Spring '98
£1.50

Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

HOWL 66

Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association



You're nicked!

"It must be remembered that the law applies equally to field sports participants as it does to saboteurs. Any over-reaction on your part may result in action being taken against you. Clearly to overstep the mark is counter-productive and would be playing into the hands of saboteurs"

Country Sports Directory, published by the British Field Sports Society 1994

Photo: P.Gammon © 1998

HOWL 66

Magazine of the
Hunt Saboteurs Association
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The **HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION** has been in existence for over 30 years, and is dedicated to saving the lives of hunted animals directly. Hunt saboteurs use non-violent direct action to effectively prevent the horrific deaths of thousands of hunted animals every year.
The HSA committee is made up of 12 voting members with the addition of other non - voting posts. All posts are voluntary. NO-ONE IN THE H.S.A. IS PAID - we believe that all money raised by membership and donations should go towards the running of the organisation and helping directly with saboteurs in the field.

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Contributions are welcome, particularly news clippings, letters, artwork and photos. We pay £5 for the first photo we use from each of you, then £1 per additional photos used per issue. All contributions to HOWL should be sent via the H.S.A. office.







Top: Portman FH followers armed with staves and wearing balaclavas.
Middle: Portman FH huntstaff selects a stave and joins his fellow thugs.
Bottom: Saboteur hospitalised after vicious attack by hunt support.
Top Right: The baying mob of Portman thugs caught on video as they begin to charge at sabs.
Bottom Right: Supporter swings a nine iron at sabs, while huntstaff watch from behind.



In a last ditch attempt to attract the younger supporter, the BFSS jump on the tele-tubby bandwagon creating their very own 'Ugli Wugli'.

Editorial

Well, another foxhunting season over and although it's been eventful (cat-killings, hound injuries, and the hospitalisation of saboteurs etc. etc.), it certainly hasn't been unusual. In the wake of the Foster Bill, hunt followers would have us believe that all these things and many other incidents as mentioned in Howl, are 'one-offs', 'isolated incidents' or just plain 'unfortunate'. If that were the case, then why do these things happen every year? Lets face it, all these things are as much a part of the tradition of hunting as scarlet coats and horses.
Since Parliament has once again failed to ban this ugly past-time, it's only us as hunt saboteurs, who can actually stop the killing. (And we're bloody successful at it too!) Here's to more of the same at mink-hunts and grouse moors!

P.S The cover picture shows Mark Sprake, huntsman of the Surrey Union being arrested at the site of a dig-out for Breach of the Peace. Oh, we did laugh!

The views expressed in HOWL do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor or of the Hunt Saboteurs Association Committee.
Nothing printed should be construed as HSA policy unless so stated.
Nothing in the magazine should be taken as encouragement to commit illegal acts.

PITCHED BATTLE IN DORSET AS HUNTERS MAKE LAST STAND

Two hunt saboteurs were in Salisbury Hospital last November with head injuries, after being attacked by hunt supporters using axe handles at the Portman Foxhunt in Dorset.The attacks were part of an orchestrated orgy of violence by the members and supporters of this notorious hunt who had earlier met at Guy's Marsh near Shaftesbury, Dorset.

Due to the nature of the hunt it can only be sabotaged with large groups sticking together for personal safety so a day after the vote on hunting in parliament, a group of 60 saboteurs arrived in the area of the hunt only to witness the hounds ripping apart a fox. Almost immediately, one of the saboteurs' vans was rammed by a hunt supporter's Land Rover.

Having had time to ring round their 'telephone tree' to call up some extra 'muscle' the hunt continued to ride over and whip saboteurs at every opportunity. When hunt supporters from the surrounding hunts arrived after about 1 hour, they wasted no time in attacking the saboteurs. Wearing balaclavas and wielding pick axe handles, the hunt thugs went on a rampage, battering any saboteur they could find. At one point, two hunt followers pulled out shotguns to threaten the saboteurs.

A local saboteur from Dorchester, Neil Buckoke, who has himself been the victim of threats to kill, and physical violence from followers of the Portman Hunt said: "They went absolutely mad out there today. They are desperate to take out their anger on someone because of the massive defeat they suffered in parliament yesterday, and unfortunately for us, we are the front-line against hunting in this country". He added: "It will not be long before they kill another saboteur if this is the way they are going to carry on".

The police had a helicopter above the hunt for most of the day, and should have video evidence of the attacks against the saboteurs who were caught by surprise at the ferocity of the hunters' aggression. At one stage the huntsman, Hugo Busby, was allegedly off his horse trying to hit people with a pick axe handle - he had thoughtfully removed his red coat, possibly not wanting to get the blood of a hunt saboteur on it!





REPORT DISPROVES 'FOXES ARE VERMIN MYTH' (AGAIN!!!)

A recent report published by the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Bristol has concluded that the often cited claim of bloodsports supporters that the fox is vermin does not stand up to scrutiny. The report, published at the end of October, concluded that 'foxes do not warrant their reputation as major pests of agriculture'. As well as casting doubt on the popular myth, it also brought the action, or rather inaction, of farmers into the equation of stock losses, stating that 'losses of lambs, piglets and poultry are insignificant relative to other causes of deaths. Greater improvements in lamb survival can be made by improving husbandry rather than fox control.'

The report also went as far to suggest that the presence of foxes on agricultural land was beneficial to farmers due to the diet of the animals themselves. As half a foxes diet consists of rabbit, with the remaining half being made up of other small mammals, this plays a major part in controlling the rabbit population which is viewed as causing damage to crops. Although the fox was acknowledge to take lambs, this was only estimated to account for between 0.5% - 3% of all lambs, and this can be viewed as insignificant when compared to the 17% which die from natural causes within the first 24 hours on Scottish hills.

A survey conducted within the report found that 70% of farmers questioned did not believe that having foxes on their land was harmful, and that 36% considered them useful.

(Guardian 28/10/97)

This issue of Howl is dedicated
to the memory of Hunt Saboteurs

MIKE HILL & TOM WORBY

killed
9th February 1991 & 3rd April 1993 respectively
whilst lawfully trying to prevent hunts from
killing our wildlife.

YOU WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN



FORUM

Usually the Forum column is devoted to the individual views of HSA members. However, this issue, I have decided to include an article by HSA Membership Officer, Kate, on the future of the HSA should hunting with hounds ever be banned.
Roe, Editor

Where Do We Go From Here?

Talk of a hunting ban is rife and the desperation of the hunting fraternity is showing through. To actually pay peoples travel expenses to a demo is something we at the HSA would love to do, but alas, we do not have the sort of loose change that the hunters seem to find down the back of their sofas. What people want from us is to know what we will do if hunting is banned.

Very few of us have enough faith in the establishment to believe that a ban is inevitable, or even likely, so sabbing will continue nation-wide until it is. Without a government ban, hunt saboteurs are the only people who can save the wildlife, and even if a ban was implemented, sabs would still be needed to monitor the blood-junkies who vowed to continue despite a ban. Still no lie-in on a Saturday, I'm afraid.

However, if a bill is successful, where do sabs go from here? Well, in the immediate future, I suspect the pub would seem the likeliest destination, but after that sabs still have plenty of work to do. Blood sports don't start and end with hunting with hounds, although it would be one wonderful step towards an eventual ban on all blood-sports.

As I've said, hunters would still be going out, either overtly in defiance of the law, or as a drag hunt, who may just trip over a fox accidentally and kill it. Oops. Terrier work is already fairly undercover because of the negative publicity this disgusting past-time generates, but don't believe for a moment that the people who dig out a fox and kill it for fun are going to give up their 'sport' so easily. It's far easier to spot a whole hunt going out for the day than it is to spot a couple of thugs with spades going out and so terrier work will continue unless sabs are there to stop it physically or to gather evidence and take the offence through the courts.

Coursing and lamping will also be affected by the bill, but the same applies to these 'sports' as to terrier work. People who kill for kicks aren't going to walk away from it and take up chess, just because the government say so. It will go underground, just like every other banned blood-sport.

Cock-fighting, badger-baiting and dog-fighting are still very much thriving, despite the illegality of them. (Un)Surprisingly enough, the police don't spend a lot of time cracking these gangs of animal abusers, so any prosecutions are because good people have risked life and limb gathering evidence. If hunting goes, there are certain sabs (yeah we know who you are!) who have the courage and the dedication to tackle these activities. Stomach-churning as they are, every male sab (women tend not to go in for these past-times) has the potential to help end these 'sports'. And at the very least, it would mean they would be on the right side of the law for a change!

The more faint-hearted (and believe me, dog-fighters are **not** nice people) will think about a switch to sabotaging bloodsports not affected by a ban; bloodsports like fishing, shooting and falconry. These get overshadowed by the fox-hunting debate, partly I suspect because foxes are cute and fluffy, and partly because it's very hard to convince anyone that a pike is vermin, rips off lambs' heads and takes babies out of prams. ('And if we didn't fish 'em they'd start hunting in shoals like piranas..')

Fishing, shooting and falconry cannot be hidden under the guise of conservation. There is not one sane person who believes that these people would protect the rivers and woodlands if they couldn't get their jollies maiming and killing in them. Not to mention making big money doing so.

The Hunt Saboteurs Association is committed to the end of all bloodsports, and will not fold, fall apart or blow any leftover cash on a big party until all bloodsports are banned. This is where sabs will be directing their energies should a ban ever be implemented and not retiring to Hawaii as some have suggested. There really is no peace for the ethical!

FOSTER BILL WINS MASSIVE MAJORITY - BUT FAILS ALL THE SAME

November 28th seemed to see yet another landmark vote in the quest for a legislative end to hunting with hounds when the Wild Mammals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill received the support of 411 MP's against opposition of only 151. Michael Foster MP, the sponsor of the Bill, stated after the vote, "This historic vote, the largest ever vote in support of a Private Members Bill, makes it inconceivable that hunting will survive this parliament". However, Ann Taylor, the Leader of the House of Commons, stated that she could not allow Government time to be allocated to the Bill (necessary to improve its chances of clearing all hurdles) and that it was up to the Bills opponents to respect it's 'fantastic' majority. Unfortunately, since the moral standards of those who wish to see hunting remain a lawful activity are well known, success is not ours to savour at this attempt.

The legislative process took the Bill to Committee stage, where no attempts to sabotage it by bloodsports-supporting MP's were made, this undemocratic fillabusting being reserved until the Report and Third Reading stage which took place on the floor of the House in early March. It was here that the Bill fell foul of the time allocated to, as it's opponents talked it out of time. In an attempt to dodge this, Michael Foster, tried to get the bill 'tacked on' to existing legislation (ie. extending the Wild Mammals Bill to included hunting with hounds) He was not successful and the Bill ceased to be on March 13th.

Since the Bill died the most encouraging signs from the Government have been sources who have stated that although support was lacking in this instance, a ban could be included as a single clause to a future Government bill which would command cross-party support - such as a Criminal Justice Bill (and wouldn't that be an ironic twist of fate?). Although it must be stressed that the vote sends a loud message to the Labour leadership that the people of Britain are serious in their distaste of hunting, any hope of a ban on hunting being can now only exist if the anti-hunt lobby keep the pressure on and remind Mr Blair and co, that it wasn't the marchers on the Countryside March that voted for him in the first place. Keep those letters pouring in, kick up a fuss with your local MP and in the meantime...

...KEEP SABBING THE BASTARDS INTO OBLIVION



I heard they were going to become quite rare beasts, so naturally I killed one.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Israeli Supreme Court has ruled that minute-long wrestling bouts between man and crocodile are immoral because they cause the crocodile suffering for the sake of entertainment.
Independent 23.6.1997

On Sunday, Oct 11th, the first ever deerstalkers conference was held in Carlise at the Cumbrian Hotel. Members of Animal Rights Cumbria/Lakeland Animal Aid and Newcastle Animal Rights Coalition staged a demo outside the hotel. About 120 deerstalkers attended the all-day conference. ARC News have called on the public to boycott the hotel, and to write and raise their objections to the hotel for making profit from the bloodsports industry. The hotel's address is: The Cumbrian Hotel, Court Square, Carlise, Cumbria
ARC News Nov '97

Police are investigating the death of a cow forced to drink 4 bottles of whiskey at a Spanish village fiesta after men took the horned breeding cow to the fiesta for a mock bull fight. Thirteen men aged between 19 and 26 were questioned. They face fines of up to £43,000 if convicted.
Guardian 9.6.1997

A British holiday maker, Derek White, 28, of Fareham, Hants, was gored by a bull at the San Fermines festival in Pamplona, Spain.
Independent 10.7.1997

Robert Venner (30), a farmer from the West Country was ordered to pay £4,000 compensation to the League Against Cruel Sports after a practical joke went wrong. Apparently Venner tried to pinch a flag from the L.A.C.S. stand at the 1997 Devon show; however, he found himself in trouble when he broke an awning and smashed a windscreen.
L.A.C.S. Newsletter 1997

Two protesters hung a banner from the balcony of Caley's Department Store in Windsor (part of the John Lewis group), while hundreds of leaflets were given out to passers-by explaining the link between the store and bloodsports. The protests are part of a high profile campaign by the National Anti-Hunt Campaign to highlight John Lewis Partnership's use of its Leckford Abbas estate to 'entertain' staff by arranging pheasant shooting parties.
ARC News Nov '97

NICE WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT.....

Following the report in Howl 64 of the demise of the Countryside Movement, oh, sorry it's 'merger' with the BFSS, official records have shown that part time Chairman David Steel was paid £93,752 for an average 1.5 - 2 days work per week over an 18 month period. That works out at just over £75 per hour, assuming that he did put in two full days per week, and it comes on top of his MP's salary of £43,000 per annum.
Before you all start ranting about the ridiculous amount he was paid for being totally crap, view it in this context - Steel's excessive wage would have figured as quite a large factor in the small matter of the organisations expenditure exceeding its income by over 100%. Income in the 18 month period running from March 1995 is said to have totalled £1,203,260 (including voluntary membership contributions of £166,166), whilst expenditure weighed in at a hefty £2,421,561. Obviously with that sort of expenditure they couldn't afford an accountant.....
(Figures from Independent on Sunday 20/9/97).

BEAGLING DAY - THE RETURN!

Saturday the 8th November saw the second National Beagling Day, the public relations baby of the Association of Masters of Harriers and Beagles. The beagle packs themselves obviously weren't quite as keen to invite Joe Public to view their abhorrent activities as the Association, as the number of meets advertised was substantially down on the number found in 'Horse and Hound' last year. Despite this, North West sabs decided to attend the advertised meet of the Holme Valley Beagles at Stalybridge as they duly deemed it rude not to. The hunt, however, were nowhere to be seen on the day and no explanation was given for their failure to materialise - even to the paltry 6 or 7 supporters that were in attendance. Sabs were not alone in their disappointment at the hunt's no-show, as 3 local councillors had also turned up to ensure that the hunt were fully aware that they would not be welcome on council land, as well as around 20 locals who came to demonstrate their disapproval of the hunts activities.



The final nail in the coffin was the report of the day in the always amusing Countryman's Weekly the following week. A massive banner head line on page 6 - imaginatively titled "Second National Beagling Day" - was followed by 10 sentences which related to an Irish Foxhound pack!!!. We doubt the average CW reader noticed this little error, but you can't fool Howl that easily!!
Maybe Countryman's Weekly should approach the Association of Masters of Harriers and Beagles to provide them with an explanation as to how beagle and harrier packs can continue their persecution of the brown hare, when even a Government report has stated that it is in a state of serious decline. Numbers have decreased by around 80% since the turn of the century, and this steep decline is blamed primarily on changing farming practices and bloodsport activities. The resulting article may prove to be slightly bigger than the headline above it, and, if the staff at that esteemed tome try really hard, they may come up with a title that matches the article.

WHAT NOT TO DO IN SCOTLAND...!

Despite the rest of the country being intent on trying to get bloodsports off the agenda and into the history books, the Dumfries and Galloway Tourist Board has bravely decided that it may have identified a tourist niche. Two new fieldsports guides have been included in its range of tourist booklets which aim to encourage visitors to the area. The fieldsports booklet promises information on roughshooting, driven pheasant shoots, duck and grouse flighting and 'fowling' in the Solway [don't you need a pooper-scooper for that one?]. A 56 page guide to fishing opportunities in the area has also been produced.

● Why not write to the Dumfries and Galloway tourist board and let them know just how out of touch they are with the rest of civilised society? They can be contacted at Campbell House, Bankend Road, Dumfries, DG1 4ZD. Phone (01387) 250434.



A grizzly reminder of what the National Beagling Day is actually about.

ROSIE RAIDED : YTENE PENSIONER BURGLED

Spare a thought for poor old Rosie Whitcomb, OAP and mink-killer. It seems that burglars trashed her caravan and robbed poor Rosie of her pension book, Christmas pressies and...er ...a flashlight.
Rosie , who likes to cut a dash [see right] out hunting with the Ytene Minkhounds (her caravan seems to actually constitute the Ytenes Kennels!), wasn't home at the time but her two dogs were. Gamble (16) and Smally ("too friendly") were unable (or not arsed) to stop the thieves, so Rosie has vowed to get a fiercer dog to protect her home, seemingly forgetting that she has a kennel full of minkhounds next door.
Rosie herself is "bloody annoyed" but unbowed. She poured scorn on lesser mortals upset by similar incidents, saying "When the victims of crime counselling called me I laughed. I haven't been frightened for 40 years. I can look after myself." This is something local saboteurs know too well, having learnt first hand the strength of Rosie's passion for killing wildlife.



" You'll have to excuse my ensemble; the b******s nicked my Gucci number "

MYSTERY HOUNDS CAUSE CHAOS

A headmaster in Sheffield was left horrified when a pack of hounds tore though his school playground just seconds after a class of under 5's had gone inside. Around 50 hounds leapt the fence into the grounds of Wharncliffe primary school before running into gardens where they tore apart a fox. The Head, David Rogers said that had the incident happened only minutes earlier, "goodness knows how the children would have reacted... they would have been traumatised."
The owner of the garden, Sylvia Chambers,57, in which the hounds killed, described the scene; "It went on for about 15 minutes and they tore it [the fox] apart, leaving bits all over my lawn. If my Yorkshire Terrier had been outside they would have torn it apart too." Ms Chambers was one of many villagers who reported the pack, which also tried to attack local cats and dogs and worried cows.
No-one was with the pack at the time of the incident and South Yorkshire Police say they are still trying to trace the owners of the hounds and have contacted the local hunts in the area which (unsurprisingly) have all said they were not involved. [Humm...methinks someone is telling porkies! - Ed]

POLICE CHIEFS CALL FOR CRACK-DOWN ON RAPTOR-KILLING GAMEKEEPERS

A report by the Scottish Raptor Study Groups (SRG) has revealed that illegal persecution of birds of prey on moors maintained for grouse shooting is continuing to have a heavy impact on populations of peregrine falcons and golden eagles.
Numbers of both these species should be increasing, after recovery from declines in 1960s and 70s due to pesticide use. However, the report shows that in every region where comparison between grouse moors worked by gamekeepers and unkeepered moors was possible, both peregrines and golden eagles fared much better on the unkeepered ground. In SW Scotland persecution may have removed more than half the potential numbers of young peregrines on grouse moors during the study period. For golden eagles there is circumstantial evidence that poisoning by gamekeepers is preventing eagles from occupying their former territories.
Overall, the SRG report concludes that while the threat from egg collectors may be lessening, the killing of adult birds of prey and destruction of nests by gamekeepers in Scotland has continued apace, or even increased, in the 1990s.
Concern over the continuing high level of killing and disturbance of protected birds has led to calls for tougher penalties for offenders. The Wildlife Law Enforcement Group, established by the UK government, has recommended that judges should be able to imprison the worst or most persistent offenders. [See Vermin Patrol for some actual examples of penalties] These proposals have been backed by Scotland's 8 chief constables.

● A pair of eagles on the Queen's Balmoral estate have persistently and mysteriously failed to rear their young, sparking an acrimonious row between the estate and conservationists.The birds have only successfully raised two chicks since 1982. Two of Scotland's leading experts on birds of prey allege that the birds have been illegally persecuted. Keith Brockie, of the Tayside Raptor Study Group, suggested the adult birds were being deliberately kept off the nest while the chicks were young so that they would chill and die. The allegations are denied by the estate's factor, Peter Ord, although he accepts that the pair had difficulties raising their chicks and cannot explain why. The Queen is patron of the RSPB.

NEWS IN BRIEF

If, after seeing the lovely Ms. George model the new tele-tubbie outfit (inside cover), you feel the need to contact this delectable lady, why not write to her via e-mail. Janet George (B.F.S.S. Press Officer) can be contacted at:
janetg@bfss.org
HSA e-mail from J. George

One of the many not-quite-famous faces at the Countryside rally last year, protesting at plans to outlaw foxhunting was Paula Hamilton. Er, excuse me ?
Surely not the same Paula Hamilton who was the 'celebrity' face of Tusk Force, the anti-ivory charity? The Paula Hamilton who told the world "It's a very female thing. I relate a lot to animals. When they scream their rage, I scream mine." ?
Vulpine Observer July/August 97

A former Cumbrian policeman collapsed and died of a heart attack during a pheasant shoot 4 days after Xmas. Ex-firearms officer, John Fee, 56, had only retired four months before the accident and was taking part on his first shoot. His loaded double barrelled shotgun went off as he fell to the ground but no-one else was injured.
News and Star 30/12/97

As a result of their Boxing Day Meet, the East Devon Hunt is to be prosecuted under the Dog Fowling Act. Up until now hunts have been exempt from cleaning up after their hounds, but new regulations changed all that. Although these regulations only seem to apply to residential areas, sabs may find it worth their while videoing the back ends of hounds during events such as Boxing Day!
Anon. clipping Dec 97

Feathers are to be used to build up a DNA database which will help convict thieves who steal birds of prey and their eggs.
Independent 16.4.1997.

Twenty-seven hunting dogs were asphyxiated after employees of Alitalia airlines mistakenly placed them in the cargo bay. The dogs, mostly Irish setters, died from lack of oxygen. They were flying from Rome to the Ukraine where they and their owners were to take part in a woodcock hunt. Forty-two other dogs were travelling inside the cabin with their owners. Only three of the dogs in the cargo hold survived the flight
ARC News Nov '97

NEWS IN BRIEF

Who would have thought sitting on a river bank all day could be so dangerous? Figures released from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents state that around 6500 anglers end up in hospital due to injuries occurring while angling. (Approximately 30 anglers also die while fishing each year.)
Some examples of accidents include: angler Bob Bowman who lost the sight in one eye after an angling weight struck it; a man critically ill in hospital after contracting Weils disease after fishing at a private lake; a man who died of a heart attack while fishing because it took emergency services 1 1/2 hours to find him, and finally the case of angler Ben McGrath, who glued his mouth shut during a fishing competition! He was trying to remove a glue-pot lid with his teeth. He also stuck his hand to the rod.
Pisces Magazines Winter97/98 & Spring 98

A rescue plan has been launched for the black grouse, which, despite being twice the size of the smaller but more abundant red grouse, is suffering from one of the fastest declines of any British bird species. Numbers are down to 6,300 males nationally, yet it is still legally shot for sport.
Independent 16/4/97

A bid to start the hunting of foxes on public land in Tampa, Florida, failed after local residents signed hundreds of petitions against it.
Wildlife Guardian, Spring 1997

Melba, one of two brown bears released into the Pyrenees last year in an attempt to prevent the species becoming extinct in the region, has been shot dead by a French hunter. He claimed he shot her in self-defence. Melba gave birth to three cubs a few months ago; ecologists fear they will not survive without their mother.
Electronic Telegraph 29/9/97

The Labour government is to stop paying 31 Scottish fox control clubs £67,000pa for killing some 3,500 foxes a year north of the border. In the past the 'control outfits' have had the support of some employees of the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, as shown by one officer who suggested that it was less cruel to shoot a fox rather than have a lamb 'chewed up'.
Vulpine Observer July/August '97

FORESTRY COMMISSION SUSPENSIONS TURN TO BANS

The end of November saw the Forestry Commission finalise its review of the Bateson report and decide that its temporary suspension of deer hunting licences on almost 8,000 acres of land should become a permanent ban. The Commission stated that after reviewing the report, which led to the National Trust imposing an almost immediate ban on hunting on its own land, that there was enough evidence on the stress suffered by the deer hunted by hounds to show that a significant welfare issue existed. The only exception to the rule was the Quantock Staghounds, who were issued a temporary licence to allow other deer management measures to be instigated on the Somerset hills before a permanent ban was enforced.

POLICE DOGS BANNED

The RSPCA has refused to supply dogs to English and Welsh Police Forces pending the outcome of an investigation by Essex police into the death of one of their German Shepherds last month.
The dog, a 4 year old alsation named Acer, died whilst on a training course. The dog's handler, PC Mark Needlam, was ordered to kick the animal whilst it was tied to a horizontal pole because the dog was too aggressive. PC Needlam, who had looked after Acer since he was a pup was said to be 'Devastated'. Essex police are already investigating a previous complaint about its dog training methods.
The National Canine Defence League has imposed a similar ban on supplying dogs to police forces, but forces such as the Metropolitan police, which has 234 alsations and 32 spaniels and labradors,and has been breeding its own dogs for almost 40 years, look unlikely to be greatly effected by the ban.

PREGNANT BADGER IMPORTED FOR BAITING

A haulier was sentenced to four months in prison and banned from keeping any animal for five years after becoming the first man ever to be caught unlawfully transporting a live badger. Desmond Joseph Mackin (43) of Castle Lodge, Banbridge, County Down, Northern Ireland (formally an official representative of the Fell and Moorland Working Terrier Club) pleaded guilty to charges of possession of a badger and ill-treating a badger at Darlington Magistrates court on 6/10/97. Mackin was arrested by Durham police after being stopped in his lorry on the A66 at Bowes Moor on 11/1/97. Police requested RSPCA assistance after discovering a live badger tied up in a sack in the back of the lorry. Mackin had travelled to County Durham from Northern Ireland. An inspector of the RSPCA's Special Operations Unit, who assisted Durham police, said: "This is an extremely important case. It confirms our suspicions that badgers are being dug out and transported elsewhere for baiting. The badger was found tied up and covered in mud in the middle of the loaded wagon and we believe it had been driven all the way from Northern Ireland to be baited over here". The badger was later found to be pregnant and after recovering from the ordeal gave birth to three cubs. After rehabilitation, the sow, along with the cubs,were successfully released into the wild in the South of England.



It's the kindest thing to do; once they can't run with the pack, blow their bastard heads off.

ANOTHER ROAD DISASTER AVERTED BY SABOTEURS

Dorset hunt sabs were praised by a hunt for saving hounds and motorists from potential disaster, after hounds ran out of control on a busy duel carriageway, during a Boxing Day hunt. Lead hounds of the South Dorset Foxhounds ran across the A35 near Troytown, after a fox dashed to the central reservation before saboteurs stopped them.
Thirteen sabs, including one woman in her 70's, had to run into the road to stop traffic from hitting the stray hounds. Master of the South Dorset FH, Michael Dangerfield, said he could not have controlled the hounds without the saboteurs help.

The fox got away.

TYNEDALE HOUNDS SAVAGE PET...

A woman living near Hexham, Northumberland saved her dog's life by laying over it as up to a dozen foxhounds tried to rip it from under her. The 60 year old woman described how the hounds swarmed over her and her cocker spaniel Candy. She lay on the floor shielding the dog until a huntsman eventually came onto the scene and called the hounds off. The spaniel was covered in blood and later needed extensive surgery for deep bite wounds. The woman is now considering suing the Tynedale Hunt, which, in an attempt to redeem itself, has paid the dog's vet bills.

....BUT THE PYTCHLEY FH OUT-DO THEM WITH A KILL

The Pytchley FH started the New Year in fine hunting tradition by tearing a pregnant woman's pet cat to pieces in her own back yard. The cat's owner, 32 year old nurse Elizabeth Moss, watched in horror as around 20 hounds savaged her cat in the village of Old, on the 14th January. The terrified woman tried to intervene, but the baying hounds were so ferocious she had to retreat indoors. The cat was ripped from limb to limb.
The incident occurred after hounds chased a fox into the village where it took refuge in a garage. While the huntsman went round to the front of the house the excited pack split in to two, with one group entering Ms Moss's garden and finding the cat. With the huntsman nowhere in sight and excited by the chase, the hounds seized the unfortunate animal and ripped it to pieces.
The hunt issued their usual apologies (ie. "terribly unusual...a one-off occurrence...have a kitten") but failed to impress not only Ms Moss but also the Parish Council. Its Chairperson Joan Barrett said that even though the Parish Council had no power to ban the hunt, it had voted to write to the hunt about the incident and demand that in future any hounds that enter the village should be removed by the hunt as soon as possible.

● Not to be out done, the prestigious Fernie FH also killed a domestic cat in late October, *and managed to get themselves filmed doing it!* Northamptonshire sabs witnessed the hounds attack the cat (which belonged to a pro-hunt farmer) but were unable to stop the attack. They did, however catch the incident on video camera, as well as the huntsman collecting his 'trophy'. When he realised that he was being filmed he promptly hid himself and the cat's body in a barn. Initially, when local news ran the story,, he admitted the incident saying "accidents do happen"; however when the National Press got whiff of the incident, he changed his tune, claiming he had gone into the barn to 'revive' the cat! The hunt is now know locally as the 'Cat Killers'.

SORE FINGERS AND WORN DOWN REDIAL BUTTONS...

It has been shown time and again that all official opinion polls (Mori, Gallop etc.) show a massive and steady objection to hunting in the region of 70 - 80%. So it comes as some surprise that in some telephone polls, there has been a balance, or even occasionally a complete reversal of this trend. On ITV's "The Hunt" debate, 55% voted against hunting and 45% for it, whilst most bizarrely, in the 'Leicester Mercury' newspaper's telephone poll, 75% voted in favour of hunting. This may seem most strange - however one does not have to look far to see why there is such a big discrepancy in the results.
Before "The Hunt" TV debate was filmed, a TV producer announced to waiting participants that the telephone vote numbers had been leaked, and that some people had been phoning it for hours before it had even been announced to the public. Unlike Mori/Gallop opinion polls, where researchers phone or ask the public on the street etc. (ensuring one person, one vote), in telephone polls it is possible for one person to have as many votes as they want, providing they can get through, via the redial button. In short it is only the non-telephone polls, where one person is only allowed one vote (and a cross section of society is interviewed) that the views of the public are truly represented. The excuse of hunting enthusiasts, in the wake of massive defeats in <u>these</u> polls, is "well, we are a minority sport, so likewise we will have a minority share of the vote". However, the polls are not asking what percentage of the public take part in hunting, but whether people believe it is cruel and therefore should be banned, and no amount of wiggling or cheating can divert the fact that the people of this country want hunting banned unconditionally.

● It has long been suspected that the hunting fraternity have organised telephone trees and liberally used the redial button, but it was a surprise to see this confirmed, in of all places, the Daily Telegraph. The day after "The Hunt" debate, a columnist noted that hunt supporters in the City of London had told him they had gone home leaving their office telephones on <u>automatic</u> redial for the night of the TV debate. What they didn't realise was that their 'covert' information on the number to dial, was (by accident or design?) *slightly* wrong. As they sat at home smugly watching the debate (while miles away, their office phones clocked up massive bills), it must have come as quite a shock to realise that the number they had programmed into the phones was actually the number for a vote AGAINST hunting!

NEWS IN BRIEF

Five youths and a 21-year-old man arrested at a cockfight after they were spotted by Nick Ainger Labour MP, were conditionally discharged at Tenby magistrates on 29/7/97 after they all admitted being at an illegal fight on Pembroke Dock.
Anon. Clipping January 98

The RSPCA and its Scottish equivalent, the SSPCA, are backing a study which could lead to the trapping of child abusers based on the way they treat their pets. The SSPCA wants a change in the law to make it mandatory for an exchange of information between animal welfare groups and social workers to quickly identify any abuser and potential victims. Research in America appears to confirm a link between animal and child abuse, as well as certain other types of assault including wife beating. [The quote by ex-Master of Foxhounds, Tim Asplin, "Horsewhipping a hunt saboteur is rather like beatings one's wife; they are both private matters." springs to mind here - Ed]
Electronic Telegraph 5/10/97

TV 'star' Chris Tarrant fell 25 foot out of a tree when he was trying to spot pike during a fishing trip. [You'd think he'd do better looking in the water - Ed] He fractured his arm in 2 places and had to walk a mile to his car with blood gushing from a face wound. Tarrant later declared, "The real tragedy is that the fish got away..."
Pisces Magazine Winter '97/98

Those staffing the IFAW Anti-Hunt Bus were harassed and threatened by hunt thugs when the bus visited Brighton, during the Labour Party Conference. The disturbance was viewed with so much concern by Brighton Police that they arranged a meeting with IFAW staff and conference officials, the outcome being that IFAW were allowed to set up their displays and equipment in the foyer of the Brighton Centre.
The Shoreham Protester Oct 97

The former Tory government's plan to conduct a trial cull of ruddy ducks, on the basis that it's interbreeding with the endangered European white-headed duck could force the latter into extinction, has been shelved. The ruddy duck has, however, been added to the quarry list, which means it may be shot by wildfowlers without a licence.
Press and Journal 5/4/97

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Dorset NFU is seeking a change in the badger protection laws to let farmers control [read 'kill' - Ed] badgers during a two month period each autumn. Dorset NFU chairman, Brian Lock, said "There is a tremendous problem with badgers throughout the country, both with bovine TB and damage to crops. We have to keep up the pressure and maintain awareness of the problems."
Farmers Weekly 4/4/97

Doctors are struggling to save a matador's genitals after he was gored by a bull. Jesulin de Ubrique, 23, was trying to plunge his sword into the bull when its horns ripped into his groin. The bullfighter is famous for performing in front of all female audiences. Hundreds of adoring 'fans' wept as he was hurt in the town of Ubda, Spain.
The Sun 15/9/97

An advertisement placed in the Bristol Times by the National Anti-Hunt Campaign, reminding Tony Blair of his pre-election promises towards hunting, has led directors and publishers of Journal Publishing Company to award the group with its annual 'Charity of the Year' award.
A spokesman for the NAHC commented "That an advert exposing the cruelty of hunting can win a charity of the year award, shows just how strong our arguments are and how hated hunting has become."
NAHC Newsletter Autumn 97

Angler Peter Meadows went fishing and got himself caught - by a pike. He struggled for two hours on the bank to free himself from the fish stuck on his thumb.
One of the points of a triple headed hook speared him after he had landed the unfortunate fish.
"(The fish)..pushed the hook deeper until it touched the bone" said Meadows, a farmer, "I've never known such pain"
A local doctor had to freeze the fish (still attached to Meadows' thumb!) before digging out the hook with a scalpel.
Daily Mirror February 98

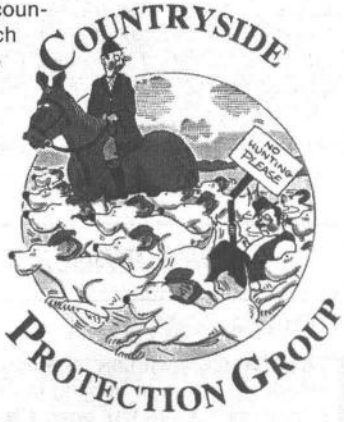
Teeside coppers are being issued with helmet-mounted video cameras which record pictures for later use. Officers will soon also carry pocket sized personal computers that will link directly with databases holding information on criminal records, car registrations and stolen property.
Daily Telegraph 10/12/97

"FISHING AND SHOOTING ARE CRUEL" : FROM THE 'HORSE'S' MOUTH

A wave of anti-angling and anti-shooting arguments have filled the letters pages of national newspapers and magazines. Who is behind this new wave of protest? Is it long-haired old hippies? Is it hard- core vegans? No. It is the disgruntled hunting fraternity.
Week after week, 'Horse and Hounds' letters pages have been publishing various letters from hunters saying how barbaric fishing is and how cruel shooting is compared to hunting (sic). It seems that hunters are rather miffed that anglers do not want anything to do with them, and that shooters are equally keeping their distance. In fact, the recent Carlton debate saw a terrierman repeatedly shouting "fish murderer!" every time Michael Foster (a keen fisherman) spoke! Unity among the bloodsports brigade is now a contradiction in terms. Hunt supporters are desperately trying to take on board shooters and anglers, but at the same time cannot resist having a dig at their potential allies. A case of 'how *not* to win friends and influence people"!
A recent example was in 'Horse and Hounds' Editor, Arnold Garvey's weekly rant/column. Whilst supposedly referring to sabs, he whines "Isn't it about time you banned balaclavas, Mr Blair" forgetting that hundreds of wildfowlers and shooters routinely use balaclavas when out blasting wildlife. Keep 'shooting' yourself in the foot, Arnie!

NEW GROUP SET UP TO SHOW REAL 'VOICE' OF THE COUNTRYSIDE.

A new campaign has been set up by countryside people sick of being falsely represented by the bloodsport brotherhood. The **Countryside Protection Group** aims to provide a focus for those who live in (and enjoy) the countryside but do not support hunting. It will become part of a research group to show the government that large numbers of country people do not back hunting, and to report on issues affecting the hunting debate such as employment, drag hunting and animal welfare.
On a practical note they provide a confidential helpline to advise on issue such as hunt trespass, damage to property by hunts and illegal hunting activities. They also plan to monitor the observance of current and future legislation affecting both countryside and animal welfare interests.



● For details / leaflets etc contact:

THE COUNTRYSIDE PROTECTION GROUP,
Oakleigh House,
Oakleigh Court,
Newbury,
Gillingham,
Dorset SP8 4HZ

Confidential Helpline: 01747 826633

BELVOIR HUNT ACCUSED OF POISONING FARMER

Paramedics rushed a 33 year old farmer to hospital in a state of near collapse, after he was choked by fumes beleived to have been caused by the Belvoir FH's attempt to flush out foxes. John Palmer had refused the hunt permission to hunt on his 225 acre farm earlier in the day. While he was moving bales of hay with his brother - who also needed hospital treatment - he suddenly became overcome by noxious fumes emitted from the bales. The source? Chemicals - later found to be a concoction of creosote and fertiliser, which mixed together form dangerous ammonia gas - used to force foxes into the open.

One man has been arrested and bailed pending further enquires.

STILL NO TRUST FOR STAGHOUNDS

Two stag hunts failed to get a high court order allowing them to continue hunting on National Trust land last July. The Quantock Staghounds and the Devon and Somerset Staghounds, will have to severely curtail their activities from 1st August. Both hunts used the land on 200 days a year, and said in evidence that hunting would cease if the courts did not intervene. The trust made its decision to ban deer hunting on its land in April after a report by Sir Patrick Bateson that it was cruel and that the animal suffered severe and unnatural stress from being chased miles by hounds. The £20,000 costs were awarded against the two hunts.

ONE RULE FOR US.....

On Thursday 13th November 3 editors of 'Green Anarchist' magazine, Steve Booth, Saxon Burchall-Wood and Noel Molland were each sentenced to 3 years imprisonment at Portsmouth Crown Court. They, and the editors of the ALF Supporters Group Newsletter (hence the nick-name the 'GANDALF' trial) were all charged with 'conspiracy to incite persons unknown to commit criminal damage'. The 3 convicted defendants had merely been publishing news of a wide range of current direct actions (in the UK and abroad), *some of which had already been reported in the mainstream media.* This is what the court had found to be 'incitement'. Former ALF Supporters Group newsletter editor Simon Russell was found not guilty by a 10-2 majority, while another GA editor, Paul Rogers will be tried separately this year; ALF Press Officer Robin Webb is also expected to go to trail on similar charges later this year. The three convicted have already lodged an appeal that will be heard this summer.

The convictions followed a trial presided over by a judge dubbed by the defendants as "Britain's most biased judge" - they allege that throughout the case he refused to hear defence submissions and made several comments revealing contempt for the defendants, hardly surprising given that he is a Major General and has only relatively recently begun trying civilian cases!

Whether or not you agree with 'Green Anarchist's views or, for that matter the views of the ALF, this trial is important and the defendants should be supported for the simple reason that this verdict opens the door to a new level of repression of the alternative media and the various movements/protests it represents. The judgement seems to suggest that merely reporting on illegal acts will incite others to do similar acts; something which is clearly ridiculous.

Gandalf Defendants Campaign, PO Box 66, Stevenage, SG1 2TR.
Tel: 0956 694 922

....AND ANOTHER RULE FOR THEM

Claims that a former editor of Angling Times incited readers to kill cormorants, a protected species, were rejected by magistrates on 7/11/97. They decided there was no case to answer after Keith Higginbottom of Sheffield was charged under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act over an Angling Times campaign. He had been accused by the prosecution of publishing in December 1996 "a paramilitary style glorification" of killing cormorants, which are despised by anglers for eating fish stocks. The court was told that the paper carried a photograph of a masked man in camouflage holding a gun with his finger on the trigger. In the foreground were four dead cormorants and a caption which read: "This is the picture everyone wants to see." Higgingbottoms defence said: "No one can suggest that responsible editors highlighting this are intending people to break the law. They are simply pointing out the debate. That is their function in a democratic society." Higginbottom left the court without comment. But John Kelly current editor, said: "The decision to bring the case at all has to be questioned as it was a serious challenge to journalistic independence and free speech." He said the newspaper's campaign against cormorants would continue.

HUNTSMAN'S BALLS

"..we are not the fox's only enemy. There is plenty of indiscriminate culling, such as shooting them using infra-red lamps and high powered guns. We disapprove of that. Farmers don't like their stock being frightened like this and the shooters can't tell what they've got in their sights [!]. It could be a donkey or a cow [!!!!]. Farmers are rapidly putting up 'No Lamping' signs"
Robin Gundry, Master of the Sir Watkin William Wynns FH.Assuming they can read, are lampers the type to be put off by a sign, Robin?
Chester Chronical

"Basically, over protection of wild animals encourages civil disobedience"
Source as above. Eh?

"It's a pity we can't all live and let live"
Dick Chapman, Huntsman, Cheshire Forest Foxhounds .Er, I think that's our point exactly.
Daily Post

"Those who love field sports cherish the belief that they bring us closer to nature than most of Western society is lucky enough to get these days"
Max Hastings, Editor of the Evening Standard. From his lecture "Why the Countryside is Angry". Yeah, so close to nature you can actually kill it eh, Max?
Daily Telegraph 29/10/97

"Fishing is undoubtedly the most cruel of all fieldsports"
Max Hastings again, doing his bit for unity between the bloodsport fraternity.
Daily Telegraph Oct 97

" Once upon a time hunt supporters and some hunt protesters were on Christmas card terms. There had been a change in culture. Punks and skinheads decided to pull people off horses, but the League remained non-violent"
John Bryant, formerly of the League Against Cruel Sports, commenting in Horse and Hound. Is there something in the water at the League offices which affects the brain after a while...?
reproduced in Countryman's Weekly 21/11/97

"As previously stated in Our View, if Gays, Travellers or Unmarried Mothers were involved, help and publicity would pour in from all quarters.."
Editorial of Irish Shooting Monthly, displaying the social tolerance of bloodsports enthusiasts. If only they would realise that the reason those groups mentioned gain sympathy is because they are constantly being persecuted, rather than being persecutors themselves!
Irish Shooting Monthly Nov 97

"Next time you wear those combats, iron them - that's an insult to the Services"
Fitzwilliam FH supporter tells off scruffy Leicester sabs. HOWL agrees - you're a disgrace to the movement Leicester!
Fiztwillaim's New Year Meet

"The spokesperson for the CM, a Miss George (a woman, who in my judgement bore a striking resemblance to the former England Rugby Captain Bill Beaumont - sorry Bill)...."
Bob Underwood, columnist
Ashby Times (Leicestershire) 18/7/97

MINK MYTHS:

"There can be few animals that have been maligned so frequently and misrepresented so consistently."
Dr Nigel Dunstone, mink scientist (2)

In 1929 the North American mink was imported into Britain to be bred for its fur. In 1956 the first breeding wild mink were identified in Britain, and there is now believed to be 110,000 wild mink in Britain (1). In 1962 legislation was introduced that sought to control mink farms and prevent the escape of mink, although this was too late to prevent the spread of feral mink.

The mink has now established its own niche in Britain's wildlife.

There are many claims that mink are a severe danger to native British wildlife, but there is much evidence to show that this is not true.

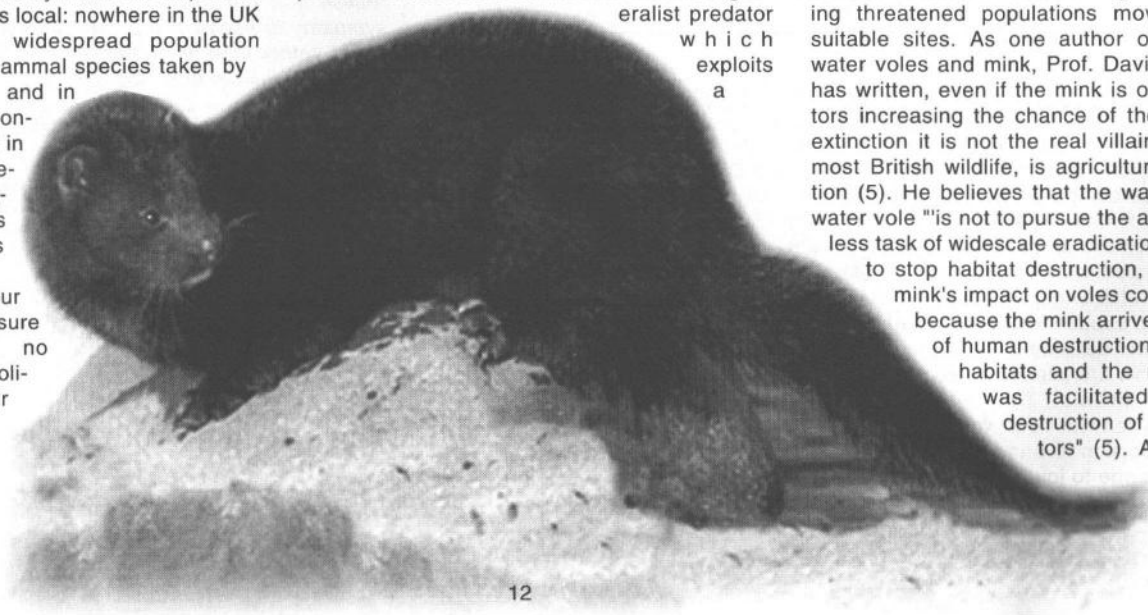
It was fur farmers who were initially responsible for the release of mink into the wild, through inadequate cages and fencing, as well as the deliberate release by those who were hit by lowering profits and bankruptcy. Newly escaped mink often tend to prey on domesticated animals, such as poultry and rabbits, when first released. These are obviously 'easy prey' and while such killings are often over-hyped by local media craving for a sensational story, it would make sense for anyone living in the vicinity of a mink farm to have adequate fencing or pens to protect their pets or livestock from predation by mink (or any other wild animals). Studies have shown that once mink have adapted to taking natural sources of food they lose the habit of taking easy domestic prey. The mink is a member of the Mustelidae family, and is related to the stoat, weasel, pine marten, polecat and feral ferret, and native British wildlife are fully familiar with the hunting methods of mustelids and as such the mink should not pose an unnatural threat to wildlife. Where there is any detrimental effect on wildlife by mink "the important fact is that the effect is local: nowhere in the UK have mink caused widespread population declines." (2) Most mammal species taken by mink are abundant, and in half of the studies conducted on minks' diet in the UK, the most frequently taken mammal was lagomorphs particularly rabbits (2).

The natural behaviour of mink will also ensure that there are no 'plagues'. Mink are solitary animals and their intolerance of other mink will always ensure a low population density.

Mink and the Otter

For years the mink was blamed for the demise of the otter. Otter populations crashed in the 1950s and by the 1970s they were present in just 6% of traditional sites in England, although this has now risen to 23% (3). Bloodsports enthusiasts, whose summertime 'fun' of otter hunting was banned in 1975 jumped at this and began hunting mink in order to fill the space at the end of the foxhunting season. It has now been recognised that mink were not responsible for the otter's demise, and in fact the otter may even be killing off mink in some areas where they are recolonising former territories (3). It was not mink that caused the otters decline but pesticides, the first decline coinciding with the introduction of notorious pesticides such as dieldrin. The mink is a generalist predator which exploits a wide variety of species, tending to take the most abundant prey, and if this becomes less' available will shift attention to another species. These trends tend to limit the mink's impact on local native fauna. In contrast, otters are very specific, almost exclusively eating fish, and larger fish than those taken by mink

"As minks occupy virtually the same habitat as the otter, the 'Mink Hunts' are likely to cause them [*otters*] as much, if not more disturbance as the otter hunts in the past"
'The Otter in Britain',



Mink and the Water Vole

Surveys show the water vole population to be on a steep decline and conservationists fear that by the year 2000 the water vole will remain in only 6% of its original sites (4): Yet again mink are taking the blame.

Numbers of water voles were declining before mink were breeding in the wild in Britain, and a great deal of the vole's habitat bas been destroyed, through disappearance of hedgerows and flooding of land. With less and less of their preferred habitat, water voles find that what remains is often in isolated fragments, preventing threatened populations moving between suitable sites. As one author of a study on water voles and mink, Prof. David Macdonald, has written, even if the mink is one of the factors increasing the chance of the water voles extinction it is not the real villain; that, as for most British wildlife, is agricultural intensification (5). He believes that the way to save the water vole "'is not to pursue the arguably hopeless task of widescale eradication of mink" but to stop habitat destruction, and "that the mink's impact on voles could occur only because the mink arrived in the wake of human destruction of waterside habitats and the minks spread was facilitated by human destruction of native predators" (5). As with otters, mink and water voles,

given sufficiently large areas of undisturbed habitat (such as Tregaron Bog in Mid-Wales), can co-exist (4).

Mink are often the victim of the 'scapegoat effect' "whereby the media demand simplified answers to complicated ecological questions. ... Something or someone must take the blame, and who better than the mink"
Dr Nigel Dunstone (2)

"Contrary to earlier fears, it seems that they [mink] are generally not a threat to native wildlife"

"Mammals of Britain and Europe",
David Macdonald / Priscilla Barrett
Harper Collins 1993

Mink and Other Wildlife

Mink have also been accused of having a big effect on game birds and fishing stocks. Since both these are reared for killing for 'fun' they are maintained at artificially high levels and it is ironic that people should complain that mink are killing these species when that is the reason for those critics rearing them in the first place! Even then, studies conducted over long periods have shown that poultry and game birds generally make up less than 1% of the minks diet (2). As for fish stocks, Dr Dunstone found "Little supportive evidence has been found for any deleterious effect on fish stock and angling interests" (2).
The same people have claimed that mink have reduced the density of moorhens, coots and ducks (6), a claim denied by Prof. Macdonald: "... contrary to widespread opinion, nobody has ever found evidence that mink predation limits numbers of these birds. " (5).

"Research results indicate that the mink has generally not had a serious effect on our wildlife although there remains some concern about its possible effect on some colonies of ground-nesting birds."
Sir Hector Munro MP (7)
"Without dependence on a particular prey type the mink can minimise its direct competition with resident predators. Thus it has spread throughout Europe and the sub-arctic with few apparent barriers and, despite its reputation, with remarkably little impact on the ecology of the indigenous fauna."
Dr Nigel Dunstone (2)

References:

I. Hansard, vol.257, 29.03.95, debate, col. 1027
2. 'The Mink', Nigel Dunstone, Poysner Natural History, 1993
3. 'BBC Wildlife' magazine, July 1996, p56
4. 'Natural World' magazine, summer 1997, p26-28
5. 'BBC Wildlife' magazine, February 1996, p14-16
6. The Game Conservancy Review of 1988, p133
7. Hansard, vol.262, 22.6.95, written answers, col. 423

A Final Word
from Sports Minister Tony Banks:

"Mink hunting is unacceptable and thoroughly ineffective. It is becoming the bloodsport of the summer that fills the gap between the end of one foxhunting season and the beginning of the next. The one thing the British countryside does not need is another bunch of bloodthirsty sadists in waders damaging our river banks. No method of controlling numbers should be turned into a sport for perverts with a bloodlust. The people who hunt mink are far worse than their quarry. Indeed they are the same people who wiped out our native otter."
(Hansard, debate, Vol.257, col 1029 -1030)

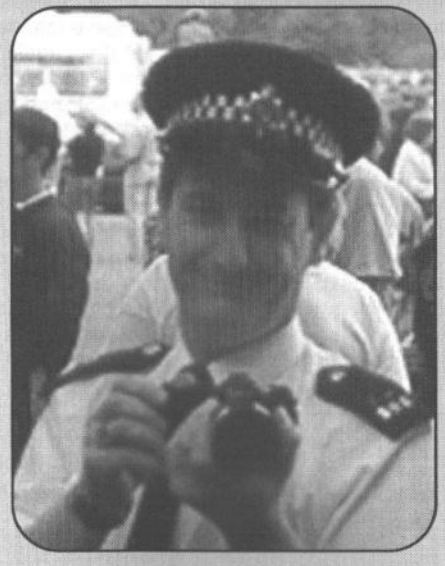
This article is an edited version of a report published by the

Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade.

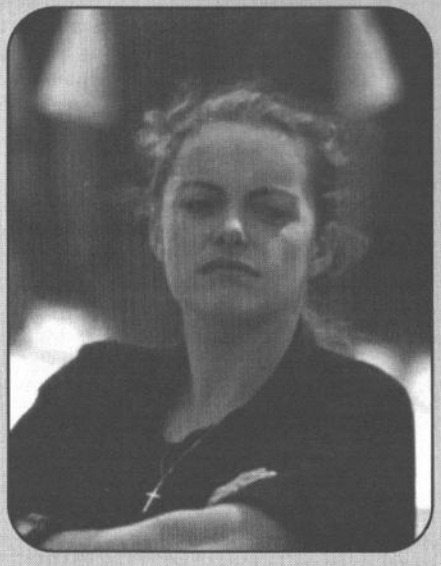
For a copy, send an SAE to:
CAFT, P0 Box 38, Manchester, M60 1NX.

HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU!

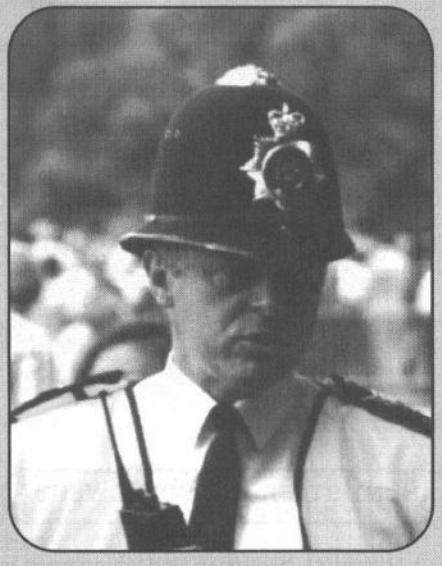
Having a police surveillance camera shoved in your face has become an everyday occurrence for many sabs, but apart from the obvious uniformed officer with a camera, (below left), other agencies, including plain clothes officers and private detectives, are also deployed against anti-hunt demonstrators and others. Civilian photographers, usually hired by police to take photos at crime scenes, are now also being used to record people at demos etc, the advantage being they do not have to follow any police conduct rules (if they have any!), and of course, are dressed 'normally'. The woman shown below centre was snapped by one of our own photographers at the July Countryside Rally, photographing the anti-hunt contingent. She is also known to attend other types of protest (see Undercurrents 8) . Eventually, photos and the dossiers the make up, may well find themselves in the hands of the Forward Intelligence Unit, now headed by the officer shown below right.(Anyone know his name?)



Bog standard evidence gatherer



Civilian photographer contracted by plod.



New head of Forward Intelligence.
(Note: has ginger hair)

Howl would like to work with other campaigning groups to expose these people, and in doing so greatly diminish their undercover effectiveness. If anyone (Hillgrove demonstrators, anti-road protesters, civil liberties groups etc. etc) has any more information on other undercover photographers, please send the details to the HSA office and we will publish what we can. Likewise if you would like copies of any of the photos shown in this section, contact the office and we will send them out to you. (Please do not send any photos of uniformed officers with cameras- the intention there is obvious!- unless they are important for another reason)

tactics

sabbing a mink hunt



There are 20 packs of mink hounds registered with the Masters of Minkhounds Association (MMHA) in England, Scotland and Wales, and another pack registered in Ireland. When the otter became a protected species in 1978, the various packs of otterhounds around the country turned their attention to mink. Hunting usually runs from April to October and roughly coincides with the foxhunting off-season, though it can take place at any time of the year. Meets can be morning (11am) or evening (5pm or 6pm), and hunting goes ahead in all weathers. Hunting is conducted on foot along the river bank. Minkhunts are the most secretive of all legal bloodsports.

HOUNDS

Pure bred otterhounds are shaggy dogs about the size of alsations. However, very few packs consist entirely of otterhounds, and some contain none at all. Most packs contain a mixture of otterhounds and foxhounds donated or sold by a foxhunt, although beagles, bassets and harriers, as well as labrador-crosses are used. Mink packs can have a tendency to riot after ducks, moorhen, swans, or indeed any animal or bird that takes their fancy.



HUNT STAFF AND FOLLOWERS

The Master(s), huntsman and whippers-in fulfil the same roles as in foxhunting. Terriermen usually stay with the hunt. Followers sometimes carry otterpoles, 5 to 6 foot long staves on which kills are tallied by means of notches. Some landowners place limits on the numbers of followers they will allow along their riverbanks at one time to minimise damage.

A DAY'S HUNTING

The meet usually takes place at a pub, member's house or a bridge over the river to be hunted. The huntsman will take the hounds in front of the followers and they will search the bank and reeds on both sides for a scent, usually casting upstream. Some hounds will actually slip in and out of the water, examining likely holes and crevices. Whippers-in will walk in front, one on each bank. Hunt staff will look out for tracks, droppings, and even recently killed prey.

The overnight scent of a mink is referred to as a drag. When hounds find a drag or a fresh line of scent they will give voice in the same manner as foxhounds. If they lose the scent, the huntsman will cast them again, just as in foxhunting. The huntsman may spot the mink in the water by sighting a 'chain' (bubbles of air rising to the surface from the mink's coat as it dives).

The mink will use its size, agility and swimming ability to try to evade the hounds, and will not generally go far. The more the mink doubles back and retraces its tracks, the more its scent will be foiled by its pursuers. Thus, the longer an individual mink is hunted, the greater its chances of escape, quite the contrary to the situation at a foxhunt.
If the mink goes to ground, terriers will be used to try and bolt it. This will not always be possible, as the mink is able to retreat into tiny holes that are inaccessible to both hound and human. Drains can provide a very valuable escape route.

If the mink runs up a tree, (see photograph right) as sometimes happens, it will be knocked down with a pole, or, if this is not possible, a member of the hunt will attempt to climb up and shake it out. If this too proves impossible, the mink is likely to be shot where it is.

THE HUNTED MINK

Most mink weigh just a couple of pounds, though a large mink might weigh as much as twice that. A mink can swim underwater, escape into tiny holes, climb trees, and wind through dense cover, and so their scent can be quite variable. It will be faint at the best of times. Mink usually travel the banks of rivers going upstream, and swim with the current of the river going downstream.



SABOTAGE BEFORE THE MEET

Spray around any bridges and along the river banks on which they will be hunting. This will cover the scent of any drags that have been left from the previous night.

Bear in mind that with mink hunting the hunt can move off and change the meet very easily, so be prepared either to follow them, or anticipate any move.



DURING THE SEARCH

Walk along both sides of the river, a couple of hundred yards ahead of the hunt, making noise to get any mink moving away from the hounds. Spray all the way you go, to cover any scent left, old nor new. As with hare-hunting, keep a group of sabs with the huntsman, who should try to distract him and break his concentration.

DURING THE CHASE

When the hounds pick up a scent, crack whips and rate them. Attempt to take control of the hounds. As with foxhunting, the best time to try this is when the hounds have lost a scent. If possible, take the hounds as far as you can away from the river.

If the mink finds refuge in a hole in the river bank, in tree roots, or in a drain, or if it escapes up a tree, then ideally you should get every available sab to stand as close as possible to prevent the hunt from sending in terriers, or knocking the mink from the tree.

Bear in mind that a lot of sabs trampling over the river bank will do a great deal of damage to the habitat not only of the mink, but of other wildlife.

The article above is an excerpt from the soon to be published HSA Tactics book.

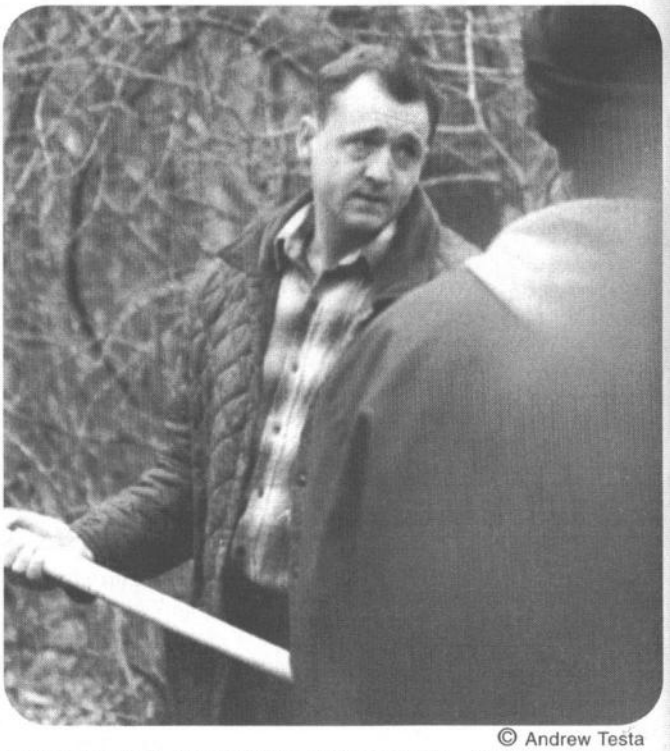
'Howl' will be revealing another sneak-preview next issue.

The Fall & Rise of Hunt SECURITY

A recent injunction brought against a Sussex saboteur by Lord Cowdray has raised attention once again on the use of stewards and private security firms hired by hunts. Such a tactic to rid hunts of sabs is by no means a new one, but it is an issue that has always caused headaches; sometimes literally. Stewards, or 'agents of the landowner' have always been used extensively on grouse shoots, where it is easy to get sabs off land and away from shooters. The more threatening face of security becomes apparent when used by fox hunts. A few seasons back, well-known companies such as Estate Management Services, RKR Security and Dave Dunn's suspiciously brown-shirted 'Countrywatch' were out throwing their weight around at various hunts, but an incident involving a hunt steward working for the Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray FH put the use of hired security into the spotlight.

The steward was convicted of assaulting sabs and causing criminal damage to sab vehicles using an axe handle, and the magistrate sitting on the case condemned hunts for using such thugs. This unwelcome attention forced many hunts to abandon using them, especially when it was revealed that many of the men they employed were ex military.

Members of the Irish Guard have been used on the Chid, and elsewhere ex SAS and paratroopers, despite army legislation stating that no soldier is allowed to 'moonlight' as private security. In addition to this, employees of private or hunt security often have convictions for violent offences, and there are many well documented cases of extremely vicious and unprovoked attacks by stewards on sabs. A change of tactics by pro-hunt organisations over recent seasons has meant the physical threat of security being largely replaced by attempts to gather intelligence on sabs; taking photographs instead of swinging punches.



© Andrew Testa

However, the resurgence of RKR and hunt security on the Chid has resulted in the injunction mentioned previously. The hunt have alleged that one of the stewards acting for Lord Cowdray was attacked by sabs after he had asked them to leave the land. This led to an injunction being served on the Chichester sab stating that if he does not name all those who were in his van on the day of the alleged attack, he would be sent to prison. At the time of print the outcome of this absurd demand is unknown, but it proves that security used on hunts is still a threat to sabs, even when taking a slightly different approach. Knowing as much as you can about members of the hunt and their thugs, be it terrier boys or hired stewards, (if they are employed in your area), can prove to be a valuable weapon. Often, scum personalities move around the country from hunt to hunt, so whatever information you can gather can be passed on to the unfortunate souls who inherit them.

And finally, if anyone is interested in working for RKR to earn some extra cash, don't bother, they only pay £3.50 per hour.

If you have any information, photographs, etc of security / stewards (official or unofficial) in your area, then send them in to 'Howl' at the usual address.

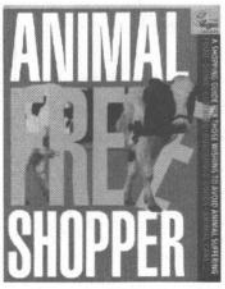


© Andrew Testa

Top: RKR Security guard in negotiation with sab.

Left: RKR again - Staves, pick axe handles and iron bars galore.

REVIEWS



THE ANIMAL-FREE SHOPPER 4th Edition

The Vegan Society £4.95

The invaluable guide to vegan food, clothing, cosmetics and household products etc. has been updated and is now available from the Vegan Society. It's as useful as ever for checking up on which packet of crisps really are vegan, and what all the E numbers actually mean. As well as helping you make the animal friendly choice with your shopping it now includes details on genetically modified ingredients to let you make the healthiest choices possible too. It's only let down on two points - neither of which are it's producers fault. One, a couple of supermarkets (including my local of course) and national companies didn't send back the full list of animal-free products they had available in time for the deadline, so some details are missing; and two, it keeps tempting me with details of dairy-free whipped topping that I have yet to find in any shops. 'Snowcrest' please note: WHO ARE YOUR STOCKISTS!

The Animal Free Shopper is available from:

The Vegan Society, Donald Watson House, 7 Battle Rd, St Leonards- on -Sea, East Sussex, TN37 7AA
Please make cheques payable to "The Vegan Society"



A.W.I.S. GUIDE 1
"An alphabetical aid to understanding the intimacies of hunting and similar rural amusements, past and present"

Animal Welfare Information Service, £2

A 12 page A4 booklet crammed full of quotes from bloodsports enthusiasts and organisations themselves, that give a better insight into the true nature of 'fieldsports' than most anti-bloodsports groups could ever hope to do! The booklet covers all sorts of issues from farmers attitudes to hunting, through badger baiting and other illegal bloodsports, to the spread of disease by hounds in the countryside. Quotes come from as far back as the last century and as recently as the 10th July Countryside Rally last year and virtually every one could be used to blow one of Janet George's 'arguments' from the water. Basically a booklet of HuntsmansBalls that lets the hunters/ shooters / anglers themselves destroy their own claims.
Here's a gem of a quote on hunt havoc as a taste:

"FOX HUNT HOLDS UP AIRLINER - As a jet airliner approached Gatwick airport yesterday members of the Surrey Union Hunt careered after a fox crossing the airport. Air control spotted the danger and warned the incoming plane. The aircraft circled. Meanwhile the fox slipped across the runway to escape and the hunt turned away. Col. Barry Girling, hunt secretary, said later: "We didn't get too close." Told that a jet had been delayed Col. Girling said: "Countrysports were here before jets old boy."
Sunday Telegraph 4/2/73

Every sab stall should have a copy!

The A.W.I.S Guide 1 is available from:

Animal Welfare Information Service, PO Box 8, HALESWORTH, Suffolk, IP19 0JL
Please make cheques payable to "AWIS"

Reviewed by POPPY

☆ **If you would like a book / tape / CD / Video / whatever reviewed in Howl then send a copy in! You'll probably never see it again, but it should get a mention. Be warned though, it will be someone's personal opinion given in a review so be prepared for a stinker!**

COMMITTEE NEWS

Last summer the Hunt Saboteurs Association received a substantial legacy from Mr John Purves, who died last year.

It was decided at the last AGM that although a small proportion should be used to buy vital office equipment that would actually save the Association money (eg. a photocopier), the vast majority of this sum should be shared out among local groups over a three year period.
The local groups benefiting from the first year's allocation of the legacy were as follows:

Kettering
Brighton
Sheffield
Cumbria
West Wales
Hastings
Clydeside
Hull
Chilterns
Croydon
South Downs
Colchester
SDAB
Brixton
Coventry
Cornwall
Forest of Dean
Nottingham
Guildford
Leicester
Chichester
Dorchester
Southampton
Manchester
Ashford
Edingburgh
Dover
Wolverhampton
Weald
Leeds
East Kent
Halstead
Reading
Plymouth
Liverpool
Derby
Stoke-on-Trent

The Hunt Saboteurs Association, and all the local groups that have benefited from this donation would like to pay tribute to Mr Purves' generosity, and assure his family and friends that his legacy will go a long way to saving the lives of many hunted animals.

OTHER COMMITEE NEWS

IT'S ELECTION TIME AGAIN!!

Or rather it will be at the next AGM. Anyone wishing to join the HSA committee (including existing members) MUST send their details, (including what post they are standing for, and a short (< 250 words) CV explaining who you are, what you do, why you'd like to stand and what you could bring to the post etc) to the HSA office by May 20th. Candidates must be members of the HSA of at least one years standing as of May 30th 1998. Candidates must be proposed and seconded by two other HSA members both of which must have also been members for at least a year, and neither may propose or second any other candidates. Although you may state the job you wish to do, the election is for membership to the committee and not for individual posts. These are voted on by the new committee at it's first meeting

Elections to committee will then take place at the AGM which will be in London in July.

Existing posts are: Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Salesgoods, Press Officer, Tactics Officer, Legal Officer, Membership Officer, Contacts Officer, Research Officer, Fundraising Officer, Shoots Officer, Illegal Bloodsports Officer, Sabbing Skills Days Officer
[NOTE: All of the above may be committee posts or non-committee posts (ie. you may decline a vote on the committee if you wish).] The only post which is automatically non-voting and non-committee is the post of HOWL Editor, which you may also apply for.

The next HOWL will not only carry CV's but motions to the 1998 AGM. These fall into two categories: Policy Resolutions and Constitutional Amendments. Both require a proposer and a seconder who are members of the HSA. Copies of our current constitution are available on request from the office. A donation of £2.00 would be appreciated to cover postage and photocopying.

GROUP NEWS

Many thanks to all the groups who sent in their news- hey, a few even managed it before the deadline! Once again, PLEASE try to get your news in on time- it only delays the printing of our organ if I'm waiting on promised material. So it's grumpy pouts to the likes of Nottingham, Leeds, South Dorset and a few others and extra big kisses to Wolves, who supplied theirs on disc, thereby saving me hours of typing. If anyone would like to follow suit, then all this is done in Microsoft Word 6.0 PC format so send something vaguely compatible. Anyway, **the next deadline is 7th of May** , for what it's worth...'Til then, Happy Sabbing- Love **Jon.**

IRELAND

Belfast HSA have kept up the pressure on the *Killultagh Harriers* and the *East Antrim Harriers* into December, being greeted at a meet of the former at Crumlin with a dismayed "Ah, fuck! Not that lot!" from the huntsman as the bright orange sab van cruised past a field of- including staff- four. Who said hunting was popular? After a protracted wait, the hunt managed to double its numbers to a mighty eight before setting off down a lane where the sab van found itself blocked in by a car-load of supporters. As the sabs sped past on foot, the yokels claimed to own all visible land and regaled the antis with traditional laid-back Irish friendliness: "Get off the land or we'll get ya sorted". Heading back to the road, sabs drew the whole pack (who had been in cry) out onto a quiet lane and held them for twenty minutes. When they finally recovered the hounds, the hunt just kept on the run, too far away to respond to sabs calls but missing out many of their draws. A few days later, the *East Antrim Harriers* got wind of planned sabotage and changed their meet at the last minute, foiling not just sabs but the majority of their supporters too. Resourceful **Belfast** still tracked them down, whereupon the hunt split into two; two hours searching could not locate the hounds, however, and sabs suspect that the hunt may have abandoned hunting for a cross country ride. Let's hope permanently.



Belfast sabs proudly present the 'all-new action sab', who can carry spray, horn and map, and still draw hounds from cover.

SCOTLAND

No 'official' reports have come in from Scottish sabs; HOWEVER,*Howl* can reveal what at least some of them have been up to in recent times. A delegation from **Clydeside** sabs journeyed all the way down to London for March 1st (the Countryside March) and to sample sabbing 'down South'. On their (non-too-sober) arrival at a certain South London tube station, they managed, within 10 mins of being picked up by their genial **Brixton** hosts, to get themselves and the two TOTALLY INNOCENT **Brixton** saboteurs, arrested, strip-searched and detained for 3 hours by the Metropolitan police!

Needless to say all were released without charge, but having been kept in till the 'wee' small hours no-one could face sabbing the next day and instead sat in various pubs for the weekend, moaning about the price of southern beer. Blah blah blah blah blah!

Still the lovely (and Scottish coincidently!) desk sargeant who took sab's details did assure them that she was a member of the LACS just before she sanctioned the strip searches: hmmm...

WALES

Swansea HSA report a good season so far; they have been going out on a regular basis, concentrating mainly on the *Banwen Farmers FH* (isn't it the *Banwen Miners FH* or do the hunt change to reflect the employment climate!?-GN ed.) with good success and only the occasional bit of grief. Other hunts sabbed this season have been the *Llangynor FH* and the *Ystradgynlais FH*, and sabs have been very busy throughout the year raising money and collecting petitions, as well as attending the anti-hunt rally in London and several hunt balls.

NORTHEAST

York & District HSA are keen to scotch scurrilous rumours of their demise - in fact, they've grown! Alongside fundraising and lobbying parliament, they've been actively sabbing regularly, sometimes joined by chums from other Yorkshire groups. The first outing of the season proper came on Nov. 8th, when, together with **Leeds HSA**, sabs descended on *York & Ainsty South FH*, for what turned out to be a very boring day enlivened only by watching the hunt huddling under a 3 hour downpour as foxes wandered by undisturbed. The 'boring and crap' motif was continued a fortnight later when the hunt packed up at 12.15, before disappointed sabs had even opened their sarnies! December saw sabs visit a farcical meet of *Middleton FH*, where, to start things off, a rider managed to park his horse on top of a supporter's dog; the whipper-in retrieved the trampled pet and was believed to be asking around for a vet when, spying sabs, he took to his heels, hurdled a gate and hid behind a hedge. Sabs can't possibly believe he could be trying to cover up yet another 'isolated incident'....A supporter was found to take the dog to surgery but, as no-one would talk to sabs, the extent of injuries is unknown. Then the hunt set off... and rioted after a deer. Sabs got most of the pack, but let four carry on to give the whipper-in something to do as he disappeared over the horizon. 10 minutes later, sabs came across a profusely-bleeding rider lying in a field: sabs were told that not only had he fallen off, but his horse had done the decent thing and trod on his head. Paramedics whisked him away - Xmas dinner through a straw perhaps?? Next, a loaded horsebox was driven into a ditch and had to be retrieved by a tractor (the horse apparently unharmed), and, as a final insult sabs whisked away the pack again just as light began to fail. Nothing like packing up on a high note.

York & District also report a good day on the *Holderness FH*, with **Hull HSA**, and a big Boxing Day demo against the *York & Ainsty South* was followed by successful sabbing. A good end to '97, and with no kills witnessed so far sabs hope for more of the same in '98.

NORTH WEST

Much of this main season has been spent with the *Holcombe Harriers*. This pack is being targeted again by **NW Sabs** this year with the usual sab tactic of acting as extra whips to keep the pack in tight to the huntsman with their heads up and reducing the area being drawn. An effective tactic resulting in only one kill (from a chop) for the hunt, when sabs were out. A notable day was had at the *Cheshire Forest FH*, where the 1st whip has been hunting due to the huntsman breaking his collarbone. Sabs were in place to take the pack off a fox put up in a swede field. The sabs then further embarrassed the hunt by taking the pack from the Whips feet with voice calls.

North West sabs (**Bolton**, **Manchester** and **Liverpool**) spoilt the *Holcombe's* opening meet in the Ahford Valley, near Rochdale. Thankfully the 3 vans of Greater Manchester TSG cops left early on in the day; not even staying long

enough to see one rider knock himself unconscious in the first minute of the hunt moving off. Unfortunately, at the following meet at the Master's house, the 7 sabs present were met by at least 8 police vehicles plus helicopter. All were arrested for 'constructive trespass' surprisingly! A month later in the same area two sabs watched with glee as the hunt went crazy for the false trail left earlier. [Who says that a drag hunt can't be fun? - ED]

Sabs have also made a welcome return to the *Cheshire Beagles*, with one meet having to be cancelled when the farmer refused them permission to hunt with sabs present. A rare meet of the *Bleasdale Beagles* in Lancashire, was sabbed by **Bolton**, **Liverpool**, **Manchester** and **Cumbria** sabs who delayed the hunt for an hour or two, despite a heavy police presence. Back at the *Holcombe* sabs were left to do the job in peace after the police Landrover got stuck in mud for over an hour.

Boxing Day saw the successful sabbing of two packs: the *Forest and District Beagles* packed in their meet after only an hour and the *Holcombe* fared little better - the huntsman being unable to even blow for home! New Year was just as good - sabs pre-beat the *Cheshire Forest FH*'s country before moving on to the *Royal Rock Beagles* a few miles away. That hunt only managed to make it to their second field before packing up. Sabs then returned to the *Forest*, who were drawing coverts for the second time that day and still were unable to find anything - wonder why?

WEST MIDLANDS

For **Wolves** and **Stoke** sabs, the cubbing season started off with a bang: 14 sabs were arrested within one and a half hours of the start of the season- the first ever arrests for Aggravated trespass on the *Albrighton FH*. The arrests got a lot of press coverage in the local papers, radio and TV which, as usual, varied from negative to very negative. Despite this early setback **Wolves** and **Stoke** have managed to keep up the pressure on the *Albrighton*: over the years, sabs have seen to it that the *Albrighton* has deteriorated in terms of support, aggression to sabs, land hunted and most importantly as an effective hunt. This is proof of the power of continual sabbing and the hunt will continue to be intensively sabbed until their final demise. So far there have been no more arrests and the police seem to have reverted to their previous strategy of doing very little but try and video sabs. **Wolves** sabs have also been up to Cheshire on a few occasions to help sab the *Cheshire Beagles* with groups from the North West and had a surprisingly good time of it - on one occasion a landowner prevented the hunt from using his land (due to fear of trouble) and they had to go home - oh dear! **Wolves** also went east for a joint hit on the *Fernie FH* with equally good results. Away from the field, **Wolves** continue to get good support from the local community on our stalls, several sabs have appeared on TV in the run up to the Foster Bill and one lone sab made it to Parliament for the debate. We also attended the Cheltenham hunt ball and have been actively involved with the camps outside Huntingdon Life Sciences both at Huntingdon and Wilmslow - all of this with our best mates **Stoke** sabs who we love. To sum up not an amazingly exciting season so far - but quietly effective.

EAST MIDLANDS

For most of the season **Leicester** sabs have been sabbing with 'our friends in the North', **Nottingham** and **Derby** groups. Several times their presence alone has been enough to prevent the *Belvior FH*'s terriermen from digging out. **Leicester** and **Nottingham** also attended the regional hit on the *Oakley FH*, called in response to an unprovoked attack on a Northampton sab, who was knocked unconscious by a hunt steward. A pheasant shoot was also stopped on the day when police called it to a halt to 'prevent a breach of the peace'.
Leicester, **Nottingham**, **East London**, **South Downs**, **Coventry**, **Cambridge** and **Sheffield** all turned up to the BFSS Melton Airfield Rally, where 5 mounted and two foot packs tried to hunt. The sabs packed up the *Belvior FH* earlier and the rest were sabbed by the fog! All the packs left for home early.
The **Leicester**, **Nottingham** and **Derby** team had an excellent day with the *Quorn FH* gathering most of the pack to them. The huntsman, Michael Farrin (supposedly the best huntsman in the country) hardly saw the pack all day. An equally good day was also spent in a similar manner at the *Cottesmore FH*.
On New Year's Day, **Leicester** sabs joined **Northamptonshire** and **Peterborough** sabs at a demo against the *Fitzwilliam FH*. A successful days sabbing followed with no kills once again. Also visited by **Leicester** sabs were the infamous 'Cat Killers' [see News item], whose hounds deserted the huntsman in favour of sabs once again.

SOUTH WEST

Forest of Dean HSA has been formed from the remains of the old **Cotswold** and **Worcester** groups, the seven members giving their services to the *Ledbury FH* and *Cotswold Vale Farmers FH*. Sadly, the hunts have not shown much gratitude, repaying sabs with violence and vehicle damage. The season so far has gone well, with no kills at any of the meets sabbed- in fact, the *CVFFH* often seem to sab themselves and hunt without a pack! Sabs report their most successful day to be at a meet of the *Ledbury FH* at Staunton, where they held the pack for 90 minutes and took them back to the kennels; the scum couldn't pack up 'til they'd retrieved them - after dark! The hunt have since only gone out with half the pack. **Forest of Dean HSA** have issued a plea for other groups to help them out with the *Cotswold Vale Farmers* - they are on the verge of bankruptcy and a good campaign should finish them off.

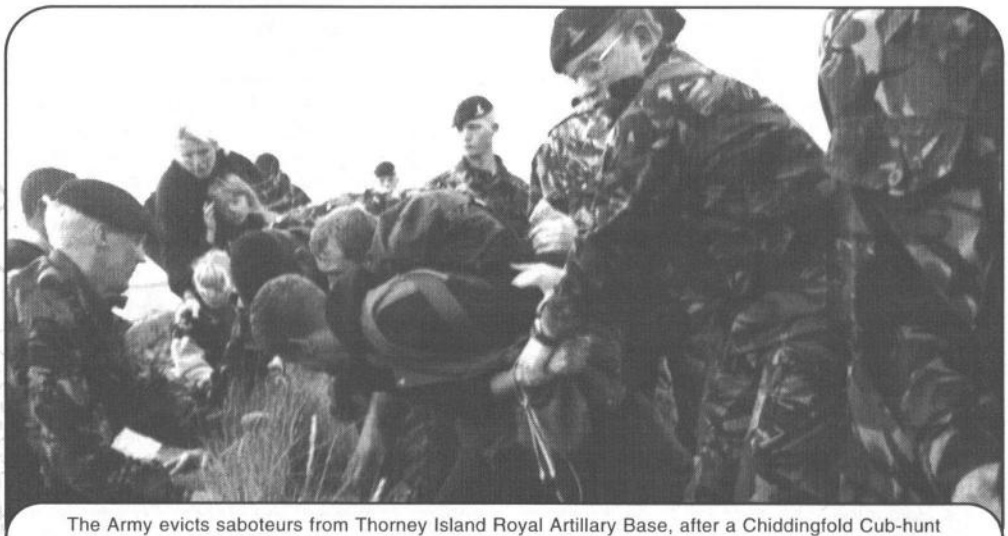
Pewsey Vale HSA, along with **Bath HSA**, have kept up the pressure on the *Tedworth FH*; **Pewsey** thank **Bath** for driving down horrendously early during cubbing and not being late once! Sabs found the new stock of hounds very responsive to their horn and voice calls, and sabbing was very effective - which unfortunately started to show in the number of 'supporters' that began appearing. The main season saw sabs shadowed by over-the-top cops - at one point 8 riot vans, plus a helicopter, for 9 sabs- but sabs were still effective, mainly from footpaths. Things turned nasty at the Wilsford Manor meet - **Bath's** driver was nearly dragged out the window by thugs, badly injuring his leg, and supporters pushed foot sabs around and smashed the van wing mirror before a dig out at the end of the day saw a sab badly assaulted for trying to photograph it - have the hunt got something to hide? A complaint by sabs to the cops saw the sabs (naturally!) interrogated as to whether they were trespassing. Boxing Day saw a great turnout- 2 full vans from **Bath**, **Bristol** and **Pewsey Vale** - for a *Tedworth* meet on MOD land at Everleigh. This is difficult terrain; nevertheless, sabs had the whole pack at one point, before the day ended in another dig-out. Bad news for the Tedworth's new terrier man is that digging or flushing of foxes is forbidden on MOD land; bad news for sabs is that the civilian cops didn't know this. After much arguing, they contacted MOD police who confirmed a by-law had been broken. A report was made to the CPS - don't hold your breath. In the local press afterwards, huntsman Rodney Ellis said: "It is unlikely the men were digging out as it is against the law. It was more likely the men had stopped nearby and this action had been misconstrued as digging." **Pewsey Vale** sabs mock their own foolishness for thinking terriers down holes and men with spades could possibly be anything to do with so barbaric a practice. Since then, sabs have discovered that the *Tedworth* do not have a licence to hunt on MOD land and, as official policy is that no new ones will be granted, developments are awaited with interest. Meanwhile, **Pewsey Vale** would like to extend a big thank-you to **Bath**: they couldn't have done it without you!



After being told of MOD by-laws that make dig-outs illegal on MOD land the Tedworth's huntsman referred to this event as 'unlikely to be digging out' .

Cornwall HSA, meanwhile, had an inauspicious start to the 97/8 season, with just one lone supersab regularly disrupting cubbing meets of the *Western FH* and taking the full brunt of the enemy's displeasure; on one occasion being beaten unconscious, thrown in stinging nettles and left to limp five miles home [BUY THIS MAN A PINT-GN Ed.] However, such dedication has paid off - media attention to his plight has galvanised the good folk of Cornwall and there is now a rapidly expanding and dedicated group, the numbers of which have deterred both hunt violence and arrests by the sizeable police presence. Sabs on occa-

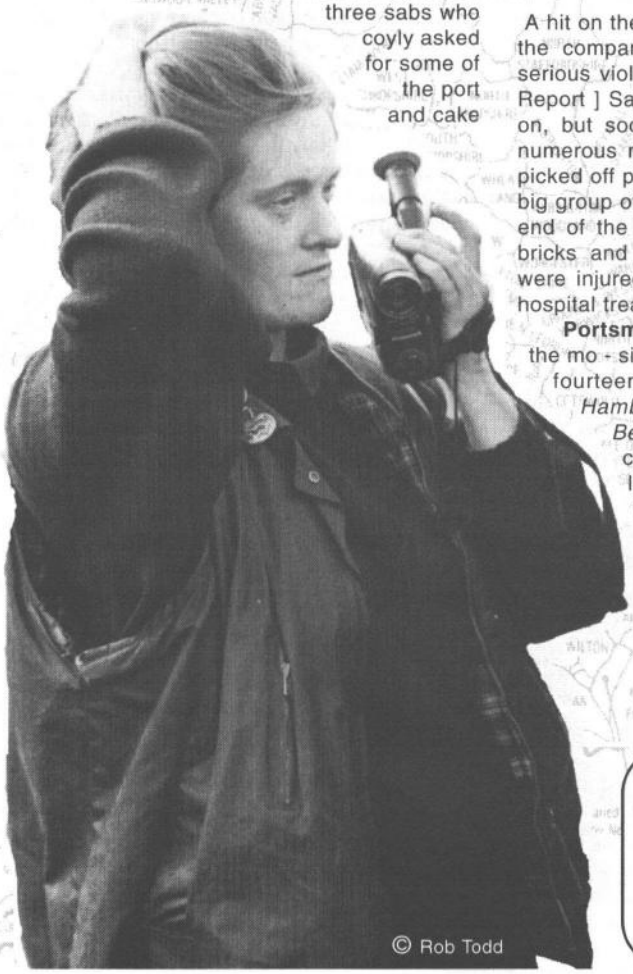
sion have been joined by the local eco-warriors; one such time being a *Western* meet at Sennen Feast at the end of November. After splitting the pack early in the day, the sabs saw the hunt scarper to the north and later relocated them with hounds in full cry. Sabs pulled the hounds off again, watching the fox escape downwind despite pleas from the whipper-in for sabs to let it 'just cross the road'! Hunt and supporters were now showing signs of being somewhat fed up, and after half an hour of mooching about they called it a day. This being the day after November's vote, hunters were demonstrating an enhanced aggressiveness and vowed "to shoot every single fox" should hunting be banned. Bad losers, eh?



The Army evicts saboteurs from Thorney Island Royal Artillary Base, after a Chiddingfold Cub-hunt there. The sabs were told of the meet by other service people living on the base (see Howl 65)

SOUTH

Portsmouth HSA have had an intense and eventful season so far, heading out every Saturday and most Wednesdays to concentrate mainly on the *Chiddingfold, Leconfield & Cowdray FH* in West Sussex. After a few cubbing meets where the hunt gave sabs the slip, the *Chid* have proved easy targets; the pack has been split early on and the hounds pulled off scents with ease. **Portsmouth** have worked hand in hand on the *Chid* with **Chichester HSA** and are frequently helped out by **Southampton**, **Brighton**, **Guildford**, **Dorset** and **Croydon**. The opening meet of the main season saw 50 sabs, joined by a Japanese film crew, ensure the hunt did little hunting; they did, however, ride down one of the film crew and horsewhip a sab! This is in keeping with the more violent attitude that dismayed sabs have noted in this hunt of late. Even geriatric huntsman Rob Cursham now regularly loses his rag. At the New Years Day meet, three sabs who coyly asked for some of the port and cake being passed around at the start were leaped upon by Cursham who later explained that he "was very indignant at the sheer cheek of the request". He also hates being called Rob (instead of Mr Cursham), so if you see him...



© Rob Todd

As well as the *Chid*, **Portsmouth** have paid several successful visits to the likes of the *Surrey Union FH* -with mounted cops protecting the field as boiler-suited foot cops ran with sabs and gave them tea and fags!- and the notorious *Crawley & Horsham FH*. A new target for sabs this year was the *Meon Valley Beagles*, who stupidly advertised their 50th anniversary meet on the radio, guaranteeing listeners a fun day out because they "never had any trouble from hunt saboteurs". Sabs from **Portsmouth**, **New Forest** and **Southampton** therefore arrived in both style and force; horns and gizmos were used to great effect and no kills were made- the highlight being when the pack split into three and allportions ran off with sabs!

A hit on the **Portman FH** at the end of Nov., in the company of other southern groups, saw serious violence inflicted on sabs. [See News Report] Sabs took control of the hounds early on, but soon large numbers of heavies from numerous neighbouring hunts showed up and picked off people with sticks and bars, before a big group of them blocked sabs in a field at the end of the day and pelted them with stones, bricks and even an iron gate. Several sabs were injured by missiles; at least one needed hospital treatment.

Portsmouth are in a bit of a sorry state at the mo - six on bail from an exotic meat demo, fourteen on bail from the *Hursley Hambleden* and one from the *Meon Beagles*. One has had his sabbing crippled by having to sign on at the local nick every Saturday, and as a result of the *Hursley*, **Portsmouth** have no van, equipment, maps, boots or sabbing clothes. Despite this, the group is still going strong and long may they continue!

Sophie Hill, BFSS spy and minor pain in the arse. Where this woman slithers out from you just wouldn't believe! Still hasn't managed to convict anyone with her video footage, but keeps on trying anyway - a truly sad character.

SOUTH EAST

Although dogged by transport problems almost from the start of the season, **Essex** sabs have managed to get out just about every week since the start of cubbing, tackling (often with **Cambridge** sabs) the *East Essex FH*, *Puckeridge FH*, *Essex & Suffolk FH*, *Essex FH*, *Essex Farmers & Union FH* and *Thurlow FH*, plus supporting joint hits on the *Ashford Valley FH* and *Oakley FH*. The biggest difficulty has been obtaining meet cards (the hunts are too afraid to advertise) so there has been much kennel-watching, though some info has come through. Sabs have noticed that Essex police have come down a notch on the Richter scale, though whether this is due to humiliation after the last big Essex hit or just that they aren't getting results can only be guessed at.

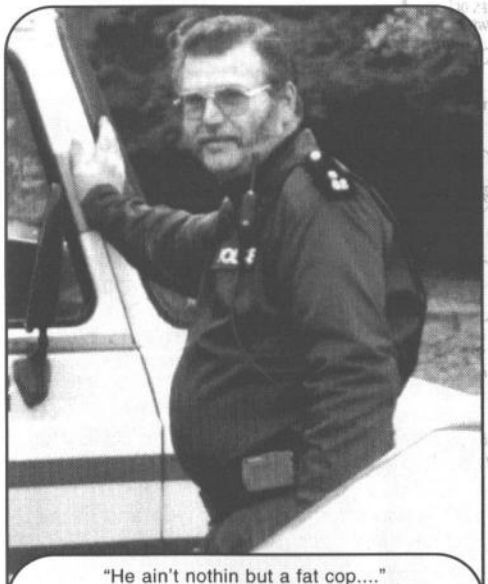
This did not, however, prevent one PC 'cop-on-a-mission' Righteousness trying to get sabs vehicles impounded at an *Essex FH* meet just before Xmas; he called out traffic plod who spent hours going through every nook and cranny of two of the four vehicles in use. One was impounded, the other allowed to leave with the help of sticky tape. Sabs left in the field did their best, enduring unwanted attention from their pal Jamie Purser, who just cannot keep his hands to himself!

Suffolk police, meanwhile, have gone the other way - but have fared little better than Essex plod in the courts. Most significant has been the failure of evidence given by David Hart - Portillo's best friend - to secure the conviction of two sabs accused of aggravated trespass. [See Legal Pages]

Along with other groups, **Essex** have noticed a definite shift towards regular use of violence by both hunt members and supporters, the most obvious being the *Essex Farmers & Union* who completely lost their cool on Boxing Day. One sab had his nose broken by a supporter, a female sab who came to his aid was hit under the eye and another sab was ridden over a short while later. Police did at least arrest the man responsible for the former, but sabs aren't holding their breath.

Essex HSA feel that they have managed to keep the pressure on the hunts, sending out regular press releases to local papers regarding their failures and our successes. Generally, sabs know they have prevented many kills by

their presence at local hunts and, despite transport problems, will continue to do so.
Further south, (after a summer spent collecting for a much needed video camera) **Wealden HSA** got into action from early August; together with **Ashford**, **East Kent**, **Hastings** and **Brighton** sabs they gave *Ashford Valley FH* their worst cubbing season ever with some great sabbing - despite outrageous policing and stick-wielding hunt boys. Sept. 15 saw the hunt attack sabs on sight at a meet near Ashford. 'Luckily', the cops turned up - to arrest a sab for swearing, push another in a hedge and smash a video camera. Bizarrely, when sabs later tried to file a complaint about the policing at Ashford nick, the bobbies - who take an unorthodox view of citizens' rights (see Howl 65) - leapt from behind the counter and attacked the complainants before arresting four for 'violent and disorderly conduct in a police station'. A month later saw sabs subjected to yet another vicious attack: 2 were knocked down by a quad bike - one, plastered across the front, was driven across a field at 40mph. Another was thrown over a hedge and a third held down by 7 supporters, beaten unconscious with an iron bar then arrested. The following week, regulars were joined by **Croydon HSA** and the hunt forced to pack up after one and a half hours. A horsebox leaving the meet knocked down a **Wealden** sab- who, of course, was promptly arrested for causing criminal damage to it. Cops, having scented blood, then tried to nick everybody for affray, finishing off by clubbing a girl round the head and spraying CS gas at everyone. And all that was just during cubbing!



"He ain't nothin but a fat cop...."
Elvis is alive and policing the Chid.
(Obviously he's still fond of the odd burger.)

Wealden sabs managed to sab both the *AVFH* and the *West Kent FH* opening meets, and as well as keeping the pressure up on the former, have visited *East Kent FH*, *Wye College Beagles*, *Portman FH* and the *Hursley Hambleden FH*- where the whole group was nicked and held for 36 hours and had their greatest achievement so far: getting **Ashford**'s van impounded! Then, five days before Xmas, a lone **Wealden** sab returning from Xmas shopping had the bad luck of running into the *Ashford Valley FH*; he was immediately blocked in by riders, and a dozen terrier boys proceeded to smash up his car before smashing him up too as they dragged him from the vehicle. Once more, Ashford cops came to the rescue: when they eventually turned up, they nicked the sab for 'causing unnecessary cruelty to an animal', and impounded his car. But despite Kent Constabulary's best efforts and a massive increase in hunt violence, **Wealden** sabs look forward to the new year!

It's Five Go Mad On The Downs as **South Downs HSA** sab the *South Down and Eridge FH* at any given opportunity. There have been no kills this season (and the previous two) whilst sabs have been there-ha! Long runs up and down the Downs are a feature of sabbing there, but the hunt have given up trying to outrun sabs as they only have to wait for the field to catch up whilst sabs sit and play with the hounds. Sabs have also had to hold up traffic on a number of occasions when the huntsman has lost control of the pack near main roads. All in all, **South Downs** report a cracking season and would like to thank all those lovely people who donated to help keep them out there. Not even the recent theft of the sab car will slow them down now!

Croydon and **Brixton** sabs have kept themselves busy with the *Old Surrey & Burstow FH* and *Surrey Union FH* , who for most of the season kindly met on alternating Saturdays so as not to disappoint sabs. The *Old Surrey & Burstow FH* even appear to have stopped meeting on Saturdays, due to pressure of sabs.

The highlight of the season for **Croydon** and **Brixton** sabs was seeing Mark Sprake, huntsman of the *Surrey Union FH* arrested at the scene of a dig out for breach of the peace! (See front cover) Coming only weeks before his retirement, this marked the lowest point in what we can only describe as a lack-lustre career.

One sab who witnessed the event said, " It was a joy to behold. At first it looked as if Sprake was going to resist arrest: I was praying he'd be put face down in the mud and cuffed behind his back. In the end though he was simply marched off whilst all around irate bumpkins were cautioned as they started to get a bit agro." All South East sabs would like to thank Sprake for years of piss-easy sabbing, and hope his predecessor will be kind enough to do an equally, shall we say "good" job.

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GREEN ISSUES

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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.
Make cheques and PO's payable to 'ALF Supporters Group'. Send to: ALF SG, BCM 1160, London, WC1N 3XX.

Michael Green AV2923
HMP Ashwell
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Leicester, LE15 7LF

Gillian Peachy RL3415
HMP Holloway
Parkhurst Road
London, N7 0NU

Toby Phipps
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Onley
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Warwickshire, CV23 8AP

Barbara Trenholm RL1292
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Barry Horne VC2141
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Geoff Sheppard MD1030
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Noel Mollund CK4321
HMP Guts Marsh
Shaftsbury
Dorset, SP7 OAH

Greg Avery
HMP Holesley Bay
Colony
Wieghbridge
Suffolk, IP12 3JS

Kevin Hickey, Mel Broughton and Toby Humphhries all at:
HMP Woodhill
Tattenhoe St
Milton Keynes, MK4 4DA

Keith Mann EE3588
HMP Long Lartin
South Littleton
Nr. Evesham
Worcs, WR11 5TZ

PLEASE NOTE
Justice for Kieth Mann Campaign's new address:
JFKMC
PO Box 3690
Bracknell
Berkshire, RG 12 8 NW

Rod Coronado #03895-000
FC1 Unit SW
8901 S.Wilmot Rd
Tuscon, AZ 85706
USA

Ryan Durfee BA03
Mark Klein AA45
both at:
Oxbow Jail (Inmate Mail)
3148 South 1100 West
Salt Lake City, UT84119
USA

Jason Troff
Jacob Kenison
both at:
S.L. County Jail
450 South 300 East
Salt Lake City
UT 8411-3207
USA



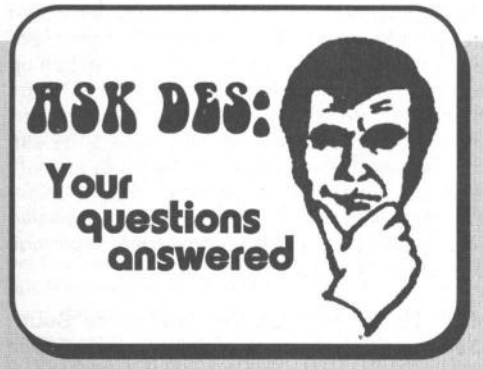
LEGAL NEWS

LEGAL ADVICE UPDATE

Provided by Des Murphy & Co.

We deal with a large number of people actually in custody or who complain of unfair treatment by the police and we have been surprised at times at the level of ignorance of basic legal rights and obligations even amongst those who've had plenty of experience.

This is intended to refresh the memories of those who have for years been participating in activities which attract the attentions of the police as well as those who are new to the experience. It is not intended to be an exhaustive and minutely accurate guide to the law but rather an overview. If you want the detail go to the local reference library and if you're in the police station ask a solicitor.



How long do police cautions last & does that mean I have a criminal record?

A police caution is a formal reprimand following an admission of guilt in police interview. It is designed for minor offences and it lasts for 5 years. It is recorded and can be referred to in court proceedings. [NOTE: This advice applies to 'official' police cautions given *after* arrest. (You will actually have to sign a form saying you accept the caution) This advice does not apply to 'cautions' given by the police before they arrest you ie. "If you go in that field you will be arrested" Strictly speaking this is not a caution at all, more a 'warning'; it is up to you whether you obey it or not. The standard HSA advice is to never accept an official caution; especially if you have not had a proper discussion with your solicitor. A caution is an easy option for the police and it will affect you for a long time - Ed]

What is a bindover & how long do they last?

A bindover is civil law remedy (JPA) and is not a criminal conviction. It is an admission that your behaviour was"out of order" but not criminal and is a promise to the court to keep the peace and be of good behaviour for a defined period which is at the court's discretion. It can also be imposed as a sentence after conviction.

Can the Police simply stop and search persons/vehicles or stop persons/vehicles for information ?

Yes, in certain circumstances:-
PACE - Persons and vehicles where there is public access to search for stolen goods or items used to commit theft, burglary etc, offensive weapons.
CJ&POA - Section 60 - If a senior office designates an area within which serious violence may occur police can stop and search persons and vehicles for weapons/dangerous articles and arrest/prevent entry to area if you refuse.
MDA - Controlled drugs anywhere.
PTA - Roughly speaking the police can search persons/vehicles anywhere for anything relevant.

What is an Offensive Weapon or Prohibited Article?

PCA - Anything made/adapted to cause or intended to cause injury to the person.
CJA - Article with blade or point except pocket knives unless the blade is more than 3 inches. Both offences relate to public places and it is a defence to show lawful authority or reasonable excuse.

What details do I have to give when stopped but not arrested and what will probably happen if I refuse to co-operate?

RTA - Driver - Name/address.
Passengers can be obliged to disclose name of driver.
PACE - Section 25 - Name/address - see below

Can a policeman stop me in other circumstances short of arresting me?

Yes; if a police officer has had an allegation made to him of a criminal offence he can detain you briefly to make enquiries. He must either arrest or release you. In particular if an allegation of a non-arrestable offence (e.g. Obstruction of the Highway/Police Officer) is made then a police officer can require you to give your details and if you refuse, or he is not satisfied that the info is correct, then he can arrest you under Section 25 of PACE 84. He can also arrest you under S.25 if the circumstances make it impracticable to seek details (e.g. in a riot).

What proof does a police officer have to have to arrest me?

A reasonable suspicion that a criminal offense known to English law has been committed and that you have committed it or a breach of the peace has occurred/may occur. There is no definition anywhere of reasonable suspicion and must be assumed to be a very low standard of proof indeed.

What does a police officer have to do/say to arrest me and what else should he tell me.

They should physically detain you and at the same time say-

"You are under arrest for (offence**). You do not have to say any thing but it may harm your defence if you do not mention now anything you later rely on in court. Anything you do say will be written down and may be used in evidence."**

The above in bold is the police caution and must be given. They must tell you why you've been arrested and caution you but don't have to do it at the point of physical arrest so long as they inform you as soon as reasonably possible afterwards. "You're nicked for Obstruction "is called the "short form of arrest" and is lawful in certain circumstances.

What do I have to say/not say.

You still have an absolute right to remain silent however the CJ&POA 94 has introduced the fact that a court can draw a reasonable inference from a failure to deny/account for something specific and obvious at the point of arrest/interview/charge. It is a good idea to say that you deny having committed any offence if that is the case.

[If you have any specific (but non-urgent) legal questions you'd like answered, write to Des via Howl and we'll print his reply in the next issue of Howl- ED]



You're Nicked.

Searching at point of arrest.

The police can search at arrest if the officer believes that the person has something which may be a danger to himself or others, and he may seize and retain property that the person may use to injure himself or others. Where the search takes place in public the officer can only require the arrested person to remove their outer jacket or coat, or gloves. Hats including turbans are exempt from this requirement. However the police can now search a person's mouth.

At the Police Station.

The arresting officer doesn't have to come with you so long as another officer has sufficient information to inform the Custody Officer of the reason for arrest. The officer who brings you before the Custody Sergeant should explain the reasons and the Custody Sergeant has to decide whether there has been a lawful arrest and whether there are grounds to detain you, and, yes, some custody officers have reprimanded arresting officers for a groundless arrest and released the detainee. Again it is a good idea to deny having committed an offence and get it recorded on the custody record.

What do I have to tell them ? Nothing if you really don't want to but if you fail to give your name, address and date of birth they can refuse you bail if you're charged.



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Your rights and why you should enforce them.

PACE - You are entitled to know the reasons for your detention, make a phone call, have someone informed you are in custody, speak to a solicitor of your choice in private, see the PACE Codes of Practice, have writing materials, receive food appropriate to your diet, have appropriate rest periods. You are advised to enforce your rights as the police will take you seriously if you take yourself seriously. Asking for a solicitor does not imply guilt and it means someone is on your side.

Solicitors / Duty Solicitors.

Duty solicitors are merely solicitors who have made themselves available to give free advice to persons in custody. They are not employed by the police. Solicitors and duty solicitors are their to safeguard your interests so ensure that you always at least speak to one on the phone and have one present if you wish. This is your legal right so use it. [NOTE: The HSA strongly advises sabs to carry the details of a good solicitor with them always, and use them whenever possible. Always try and get the advice of a solicitor who has had experience of dealing with sabbing related arrests etc. even if its only over the phone. Duty solicitors have been known to give unhelpful advice due to ignorance of the whole legal postion surrounding sabbing /protests. Use them only as a very last resort - Ed]

Interviews

An interview is an opportunity for the police to find out if you want to tell them anything about the offence. You don't have to be interviewed. Only you will know if there is anything for you to worry about. If the arrest is an obvious mistake and you have an alibi which is watertight then telling the police the details may result in your immediate release. If you are guilty but don't intend to admit it then say nothing. In between the above 2 situations there is a grey area. You may be totally innocent but for reasons beyond your control you can't explain yourself without making the situation worse. **You are advised to say nothing.** On the other hand you may not have done what the police say but have done something they don't know about and don't want to tip them off. Say nothing. You may not want to risk getting others into trouble or simply have a policy not to cooperate with the police. That is your right. Since the police have to have evidence to charge you, if they don't have any before the interview and you tell them nothing during it, they won't have any more after the interview. **Silence seldom makes the position worse.** Always get a solicitor's advice before an interview.

Note. CJ&POA - Although the court may, IF YOU GIVE EVIDENCE, later draw a 'proper inference' (ie that you've made it all up) from your failure to explain certain matters in interview a case cannot be made out of inferences without evidence to prove the offense. In any case we all know that courts 'drew inferences' from silence even before the CJ&POA. In any event there may be perfectly good legal reasons not to say anything. Don't be panicked by the CJ&POA.

Charge / Release no charge / bail

Once the police have sufficient evidence to charge they should do so without delay. Interview after charge is not allowed.. After charge you will usually be released on bail with/without conditions to attend court. If you are not bailed you must be brought before a court at the first opportunity.

Release no Charge: Means the police have insufficient evidence and you are free to go.

PoliceBail [PACE Section 47(3)]: Means the police are making further enquiries and you will have to return. No bail conditions possible.

Photographs, fingerprints & DNA samples

Photographs: The police can never use force to take photographs. They can take a photo before charge without your consent, if the arrest took place in a crowd, for identification reasons. After charge they can take photos without consent in certain circumstances but can't use force (think about it). If you refuse they sometimes take a crafty polaroid shot.

Fingerprints: The police are entitled to use reasonable force in order to take your fingerprints under a senior officers authority. It is a matter for the individual whether they want to consent to giving fingerprints or not but refusal to cooperate can lead to a separate charge of obstruction or worse if more than passive non-cooperation is used. Police don't always bother to force the issue.

DNA Samples: The police are building a DNA database and can take samples, usually mouth swabs, with force, in many circumstances.

You do not have to attend a police station if a police officer asks you to do so voluntarily and if you do you can leave at any time unless they arrest you.



LEGAL NEWS

SOME TOP TIPS

● Demonstrating is Legal but there is no law that says that it is. Ditto sabbing (i.e. the use of the same tactics as the huntsman to prevent a kill) so long as you don't trespass at the time or commit some other offence (e.g. Assault/Disorderly Behaviour etc or Breach of the Peace).

● Remember that what the police can do and what they will do are sometimes 2 different things, arrest is a very useful way of rendering a person inactive regardless of the possibility of an unlawful arrest claim afterwards.

● Ask yourself "Do I really need to 'look like a sab'?" "Do I really need to take that whip/spray/horn/gizmo/balaclava if I can't use them or can I be effective without them?". Many Aggravated Trespass cases rely heavily on the fact that such items are found on sabs to prove intent to disrupt,obstruct or intimidate. Don't carry them just as a fashion item.

● If you are going to go sabbing or on demonstrations then get used to the idea of spending time in police cells or at court and know your rights and start working positively on your own defence from the outset.

● When confronted by police don't give them an excuse to detain/arrest you - unroadworthy vehicle, dope in your back pocket, "I've got this stick for self-defence...." (unless it's true and you have an overwhelming urge to admit it), "I f***ing know my rights c**t, you cant f***ing arrest me". Being nice to a police officer costs nothing and may save an animal's life. If you are arrested you're ineffective for the rest of the day.

● Stay calm: If you are arrested and taken to a police station it can be an intimidating experience, but in the overwhelming number of cases you will be released in a matter of hours.

●. Have a solicitor's details ready in advance and always ask for them to be contacted if you are being detained at a police station.

LEGISLATION AFFECTING PROTESTERS

Justice of the Peace Act - JPA
Highways Act - HA 1980
Police Act - PA
Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 - PACE
Public Order Act 1986 - POA
Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994- CJ&POA
Protection From Harassment Act 1997 - PFHA
Road Traffic Acts 1960 & 1988 - RTA 60&88
Road Vehicle (Construction and Use) Regulations 1988 - RVR

Also possible:- Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 - MDA, Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989 - PTA, Prevention of Crime Act 1953 - PCA, Criminal Justice Act 1988

A note on The Protection From Harassment Act 1997
As you will remember from all the media waffle at the time this was originally enacted to protect victims of stalkers and it was undoubtedly not the intention of Parliament to use it to stifle legitimate protest. This is confirmed by a recent a recent High Court decision - Huntindon Life Sciences V Curtin & Os (1997).

SUFFOLK SABS IN HELICOPTER INTRIGUE

Sabs in Suffolk have encountered a millionaire landowner determined to make a bid to be a prime all-round hate figure. On December the 3rd at Mildenhell Magistrates court, Suffolf, saboteurs Melissa Vardy and Joe Wilkins were aqquitted of Aggravated Trespass, stemming from a days sabbing a Suffolk hunt, during which they were flown at by landowner David Hart in his private helicopter.
Typically , although Hart had been recklessly contravening Air Regulation rules, it had been sabs who ended up nicked! However, it was Harts behaviour that led to Melissa and Joe's aquittal - the stipendiary magistrate accepted that far from trying to disrupt the hunt at the time of their arrest, the sabs were, in fact, preoccupied with trying to evade the helicopter (as well as a tractor and quad bike which were being driven at them by members of the hunt.)
During the trial Hart swore that he was merely observing the saboteurs and had never taken the helicopter below 500 feet. But in a bizarre twist, he was contradicted by a police officer who witnessed the helicopter "buzzing" the wood where sabs had taken refuge. Hart also landed his craft several times, demanding that saboteurs be arrested, and in a brash reference to the well-loved ex minister Michael Howard, declared "my friend Michael passed laws to stop this sort of thing!"
David Hart has many friends in high places: he is a former Cabinet advisor to one time Defence Minister Michael Portillo [another lovely man! - Ed] In 1985 Hart had a commons motions tabled against him which called him a "CIA conduit" and decrying his "clandestine operations against the '84-'85 miners strike."
No charges were brought against him for his airborne escapades - wonder why?

FIRST EVER CJA ARREST PAYS OUT AT LAST

Penwith Fox Protection group member Philip Elston has been awarded £500 plus costs after being arrested on 13th December 1994 at a meet of the Western Hunt near Penzance in Cornwall.
It was the first hunt-related arrest made under the Criminal Justice Act 1994 in Cornwall.
Philip says,"Now that this matter has been resolved I intend to continue with the job in question, namely to prevent the untimely and cruel deaths of wild animals. There have been several attempts to stop law-abiding people like myself from protecting wild creatures. The CJA has been the most recent change in the law. Until a ban on hunting with hounds has been imposed, activists will continue in their efforts to help the hunted animal."



SABBING HUNTS Using THE LAW.

One of the tools sabs should utilise whilst sabotaging hunts, is some knowledge of the laws that affect hunting itself. All sabs should have an idea, at least, of what a badger sett looks like for instance, since a dig-out at one of these could get the hunt in a lot of trouble. Obviously you have to rely on someone (namely the police) to listen to you and take you seriously, but video footage of the New Forest Buckhounds taken by anti-hunt campaigners breaking by-laws and their own guidelines, effectively led to the demise of the hunt. Police hunt briefings obviously effect the way in which the police deal with protesters so it is worthwhile alerting the hunt patrol inspectors at the beginning of the hunt season to offences hunts routinely break.

CRIMINAL OFFENCES (AND POTENTIAL STATUTES OFFENDERS)

Criminal damage (by horse and quaddie riders to fences, walls, crops and land or by terriermen to land or drains)	Criminal Damage Act ~ 97 1, S 1 and 2
Cruelty to animals - terriers or foxes - (by terriermen during a dig out)	Protection of Animals Act 1911, Si
Trespass on railway lines or embankments (by any hunt supporters)	Railway Regulation Act 1840, s16 and British Transport Commission Act 1949, s55(1)
Animals on railway lines (caused by the huntsman or whippers in)	British Railways Board Bylaws
Dangerously out of control dogs (caused by the huntsman or whippers in)	Dangerous Dogs Act ~989, s3
Interference with badger setts (by terriermen)	Protection of Badgers Act 1992, s3
Drunk in charge of a horse	Licensing Act 1872, s12

Criminal damage occurs when a person damages property belonging to another person and the owner of that property does not agree to the property being damaged. It is therefore useful to find out which landowners have banned hunts or the extent of the permission that hunts have on land. Hunts commit criminal damage when they do dig outs on land over which they are trespassing. Similarly hunts cause criminal damage when they dig out on land which they only have permission to cross over.

It is also an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to animals. The LACS has brought prosecutions against hunts for causing unnecessary suffering to terriers and is currently taking a case out against a hunt for cruelty to a fox. To obtain a conviction for this offence it would be necessary to obtain photographic evidence or video footage of the state of the animal(s) before and after the commission of the offence. It may, in theory, be possible to stop the dig out from being completed. Once a terrierman puts his terrier in a hole down which a fox is believed to be sheltering he is placing it in a potentially dangerous position and, in doing so, has committed an offence under the 1911 Act.

Trespass on railway lines and allowing animals to stray on to railway lines are automatic offences. The British Transport Police seem to take these offenses seriously and seem to be more impartial than local country coppers so it is worthwhile reporting these offences to the British Transport Police rather than the hunt patrol officers.

It is an an offence to allow dogs to become dangerously out of control. How many times have we seen dogs running around on busy main roads or running around school playgrounds?

It is an offence to destroy a badger sett or to cause a dog to enter a badger sett. It is also illegal to: damage a badger sett or any part of a badger sett; obstruct access to a badger sett; or disturb a badger when it is occupying a badger sett. Furthermore it is illegal to have the intention to do any of these things or being reckless as to whether any actions would have those consequences. Terriermen (and other hunt officials) are allowed to damage badger setts, obstruct accesses to badger setts and disturb badgers which are occupying the sett as long as the official:

a) takes no action other than obstructing the entrances;
b) does not dig into the tops or sides of the entrances;
c) ensures that:

1) the materials used are untainted straw, hay, leaf-litter, bracken or loose soil or
paper sacks filled with the above-mentioned materials, or empty paper sacksor sticks or faggots;
2) the materials are not packed hard into the entrances;
3) (if the materials used are loose matter) the materials are only placed in the entrances on the day of the hunt or after midday on the preceding day;
4) (if the materials used are, sticks, faggots, paper sacks or materials packed in paper sacks) the materials are only placed in the entrances on the day of the hunt and are removed on the same day.

d) is acting with the authority of the owner or occupier of the land and the authority of a recognised Hunt (ie a hunt recognised by the Masters of Fox Hounds Association, the Association of Masters of Harriers and Beagles or the Central Committee of Fell Packs).

LEGAL PLEA

Were you one of those arrested at **Haughton Moss, Nr Nantwich, Cheshire on 11/12/93** at a mass hit on the Cheshire Foxhounds? If so Irwin Mitchell Solicitors are keen to get in touch with you for test cases. They would like to get a meeting together for all concerned.

Anyone connected please contact:

Nicola Meese at Irwin Mitchell Solicitors on 0114 275 3306

Other actions.

veggie/vegan

A vegetarian chef has won his case that his dole money should not be stopped because he refused to cook meat. Simon Beavis, 25, a vegetarian since the age of 12, had refused to work with meat, invalidating new Job Seeker Allowance rules. Normally if a claimant refuses employment on anything but religious grounds, their claim is stopped. This is the first time a claimant has won the right to refuse work on ethically grounds.
(Times 18.4.1997).

zoos & circuses

Carrolltown, Pennsylvania: A 400lb Bengal tiger pounced on its trainer in front of a circus audience of at least 200 children and their families, killing him and dragging him round the ring by his neck. [It's been a bad year for tiger trainers - thats the third attack I've heard of - Ed]
(Times 9.5.1997).

cruel trades

French customs at Orly airport have seized more than 1,700 hippopotamus teeth, on route from Uganda to Hong Kong, from smugglers diversifying away from elephants tusks.
(Times 6.6.1997).

fur & leather

Following pressures from animal rights activists, Mary Kay Cosmetics has ended its policy of awarding fur coats to top sales people.
(Animal Times, Spring '97).

ANTI-FUR CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

The Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade (CAFT) was established in summer 1997. Investigations play a large part in their work, and so far they've filmed at a Yorkshire mink farm, and carried out surveillance at a Newcastle mink farm to film the gassing of mink for their fur and the dumping of the skinned bodies. In addition they have been linking local groups in fur farm campaigns and coordinating fur campaigns around Britain.

The Labour Party, who for years have said they would ban fur farming, are now dragging their heels and refusing to give any time scale for action, only repeating the well worn phrase that they will ban it "as soon as practicable". Keeping the pressure on MP's and the Ministry of Agriculture will hopefully encourage the government to actually carry out this pre-election pledge sooner rather than later.



There are currently 16 licensed mink farms in Britain, and the hope is to get campaigns going to cover all of these farms.

For details of campaigns, and list of campaign materials (leaflets etc), send a SAE. Donations or funding of specific projects are most welcome.

Contact:
CAFT, P0 Box 38,
Manchester,
M60 1NX.
Tel: 0171 278 3068.
E-mail: caft@londonaa.demon.co.uk

HILLGROVE FARM UPDATE

Christopher Brown has been breeding cats and kittens for the vivisection industry for 27 years - it's time he was stopped! At his home at Hillgrove Farm, Cry Lane, Whitney,, Oxon., he has up to 1000 cats and kittens in breeding sheds waiting to be shipped all over the world for pointless and painful experiments. There is now a growing campaign to close down Hillgrove, including daily pickets, all night vigils and huge national demonstrations. For an information pack write to : Save the Hillgrove Cats, Box CB, 111 Magdalen Rd, Oxford. Please make any donations made payable to "Save the Hillgrove Cats."

NEXT NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION : SATURDAY 18TH APRIL at 1PM

! URGENT APPEAL !

The Farm Animal Rescue Sanctuary, set up by Carole Webb eight years ago, is in desperate need of funds. The sanctuary is currently home to over 500 lambs and sheep, goats, calves and bullocks, piglets and chickens rescued from the carnage of factory farms. As long as the sanctuary survives all the animals are guaranteed a chance to live out their natural lives in peace and security. *However* the sanctuary is almost out of funds. Although it is run on a purely voluntary basis, its operating costs are huge - the cost of hay alone comes in at £400 a week! Add to that the cost of veterinary care, other animal feed and maintenance of the farm itself and you can see why Carole's small band of supporters just cannot keep up with the costs. **THEY NEED YOUR HELP!** Although immediate donations are desperately needed to avert a disaster; the long term hope is to encourage sponsorship of individual animals (just £24 a year) to ensure a regular income. More fundraisers are also needed to help the sanctuary (and the animals) survive.
Please send donations (payable to FARM ANIMAL RESCUE SANCTUARY) to: Kaylie R. Day, 59, Edgell Rd, Staines Middlesex TW18 2 EP

ecology & wildlife

Full protection for wolves has paid dividends in Italy where numbers have increased from around 100 to 400. Wolves have crossed into France from Italy and have also spread from Poland into Germany and from Slovenia to Austria. The Italian government is to contribute 500 million lire (about £170,000) towards protection of the wolf.
(La Voce dei Senza Voce, Spring 1997).
(Wildlife Guardian, Spring 1997).

PISCES

Please note that Pisces have re-located and reverted to their old name of Campaign for the Abolition of AnglinG (CAA). Their new address is: CAA, BM Fish, London WC1N 3XX
TEL: 0171 278 3068

Diary Dates

18th April, 1pm
World Day For Laboratory Animals
National Demonstration against Vivisection at Hillgrove Farm, Cry Lane, Oxfordshire

18th - 25th April
LABORATORY ANIMALS WEEK
Contact the National Anti-Vivisection Society on 0181 846 9777

10th June, 12 Noon
Demonstration to protest at Tony Blair's refusal to grant the Foster Bill parliamentary time. Meet at Lobby Gate, Houses of Parliament, Westminster. Called by London Animal Action 0171 2783068

15th - 21st June
ANTI ANGLING WEEK
Course fishing campaign launched by the CAA
0171 278 3068

VERMIN PATROL

Cruelty Cases... in the Courts

Howl 64 Update

Nicholas Grooby (22) of Paradise Lane, Old Dolby, Leicestershire (an unpaid terrierman for South Nottingham Foxhounds), Gary Pearson (34) of Souldern Way, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, David William Edwards (48) of Roughcoat Lane, Cavershall, Stoke-on-Trent and Mark John Hulme (33) of Ash Grove, Rode Heath, Stoke-on-Trent were sentenced to four months for attempting to take a badger, two months for digging for badgers and two months for interfering with a badger sett, with all sentences running concurrently. They were also banned from keeping animals for 5 years (20/2/97) However, following an appeal in July all the men had their sentences reduced to 120 hours community service plus costs of either £400 or £500.

badger VERMIN

Following a trial at Matlock magistrates court, four men from Derbyshire were found guilty of interfering with a badger sett, digging for badgers and killing a badger. **Garry Shaw** (28) of White Terrace, Rowsley, near Bakewell, **Gary Pettipierre** (37) of Belper Road, Alderwasley, **David Wragg** (32) of Sandbed Lane, Belper and **Michael Holland** (32) of Cowsley Road, Chaddesden were seen on 10/3/96 at Cromford Moor by a badger protection group. The badger group watched in horror as four approached the sett and dug out a badger which was knifed, then bludgeoned to death. The police found the body of a fully grown male badger still warm in a shallow grave near the sett. The killers initially told the police they had been looking for foxes (there goes that old excuse again) and had nothing to do with the badgers death. However, Wragg later told magistrates he had stabbed the badger through the heart and then buried it. Police took a knife from Wragg and a boilersuit from Holland; both were bloodstained and DNA genetic profiling (used for the first time in such a case) matched the blood of the dead badger. On 17/10/97 all were sentenced to five months in prison by Bakewell magistrates, however all were released on police bail pending an appeal at Derby Crown Court. The court also ordered that their terriers be forfeited to the RSPCA.

David Clark (37) of Leamington Spa and **Richard Underhill** (37) of Southam, Warwickshire were both found guilty of interfering with a badger sett, attempting to take a badger and causing a dog to enter a badger's sett. 11/9/97 Both claimed that they were trying to trap foxes and rabbits and their dogs had entered a badger sett by accident. When police raided Clark's home they found his living room filled with badger and fox trophies and gin traps were mounted on the walls.

Also caught was **Frederick Smalley** (69) of Hill Farm, Kineton Lane, Warmington. He was charged with interfering with a badger sett by destroying it on his farm between September 10 and October 5 1996. *He was due to be tried separately and the outcome of this trail is unknown.*

John Charles Kneale (58) of Westminster Drive, Bromborough, Wirral (**terrier man for the Cheshire Foxhounds**) and **Peter Edge** (28) of Hilbre Bank, Alpraham, Tarporley, Cheshire both walked free from Northwich magistrates on 31/10/97 after magistrates decided there was no case to answer over allegations of badger digging. Both were charged with disturbing a badger sett and causing a dog to enter a badger sett at High Billinge near Tarporley after the Cheshire Foxhounds had passed over the land earlier the same day in February 1997. The farmer who owned the land had given permission to dig for a fox but they were then seen digging a badger sett by forest workers, who then rang a badger protection group to report them.

Steven Taplin (28) of Kilburn Street, Liverpool, **Paul Archer** (23) of Snave Close, Liverpool and **Stanley Young** (30) of Elizabeth Road, Bootle, Liverpool were all found guilty on 14/11/97 of interfering with a badger sett and causing unnecessary suffering to a fox. Young was also found guilty of cruelty to his terrier. In court a vet said a fox found at the scene was still warm, had 'pretty horrendous injuries' and had bled to death.The court also heard how a greyhound and two terriers were injured, and one of the terriers had such serious injuries that it required three operations to repair the damage to the lower jaw. The three said in court how they had travelled to Stockport to hunt foxes because there were none in Merseyside (yeah right!!!). Taplin also stated it was a duty to kill foxes "because they are vermin". All three were sentenced to over 200 hours community service and ordered to pay £200 costs each. Young also had to forfeit his terrier and was banned from keeping dogs for two years.

game VERMIN

Alfred Evans (62) of Tyn-y-Clwt Nanttyr, near Llangollen, North Wales and his nephew **Eifion Evans** (28) of The Lodge Nanttyr, Glynceiriog, North Wales appeared before Llangollen magistrates on 27/6/97. Both were charged with three counts of using a trap to take a wild bird, possessing traps to take wild birds, having control of part of a wild bird and keeping a pheasant in an under sized cage. The offences fall under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. Magistrates heard how an RSPB employee found two Larsen traps near a pheasant release pen, one contained a crippled pheasant. When the police interviewed the pair (**who are both experienced gamekeepers on the estate**) they said one of the traps was to catch fox cubs. The prosecution alleged the traps were really a decoy to destroy birds of prey. The incident was alleged to have happened on the Nanttyr Estate near Llangollen where many birds of prey breed. *If anybody knows the outcome of this trial can they please let me know.*

At the same court on 21/6/97 **Patrick Sarsfield** (49) **head keeper** of Vivoid Estate, Llangollen was cleared of seven charges involving the illegal use of traps and poisoned bait.

Another **gamekeeper** appeared at a court in Dumfries accused of using a funnel trap for the killing of wild birds. **William Richards** (33) of Harelawgate, Canonbie, Scotland pleaded not guilty to the charge; he also denied possession of a funnel trap and two pigeons capable of being used to catch wild birds. The court heard how an SSPCA investigating officer found a trap baited with pigeons. The sheriff found the case not proven.

Gamekeeper Leslie Morris (28) of Golf Link Cottages, Downley Common, Buckinghamshire appeared in court charged with killing protected wild animals. Morris appeared before Wycombe magistrates on 24/10/97 and was remanded on bail until November 12. He faced a total of 16 charges: four of taking a badger; destroying a badger sett; handling a stolen Honda quad bike, (the property of Gold Star Trading); two breaches of firearms certificate regulations; killing three wild owls; setting snares to injure wild animals; using an illuminating device to assist in the killing of a badger; two cases of killing a sparrowhawk; using a Fenn trap for foxes in a non-approved way; taking an unknown number of badgers and of killing a buzzard. The charges relate to dates from January 1996 to August 1997 in the High Wycombe area.

equine VERMIN

A racehorse owner who subjected his thoroughbreds to cruelty and neglect was jailed for three months on 15/7/97 by Blackburn magistrates and banned from keeping horses and dogs for the rest of his life. **Robert Layland** (62) , an **ex-Hunt Master**, of Desmaine House, Newsholme, near Gisburn, Lancashire allowed his horses to live in such squalor that they were unable to move because they were standing three feet deep in their own manure. The 15 horses and a yearling foal were emaciated, balding and lice-ridden and one animal's carcass was left to rot among live beasts. When police and officials of the Horses and Ponies Protection Association (HAPPA) asked Layland about his cruelty, he falsely claimed that the animals were poised to go to a new home on the estate of the Earl of Lonsdale in Cumbria. Layland later admitted five offences of failing to dispose of horse and dog carcasses and two offences of causing horses unnecessary suffering. He also asked for nine other horse neglect charges to be considered. So far it has cost HAPPA £26,000 to look after and rehabilitate the horses. Layland was fined £200 for failing to dispose of dead animals, and was ordered to pay £10,000 compensation to HAPPA. Layland is to appeal against his sentence at Preston Crown Court in early 1998.

VERMIN PATROL

A woman caught up in a family feud over a £1million home has been convicted of animal cruelty. **Michelle Stubbs** (26) of Summerhill Farm, Dilhorne, near Cheadle, Staffordshire was sentenced to 120 hours community service and was banned from keeping horses for two years. On 14/3/97 Leek magistrates heard a stallion owned by Stubbs was left for three days without treatment for a severe kick to the head from another horse. When council officials found it, the horse was almost dead. It had put down. In an earlier incident a foal being cared (!) for by Stubbs was found to have two to three-day-old untreated bites on its hind-quarters. The painful wounds, were thought to have been caused by a dog. Stubbs, unemployed, pleaded guilty to two charges of neglecting horses and was also ordered to pay £400 costs. Stubbs solicitor blamed the neglect on a long standing family dispute involving his client and her parents, Michael and Susan Stubbs, who are facing eviction from Summerhill Farm.

The girlfriend of Paolo Gucci, (grandson of the founder of the fashion empire), **Penelope Armstrong** (28) who lives on a stud farm at Rusper, West Sussex was banned from keeping horses and ordered to pay costs of £5,640 along with compensation to the RSPCA totalling £15,570. She admitted 11 charges of causing unnecessary suffering. One horse had died and six had to be destroyed after they were found emaciated and suffering from diarrhoea. Post - mortems carried out on the horses that were put down showed that they lacked inadequate nutrition and had a lack of body fat. One filly was estimated not to have eaten for two weeks. Armstrong also received a written caution in 1994 for a similar offence to an Arab stallion. On 22/12/97 Armstrong appealed against her sentence which was not only upheld but increased to a four-month suspended jail term.

A two-year-old bay filly belonging to **Thomas Herriott** (48) of Baxters Buildings, Seaton Delaval, Northumberland, found in an appaling condition in a snow-covered field, would have died, had it not been rescued by the RSPCA. The horse, named Fleur, was emaciated, riddled with worms and suffering from mis-shapen feet because of a lack of food and care, and only survived after intensive medical care. Professional rider and showjumper Herriott was also ordered to pay more than £3,000 in fines and costs. Magistrates also heard that Herriott had already been banned from keeping dogs for 20 years after being convicted of cruelty in 1989. *(Does anybody know about this case?)* At the time of the offence Herriott was a partner in the Tilery Stables riding school and livery yard at Kirkley, near Ponteland, Northumberland.

The mother of an Olympic three-day eventer was fined £1,500 for causing suffering to three horses kept at her stables. **Jennifer Clapham** of Mattingley, near Basingstoke, Hants (whose daughter Diana "Tiny" Clapham represented Britain in the 1984 Olympics), was cleared of 10 other charges relating to horses found at the farm. As well as training horses, she is a senior judge at horse shows.
A total of 13 horses were removed by the RSPCA. Clapham had kept some show horses absolutely immaculately but severely neglected others. Clapham was found guilty in respect of one horse which had to be put down and of two others which were in an emaciated state. One RSPCA inspector's notes from the day referred to "images of Belsen," because of the shocking condition of horses. Clapham, the wife of an Army colonel, was fined £750 for the horse which had to be shot, £500 for a second and £250 a third. She was also ordered to pay £7,500 costs and her own legal fees. The defence said Clapham had already received anonymous hate-mail using "foul language and threats to attack her physically".

egg VERMIN

Barry Sheavils (37) of Ogle Drive, Blyth, Northumberland was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay costs of £350 by Bedlington magistrates on 28/9/97 after being found guilty of 12 offenses of taking eggs from nests in the wild. He was also convicted of possessing items capable of being used to commit such offenses. (These items included 11 notebooks, egg data cards, 54 maps, rope, climbing sling, syringes and pipettes). Boxes containing 48 eggs were found in the loft of his home during a raid by the police and RSPB officials. The eggs were taken from various sites including the Scottish Highlands, Yorkshire, the Peak District and the Lake District.

Two brothers (first mentioned in Howl 65) were fined a record £10,000 after being caught stealing the eggs of protected birds on Orkney. **Lee McLaren** (37) and his brother **Jamie MacLaren** (34), both from Portsmouth, had built up a collection of 385 eggs. They were each given a three-year conditional discharge because of the fines already imposed but were warned they faced severe penalties if convicted again.

Follow up to Howl 64

A falconer who used a live pigeon as bait to recover a hawk valued at £5,000 should never have been prosecuted for cruelty, a court was told on 1/9/97. Sheriff James Paterson told Leonard Durman-Walters (58) of Hyndlee, Bonchester, Scotland: "I do not consider causing terror to a pigeon ranks very high in the scale of offences." Although finding him guilty of two charges of cruelty, Sheriff Paterson said he would impose nothing more than two admonitions (warnings).

domestic VERMIN

A poultry farmer killed 29,300 broiler hens when he turned off the rearing shedís ventilation system. **David Killgallon** (38) of Winterton, Humberside admitted causing unnecessary suffering to the hens. He was fined £400.

Dog killer **Sean Hammond** (26) of Langtoft Grove, Inglemire Lane, Kingston upon Hull, subjected his mother's kitten to sustained cruelty as "perverted entertainment for young children". In a "trick" for youngsters the kitten called Sweep was half-strangled, flung to the floor, kicked, thrown against a wall and jumped on. Finally, Hammond threw the kitten upstairs before the animal leapt through a window and then took refuge in the garden. On 25/4/97 Hull magistrates jailed Hammond for the maximum of six months for cruelty to the animal on 8/9/96. Hammond is already subject to a life ban from keeping animals after kicking his dog to death in a drunken rage - an offence which earned him a three months jail sentence in 1994. After hearing the latest incident a magistrate said: "I think you are one of the most objectionable people I have ever dealt with." He said he was only sorry his powers could not give him the sentence he deserved. Following the case his mother June Hammond, of the same address, wept and tried to defend her son. "I know he didn't do that to the cat. He is innocent and yet he has been jailed," she said.

Michael McNeil (48) of Bewholme Grove, Kingston upon Hull neglected his dogs so badly that one of them had to be put down immediately. The greyhounds, Cilla, Sam and Ella, were found starving and covered with fleas and sores. McNeil pleaded guilty to three counts of causing unnecessary suffering on 8/5/97. He claimed all the dogs were fed and he had been aware they both had fleas and sores. He had not taken them out for exercise because "he was embarrassed." The case was adjourned until 2/6/97 and McNeil was granted conditional bail. *(Does anybody know the outcome of this case?)*

A farmer was strongly criticised by a District Court judge for "barbaric treatment" of his sheep, resulting in their legs being cut to the bone by twine fetters. **Donal Healy** (42) of Ballinrosig, Carrigaline, County Cork, pleaded guilty at Carrigaline District Court on 25/7/97 to three charges of causing cruelty to 14 sheep, 26 cattle and a dog at his farm on 1/4/97. An inspector with the Cork Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said he found 14 sheep and lambs lying on their sides in a field with very poor grass and no substitute feeding or water. "I found the sheep had their feet fettered with bailer twine. The twine was attached with running knots and no stop ends, which meant when the animal moved the twine would tighten on the leg. When this happened, it would cut right through the flesh to bone and when I cut the twine free from the leg, I exposed half an inch of raw bone. He also found 26 cattle and calves and a bull, in a compound behind Healy's farmhouse who were standing in several inches of slurry. "The animals had no place to lie down, they had no food or water and were roaring," He also found a terrier tied with a 20-yard chain - again without any signs of food or water and no shelter from the elements. Healy's solicitor explained his client's mother had died just two weeks before the visit. He had since had the sheep put down. But the judge said it was horrifying to think of the pain the poor animals had suffered. He fined Healy £100 for causing cruelty to the sheep, £100 for causing cruelty to the cattle, £50 for causing cruelty to the terrier and ordered him to pay £130 expenses.

Graham Smith (45) of Knowles Street, Radcliffe, near Bury and his son **David Smith** (20) of the same address were each fined £50 by Bury magistrates on 14/8/97 after pleading guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to their cat. A scratch on its head had developed into a

tumour after going untreated for two months. The cat, named Ginger, was later put to sleep by an RSPCA vet. Both men failed to have the cat treated for its condition and it was left to suffer. A charge of failing to provide necessary care and attention to the cat was levelled against them both because they lived at the same address and were both responsible for the welfare of the cat. Smith Snr, a joiner with Salford City Council, said he had no intention of getting another cat. Both were fined £50 and ordered to pay £126 each towards the prosecution costs and veterinary bill. Sadly they were not banned from keeping any animal in the future.

A party guest microwaved a woman's kitten after she rebuffed his attempts to make a pass at her. **Brendan Blennerhassett** (24), of Luton, Beds carried out the attack within hours of meeting the woman. The 12-week-old kitten, called Jasper, took 10 minutes to die once it had been rescued from the microwave. Blennerhassett was jailed on 19/8/97 for the maximum six months for causing cruelty to an animal. The chairman of the bench at Houghton-le-Spring magistrates, Tyne and Wear, told him: "The torture and death of a much-loved and defenceless kitten is a thoroughly despicable offence. It was an inhumane act which can only be dealt with by a term of imprisonment."

Kenneth Young (25) of Lilly Street, Bolton pleaded guilty at Bolton Magistrates court on 8/10/97 to causing unnecessary suffering to his five year old Doberman, possessing amphetamine, breaching a community service order for possessing drugs and breaching a probation order for driving and drug offences. The court heard how Young had done a moonlight flit, leaving the dog alone in the flat, which was found later in an emaciated condition and the flat 'reeked of excrement'. Young was jailed for a total of 10 months and banned from keeping any animal for 15 years. The Doberman has now recovered and has found a new home.

On the 9/10/97 **Jane Cherrington** and **Michael Topping** both of Eldon Place, Patricroft, Eccles, near Manchester appeared before Salford magistrates charged with 27 counts of cruelty. They are alleged to have bred dogs without a licence. They are also charged with keeping a bird in a cage to small for it. This charge is under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

A man convicted of causing two dogs unnecessary suffering was behind bars after losing a battle to clear his name. **Ronald Simpson** (39) of Ormonde Street, Sunderland was jailed for two months in December 1996 after Sunderland magistrates heard how two starving greyhounds had eaten a third dog in a shed in Augusta Square, Sunderland. Simpson appealed against the conviction and sentence claiming the dogs were not his. But his case was dismissed at Newcastle Crown Court on 18/10/97.

Steven Fletcher (25) of Oakridge Road, High Wycombe has been banned from keeping pets for ten years after a court heard he clubbed his pet dog to death with a snooker cue in a fit of rage. Fletcher was told by Wycombe magistrates on 24/10/97 that he came close to going to prison for killing Sparky, a three-year-old Jack Russell terrier, whose body was never found. Fletcher was also given two years' probation, ordered to work 80 hours community service in a year and to pay £1,100 costs. Fletcher pleaded guilty at a hearing in September to ill-treating Sparky, and to two charges of causing unnecessary suffering to cockatiels, two charges of causing unnecessary suffering to goldfish and one of causing unnecessary suffering to six exotic fish. Some fish died and the birds and other fish were taken by the RSPCA. An RSPCA Inspector went to look for Sparky in the dustbin where Fletcher said he had put her, but the dog had been removed. The inspector said: "Mr Fletcher had killed Sparky in a fit of temper and revenge on the basis that he could not get his girlfriend back and the dog took full brunt of his animosity and revenge." He said the RSPCA and police found live and dead fish and cockatiels with no food or water. Fletcher's girlfriend Donna Newell had first taken their three dogs and other belongings but Fletcher reclaimed Sparky. Afterwards the Inspector, said: "I'm a bit disappointed it wasn't a life ban but at least he's got a ten-year ban and two years of punishment with time to reflect on what he's done." Fletcher said after the case he now takes anti-depressants and has received hate mail. He has lost his job as a warehouse-man at Comet, Wooburn Green, blaming the press for publicity. He added he killed Sparky because it was the first anniversary of his mother's death and he was in a temper after separating from his girlfriend.

A couple were banned from keeping animals for 10 years after Bedlington magistrates heard on 19/11/97 how they failed to take their dog to a vet after it suffered a broken leg. Shona, a young cross-bred bitch, was left in agony for several weeks after fracturing a hind leg in a fall down stairs. The owners **Brian Spalding** (20) and **Anita Oliver** (26) both of Thorntree Gardens, North Seaton, Ashington, Northumberland failed to seek veterinary treatment despite clear evidence that the dog was suffering pain. Shona could not walk properly and was in an emaciated condition when she was removed from their home. Spalding and Oliver, who are unemployed and have two children, were banned from keeping animals for 10 years and fined £100 each for causing unnecessary suffering to the dog. The RSPCA will keep Shona, and the couple will have to give up a second dog which they own. Spalding and Oliver claimed they did not have enough money to take the dog to a vet. But chairman of the magistrates said that was no excuse and issued a warning to other pet owners: "Keeping an animal is an onerous responsibility and if you can't afford to pay for veterinary treatment you should not have a pet."

Gareth Pierce (22) of Rugby Road, Leigh, Lancashire admitted causing unnecessary suffering to a dog. Leigh magistrates were told on 21/11/97 how Pierce had kicked the dog because he thought it had used his back garden as a toilet. The dog received treatment for four days, sadly however the dog had to be put to sleep. He was fined £350 with £160 costs and banned from keeping any animal for 12 months.

assorted VERMIN

A Devon builder has been fined £100 for using an illegal spring trap to protect his poultry from rats. **Philip Marshall** (39) of 11 Hoxton Road, Ellacombe, Torquay laid the metal trap with spring action steel jaws outside his poultry sheds in Flete Mill Lane, Aish, Stoke Gabriel until it was spotted by an environmental health officer. When the RSPCA were called Marshall admitted that he had caught four rats in the trap before it was seized by the officer. Marshall was also ordered to pay £100 costs.

APPEAL

If anybody knows the outcome of some of these court cases can you PLEASE LET ME KNOW ASAP. Also if you have any recent/old press clippings on any court cases can you please send them in via the HSA P.O. Box in Brighton or to the North West HSA - P.O. Box 155, Manchester, M60 1FT. A big thanks to everybody who has sent me clippings for this issue.

Too young to be an active sab? Find out how you can still help by joining

Animal Freedom – Ban Bloodsports – Hunt Sabs Youth Group

FOX CUBS

The HSA's Own Youth Group

When you join you'll receive a new members pack, with fact sheets on every type of hunting and other animal rights issues, one pack of anti-bloodsports leaflets, a hunt sabs youth group badge, a coloured 'Fox' calender and 'Animal Freedom', the monthly newsletter.

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To join send your name, address and age, and a cheque or postal order for £5 to:

Fox Cubs PO Box 127, Kidderminster, Worcs, DY10 3UZ

FREE MEMBERSHIP TO CHILDREN OF ACTIVE SABS

NOTICEBOARD

PUBLICATIONS

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 for £3.50 made payable to NW HSA, PO Box 155, Manchester, M60 1FT.

Overdose on SchNEWS!!! Want to know what's really happening out there in defiance of the CJA, JSA and lots more large letters clubbed together?? Then you need to place an order for SchNEWS-round, comprising issues 51-100 of the weekly schNEWS letter. Send a cheque payable to Justice for £4.99 to Justice, c/o On the Fiddle, PO Box 2600, Brighton, BN2 2DX.

Arkangel Magazine A forum for debate and exchange of ideas about pro-animal action at all levels - £8.00 for 4 issues. BCM 9240, London WC1N 3XX.

SABBING EQUIPMENT

Bargain hunting horns for only five quid! The HSA has got its grubby little hands on a nice consignment of horns for a nice little price. Why not spend some of your hard earned cash on sabbing instead of extra-strong lager equipment. They're the same as an Earlham horn but not as highly polished. Cheques/PO's/Credit Card details to the Brighton PO Box asap - first come with the dosh gets 'em!

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? - £35 with a tape recorder + £2.50 p&p. It is expensive, but it has a guarantee! If interested contact Steve on 0585 140851.

CLOTHING

Ethical Wares, producers of quality vegan footwear will donate a percentage of their 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.

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 127, Kidderminster, Worcs, DY10 3UZ.Send large SAE for 'bloodsports factsheets' for young people.

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

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.

Sea Shepard Conservation Society - Direct action against illegal marine exploitation & more. SSCS, PO Box 628, Venice, California, 90294, USA.

Animal Cruelty Investigation Group Conducts undercover investigations and expose of animal abuse. ACIG, PO Box 8, Halesworth, Suffolk, IP19 0JL

Justice for Keith Mann Campaign, another long time sab and AR activist, currently serving an 11 sentence for conspiracy.

NOTE NEW ADDRESS JFKM, PO Box 3690, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG 12 8 NW

HELP WANTED

The HSA is trying to get HOWL out via new outlets. Do you know of a radical bookshop or similar outlet that may be interested in taking a few *HOWL*'s to sell? If so, please either send the address details to the Seth, via the HSA office.

Wanted- a warden for a cats sanctuary, Birmingham area. Accommodation free - 3 bed terrace house. No wage. 20 cats + kittens to look after. Other people on hand to help. Contact Betty Rees on 0121 744 6479

SERVICES

Ethical Investors Group - provide independent advice on a whole range of personal financial matters, including ethical investments, pensions, life assurance and savings.For an info pack contact E.I.G at Milestone, Greet road, Cheltenham, GL54 5B. Tel 01242 604550. Tell them were you saw this ad!!!!

★ HSA RAFFLE ★

Winners were as follows:

1ST	**VPSG** (who donated their £500 prize to various animal sanctuaries)
2ND	**R . Roach**
3RD	**D . Hill**

CONGRATULATIONS!

CLUB DRAW WINNERS

DECEMBER

1st	S Fenner, Berks
2nd	F Ford, Lancs
3rd	A Hunter, Glasgow

JANUARY

1st	J Ackerby, Liverpool
2nd	J Cole, Middlesex
3rd	H Healy, Kent

FEBRUARY

1st	J Rist, Hants
2nd	F A Inkley, Surrey
3rd	S Dooley, Bristol

CAPTION COMPETITION

What's going on here then?

Send your ideas to Howl, marked Caption Competition, via the HSA office

The sender of the best caption will win a HSA baseball cap





Last issues winner (photo left) was **Oz from Leicester** who wins £10 (kindly donated by the photographer)

You can't ban Hunting because:

Hunt Excuses. No.1:

If hunting is banned, thousands of hounds will suffer and have to be destroyed.

The pro-hunt lobby have used as one of their main scare tactics claims that a ban on hunting would lead to the suffering and death of hounds. The shameful reality of hunting is that every week in Britain hounds sustain appaling injuries and are not given appropriate treatment. Those beyond treatment or past their 'prime' are shot.

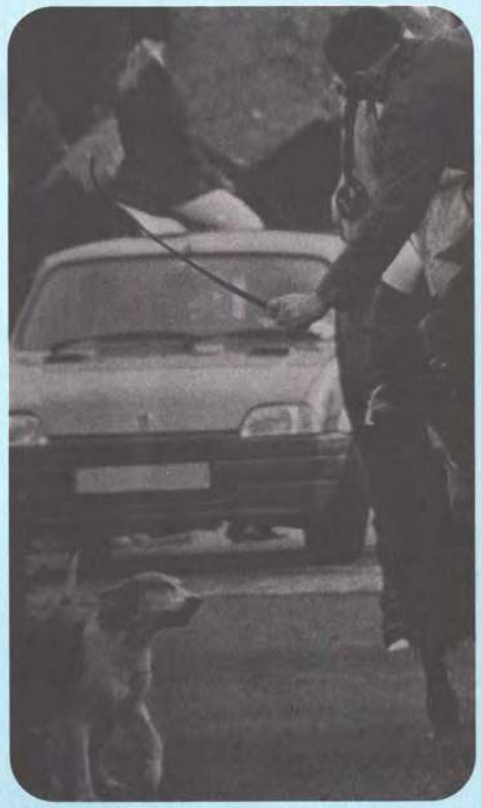
The stories and photographs below are just some of the many, many examples of just how badly many hounds are regarded within hunts. After all, they are merely tools of an already distasteful trade.



Young hound, shot through the neck and dumped outside the North Down FH Kennels. He had been led away on a make-shift rope leash.



Another young hound, this time found shot and dumped in the Cambridgeshire FH's offal bin, ready to be fed to the other hounds.



Belfast sabs catch a rider striking a hound with his crop in County Antrim

On Saturday 20th December Hastings Hunt Saboteurs attended a meet of the East Sussex and Romney Marsh FH at Magnum Down, near Eastbourne. Late in the afternoon they noticed that one of the hounds had been injured. When they approached the hound, it became apparent that several other hounds were also injured. One hound in particular was severely hurt, having sustained a deep laceration to his right hind leg. The cut was so deep sabs suspected he had cut a vein, as the wound spurted blood that soon created a pool on the road where the sabs examined him.

The saboteurs immediately alerted members of the hunt to the severity of the injury, and asked that the hound (known as 'Cobbler'), be taken to a vet. It is believed the huntsman, George Hyatt had known of the injury for more than a hour, and seemed happy for the hound to rejoin the rest of the pack to finish the days hunting. It was only when the saboteurs started to take photographs of the injury that Hunt Master, Diana Grissel, called a follower and sheepishly asked him to attend to the hound.

Sabs offered their own first aid kit and Cobbler's wound was bandaged. Two saboteurs carried him to a vehicle belonging to the hunt. The vehicle moved 400 yrds up the road then stopped; the huntsman continued the days hunting while the injured animal lay in pain in a parked vehicle. No vet was called - the hunt packed up at 4pm and Cobbler was still in the back of the vehicle, his bandage soaked with blood. The RSPCA have since been contacted and a complaint registered. Local sabs hope that some action against the hunt with regards to this incident will be forthcoming.



A painfully thin hound on the Surrey Union FH.



Hastings sab carries Cobbler to a supporter's car.



East Sussex and Romney Marsh Foxhound 'Cobbler' bleeding heavily.

The Last Word: "Mr Boyles, 50, who has been a huntsman since he left school, takes puppies into the kennels at Exford, Somerset for training at about 12 months. "If for some reason they are not suitable for the hunt by the time they are two they are put down" he explained....The staggering death toll of 12,000 a year is accepted by the British Field Sports Society."

Sunday People, March 24th 1985

WORDS MEAN NOTHING



411 MPS,
2,000,000+ SIGNATURES ON 1 PETITION,
80% OF THE POPULATION....
AND STILL THE ONLY PEOPLE SAVING LIVES
ARE HUNT SABOTEURS.



ACTIONS ARE EVERYTHING

You can join the Hunt Saboteurs Association and become an active or simply a supporting member. Don't delay, join today - all members receive our magazine *HOWL* four times a year and a free car sticker and badge. Simply fill out this form and send it to us at the address below.

I would like to become an active / supporting member * of the Hunt Saboteurs Association (*delete as applicable). I enclose my membership subscription of:
❑ £10 per year waged ❑ £7.50 per year unwaged ❑ £100 life membership

I enclose a donation to help fund the HSA's work: ❑ £5 ❑ £10 ❑ £25 ❑ £50 ❑ Other.....

Name.....Address.....Postcode.....

I wish to pay by Visa / Mastercard; Card Number..... .....Expiry date...../.....Signature.....

Please make cheques payable to HSA . Return to: HSA, Po Box 2786, Brighton BN2 2AX