans, two mounted and two motorcycle officers and countless cars. With this the biggest policing operation for saboteurs that Wales has ever seen, they began to stop and search every van and sab within arms each (allegedly assaulting one saboteur in bus stop for refusing to be searched). Van tyres were slashed and then property confiscated, including everything from C.B.'s to whips and basically anything that was larger than a toothpick. The police continued to threaten sabs with arrest throughout the day, blocking roads, preventing vehicles from going into certain areas and generally running around with truncheons drawn having a bit of a laugh seeing who could break the most laws - sabs or themselves (allegedly). The day finished with six arrests, ranging from our old friend Section Five of the Public Order Act 1986, our new acquaintance Section 68 of the CJA, and finally the you're-no-friend-of-mine charge of assaulting a police officer (apparently it is an offence to hit a police officer on the sole of his shoe with your face!). The sab charged with the latter offence was subsequently remanded to Cardiff nick until Friday, unable to use the numerous supplies he had brought with him in his bag which we later found (you bad old boy). Never the less no kills were made as the hunt continually ran away all day.

Day two was much easier with a visit to the Llangibby Fox Hunt. Within two hours the hunt had packed up and gone back to the kennels sad and dejected. Fun was still had, and may you have a long and happy life Elvis.

Day three was spent looking for the Vale of Clewtter Foxhunt, who allegedly had turned into a gun pack, thus causing a very unpleasant smell in the vans. When the windows had been open for a while we set off to find them which proved to be very difficult as they had disappeared into a large covert. It was unfortunate that after a few hours scouting, no sign of them could be found and upon returning to the meet they were seen packing up. However, the day was by no means a complete wash-out as some fun was still had during the day.

Day four was a might confused to start with due to a group of the northern variety who shall remain nameless **jibbing it big time** (allegedly! - Ed {of the Northern variety}), but things soon sorted themselves out for a top bit of sabbing. The **Pembrokeshire Foxhounds** tried valiantly at first with a few "GET ORF MY LAND"s but things soon became too much for them when a great game of tug of war with their hounds ensued, causing them to run and call for the police. The police again arrived and were apparently very annoyed with us - even going to the trouble of reading the new laws regarding trespass (although not quite grasping the basics). The first group of sabs were stopped and names were taken with the purpose of reporting us for summons for Section 68. This, however, gave the remaining sabs the opportunity to take over and still keep with the hunt while the police sat and watched the already cautioned sabs. The hunt carried on for a further half hour then packed up with no kills.

Day five was a dry day for hunting but sabs still found plenty of things to do during the day. The Pentrych Hunt Ball in the evening proved very entertaining, with some of the ball go-ers inviting sabs in for a dance in the foyer. This frivolity came to an abrupt end when the police, who obviously thought it looked quite fun, called for their friends to come and join in. Two arrests were made for alleged public order offences. The two were later released without charge.

Day six saw a visit to the **Tivyside Fox hunt** with a police helicopter a;ready waiting for us. Sabs straight away set off after the hunt and after a few minutes of text book sabbing (but of course, our illustrious Sab Skills Officer was there wasn't he - allegedly? - Ed) the hunt packed up.

Continued on page 27...

Dave Callender

Most people in the animal rights movement will be aware of the recent jailing of Dave Callender. On March 6th at Birmingham Crown Court he was sentenced to an outrageous 10 years imprisonment for conspiracy to commit arson...

National Demo at the Royal Courts of Justice, The Strand, London to be held on Wednesday 31st July at 11am. Contact DCJC, PO Box 38, M60 1NX.

In some very effective years of hunt sabotage, dating back as far as the late 1970's, Dave played a large part in the direct action/anti-hunting movement. During the early '80's he concentrated his efforts on the Cheshire Foxhounds and their poorer sister the Cheshire Forest Foxhounds, together with the Royal Rock and Cheshire Beagles packs. This intense focus on these hunts lead to many of them going underground, e.g. not advertising meets or giving meets out over the 'phone, therefore loosing support and most importantly diminishing their effectiveness as killing machines.

He and many others were also involved in the Holcombe Hunt Action Group, often going out 2 or 3 times a week and driving them from a once 'prestigious' pack into virtual obscurity. This is something from which they have never recovered and, with the continued efforts of northwest sabs, this situation looks highly unlikely to change. There are many days that stand out and I'm sure that Dave has his own memories.

Probably one of the biggest and most difficult campaigns he undertook was the annual blood-bath of the Waterloo Cup, (the Grand National of the Coursing World). After 8 years of demonstrations and attempts at sabotage, the 1983 action was certainly the most successful. For five hours hunt sabs prevented organised coursing from taking place by beating back any hares that the real beaters tried to funnel towards the coursing arena. The success of that day owes more than a little to Dave and his planning.

Because of the effectiveness of these actions and others like it, Dave not only became a target of hunt thugs but the police/'establishment' as well. This is not the first time that he has served a prison sentence - he was arrested and subsequently imprisoned after the Northern Animal Liberation League inspection of the notorious ICI torture labs at Alderely Edge, Cheshire.

Dave divided his time between animal rights and animal welfare, seeing one as being just as important as the other. Freshfield Animal Rescue will find it hard to replace him.

If I can pinch a line from the Dave Callender Justice Campaign leaflet - **Dave has always fought of the animals - now we must fight for him.**

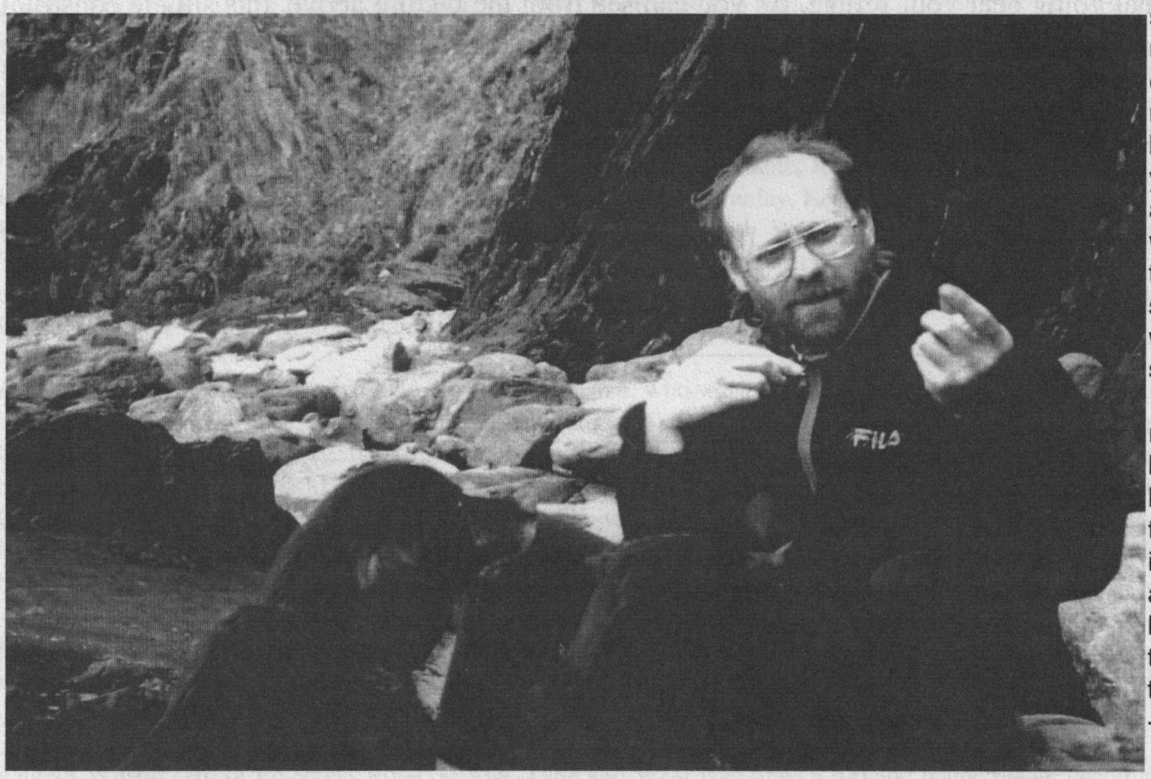
-Al.

I became involved in hunt sabotage in 1988. It was a busy and useful time around then, but even so I felt I'd not only missed out on some very effective sabotage in the early 80's, but also on some important people in Al's life. Dave was one of them.

It was almost 2 years later that I met Dave, found him to be the caring and very likeable guy Al had spoke of. I couldn't list a catalogue of events as maybe Al could, but in those five years I never knew a time that Dave wasn't involved in the labour intensive field of animal welfare or hunt sabotage.

Some very real changes have been made by hunt sabotage and the AR movement in general - Dave along with countless others spend there lives bringing these about.

- Anita.



Words of recognition can be so easily erased, but the deed is there forever.

How To Make Your Own Wildlife Refuge



With the end of the hunting season upon us once again, you may find yourself at a bit of a loose end - but don't despair! Here is something to keep you <u>all</u> busy over the coming months.

How many times have you watched an animal running for its life, closely followed by the hunt, with you urging it on to find somewhere to hide?

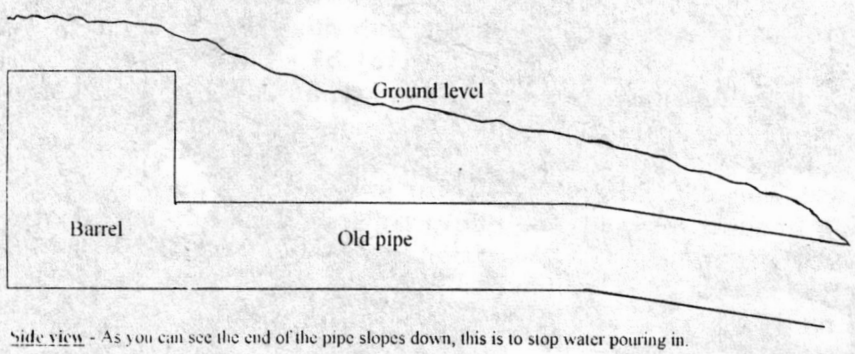
A couple of years ago some friends and I decided that with a few more places to lie low, the hunted animal might stand more of a chance.We asked the permission of various people in Cheshire who were sympathetic to our views if we could build wildlife refuges on their land. After a good response we set about building them all over the county.

The materials you need to build them are very easy to acquire. If you go on down to your local construction site and ask if they have any off cuts of pipe they do not need, (it needs to be about 25 - 30 cm in diameter and can be either plastic or the old clay type - the best option if you can get it is flexible pipe) You will also need a place for the animal to rest, this can be made out of half a plastic drum about 1m high and 60 cm wide (if it has had chemicals in it make sure it has been cleaned properly). The drum is then cut in half, not forgetting to cut a small entrance hole in it to allow the animal easy access.

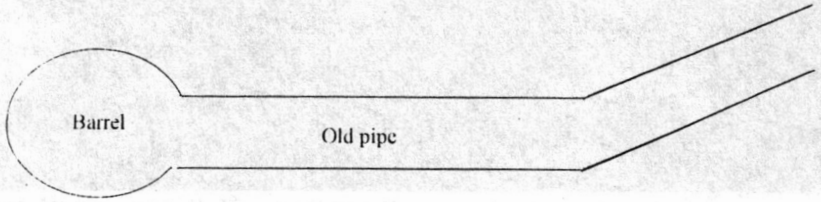
You first have to find a suitable place to locate your refuge. The best place is either in a quite corner of a field near a hedge if possible, or in some small wood, (but this place might cause some difficulty when you dig down amongst the roots of the trees), or in the area where you know a fox regularly travels.

Now comes the hard work. You have to dig down deep enough and wide enough so you can put the half of the drum in and still have about 50 cm left to fill in with soil and stones, etc. This is to stop people digging it. Next comes the entrance pipe, this needs to be set at a dog-leg angle so people can't see if it is occupied. The pipe also needs to be raised slightly at the entrance to stop the rain flooding the refuge. Once you have finished digging check it all fits correctly.

Make sure the entrance looks as natural as possible. Then when the hunt is in your area next keep an eye out for the hunted animal going near your refuge. As you can see from the picture above, this simple construction can save lives, and what a great feeling it is when the hunt is left without a kill on the day thanks to your refuge.



<u>Side view</u> - As you can see the end of the pipe slopes down, this is to stop water pouring in.



<u>Plan view</u> - There is a dog-leg in the pipe to prevent people looking inside to see if it is occupied.

Martin Bradley (29) of 88 Charford Road, Charford, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire and **Darren Hattersley** (27) of 95 Hurlfield Road, Gleadlass, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, were both given 6 months, made to pay costs of £500 to the RSPCA and banned from keeping dogs for 5 years by Redditch Magistrates on 9 February 1996. They admitted cruelty to a badger, attempting to take a badger and charges of putting their terriers at risk. Both were caught in February 1995 whilst digging a badger sett near Bromsgrove. After they realized they were being watched by the police, they ran off leaving their terriers at the sett. The police arrested both of them nearby. A dead badger cub was found at the sett along with their 5 terriers, some of which had facial injuries. (Martin Bradley also has a previous conviction for attempting to take a badger dating back to February 1987, when he was found guilty of digging for badgers in a wood at Dodford. After an appeal at Worcester Crown Court he was fined £200).

Robert Williams (48) of Rickstead Farm, Uppingham Road, East Norton, Leicestershire was convicted of destroying a badger sett and damaging another on 30 January 1996 by Lutterworth Magistrates. The farmer was fined £700 and ordered to pay £260 costs. Williams had employed Peter Waddington (42) of Melbourne Close, Kibworth Beauchamp (who was cleared of all charges) to clear shrubs and trees on his land in April 1995. After finding the body of a 10 week old badger in one of the setts Mr Waddington was said to have become very concerned, stating that he had no idea that the land had a badger sett on it, and would not have cleared it if he did.

Damien Hughes (28) of 39 Ballytrodden Road, Benburb, County Armagh, Northern Ireland was found guilty by Cookstown Magistrates of disturbing a badger sett under the 1985 Northern Ireland Wildlife Order, and was fined £150 at a special sitting of the court in February 1996.
The badger sett had been undisturbed for 20 years until Hughes came along with his terriers, he claimed he did not know it was a badger sett and he was only after foxes, (there goes that old excuse again).

Peter Gurr (53) of Chafford Walk, Rainham, Essex, was sentenced to four months on September 30 1995. Gurr was convicted of selling peregrine falcons that were stolen from the wild as eggs. The conviction was proven after using DNA testing.

When 40 police and RSPCA officers stormed the shed a Belvedere in April 1995, they found 15 men and a 16 year old youth watching two birds fighting. Four other birds lay dead on the ground. All the men tried to escape, but were tracked down by police dogs and a police helicopter
The court heard how **Lee** and **Giles** had organised the 'cockfighting convention'.
John Lee (48) of Jenningtree Way, Belvedere, Kent was jailed for 3 months and ordered to pay costs of £600. Lee was convicted of six offenses of cruelty, causing suffering to hens, procuring the birds to fight and using his shed as a venue for cockfighting.
Mark Giles (31) of Marringdean Road, South Billingshurst, was sentenced to 1 month in jail and ordered to pay costs of £600. Giles was convicted of procuring cocks to fight and attending the fight. Both were sentenced by Thames Magistrates Court on 15 March 1996.
Belcher Anderson (22) also of Jenningtree Way, Belvedere was found guilty of attending the fight (£300 fine) and possession of fighting spurs (£100 fine) and £200 costs.
Joseph Anderson (16) of Birchwood Road, Swanley, Kent, was also found guilty of attending and received a 2 year conditional discharge and £30 costs.
The following were all found guilty of attending the fight: **Geoffrey Jones** (31) of Adversane Caravan Park, Billingshurst; **Raymond Clayden** (32) of Avenue Road, Erith, Kent; **Belcher Barnard** (42) of Chapman Road, Belvedere; **Terrence Ball** (35) of Eynsford Road, Crocken Hill, Kent; **William Field** (48) of Half Moon Lane, Tudeley, Kent; **Seamen Anderson** (46) of North Road, Belvedere; **John Clarke** (35) of Dally Park, Lower Road, Hextable, Kent; **John Fuller** (31) of Star Lanem St Mary Cray, Kent; **William Anderson** (44) of North View, Birchwood Road, Swanley, Kent.
Paul Hill (35) of richmond Road, Thurnscoe near Rotherham, South Yorkshire and **Malcolm Cooper** (41) of Barnetby Road, Scunthorpe, Hunberside, both pleaded guilty to attending the fight in the first week of the trial. They were also fined like the others. (All the 11 received fines of £300 with £200 costs). Mark Giles and John Lee appealed against their sentences at Southwark Crown Court on Wednesday 20th March, but both appeals were dismissed.

A former 'research' vet, (and we all know what that means), who was employed by the Ministry of Agriculture admitted 8 charges of causing unecessary suffering and another of breeding and selling dogs without a licence. **Dr Helen Hein** (69) of Amberwell, Guildford, Surrey was fined £250 and £250 costs for the licence offence and ordered to pay £1000 compensation to the RSPCA by Farnham Magistrates on March 19. Hein was also banned from breeding dogs for 7 years. The court heard how Hein bred German Sheperds in filthy conditions at her house. Many of the 100 dogs were covered in sores or had cuts, one had an eye missing after a fight with another dog, and another was found hobbling around with a stump for a back leg. If she can't even look after her own dogs at home, what chance have the animals in the labs got?

David Swanson (28), **Darren Swanson** (25) both of Pine Road, East Howle, Ferryhill and **Graham Howard** (25) of Conistin Road, Ferryhill pleaded guilty to trapping badgers and cruelty to two of their terriers after prosecution evidence at Durham magistrates. Sentencing was to be March 29th.

Angela Wilson (26) of Inverness Road, Jarrow, Tyne and Wear was fined £200 and banned from keeping dogs for 5 years after being found guilty of ill-treating to pit bull terriers that were thought to have been used for dog fighting. Wilson denied the charge, and claimed the dogs belonged to her former partner **Geoff Smith**. South Shield Magistrates Continued on page 18

true garbage out of our woods - the sport hunters'.

With a little creativity, anti-hunting activists in the US have found that we can save animals from hunters and have some fun at the same time. Thus far, no one has ever been arrested for flying kites on public land or for providing a public service such as cleaning up litter. Law enforcement officials would have suffered a public relations nightmare if they had arrested a group of people for, say, playing frisbee in a state park.

In the 1980's Maryland law enforcement officials used to arrest activists for sneezing near hunters. They seem to have now learned that we do have a right to be on public land, and we also have a constitutional right to speak out against sport hunting.

Winning the War...

Sport hunting has come under increased public criticism. While direct action has traditionally received the most public attention, The Fund for Animals has utilized a wide variety of tactics - such as public education, lawsuits and legislation - to help combat the war waged on our wildlife. The percentage of people in the US who hunt, for example, has dropped from 10% in 1975 to fewer than 6% in 1995. We have begun chipping away at the sport hunting infrastructure by halting individual bear, bison, dove and other hunting seasons each year. If we were not winning this fight the sport hunting community would not have needed to pass silly laws to keep us from talking. They have been grasping at straws in a desperate attempt to keep their so-called 'sport' alive into the next century. But on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, it has become more and more evident that hunting is indeed a dying sport.

The Fund for Animals can be contacted at 850 Sligo Avenue, Suite 300, Silver Spring, MD 20910, USA.

Vermin Patrol continued

confiscated the dogs.

Darren Thomas Shanks (26) of Nettlewell, Chester-le-Street, pleaded guilty to the charge of unlawfully taking rabbits in October '95 whilst up at Appleby Magistrates court. He was fined 340 and £40 costs. Shanks was caught returning to his transit van after a night out lamping, complete with 14 rabbit and a hare. He had been hunting with 3 lurchers and so had broken the conditions set down by the resident farmer - David Hastwell, The Buildings, Kaber near Kirby Stephen, Cumbria.

Jason Brown (19) of Lingmoor Way, Harraby, Carlise and his Uncle **Raymond Maxwell** (32) of Pennine Way, Harraby, Carlise were both given 2 year conditional discharges after pleading guilty to possessing a shotgun without a licence at Carlise Crown Court. On 16 February, the court heard how the two had gone shooting rabbits at Low House, South waite in Eden Valley near Carlise. On hearing all the shooting, a local resident phoned the police after the two had strayed onto his land. Brown was made to pay £100 costs and Maxwell, who has 5 previous convictions involving guns, was made to pay £150 costs.

Mark Graham Pavit of 20 Ashley Road, Droylsden, Manchester, **Nicky Dixon** of 75 Edward Street, Audenshaw, Manchester and **Andrew Conroy** of 14 Sherwood Avenue, Droylsden, Manchester were all caught at a badger sett near Wilmslow, Cheshire on 18 December 1995. All three appeared before Macclesfield Magistrates Court on April 11 charged with entering terriers into an active badger sett (Section 3 of the Badgers Act). They were all bailed to return to the court on May 2 1996, to set a trial date.

We always need more information on people like those stated above. Please send any press cuttings, stating the name and date of the paper, or anything that you think may be of use to the HSA PO Box address. You may think a small snippet is trivial - but it means a lot to us!



Adult female badger killed by lampers. She was set upon by lurchers and then clubbed on the head with a fence post. (Photo: HSA archives)

South

The last month of the season was quite an eventful and successful one, to say the least! ***Dover sabs*** have teamed up with both ***Ashford and Brixton sabs*** to sab the East Kent Hunt. Despite having two sabs injured by hunt supporters at an earlier meet, a return visit turned out to be a highly successful - with the previous attackers nowhere to be seen. A few incidents did occur though, with one sab had an iron-bar smashed in his face which required a hospital visit. One of the mounted field managed to crash into a fence, the rider only suffering a cut face but the horse had to be put down due to its injuries. The rider attempted, of course, to blame sabs for the whole incident. Four sabs were arrested whilst sabbing, with a further 3 sabs arrested for alleged criminal trespass - although the hunt had actually gone home an hour earlier! However, 3 weeks later all charges were dropped, but a lot of sab equipment remains under close police protection (i.e.they've got all our bloody radios, horns and gizmos!).

The ***Dover group*** now has a van which, without ***Animal Welfare*** we would not have been able to purchase. Many thanks to them for giving us £300, and to Lloyd and Dave for all the work done on the van. Other news in the area is that the East Kent Hunt managed to draw substantial media coverage to themselves after hounds attacked a cat, which later died despite extensive surgery. The hunt attempted to insist that the cat had been in a hedgerow bordering open farmland, were hounds had permission to be, which sounds like a pathetic attempt to justify the inability of the huntsman to ultimately control his own hounds.



There's never one when you need one, and then 10 van loads come along at once! - Ashford Valley FH (Photo:Dover sabs)

East Kent

The ***Techno Allstars*** were formed in August '95, and to date comprise of just 3 sabs - however, the size of the team is no measure of the capacity!. We choose to target the Garth & South Berks and continue were sabs left off last season. Our aim is to establish the rules and enforce them by all means necessary; without surprise this has happened.

Basic Rules:-

- Hands on sabbing for the purpose of protecting wildlife without interference from hunt scum or the police.
- High tech sabbing using all available equipment e.g. gizmo, mobile 'phones, pagers etc.
- All rules to be decided by the team at our own convenience!

The hounds spent most of the cubbing season running with the Allstars, and quickly became responsive to our own range of voice calls - holloa's such as 'beans on toast' were effective in bringing hounds out of covert, although occasionally the pack would saunter back to Phil (the Huntsman), whose pathetic attempts at horn calls were a constant source of amusement. We can safely say that there were no kills over ground during cubbing - in fact we can't recollect the hounds never scenting to full cry.

This was the first season with the Garth for both the huntsman and Kev Boyles, the whipper-in. However, due to general despondency and a lack of good sportsmanship, Kev has resigned by the end of cubbing. When asked for his reasons for leaving he replied "Because I've got the arse with you lot" (?!!? - Ed).

The advantage of on the spot legal advice from Des Murphy & Co was tremendous. On several occasions we found that by delegating the job of speaking to the police to our team of solicitors, the boys in blue quickly lost interest and often left in the area in embaressment. Any sabs out there who wish to star with the team can get in touch by leaving a message on the pager - 0941 147934.

Midlands

Since Xmas, all the West Midlands groups - ***Stoke, Coventry, Birmingham and Wolves*** - have had a varied and successful time, travelling widely but still managing to sab our local hunts.

At home we sabbed the Albrighton Woodland FH on

several occasions - most notably one snowy saturday when the hunt had to go out on foot which allowed **Wolves** sabs to really get the upper hand (and also persuaded the hunt to stop advertising!).

Stoke and Wolves sabbed the South Shropshire FH on the Stretton Hills where we managed to call the hounds over half a mile over the brow of the next hill, while the support stood by transfixed. The huntsman eventually turned up to see where his hounds had all gone. Other South Shrops related news is that 12 sabs from **Birmingham** and **Wolves** are now suing the police over arrests which occurred during the first half of the season.

Our favourites the Albrighton FH were also regularly targeted by all the groups (oh, the joy of low speed chases after the hound van to the meets - sometimes at speeds approaching 30 mph). A number of dig-outs were prevented and no foxes were known to be killed while sabs were present. The huntsman is also gradually losing the plot as he spends most of his time jumping off his horse for a quick rant or running from sabs - his hunting is definitely suffering.

Towards the end of the season **Coventry, Wolves, Stoke** and **Birmingham** attended hits on the Essex (encompassing a full day of events - namely road blocks, searches, confiscations, Wolves van windows smashed by the police... and the later civil action against the cops!); the Cheshire Forest (road blocks, spotter plane, van drivers and navigators nicked and the vans temporarily impounded - no charges = more suing!), and the Duke of Beaufort - a lovely day out.

In the spirit of who wants an easy life, sabs from **Wolves, Stoke** and **Coventry** took part in Welsh week (duelling banjos will never be the same again), met some new and old friends, and escaped in one piece at the end of it all.

All in all a smashing season with the most sabs out in the region for the last few years. Thanks to the Renegade League & Liberty monitors for the information received and all the new sabs for one to remember.

North East

North East sabs have had to face increasing violence from hunt thugs, coupled with growing police numbers. We met up with sabs from the ***North West*** for what was a successful day on August the 12th. We travelled to Shoots week in Yorkshire where 2 sabs were arrested for alleged Section 5 offenses during an angling sab in Ripon. However the case was later thrown out of court after prosecution evidence included a police officer admitting that the arrests were unlawful!!

During cubbing we sabbed both the Morpeth FH and Percy FH. A visiting beagle pack from Cambridge, the Trinity Foot, were effectively sabbed much to their annoyance! Whilst in a bit of a frenzy one of the whips wasn't too pleased when she whipped herself in the face!!

During the main foxhunting season sabs have been out twice a week attending Morpeth, Percy, Zetland and Braes of Derwent FH's. On one occasion at the Morpeth FH one hunt thug allegedly sprayed a canister of containing substances unknown into the car through an open window, which had the effect of extremely watery eyes and sore throats. Seemingly not content with this, he also tried to throw a rock through the window. A little while later thugs attempted to lure sabs into woodland, but as we didn't fall for such obvious tactics they decided that punches and kicks were the name of the day, resulting in a black-eye, a possible broken nose and plenty of cuts and bruises. The following week at the Percy FH as sabs ran up a road to attempt to prevent hounds pursuing a fox over the road, supporters pushed one sab to the ground, took her whip off her and hit another sab on the head with the handle. Another sab further up the road was punched in the face. Unfortunately for the supporter an approaching police van caught this on video, so when he tried to tell the police that we'd attacked him he was laughed at and then nicked (surprisingly!). However, not all of the police present were quite so reasonable - when one sab with an obvious head injury tried make a complaint of assault he was told "You'll have to come down to the station, love!". She told them that she'd do it later, and promptly carried on sabbing. Three sabs were nicked for aggravated trespass and await their summonses after being reported. After the complaint of assault was made, a supporter was arrested and later bailed to return to the police station at a later date.

Alnwick police regularly attended hunt meets with an average of 6 vehicles for 5 sabs - including 2 scrambler bikes, an

'undercover' cop in a car, a van, 2 panda cars and a landrover. On occasions we've also had a dog unit and an unmarked car. Sabs have also travelled over to meet up with sabs from **Cumbria** towards the end of the season, and had an effective days sabbing on the fells with the Blencathra.

In a rapidly-changing society, it's good to see that some things never change - and after a long noted absence, **Sheffied sabs** bounced straight into 1996 with a new (to us!) van, and revamped determination to visit our old friends the Grove & Rufford FH. Our first meeting with the Grove was just like a step back in time. The hounds left the meet, one sab managed to get control of the whole pack. the very 'courageous' supporters attacked the sab but the arrival of the rest of the sabs from round the corner seemed to tip the scales of justice against the supporters. However, the arrival of the police tipped the scales against two of the sabs who were nicked on suspicion of assault. The police seem to have decided to give these sabs 'best' however, as no charges have been brought against them.

Never being ones who like to be separated for long from our fox-hunting associates, the Grove FH have been targeted for regular sabbing ever since, and it has been a pretty 'average' season (if there is such a thing as an 'average' season).

Two things that have been noticed this season are that 1) the hunt seem to be 'digging out' more frequently, and 2) the attitude of Notts police, especially around the Newark/Southwell area is getting a little ridiculous to say the least. Now, strangely enough, it has been alleged that several members of our group, who were arrested one sunny day in February, were occupying one of their fox earth things in the Newark area, and therefore preventing the hunt from going about their bloodthirsty (but still legal!) business. These are their words, not ours (before they start waving a copy of Howl about in court), watch this space for a legal update next issue.

Apart from our healthy fanaticism with the G & R (no, no, not Guns 'n' Roses!), the **Sheffield** group have also visited the Badsworth a couple of times, the Quorn FH on a mid--week picnic with Notts HSA for one of the best days most agreed that we'd had for ages, and finally the regional hit on the Cheshire Forest FH were the notorious local constabulary took the innovating environmentally-friendly step of arresting all drivers and impounding the vehicles...presumably in an attempt to reduce air pollution.

Over the summer we're looking forward to lots of fundraising (yippee) - so if you're in the South Yorks area and you see that bedraggled trestle table with those happy smiling faces behind, dig deep - we're skint! Ciao for now (doesn't have quite the same ring to it with a thick Yorkshire accent, somehow! - Ed).

North-West

The year started off very much as 1995 finished, with very few hunts out hunting due to bad weather. February came - and still no rest from the bad conditions (if it could only be like this all season). The end of February and at last there was some action, it's off down south (allegedly!) to help them 'southern jessies' with a sab on the Duke of Beaufort, this turned out to be a very successful day, with no kills which is very rare for them.

The following week it was the start of the first ever 'Welsh Week', this was attended by a motley crew from all over the North West.

March started with a regional hit on the Cheshire Forest F.H. who were having their closing Saturday meet at the Chetwode Arms, Lower Whitley near Warrington. There was a large attendance of about 60 sabs from **Manchester, Bolton, Liverpool, Stoke, Sheffield, Wolverhampton, Coventry** and last but no means least, or maybe they are **Bristol/Cardiff.**

At the scheduled rendezvous we came across the worst case of 'More-Than-My-Jobs-Worth' ever. This man would not even let us park our vans on a motorway service station car park, can you believe that one! (see you again next season if you are still there). On arrival at the meet there was a large police presence, who straight away blocked the A49 (this is a major road through Cheshire), thus causing a severe traffic jam. Sabs then left their respective vans and headed off on foot to the meet. On arrival at the meet we were meet by even more police, and were monitored by a police spotter plane, which then proceeded to follow us for the next 2 hours (how much did that cost the tax payer?). (We later found out the police had received a tip-off). Straight from the meet the hunt set off at a fast pace - no, not over the fields but down the A49. After

what seemed like ages the eventually went into the fields. Sabs managed to keep up with them even thought they had a good start. However, as sabs got within horn blowing distance, they were off again. Later it turned out they headed straight through a wildlife nature reserve, on police advice allegedly. During this time the police had arrested all the drivers and navigators to 'prevent a breach of the peace', the good news is they were all released without charge later that day. Could this all end up as another large payout from the Cheshire police? God bless Inspector Kinsey!.

Sabs then came across the hunt congregated in a circle near the meet. Was this the end of their day?. Sadly not, one of their horses had died from heart failure. Just another victim of the hunts barbaric activities, although, of course, they did try and blame this incident on the presence of sabs! After this sad event, the hunt just kept running, every time we got near to them, but on one occasion we did manage to attract the hounds and keep them for a short while, this upset them no end. The day ended with a victory for us with no kills, except for the horse who met an untimely death.

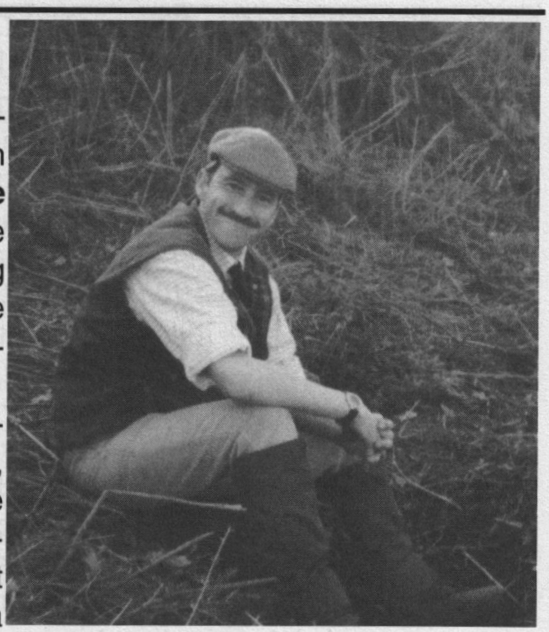
The following week we were at the closing meet of the Albrighton F.H. who were meeting at their kennels near Wolverhampton, yet again a kill-free meet. North West sabs also attended the New Forest F.H. final meet and a couple of meets in Cumbria. This rounded off our season - see you all at the mink hunts!

Scotland

Despite the CJA in operation, the start of the season went well for **Clydeside sabs**, with the Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire FH being sabbed regularly despite the groups transport problems.

The first meet of the season at Houston House, Houston went well with the estate extensively pre-beaten, which proved yet again that pre-beating is a valuable tactic, as the hunt did not draw any coverts within the estate (which they always do) but instead had to simply move on. The result being no kills on the day. Further to this, the police presence on the day did not stop or dishearten sabs from entering the field and the hunt were kept on the move all day. Both the Boxing Day and New Years Day meets were cancelled due to extreme weather!!!

We had a relatively easy time as far as police at our hunt were concerned, until mid-Jan - a New Year and a New Chief Constable! The meet at Wellees Farm, Houston on the 13th Jan proved to be the turning point, as sabs enjoyed the company of 4 police cars, 2 vans and the excitment of being 'harrassed' and monitored by the police helicopter for quite some time. This eye in the sky meant it was impossible for sabs to leave the fields as they would have been arrested immediately. Despite the overwhelming police presence, (all for about 10 sabs), some quality sabbing was achieved, although the police helicopter did actually help by scaring every fox away within a 2 mile area!. Hounds were taken from their task, no kills were noted and no arrests were made despite police threats of making them for aggravated trespass.



'Cheesy' Steve - Lanarkshire & Renfrewshire foot follower and chief gate-opener (nobody opens a gate like this man!). Steve has been down South most of this season, anybody know where? (Photo: Clydeside sabs)

The following week saw a repeat of the excessive police presence. Towards the end of the day hounds went into full cry and sabs tried to intervene but were blocked by hunt supporters (and their cameras). A supporter allegedly driving recklessly at sabs led to one sab being injured as he was dragged along the road by a 4X4. This assault was reported to the police, and the case is now in the hands of the Procurator Fiscal. Just after this incident a counter assault charge was convieniantly made against a sab - this matter has also been passed to the PF.

Following this, the sab van was blocked in by supporters vehicles until the police had finished dealing with the assault charges. The police then came

over to the van and proceeded to set us up for an impromptu ID parade. Three hunt supporters managed to ID all those in the van as being in the field the week before - even the driver!. Our details were then taken and, although we were not charged, the van was given a quick search with some anti-mate sprays and a whip being taken as 'evidence'. The whips and sprays were returned a few weeks later, and whilst at the station we learnt that this stuff was for a case of aggravated trespass on the 20th - so we were going to be done two weeks in a row! (although the second case has now been dropped due to lack of evidence).

The following week saw **Clydeside** visit the Kilmarnock for a joint hit with **Ayrshire sabs** at the Eglinton hunt. Despite about three foot of snow the hunt went our with no field, and only a very few stupid/sad car supporters. The first draw saw sabs helping to scatter the hounds throughout Caiprington Estate. This resulted in the huntsman walking back the short distance to the kennels and, to sabs disappointment, decided to replenish his pack and carried on hunting!!!

Clydeside sabs also attended the Dumfries Hunt, aka the Black and Tans., together with sabs from **Edinburgh** (complete with mobile 'phones!), **Aberdeen, Fife and Ayrshire.** Sabs found the local police were most amicable in their allocating one police car per sab vehicle, and also informed sabs that if they were seen leaving a field then they would be arrested on the road. Hunt supporters went for a more direct approach, which resulted in an alleged assault on a sab. The incident occured when a 4x4 was driven right up against the Cyldeside van, jamming the sab in-between the two vehicles. While the supporters vehicle was still moving, the occupant allegedly assaulted the sab then continued down the road! Despite complaints to the police immediately afterwards, they stated that they could not do anything as this would mean going back to the station in Lockerbie and leaving the hunt unattended. The police finally took statements whilst in their car as the hunt packed up!!.

So the Clydeside tour is over - it's time to start fundraising again and help raise awareness by telling people the truth about bloodsports! We are also trying to organise a tactics day with all Scottish sabs in attendance (hopefully!).



Cydeside sab (allegedly!!)assaulted whilst sabbing the Dumfries hunt at Lockerbie. (Photo: Clydeside sabs)

Northern Ireland

Belfast sabs have continued a successful season with hits on both the East Antrim Harriers and the North Down Foxhounds. After some transport problems only one car managed to make it to the East Antrim meet on Jan 21st at Templepatrick in Co. down. Although sabs were outnumbered by 4 -1 by police, the small group managed to call hounds away from the huntmaster on a couple of occasions, despite the hunt complaining to the cops about the CJA and their failure to enforce it! A game of cat and mouse ensued, with the hunt trying to out-run the sabs with little effect, and in the end they gave up and packed the hounds away for the day - with no kills once again. A defeat that the hunt would have to get used to as the season progressed!.

Our next hit was against the North Down Foxhounds on the 3rd Feb. The hunt was unlucky enough to be found by sabs as we simply followed a horse box to the meet. On arriving at the meet we searched for the pack and were soon upon them about a mile up the road. By this stage we had been joined by 4 police cars full of officers who, although concerned enough to warn us about a breach of the peace, seemed quite happy to sit in their vehicles and let sabs get

Continued on page 25

Extraordinary General Meeting - London, 10th March

The EGM, held in London on the 10th March, was well attended by groups from all round the country. The meeting began with ***opening remarks*** from Karen, the current Vice-Chair. She described the last season as pretty good for sabs in the field and for the HSA as a whole, although there had been problems with the treasury and salesgoods. The HSA is being pushed forward this year with a lot of people working both on and off committee. The main problems this year seem to have been police violence, especially in respect of their increased weaponry and use of riot police on hunts. She stated that some areas are still liaising with their local police with differing results in different counties, The CJA has not been the bogeyman that the BFSS had hoped for, and has had little effect when compared to the numbers out sabbing, Concluding her report, Karen announced her resignation as Vice-Chair and from the Committee.

Next came the usual ***Committee Officers reports*** on their activities since the AGM:-

Press - The Press Officer said that the HSA committee was a national voice for sabs in the field, particularly with the press. Some of the best coverage we have had this season has been from the foreign media. This was thought to be a knock-on effect from the CJA coverage. However, on the whole this has been a quieter year for the press than the last due to the CJA.

Research - The Research Officer has been in the position since the last AGM. She has spent most of her time in the office concentrating on the essential filing of information, and re-organising the filing system.

Skills Days - The Sabbing Skills Officer outlined the basic format of a sab skills day, and stated that all those arranged had gone successfully. Future days are arranged for the summer months.

Fringe - The Fringe Bloodsport's Officer has been in position since last July, and has concentrated on up-dating the files in respect of this area. This is going well, although a definite lack of information has been noted from the South and an appeal was made to rectify this matter.

International - This post has been occupied since December, and since then the International Office has made contact with 35 groups abroad. Numbers of groups in the USA and Germany were particularly good, with Germany having national hits.

Southern Contacts - The Southern Officer reported that sabs in the south east had gone well, and that she thought the key to future success was continued & improved communication and co-operation between groups.

Tactics - The Tactics Office has been on the Committee since October and in that time has been putting together a tactics booklet, together with working on the new tactics video. Other sidelines include an alleged 'sab-proof' gizmo (see Noticeboard for further details) and an Animal First Aid kit and booklet.

(The ***Shoots Officer*** had forwarded on her apologies for absence)

Working Off Committee:-

Legal - The Legal Office appealed for sabs to ensure that the legal incident form was fully completed and returned after each and every arrest, so that statics on arrests and convictions could be kept up-to-date.

Howl Editor - Dawn stated that she had been responsible for Howl since October, and was hoping to increase and maintain the magazine to 28 pages. She appealed for more legal news, and, as always, for more photographs and or illustrations!

After a short break for lunch, voting on the 3 resolutions, (as fully detailed in Howl 60), followed. Due to the controversial nature of resolutions 1 & 2 (Not), it was decided that no discussion was required prior to voting. As the proposer of resolution 3 Karen explained that at the moment the HSA was running at a loss on membership, particularly on the unwaged price. As such, she proposed an increase in prices to £7.50 for unwaged, £10 for waged and £100 for life. After lengthy discussion these figures were accepted as part of the resolution and voting proceeded. All resolutions were passed.

There then followed an ***open discussion session***, including the topics of the Grimsby lifetime injunctions (see Howl 60), group mailout, group affiliation and the office. The traditional ***horn blowing competition***

on with it. We called the hounds away at almost every draw much to the annoyance of Mr Terence Mckeag (Huntsmaster), and managed to run away across fields with the hounds for quite a while before the hunt caught up and regained control of the pack! The police seemed a bit worried at this stage and decided it was time to put on the 'ard man image, so after a bit of wheel spinning and a couple of u-turns they gave chase to sabs along a private lane as we ran toward the pack. The cops ordered us off the land, but to our amazement said that basically as far as they were concerned we could do 'whatever the hell we liked from the road' (within reason) so we used this as wisely as we could and continued to harass the hunt at every given opportunity.

This remained the scene for the rest of the afternoon until the very last draw when the hunt came across a family of foxes living a small cover just off a road. The hounds flushed three foxes out into the field at which point the pack split and all hell broke loose with sabs, the hunt and cops all running in different directions !! Some supporters standing on the road started shouting and scared the fox back towards the pack. Sabs rushed forward and used whips and loud voice calls to hold the pack at bay and try to send them back towards the hunt. Others covered the foxes trail with garlic. The fox seemed to go back to its original covert were it laid low. During this period several heated exchanges took place between the whipper-in, sabs and the police. As more boys in blue (or rather green in this case!) arrived on the scene we were warned that arrests would be made if people didn't calm down and get out of the field. During all this activity the other two foxes seemed to make good their escape and the hunt seemed more concerned with rounding up their hounds and getting as far away as possible from sabs - which meant right back to the meet, and then home!

So, two very successful outings by the Belfast posse and no known kills. We shall continue to keep up the pressure on these two packs until they either cease their disgusting activities or are banned for good...watch this space.

Group News

About 90% of this group news came in well after the deadline, as advertised in Howl 60, of 1st April. Groups must ensure that they get their arses in gear and get their reports in <u>before</u> the deadline. Please note, therefore, that Group News for Howl 62 has a deadline of 17th August!!!

Do or Die!!!!!! - ED.

EGM continued...

then followed, with both the winner and loser benefiting from their efforts through the award of a brand spanking new horn - each!

Prior to the ***free-for-all video fest***, the new ***HSA tactics video*** was launched, with all present praising the efforts of those responsible for this informative, educational video - indeed, several requests for the soundtrack details were even heard!

Finally, Karen was present with a bottle of Scotch by the Committee as a sign of 'major respek' for all her years of hard work for the Committee - may her future be bright and rather less prone to going pear-shaped without Committee hassles!

Thanks to all those who came, to all those responsible for organising it, and to PG for not giving up in his (thankless) search for a video recorder.

hsa club draw winners

January:
1st - J Mullen, Essex
2nd - K Baker, London
3rd - M Preston, Cambs

February:
1st - S Fenner, Berks
2nd - R Smale, Luxembourg
3rd - R Fletcher, S Yorks

March
1st - J Mullen, Essex
2nd - D Wetton, Kent
3rd - D Andrews, Surrey

sincerity corner (a one-off feature)

In the Summer 1995 edition of Howl Magazine, we made serious and untrue allegations about Mr Lyn Lloyd, one of the Joint Masters of the Vale of Clettwr Hunt.

We accept that these allegations were entirely without foundation. We apologise to Mr Lloyd and to his family for any embarrassment he may have been caused. We undertake not to repeat the allegations under any circumstances. We shall investigate similar stories before publication in the future.

Review - Undercurrents 4

'Undercurrents raises two grubby fingers to the national media for ignoring the grass roots' - The Guardian.



You know the feeling, you come home after a sab where you and your group where subjected to road blocks, people and vehicle searches and arrests. It's highly probable that at the end of the day those arrested are either released without charge, or Section 68 charges are applied. So you go home knackered and collapse in front of the TV... and the most important thing that seems to happening in the world is a report of Princess Di lunching somewhere hot (again). What about the 200,000 who have just paraded through London on their annual march; what about the continuous battles in the tree-tops at Newbury; and what about the Ogoni people in Nigeria??? Seems like all those issues are just too risky for todays media,and so if you want to know what really does go on in the world, get your mits on a copy of Undercurrents!

The latest video includes 'Operation Rook' - as mentioned in Howl 60 - a 9 minute piece on the pathetic policing sabs from Portsmouth and Chichester faced at a meet of the Leconfield and Cowdray Hunt during March 1995. My other favourites included 'look chum!', a look at the Labour Party conference and its attitude to the CJA; 'shell on earth' a report on Shell's role in the destruction of Ogoniland (together with some of the most horrific pictures I've ever seen - the brutal truth), and fabulous 'best of crap arrest' - brilliant.

Undercurrents is available from Undercurrents Productions for £34.99 for four issues, or £10.49 for one issue waged, and £7.49 for one issue unwaged. Orders to Undercurrents, Box 57, 16b Cherwell ST, Oxford, OX4 1BG.

SUPPORT ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS

Those imprisoned for 'Animal Rights offences' need your support. Show them you care by sending letters of support - these are greatly appreciated by all prisoners.

Most prisons now allow stamped, addressed envelopes to be sent in with your letters and cards. Please enclose these if you write, so that prisoners don't waste their limited funds on postage.

Donations can be sent to the ALF Supporters Group, who can provide financial help for these prisoners - cheques and PO's, made payable to **'ALF Supporters Group'**, can be sent to: **ALF SG, BCM 1160, London, WC1N 3XX.**

Melanie Arnold GJ0940
HMP Eastwood PArk
Falfield
Wotton under Edge
Gloucester GL12 8DB

Gurjeet Aujla HV2047
HMP Gartree
MArket Harborough
Leics LE8 2JN

Dave Callender HV3314
HMP Birmingham
Winson Green
Birmingham B18 4AS

Rod Coronado #03895000
FC1, PO Box 23811
Tuscon, AZ 85706
USA

Michael Green VA2923
HMP Gloucester
Barrack Square
Gloucester GL1 2GN

Angie Hamp TW1687
HMP Ashkam Grange
Askham Richard
York YO2 3PT

Niel Hansen HF3184
HMP The Moumt
Bovingdon
Hemel Hempstead
Herts HP3 ONZ

Keith Mann EE3588
HMP Full Sutton
Nr Stamford Bridge
York YO4 1PS

Gillian Peachy RL3415
HMP Holloway
Parkhurst Road
London N7 0NU

Dominic Peaty XD1642
HMP Exeter
New North Road
Exeter EX4 4EX

Michael Roberts GE3743
HMP Lewes
Brighton Road
Lewes
E Sussex BN7 1EA

Geoff Sheppard MD1030
HMP Wandsworth
PO Box 757
Heathfield Road
London SW18 3HS

Charles Skinner No 24250
HMP Jersey
Jersey
British Isles

Barbara Trenholm RL1292
HMP Holloway
Parkhurst Road
London N7 0NU

Assume that your letter will be read - please be careful what you write

Continued from page 14... **The police arrived again in greater numbers so we moved off (followed by the cops) to another hunt who had actually cancelled, with the helpful police advice of "if you would have asked us before instead of messing us around, we would have told you they cancelled this morning". Another hunt was found, but as time was drawing on they were packing up anyway. The Banwen Miners foxhounds hunt ball that night proved a little less exciting than the previous nights, but no less worth while.**

With many thanks to all the groups that turned up, including Wolves, Coventry, Stoke, Manchester, Bolton, Swansea, West Wales, Bristol, Cardiff, Newport, Hastings, Birmingham, Carlise, Liverpool and many others who we may have forgotten.

We hope that everyone enjoyed the week (we know that one Bristol sab did!) and that they felt it was as much as a success as the resident groups did. Apparently the week may not have met everyones expectations, but everyone in Wales is grateful for the effort put in by all concerned. Be sure that the police and the hunts won't forget our first week of action in a hurry!

*Huntsman*balls

"I don't like to even think what would happen to the fox if hunting were to banned...(farmers would be) more likely to allow others on to their land to kill foxes, who might want to shoot just for the thrill of it"
Spokesman for the BFSS, Independent 4/11/95.

You need to know what you're doing: a wounded fox is far more likely to attack a farmers lambs, piglets or chickens...Hunting provides maximum effectiveness for farmers, with the minimum of foxes killed"
Source as above - so, you're after the most decrepit foxes, and you only kill the minimum - great pest control that is!

"People have been hunting with hounds from the earliest primeval times. It is the way we as predators prey on wildlife"

"If you have ever been hunting you've seen how foxes laugh at the hounds"
Robin Hanbury-Tenison, new director of the BFSS on Radio 5 Live - off to an impressive start in his new job. (The first person to send me a picture of a fox laughing at hounds gets a fiver of my own money!- Ed)

Poles and parties apart...

What follows, for your consumption, are a couple of MP's letters forwarded to the HSA for our perusal. On reading them one made me go 'yesssss, you tell 'em', and the other simply provoked a puzzled 'eh?' (well, I am from the north, you know - Ed). You decide which is which...

Letter One:

"Thank you for your letter of 24th February and I do think that there is a distinction between human being cruelly and with malice ill treating animals like hedgehogs and other animals like hounds destroying a fox because I think you will find (though I do not necessarily accept you will agree) that a hound killing a fox does it in a swift and clean cut way even though they might then because of their hunting instinct tear the dead carcass apart."

From Simon Burns, Conservative MP for Chelmsford, in response to a question from a constituent and reproduced here as received - i.e .as one badly written sentence!.

Letter Two

"...(to learn that) such an enormous investment of police resources went into protecting a group of local Toffs going about their sadly lawful business of murdering sentient mammals frankly took my breath away...Most people in Scotland will be surprised and revolted that in Renfrewshire grown men and women are murdering animals for fun..They would be even more surprised and I suspect just as disgusted that these killers appear to have such over whelming support in Strathclyde Police circles"

From George Galloway ,Labour MP, in response to details of a hunt protest forwarded to him by the Scottish Anti-Bloodsports Federation.

A fox's revenge...?

(Illustration handed to a sab stall held by Dover sabs - thank you!).



Noticeboard

Publications

Gizmo's!

Cigarette packet size + amplifier, with megaphone and tape recording of hounds and horn blowing. The amplifier is incased in a strong black box - which makes the ultimate claim of being sab-proof!.
Price? - £30 or £33 with a tape recorder + £2.50 p&p. It is expensive, but it has a guarantee!
If interested contact Steve on 0585 14085.

Tactics Booklet - The North-West HSA has published an updated version of the old booklet. New features include legal advice, a guide to suing the police, how to make a whip and how to use it effectively - plus many more informative articles. Cheques/postal orders made payable to North-West Hunt Sabs, PO Box 155, Manchester, M60 1FT.

'Wildlife Anarchy' - is a new collection of all original anti-bloodsports songs, which comes complete with a booklet of the lyrics. Cheques/postal orders for £3.50 (inc p&p) made payable to S Matthews to PO Box 2003, Rayleigh, Essex.

'Do or Die' - the brand spanking new 'Do or Die #5 - Voices form Earth First' is out now at a bargain price of £1.70 a copy (£1.20 plus 50p postage - that's a penny a page!). Cheques or postal orders should be made payable to Earth First, and sent to South Downs Earth First!, c/o Unemployed Centre, 6 Tilbury Place, Brighton, East Sussex, BN2 2GY.

Groups

Durham Hunt Sabs - is a new group in its early days...and it needs your support! No PO Box has yet been set up, but the group can be contacted via the HSA Po Box, clearly marked Durham Hunt Sabs (otherwise we'll open it and be able to see what you're all saying about us you see!).

Events

National Anti-Angling Week - runs from Saturday the 15th to Saturday the 22nd June. For more details contact Pisces (address to be found under 'addresses'!).

Dave Callender Justice Campaign - is holding a national demonstration at the Royal Courts of Justice, The Strand, London on the 31st July at 11 am (nearest tube = Temple). Further details from DCJC, PO Box 38, Manchester, M60 1NX.

Addresses

Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group, BCM 1160, London, WC1N 3XX. Publishes *ALF SG Newsletter.*

Pisces (formerly CAA), PO Box 90, Bristol, BS99 1ND. CAmpaigns against all forms of angling. Publishes *Pisces*, a newsletter about their work.

League Against Cruel Sports, 83-87 Union Street, London, SE1 1SG. Publishes *Wildlife Guardian.*

Fox Cubs - HSA's junior campaigning group. PO Box 370A, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 4YN. Send large SAE for 'bloodsports factsheets' for young people.

Earth First! 'Direct Action in defence of teh natural environment'. To contact your local group, send SAE to Oxford EF!, Box E, 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RQ.

Arkangel Magazine Published four times a year, this provides a forum for debate and exchange of ideas about pro-animal action at all levels - £7.20 for a year's subscription. BCM 9240, London WC1N 3XX.

Respect for Animals Campaigns against the fur trade. PO Box 500, Nottingham NG1 3AS.

UK Animal Watch Infiltrates, investigates and exposes illegal bloodsports. PO Box 220, WR4 9UZ.

Freedom Network Provides information and ideas on the CJA. Green Office, The Old Dolehouse, 372 Coldharbour Lane, Brixton, SW9 8PT.

Clothing

ETHICAL WARES, producers of quality vegan footwear will donate a percentage of thier sales to the HSA if we are mentioned when ordering. For a catalogue, send a sae to: Ethical Wares, 84 Clyde Way, Rise Park, Romford RM1 4UT.

Birmingham HSA - 'Hunters, SHooters, Anglers, Wankers' T-Shirts , with back-print 'Bollocks to Bloodsports' still available. Black with white print. All proceeds to Birmingham HSA, cheques payable to Birmingham Anti-Bloodsports Society (BABS) & send to Aardvark Centre, 115 Alcester Road, Moseley, Birmingham, B13 8DD.

Peoples Campaign Against Live Exports - 'Smashing Day Out at Shoreham' T-shirt. £6 (inc p&p) from PCALE Merchandise, 5 The Lindens, Canterbury Drive, Brighton, BN2 3FZ.