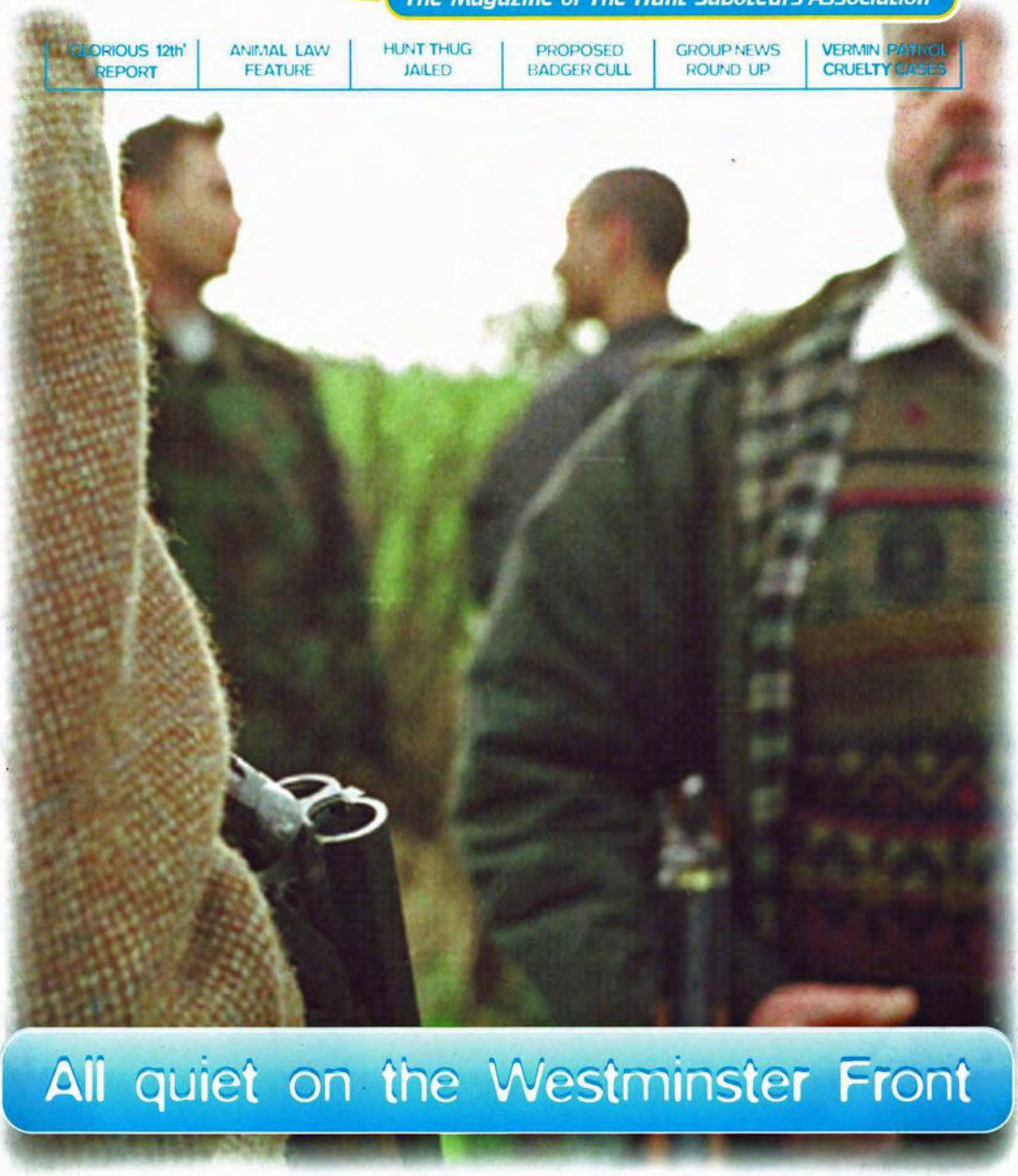
Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

Autumn '98

HOWL 67

The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association

'GLORIOUS 12th' REPORT | ANIMAL LAW FEATURE | HUNT THUG JAILED | PROPOSED BADGER CULL | GROUP NEWS ROUND UP | VERMIN PATROL CRUELTY CASES



All quiet on the Westminster Front



JAILED! HUNT THUG GETS FIFTEEN MONTHS

A hunt thug who already had convictions for violent offences against hunt saboteurs has been sent to jail for fifteen months for his part in a vicious attack on a League Against Cruel Sports monitor. Anthony Kirkham, 53, of Ridley Farm, Ridley, near Tarporley, Cheshire, who is described as a hunting 'friend' of Prince Charles, received the sentence for giving L.A.S.C. monitor Christopher Owen what the judge described as "a cruel beating", and the theft of Mr. Owen's camera which involved "targeted, and to an extent organised violence". The attack happened when Owen, an Executive Committee member of the League, was trying to photograph the Cheshire Foxhounds from a public footpath on Saturday 21st February 1998. A huntsman pointed him out to Kirkham and others who were following the hunt in a landrover. The vehicle then chased Owen across a field and through a ditch before he was cornered. He was then sprayed in the face with a liquid, hit over the head with a bottle and after falling to the ground, was repeatedly kicked in the head. As Kirkham put the boot in, he said "We have got you now, Owen, you're dead". He then dragged Owen to his feet and ripped the Canon camera, worth £1,300, from around Owen's neck. Describing the ordeal in court, Owen said: "It felt as if my head had exploded....now I know how a hunted fox must feel."

Whilst applauding the fact that this dangerous man has finally got his comeuppance, local sabs are left wondering why it didn't happen earlier. Kirkham had already served a jail sentence for attacking his wife and another man in 1987, when he appeared in court in 1995 charged with a similar attack on a Liverpool sab. The lone female saboteur had gone to get help when her van had been attacked by heavies from the same Cheshire hunt. Kirkham caught up with her, and beat and kicked her to the ground. Despite his previous record, the 12 month sentence Kirkham received for thIS attack was suspended on appeal.
Despite being their actions being perfectly legal, it would seem that hunt saboteurs still don't enjoy the same sympathy and justice from the courts as even other anti-hunt protesters.

GAMEKEEPER CLEARED OF WILDLIFE MASSACRES

HSA members may already have heard a little of the case of gamekeeper Leslie Morris (28) of 3, Golf Link Cottages, Downley Common, Buckinghamshire, who was tried in July on charges relating to the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The trail was watched closely by many animal rights campaigners, some of whom turned up at court, due to some particularly shocking evidence supplied by a 'diary of death' which the prosecution alleged was written by Morris. The prosecution, which was brought by the Crown with the assistance of the RSPCA, was the largest case of its kind.

Monday, 13th July, was the first day of what was billed as a five day trail. Leslie Morris, employed by the Bradenham Hill shooting syndicate based on Sir Francis Dashwood's estate at West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, faced six charges of killing badgers, one of interfering with a badger sett by destroying it, and taking an unknown quantity of badgers (illegal under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. He also faced further charges of using an illuminating device to assist in the killing of a badger (lamping), killing a sparrowhawk, killing a buzzard, killing three owls, using Fenn trap for foxes in a non specified way and setting snares calculated to injure wild animals, all of which contravene the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Charges for breaches of firearm certificates and handling a stolen Honda quad bike, were also brought against him.
First to give evidence were the R.S.P.C.A. They were asked by the prosecution to read excerpts from a book, allegedly found in Morris' cottage, entitled 'Country Sportsman Book & Journal', which contained details of "birds and animals that I have shot".
14 pages, taken at random from this journal and read aloud, produced gasps around the court. Listed on the pages were the numbers of animals allegedly killed by Morris. These included:
Badger 154, Cats 50, Crows 156, Deer 8, Dog 2, Ducks 1,838, Fox cubs 13, Fox 550, Geese 27, Goshawk 1, Grouse 30, Hares 207, Hawks 5 ("at last count"), Hedgehogs 15, Jackdaws 57, Jays 6, Magpies 305, Mink 5, Muntjac 37, Owl 3, Partridge 105, Pheasants, 31,853, Pigeons 852 ("at last count"), Rabbits 1,212, Rats 774, Rooks 444, Snipe 9, Squirrel 301, Stoats 34, Waterhen 2, Weasels 15, Woodcock 64.
Comments were written next to some of the entries - 2 male badgers in snare; 3 rats shot lamping; 1 badger (dug out); 2 fox (shot lamping). a entry marked the 6th April 1995 entry read "NO FOXES ANYWHERE" followed by "May 1997... 8 cubs I vixen 1 dog fox (all shot outside earth).... 4 cubs (dug out with terriers.)".
The total death toll recorded on these 14 pages alone was 39,234.
Other prosecution evidence, particularly relating to badger and hawk deaths, rested on Jason Runciman, who at one time had been employed as under-keeper on the estate, and who claimed to have witnessed illegal killing. Among these claims were that Morris had filled in a badger sett by pouring creosote down it and blocking it with chicken wire, and that after illegally shooting birds of prey Morris would put the bodies down holes to prevent detection. Runciman also stated that after Norris had killed one vixen he had been unable to catch the cubs with terriers and so had attached Fenn traps to a log outside the earth. Once trapped the 5 cubs were taken back to the terriers' kennel where they were fed live to the terriers, he alleged.
Unfortunately much of Runciman evidence was dismissed as malicious, since he had once tried to sue the estate with wrongful dismissal after being sacked. In fact, it became obvious to observers that the whole case was not going well for the CPS.
Evidence given by 'badger experts' seemed ill-prepared to say the least - a main argument of the case was that Morris had interfered with an active badger sett, but their attempts to definitely prove that the sett interfered with was an active sett, failed miserably.
Even by the end of day one, most spectators knew the case was probably lost.

On Wednesday 15th July, Morris walked free from the court after a magistrate decided he had been the victim of a vendetta, and that there was insufficient evidence to prove he had carried out *any* killings. He was fined £150 for firearms offences.

Despite the disappointment felt by many of the result of this case, several things of interest were admitted by the Defence; for instance that building artificial earths was come practice on shooting estates because then you "knew where your foxes were"! It also shocked many people that even though it could not be proved that Morris had written the dreadful diary, most of the claims made in it weren't actually illegal. Although charged with the illegal badger and birds of prey deaths, and they one misuse of a trap, it is actually perfectly legal to decimate populations of fox, hare, rabbit, mink, magpies, rooks etc, etc, all in the name of gamekeeping and game shooting. Never let anyone tell you that shooting means conservation or that it is any less of a bloodsport than hunting with hounds.





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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 H.S.A. committee is made up of 12 voting members with the addition of other non-voting posts. All committee members are active hunt saboteurs and all posts are voluntary. NO-ONE AT 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 directly helping saboteurs in the field.

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Thanks also to: Croydon sabs and Kate at the office

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EDITORIAL

Well, once again I have to start with an apology.

Due to a catalogue of disasters Howl is terribly late again. Starting in July, a piece of corrupted software led to me losing the whole text of Howl (and its back-up). A gremlin of the dreadlocked kind inadvertently reinstalled the corrupted software again in late August scrapping the second version; and a total system failure in September wiped out everything, three days before Howl was due to go press. (I must also admit that because I have had to re-type/ edit some bits of the magazine four times, I also lost all enthusiasm and had to force myself to go near my bloody computer.)

However, I have to point out that even if I had not had all these computer hitches, Howl would have still been late due to the pathetic influx of material for it, particularly from active sabs in the form of group news. Even now, 6 months late, only 2 pages of Howl are made up of group news (most readers favourite section). Even the committee, although very sympathetic at meetings, have still not come up with any committee news (not even an AGM report) despite my repeated pleas each meeting. To say its like hitting my head against a terrierman's fist, would be an understatement! Howl is the magazine of hunt saboteurs and their supporters. It is *you* that should be writing this magazine - my job should be just putting it together. Please, do your bit! And don't dare complain about the lateness of Howl in the future if you haven't sent in at least a news clipping!

In light of the situation described above, my thanks to all those who did help out and/or write articles (especially those 'old reliables' Paul T, Simon Wilde and Paul Gammon) are doubled, nah tripled. Cheers!

Roe

The views expressed in HOWL do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor or the HSA 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.

PORKY PIES COST JANET A MINT

Janet George was finally brought to book this October, after she was fined £1500, with £40,000 costs (!), for repeating stories which a jury believed were porkies about an anti-hunting opponent on a live radio debate.
Janet was still Press Officer for the Countryside Alliance when she appeared on a Radio 5 live debate on hunting, joined half-way through by League Against Cruel Sports spokeswoman and sanctuary owner, Penny Little. As Penny was introduced to the listening audience, Janet accused her of hurling abuse and foul language at children riding with a hunt. Although this is something hunt saboteurs are regularly accused of, on this occasion Janet forgot the golden rule of slander: Don't make accusations too specific. By accusing Penny herself of actions which Janet had not actually witnessed, only heard stories of, and by actually mentioning a time and place where Penny was have supposed to have acted in this way, Janet set herself up for a richly deserved court case. During the case, held at the Royal Courts of Justice, Penny was able to produce LACS video footage of almost all of the day in question, which showed her calm and collected throughout. (A suggestion made by the defence seemed to be that in the minimal breaks in the footage, Penny had changed from a perfectly reasonable human being into a foul-mouthed harridan akin to the star of the 'Exorcist'!) The Judge described the case as 'black and white'; one side or other was tellng lies. Unfortunately for Janet George, the jury believed Penny rather than the hunt 'witnesses' who had passed her the story. On the 22nd October the jury awarded Penny £1500 damages, and lumbered the staggering £40,000 costs squarely onto Janet George. She'll have to dig deep into her pay packet from new employers the British Horse Society to cover that one!

● Luckily for Janet she has managed to gain a few extra pounds (!) this year by demanding £2000 compensation from her local hunt, the Wheatlands FH, after hounds ran through her farm causing two pedigree pregnant ewes such distress they had to be put down. "There are some dim people at the Wheatlands. Their attitude is that the hunt is everything." Janet told reporters, "One out of five hunts make this sort of mistake."
Rumours that Janet will soon be taking over as HSA Press Officer are not to be believed.

COVER STORY:

ALL QUIET ON THE WESTMINSTER FRONT

The UK's traditional start to the grouse shooting season, the Glorious Twelfth, opened with bloodsport enthusiasts predicting disaster and sabs stopping the only shoot out in the North West.
Appaling weather in the months running up to the 12 August, has so dramatically reduced stocks that shoots were called off in their droves to 'protect the species' until next year - meaning a major loss of income for estate owners. Moors thought to be among the worst affected include areas of North Yorkshire, the Pennines and Northumberland where grouse numbers may have halved. The worst damage was caused by the cold weather and heavy rain in May and early June which resulted in a lack of insects for chicks to eat causing thousands to die.
The only large grouse shoot to happen on the twelfth itself, on the Duke of Westminster's estate in Lancashire, was stopped short after sabs turned up to halt the annual slaughter.
For more details see article on pg.11

NEWS IN BRIEF

National Beagling Day will take place this year on the 21st November.
Countryside Alliance Newsroom, 23/10/98

Geoffrey Fox, Joint Master of the Cambridgeshire FH's from 1989-93, and in office at the time hunt saboteur Tom Worby was killed by members of his hunt, has died of a brain tumour aged 50.
Arkangel, No. 19

Horse & Hound now has a freephone number: 0800 731 0616
London Animal Rights News, March '98

Hackers claiming to be hunt saboteurs 'hi-jacked' the Countryside March's temporary radio station to broadcast their own message. March FM went off-air in several areas of London and listeners were treated to some 'lively' music and a voice informing them they had tuned in to "the Hunt Saboteurs' Broadcasting Corporation".
Arkangel, No. 19

Richard Lovett, an employee of the Wiltshire based Vale of White Horse FH has lost his appeal for blocking up a badger sett with clay. He was fined £2000.
London Animal Rights News, May '98

The village of Calonge became the fourth town and village in Catalonia, Spain, to proclaim itself an "anti-bullfighting city, and has banned the display of any bullfighting propaganda. Following this, the Catalan Parliament voted overwhelmingly to shut down the bullring at Lloret de Mar, which has had a amazing campaign led by Fight against Animal Cruelty in Europe, waged against it since 1990.
Animals Agenda, Nov/Dec '97 & Jan/Feb '98

'Predator Hunt Extreme 98', a two day killing frenzy in America where hunters are awarded points for killing predatory animals, has been cancelled this year following anti-bloodsports protests and the resulting public outcry. The aim of the competition was for each hunter to shot as many predatory animals as possible in the 3 days of the competition. Each animal species is then awarded different points eg. a bobcat is worth 60 points, a mountain lion 100 points and a fox 15 points. The person who had accumulated the most points in this killing frenzy would have won the $10,000 cash prize.
Anon. clipping, spring '98

The Bazely family have banned fox-hunting on its 3,500 acre Hathrop Estate in Glouscester.
Evening Standard, 10/9/98

A huge school of herring caught in a trawlers nets swam for their lives and sank the boat. The fish swam for the seabed, pulling down the 63ft Steinholm, as crew tried to haul in nets. Six men had to abandon ship off the coast of Norway.
Anon. clipping, Spring '98

Forget bungee-jumping and train-surfing - angling is fast becoming Britain's most lethal sport! Fatal examples include:
Richard Connors, killed after his carbon fishing rod hit an electric cable at Dutton Flashes, Cheshire;
Peter Twigger, killed when a car driver lost control and ploughed into him as he sat fishing;
A teenager killed after he fell from a sea wall whilst angling;
Kenneth Ross drowned after diving in to retrieve his rod which had been pulled from his hands by a huge fish;
and holidaying Denis Chacon, eaten by an 18 feet crocodile after diving into a river in Costa Rica to free trapped fishing line.
Pisces, Autumn '98

NEW MASTER OF FOXHOUNDS POLICY ON PROTESTERS:

"BASH 'EM AND SMASH 'EM"?

Hunt Saboteurs in the South-East welcomed the guilty verdict handed down by Mid Sussex Magistrates on two joint masters of the Crawley and Horsham Foxhounds in September.
The two hunt masters, Philip Ghazala and Anthony Sandeman were each fined £300 for causing Criminal Damage to a vehicle belonging to an anti-hunt protester. Their defence rested on a shaky story about one of the men just happening to need 'a leak' as they passed the parked vehicle beside the busy A24 road after having attended a hound show in Kent.They were 'unlucky' - or stupid enough - to be by the vehicle when the protesters returned to find the vehicle vandalised! Behaviour involving damage and violence is nothing new to this hunt; there having been many instances over the years of saboteurs and protesters being hospitalised by the army of thugs who ride with and follow the hunt. In fact violent behaviour seems to be positively rewarded by the hunt. Notorious thug Adrian Thompson, a man with several convictions for violent behaviour, has been 'promoted' this season from terrierman to whipper-in.
HSA spokesperson Norma Dinnie-Weall said of the verdict: "It is a welcome relief that the court had the courage to reach their verdict on these two influential men.
"We hope that this is the beginning of a new attitude by Sussex police who have stood by in the past whilst peaceful protesters are whipped, ridden down and attacked in front of them. If this is the case, and protesters see that the law is applied equally to the hunt as well as any wrongdoers on their side, the atmosphere at this notoriously violent hunt will hopefully calm down before matters get totally out of hand. "Huntsmen and their followers convicted in UK courts for violence this year outnumber hunt saboteurs at least 10:1 and yet it is always sabs that are portrayed as violent".
Unfortunately, it is likely that the behaviour of this hunt will actually been seen as a model to others - the senior master of the Crawley and Horsham Foxhounds is Sir Michael Richardson, the current Chairman of the Masters of Foxhounds Association (MFHA), foxhunting's governing body and both Ghazala and Sandeman are members of the MFHA.

Other hunt employees , and 'upstanding members of the community', convicted of violent offences last season include:

- Terrierman of the South Devon FH, Simon Williams convicted of threatening behaviour, but cleared of common assault and using a metal bar (standard hunting kit, surely?!) as an offensive weapon, after 'threatening' sabs who he wrongly accused of stealing hounds. He was given a one year conditional discharge.
- Boyce Keeling, huntsman of the North Norfolk Harriers, convicted and given a conditional discharge for beating a saboteur with the handle of his whip in an unprovoked attack.
- The Dunston Harriers were asked to stay away from one Norfolk village after hunt supporter Patrick Everett attacked a party of three adults and four children out for a stroll, who he was convinced were trying to block the hunt's path. The party had stopped to watch the hunt pass by when Everett jumped out of a vehicle and started to shove one of the women out of the way. When her partner tried to come to her aid, Everett punched him in the face, in full view of the children. Everett was fined £800.

Howl is trying to collate a comprehensive list of all hunt supporters/employees that have been convicted of violent behaviour towards sabs and other anti-hunt protesters. Please send any details of cases you know of to the HSA office, marked 'HOWL", before Dec 20th. We particularly need details of any convictions made before 1990 (when my 'Howl' collection began!). PLEASE, DON"T ASSUME I'LL KNOW OF CASES !! . We should be printing the list next Howl- expect a bumper issue!! -Ed

ESSEX POLICE SENTENCED TO JAIL FOR CRUELTY

Three Essex police officers, Sgt. Andrew White, 37, PC Kenneth Boorman, 45, and PC Stephen Hopkins , 41, have been have found guilty of causing unnecessary cruelty to animals, after brutal police dog 'training' methods came to light when Acer, a four year old alsation died after being repeatedly kicked and beaten while hanging from a post by his choke-chain. White, the head of training for Essex Police dog unit, received a 4 month jail sentence, as did Boorman; Hopkins was sentenced to 200 hours community service. All three have been released on bail pending appeals against their convictions and sentences. The magistrates found Insp. Graham Curtis, 43, the three men's superior officer, not guilty of cruelty, believing his claim that he had had no idea what was going on within his own station, and that he had not been informed of what was "being said, or done".

FRIDAY 13TH PROVES UNLUCKY FOR FAMILY OF THUGS.

Three members of the same Dorset family have been found guilty of violence against a group of local hunt saboteurs. Father and son team, Bernard and Paul Martin, were found guilty of Affray at Yeovil Magistrates Court, Somerset on Friday 13th February. Bernard's brother, Colin Martin was also found guilty of Section 4 of the 1986 Public Order Act (Threatening behaviour). The 3 men, regular followers and riders with Dorset's Cattistock Foxhounds, were ordered to return to the court on 9th March for sentencing.
The prosecution was brought after a small group of hunt saboteurs, attending a meet of the Cattistock FH in October '97, suffered an appaling series of attacks in which hunt followers broke into the back of the saboteurs' van and violently assaulted them. One woman was lucky (!) to only escape with hand injuries as one of the men tried to beat her over the head with a spade. The driver of the van was punched and hit with a stave through the van window. A saboteur who had photographed some of the attack was pulled from the van and beaten while the thugs attempted to remove the film from his camera. When the saboteurs finally managed to escape they reported the events to police at Yeovil, who took the allegations (and bruises!) seriously, and escorted the sabs back to the hunt so that they could identify their attackers. Members of the Martin family were arrested both at the scene and after the hunt had packed up.
The result of the case comes as a welcome relief to members of the Dorset Hunt Saboteurs who have been the victims of some of the worst violence seen from hunts around the country this year. The saboteurs have had to take steps to save themselves from being beaten up almost every week, but now hope that this case will send a message to hunt followers in Somerset and particularly neighbouring Dorset, that the law can work both ways. It is genuinely hoped that this latest case will stop any escalation of hunt violence in the area before a saboteur is more seriously injured or even killed.

DEAD DEER AND FIRE BOMBS



Leading wildlife campaigners in Sussex, and active hunt saboteurs Simon and Jaine Wilde woke one morning in mid-March to find a severed deer's head on their front lawn and a deer's skin left on top of their van. The couple, high profile members of the West Sussex Wildlife Protection group, use their Transit van which is parked outside their home for sabbing and rescuing injured animals. Police have carried out forensic tests on the remains to try to determine the culprits. Jaine said: "Obviously, this has been done as some kind of threat to us. The remains of the dead deer were put there to offend us."
Only a month later the couple's garden shed was set alight, and was completely gutted. The blaze destroyed many items collected for a fundraising stall at a local Wildlife Fayre, on behalf of West Sussex Badger Protection, and the West Sussex Wildlife Protection Group. (Thanks to tenacity and hard work, the event still went ahead and was very successful.)
Hundred's of pounds have now been spent improving security at the house, but far from intimidating the Wildes, the couple remain as determined as ever to carry on their anti-hunting and anti-snare campaigns Simon said he had previously been confronted by bloodsports supporters with intimidatory messages quoting his address, but he vowed:" [These incidents]... will not put us off. All these kinds of things spur us on to greater deeds. If anything, what's happened is a sign of flattery. It shows we are doing our job properly."



● Other examples of pro-bloodsports thugs targeting anti-hunt campaigners away from the hunting field last year, include a Cornish sab being beaten unconscious, allowed to recover and then beaten again; anti- bloodsports campaigners in Devon having their car windows smashed for displayed League Against Cruel Sports stickers and vehicles set on fire. In Dorset a leading hunt sab received death threats which proved serious when an armed gang turned up at the man's workplace waving machetes. A poisoned pregnant vixen was then dumped in the same saboteur's garden and, the following week, intruders broke into his family's home, cut through gas piping and tried to start a fire in an attempt to blow up the house. Police have now installed a panic button inside.

50,000 SIGN PLEA TO BAN KILLER SNARES

On Monday 13th July, Roger Gale MP, Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare, presented a 50,000 signature petition to Parliament calling for a ban on snares.
Killer snares are torturing to death wildlife, including badgers, and domestic pets. An alarming increase in deaths and horrific injuries recently has resulted in 50,000 people signing the petition. Mr Gale said: "We can argue on scientific grounds as to whether or not it is necessary to kill badgers but there can be no denying that the use of the snare is a vile and inhumane way of killing an animal. Snares are indiscriminate in the wildlife and domestic animals which they trap".
The National Federation of Badger Groups has evidence of many cases of the misuse of otherwise legal snares including the deliberate snaring of badgers. Dr Elaine King, Conservation Officer of the NFBG said: "In recent months whole social groups of badgers have been wiped out with snares, having been left to die painful deaths. One badger had dug a trench more then a foot deep in its struggle to break free".
The Government-backed experiment to assess badger culling as a way of controlling bovine tuberculosis, advocates the use of legal snares to trap badgers. The NFBG is opposed to the whole experiment, especially the use of snares, which could result in many badgers and other non-target animals, including cats and dogs, being injured or killed.
See article on page 12 for more information.

● The People's Trust for Endangered Species' national badger survey found an increase in the badger population since the last survey 10 years ago. This is thought to be due to efforts to curb illegal persecution which has declined by a half during the last decade. However, there are still parts of the country where 25% of setts have been attacked and where badger numbers remain static or are actually falling.

NEWS IN BRIEF

For the first time in its 300 year history, the Quorn Foxhounds will be lead by an amateur huntsman, Adrian Dungar, formerly huntsman with the North Yorkshire. Dungar has joined the Quorn mastership but will also hunt hounds in the place of Michael Farrin, who retired in March after 30 years with the Quorn, much to the delight of local sabs who gave him a rousing send-off at his leaving do held at Leicester City football club [the club has connections with hunting going back many years - Ed].
Dungar, who has also been Master of the Sinnington Hunt, brought with him the Sinnington's kennel huntsman, Richard Mould, to act as whip on hunting days and skivvy for the rest of the week - local sabs are advised to keep a look out in woods near the kennels for any man-made structures!!
Melton Times, 14/4/98

A gamekeeper killed himself because he feared the campaign to ban bloodsports would cost him his job and tied cottage. A shooting party found Donald Sedgewick, 63, lying in undergrowth on the 1,700-acre Melton Constable estate near Fakenham, Norfolk, where he'd worked for 32 years.
Arkangel, No. 19

A series of bullfights that were due to take place in Cairo were cancelled after the Mufti of Egypt (the country's Islamic leader) declared that bullfighting was cruel and therefore violated Islamic principles.
Animals' Agenda, Jan/Feb '98

The Morpeth FH was cleared in February of damaging a protected badger sett during an incident in which a pack of hounds swarmed through a country park. Police have decided to take no action against the hunt following an investigation into the incident at the Bolam Lake country park near Belsay, Northumberland in 1997. Northumberland County Council launched its own probe after claims the hounds chased foxes through the park three times in two hours. Hunting is not permitted in the park but there is an agreement that huntsmen can go in and remove hounds if they run into the area while chasing foxes.
Paul T. May '98

Local animal rights groups in East Sussex, including Mid-Downs Animal Action, are urging the Board of Conservators of Ashdown Forest, to ban the Southdown & Eridge and Old Surrey & Burstow foxhunts from their land. Despite the forest being a nature conservation area, both hunts are allowed to cross the land five or six times a year, breaking local bye-laws. The board, however, is dragging its heels, taking 'legal advice" before delaying the decision further with endless committees and planning meetings.The last board meeting was picketed by protesters.
London Animal Rights News, Oct '98

John Lewis got off to a slow start on the 28th May when protesters blockaded the entrance to their Watford warehouse. Gates were shut, a minibus was driven in front of them and a protester D-locked to the steering wheel by the neck. All John Lewis deliveries were redirected. After 4 hours of dithering by the police, the fire brigade turned up and cut the protester loose. There were no arrests.
London Animal Rights News, June'98

The National Federation of Anglers plan to sack Mark Downes from his post of England Youth Team Manager after he was convicted of not having a fishing licence.
Pisces, Autumn 1998

The Queen Mother shot a rhinoceros in 1925.
The Sunday People, 5/4/98

NEWS IN BRIEF

Animal Liberation Front activists released thousands of pheasants from holding pens on the Leckford Abbas Estate belonging to the John Lewis Partnership. £1,500 worth of damage was also caused to the breeding pens. Police have been given extra resources to investigate the raid, which follows threats from the A.L.F. against the department store chain (which also owns Waitrose supermarkets), ranging from shopfront damage to the use of incendiary devices.
London Animal Rights News, May '98

Victoria Farquhar, 18 year old daughter of Ian Farquhar, Joint Master of the Beaufort Hunt, was forced to return 600 tickets (each worth £40) for a 'rave' she had organised at a disused airfield in Gloucestershire to raise money for the Countryside Alliance. Her local authority refused her an entertainments licence after police advised that the event would undoubtedly be disrupted by hunt saboteurs.
Daily Mail, 14/5/98

A dead goose got revenge on the hunter who bagged it by making him shoot his own foot. Retired copper David Tester blasted the fowl as it flew at him in panic as he stalked a flock of woodpigeon. Tester was then knocked out cold as the body of the goose fell and brained him. His double barrelled shot-gun fired another shot as he fell to the ground. When Tester came round he found he had shot himself in the foot, and the body of the goose beside him. A friend said "Because he was knocked out David can't remember much about it. I don't suppose he really wants to."
The Sun, 10/6/98

The Polish Government has announced plans to ban wolf hunting for three years. The main impact will be in the forested South-Eastern region of Krosno, which last season controversially allowed hunters to shoot 70 wolves from a population of just over 200.
Independent, 13/12/97

Anti-whaling group Sea Shepherd has named the son of Norway's leading whaler, "Crewman of the Year" for accidentally sinking his family's boat. Sea Shepherd, which has claimed responsibility for several attacks on whaling boats, said that, by virtue of the accident, the son of Steinar Bastesen had made a strong contribution to protecting whales.
Guardian, 7/1/98

The captain of Windlesham Golf Club in Surrey, Bob Baxter, 60, has escaped prosecution despite admitting having ordered two Canada geese to be shot. If found guilty he could have been fined £1,000 but the CPS instead accepted his claim that he did not know it was illegal to shoot nesting birds and decided not to prosecute (since when has pleading ignorance of the law been a valid defence?)
London Animal Rights News, June '98

Three horses died as a result of their participation in the notorious Grand National Steeplechase. One of the horses fell, collapsed and died on the track, the other two were put down after breaking a leg and a shoulder respectively. Of the 37 runners, only six finished the gruelling 4 1/2-mile steeplechase. The total number of horses lost during the three day meeting was five.
Animal Liberation News, June '98

Richard Law (45) from Cardigan, South Wales and the secretary of the Shooters Rights Association, admitted six charges under the Firearms Act and was fined £1,000 for possessing guns illegally by Swansea magistrates in February.
Paul T., June '98

DRUNKEN HUNTSMAN ESCAPES DRIVING BAN

Joint master of the Tedworth Hunt, Rodney Ellis, 52, was found to have had almost twice the legal limit of alcohol in his blood when he was stopped earlier this year by police.
Ellis was given a £450 fine after he told magistrates he had been 'forced' to drive his wife home from a hunt dinner because she was in pain from a fall out hunting earlier in the day. Despite the fact that she had managed to get dolled up and then go out for a meal, and that it was alleged that Ellis had only asked one other person at the meal if they would drive the couple home (the idea of a *taxi* didn't seem to occur at all), presiding magistrate, Lady Belinda Johnson ruled that the situation was "a sufficient emergency" to exempt Ellis from the standard automatic 12 month disqualification.
The Crown Prosecution Service are appealing against the decision and the Campaign Against Drink Driving are said to be appaled at the decision not to give the inebriated toff a lengthy driving ban.

'FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL TRUST' NO FRIENDS OF WILDLIFE

At a heated National Trust AGM on Nov.7th, two resolutions forwarded by pro-hunting members criticising the ban on the hunting of deer on Trust land, were defeated and of the seven pro-hunt candidates up for election only one was actually voted onto the Trust's ruling council.
The President of the Countryside Alliance, Baroness Mallalieu had submitted a resolution deploring the "failure of the National Trust to stand up for the countryside and its way of life" while Richard Clegg QC's resolution was a whinge about the council's decision last year not to honour the wishes of Sir Richard Acland, who donated the Killerton and Holnicote estates in Exmoor to the National Trust; namely that hunting should continue on the land for as long as it was legal. In reality what the pro-hunt lobby actually achieved was a slanging match, primarily directed towards Professor Bateson, whose research into the effect of stress on hunted deer led to the National Trust banning the 'sport' on its land. Prof. Bateson, shocked at the attacks on his reputation said in a letter to the trust's council, "They malign those who disagree with them." (Sabs, of course, have never encountered this attitude!)



To co-ordinate the campaign within the National Trust, to overturn its decision on stag hunting (and presumably prevent any simular studies on fox / hare hunting taking place) a organisation calling itself 'The Friends of the National Trust' has been formed by the pro-hunt lobby. The 'Fwiends..' were highly publicised in the right wing broadsheets (namely the Torygraph), who welcomed the 'Fwiends...' attempt to "rescue the committee from these bossy Left-wing power maniacs and animal fetishists"!
The Friends of the National Trust can be contacted through Mrs. D. Collins, Crowcombe House, Crowcombe, near Taunton, Somerset TA4 4AU [Tel: 01984 618 266 / Fax: 01984 618 448].

● Someone no longer a 'fwiend' of the Friends of the National Trust is former master of the Quantock Staghounds, Bill Fewings, who not only resigned suddenly (turning up at a meet in, horrors of horrors!... jeans, a shirt and flat cap), also offered £100,000 worth of land to the National Trust! Although hunting will still be permitted on the 100 acres as hunting rights are owned by another company, former fwiends are taking Bill's offer as a kick in the teeth, especially coming after the High Court refusal of a right of appeal against the ban; a decision that has set the Quantock Staghounds back £250,000 in legal fees. "They seem to think he's sold his soul to the devil", said a spokesperson for the National Trust.

Left: Bill Fewings - out sabbing this season?

PUBLIC N.M.E. NUMBER ONE?

You find pro-hunt lackeys in the strangest of places. Recently, the HSA began to look into placing advertisements in what we thought would be receptive publications. One such port of call was the New Musical Express. The magazine seemed an obvious choice for recruiting active sabs, as it had been only too supportive of our activities in the past - to the extent of devoting 3 whole pages to our efforts in 1994, after a NME reporting team had the crap beaten out of them by the 'honest, country folk' of the Crawley and Horsham FH.
However, in reply to our request for a list of advertising prices, IPC's Group Advertisement Manager, Louise Gaultier sent a rather terse letter: "Thank you for your interest in placing an advertisement within NME. Unfortunately it is the policy of IPC Magazines not to accept advertisements of this nature. Yours sincerely..." At this point we hadn't even shown submitted a copy of the advert we wanted to run ("411 MPs, 80% of the population, 2,000,000 signatures on 1 petition...and still the only people who are savin lives are hunt saboteurs" - hardly shocking is it?); an advert that the Big Issue National and the Big Issue in the North had no problem with running. However, the clue is that Louise Gaultier is the Advertising Manager of IPC Magazines. IPC magazines also produce Horse and Hound, Shooting Times, The Field and Angling Times. All of these magazines have carried *pro-hunting* advertisements for the B.F.S.S. / Countryside Alliance. Presumably then, it can't be hunting as a subject matter that prevents magazines produced by IPC from carrying "advertisements of this nature" and it is the anti-hunting stance of a HSA advert that is not approved of by the real bosses of NME.
Of course, the influence of NME's 'stable-mates' at King's Reach Tower, is only one explanation of their behaviour. Another is that the 'New' in New Musical Express, is the same as the 'New' in New Labour!

● In light of this one can only suppose that the Melody Maker (also owned by IPC) journalist who wrote the following just after the first countryside rally, has now been, at the very least, told to keep his opinions to himself!
"Let's get this straight; the Hyde Park march wasn't "the countryside speaking out",... it wasn't an oppressed minority challenging majority bigotry. It was toffs and cap-doffing serfs. It was a bunch of port-swilled bloodthirsty upper class c**ts and the servile wretches that rely on them for the pittance they earn." *Melody Maker. 26/7/97*

SINNINGTON WHITE-WASH BEGINS

Foxhunting's ruling body, the Master of Foxhounds Association (MFHA) has issued a statement concerning the two fox cubs being raised in an enclosed, artificial earth in a copse next to the Sinnington FH's kennels. The discovery of the cubs by local anti-hunt campaigners and the story's subsequent exposure in the national press and television, had forced the MFHA to instigate an inquiry into the incident and the hunt's possible involvement in it.
Now all the furore has died down, their statement regarding the incident unsurprisingly finds "no evidence" to connect the Sinnington with the cubs; apparently it is perfectly possible to dig an artificial earth, stock it with two young animals, make regular visits to feed and water them and yet keep the next door neighbours (whose job it is to kill these animals) completely unaware of these activities.

MFHASTATEMENT REGARDING THE INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE SINNINGTON HUNT:
"The Masters of Foxhounds Association Committee has found no evidence of involvement by any of the three Masters or the terrierman in the capturing and ill-treatment of foxes in North Yorkshire on, or before Thursday, June 25. Allegations have been made by the League Against Cruel Sports and the RSPCA, and the Committee has asked for evidence to support these allegations.
The Committee has therefore adjourned the enquiry until further details of the allegations have been received. The Association does not condone any act which gives rise to a possible criminal offence under the Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996 or the Protection of Animals Act of 1911."

ANTI-ANGLING SABS HIT THE HEADLINES

This year's week of action against angling, organised by the Campaign for the Abolition of Angling, was one of the most successful yet with around 15 groups active across the country. In North London, for example, activists sabbed Walthamstow reservoir, some taking to the water in canoes whilst others sabbed on foot. Several anglers packed up and it seemed to liven up the remainders' otherwise boring day. One angler couldn't believe he had finally met a real-life angling saboteur!
A picket of Farlowe's fishing tackle shop on Pall Nail was also organised and the protest was filmed by Channel 5 national news which appeared on lunchtime and evening news.
The week of action certainly seems to have captured the imagination of the press - they couldn't get enough of it!! CAA did four radio interviews, including the Today programme on Radio 4, and articles appeared in the Independent on Sunday and Daily Express. Anti-angling letters also appeared in numerous local newspapers.

● Hampstead Heath was also in the news this summer, but for all the wrong reasons. Managers were urged by wildlife campaigners and environmentalists to take action over the large number of swans and other birds being killed or injured by anglers on the Heath. John Hunt, of the South End Green Association summed up the attitude of the anglers he had spoken to "All ... had caught birds, some apologetically, some definitely not. It is not just careless anglers,...in ordinary angling people get their lines caught on the bottom or an hedges which enviably causes injury or death."



Write letters of complaint to:

Mr Canneaux, Head of Hampstead Heath
Heath field House
432 Archway Road,
London N6 4JH

HOW LOW CAN YOU GO?

As you all know, Linda McCartney died this summer. It is not really the business of the HSA or HOWL to eulogise over her death, although she obviously had a big effect on the way people perceive vegetarianism and animal rights these days and it is sad that she died.
She was the brunt of many of our quips about how much we are paid by unknown benefactors when asked by gullible journalists and hunters and unwittingly took over her role as the HSA's imaginary paymaster general in the mid 1990's after the demise of her predecessor, Saddam Hussein!
Other manipulators before Saddam were of course the KGB, so fitting during the long running cold war period, and so flattering (to us) that we were considered such a threat by the BFSS that they continued to (and still do) spout these ridiculous lies. (Gerry Adams and the IRA have also featured among our fictitious donors according to the nutters at Kennington Rd, but they are probably too respectable to be involved with us now!)
So we were left with Linda. When she came to fame for launching her range of veggie frozen foods, it didn't take a genius at the B.F.S.S. (there's a thought!) to deduce the source of our much admired "packed lunches" in addition to the going rate of £30 for a day's sabbing. Just what were these people on?
The sad thing is that many hunters and journalists actually believe we are paid and fed to sab - just last week a researcher from Radio 5 Live, in between asking why we were so violent, ventured the question "who actually pays you?" Still, I guess these people are so far removed from their feelings, they have to believe everyone else operates on such a mercenary and superficial level.
The worst example of dirt digging was the Observer journalist Marie Walsh who persistently rang the Press Officer during the week following Linda McCartney's death to see if I knew whether she had given money directly to the HSA or sabs. She was then asked what relevance this could have to any obituary or rather: how could linking our name to anyone in the public eye, particularly someone unable to defend themselves, be done in anything other than a derogatory manner given the media line on the HSA. As soon as she started the assurances about how "sensitively" it would be dealt with, warning bells started ringing!
Suffice it to say, she and others like her, never got anywhere and the "story" didn't appear, but it sometimes it amazes even cynics among us how low the media will go to slap people down.
It's a dirty job, and they do it! *Paul Gammon, HSA Press Officer*

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Masters of the Foxhounds Association (the governing body of foxhunting) has agreed to the formation of an 'independent' body to oversee foxhunting. The supervisory body will be loosely modelled on the lines of the Press Complaints Commission and will involve animal welfare groups, hunting groups, landowners, farmers and the judiciary It is expected to be in place by the autumn of 1998. The main question is; how independent will this independent body really be? It could very easily turn into an apologist group for foxhunting, legitimised in the eyes of the public by the presence of animal welfare groups which will inevitably become heavily infiltrated by foxhunters.
The Tally Ho!, August '98

A Yorkshireman who manufactured a D.I.Y. submachine gun as a 'protest' against Britain's gun laws has paid for his impudence with a four year sentence. The home gunsmith is to publish a how-to book. [One to look out for in Countryman's Weekly ! - Ed]
Country side Alliance Web Pages. 31/5/98

Three journalists who spent four months in prison for the 'crime' of reporting facts about direct action protests, are now free after their convictions were quashed in the High Court. The editors of 'Green Anarchist' magazine were originally found guilty of conspiracy and sentenced to three years each. [See Howl 66 for details] The High Court Judges strongly criticised the original judge for misdirecting the jury and giving excessive sentences.
SchNEWS, June '98

More than 18,000 whales have been killed since an international moratorium on whaling took effect 12 years ago, says World Wildlife Fund. Continued whaling, both legal and illegal, and an increase in other threats, such as drowning in nets, collision with ships, noise pollution and harassment by tour boats, continue to account for whale deaths despite the International Whaling Commission moratorium.
Animal Liberation News, June '98

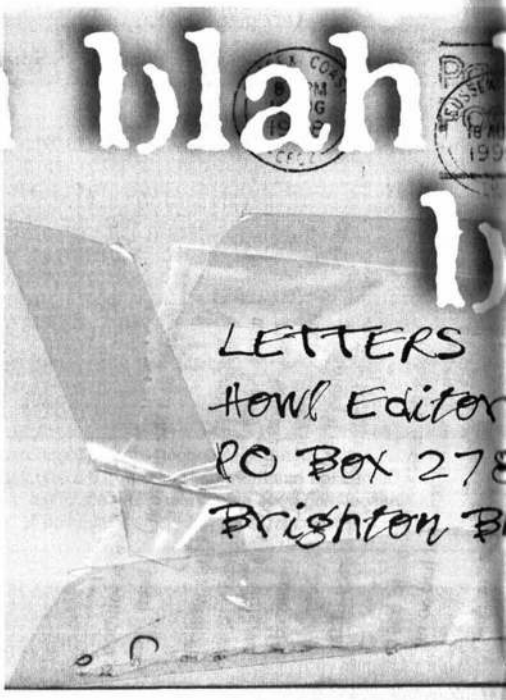
The Trinity Foot Beagles have offered a 'no questions asked' reward for the return of four beagle puppies stolen from the kennels at Burton, near Cambridge, in June.
Huntingdon Town Crier, 25/6/98

Modern-day sheep rustlers are said to have their eyes on Dolly the cloned sheep.The Roslin Institute, Midlothian, have tightened security and alerted police after a mystery group warned "The cloning of a sheep is against nature and our objective is to kidnap Dolly, neuter the animal and release her among a flock of sheep."
Dolly is also to become a trademark to prevent her image being used 'inappropriately' after electrical manufacturer Zanussi produced an advert showing a sheep called Dolly under the caption "The Missappliance of Science"
EF! Action Update, August '98 and Genetix Update, Oct '98

Patron of the RSPCA, the Queen, plans to raise over £50,000 a year with commercial deer-stalking on the Balmoral estate. Wealthy sportsmen are expecting to pay over £350 for a day's stalking on the estate, but although they will be allowed to keep the antlers of stags they kill, the carcasses will be retained by the Royal Estate to be sold as venison.
The Sunday Post, 8/2/98

Angler Kevin Abbott (aged 26) spent three and a half hours fishing at South Reed fisheries, Devon, only to discover the lake had been emptied of fish.
Independent on Sunday, 21/6/98

blah blah



To whom it may concern,
All you people don't know anything about hunting. Talk to the relatives of the poor lady that was killed and eaten just walking threw a park in California by a hungry moutain lion, because you do gooder animal lovers stopped hunting there. Now the big cats lost fear of people and are eating little kidds to full grown people. Keep up the good work. Maybe you all you should walk threw the park now i am sure the relatives of the woman wouldn't stop you.

From a Hunter and proud of it.
E-mail: HENRY <deer1@bellatlantic.net>

Oh dear! They still haven't worked out that there is little point in sending anonymous E-mails since the sender's E-mail address comes up automatically. So, once again I won't bother answering this gem, I'll leave that up to all of you.
By-the-way, several people have asked if these star letters are genuine or if I elaborate the spelling / grammar mistakes. Well, they are and I don't! And, by the way, 'S Jones' I can spot a fake one at a hundred yards! - Ed.

GANDALF GOSSIP

Dear Howl

Thanx for reporting the jailing of the Gandalf Three (Howl 66, p.11). You'll be glad to hear they were all bailed prior to appeal on 27th March 1998, although a second Gandalf trial, as absurd as the first involving ALF press officer Robin Webb and a Green Anarchist editor severed from the first trial, is now ongoing.

Lest anyone get the wrong impression about Gandalf defendants from Rabbix's letter (Howl 66, p.4), I'm just writing to say that the rest of Green Anarchist's editors are embarrassed by his dogmatic pacifism and pedantic writing style. As one of those arrested on 13th December 1997, I can assure you the Hursley's boys were acting provocatively from the moment we arrived, despite our numbers. There'd have been violence whether they struck first or the HRS did, so I'm glad they got the worst of it.

The Hursley's boys were acting so cocky as they knew the 'cavalry were coming'. Operation Order was a BFSS / ARNI set-up to take out well-known sabs (something similar happened at the Crawley & Horsham the following month too). Like the dozen riot vans that day, the blizzard of prejudicial media coverage following the 13th didn't come from nowhere....

Please write letters of support to them at Box H, 167 Fawcett Road, Southsea P04 or via their support campaign at P0 Box 119, Dorchester, Dorset.

Yours, for the destruction of Civilisation,
Oxford GA's
BCM 1715, London WCIN 3XX.

Mel B Speaks!

Dear Friends

Many thanks for sending Howl, great to read about the exploits of you good people fighting against bloodsports. Me and Tony are in very good spirits (not alcoholic ones unfortunately).

Just like to say a big thank-you to everyone who's written to us and sent messages of support.

Take care, Respect and Liberation,

Mel Broughton (AP7966)
HMP Woodhill
Tattenhoe Street
Milton Keynes
Bucks MK4 4DA

P.S. The "star letter" was a corker.

What now for the L.A.C.S

Dear Editor

I have been a member of the LACS (League Against Cruel Sports) for a number of years, and until recently lent my full support to their campaigning. However, in the run up to the 'Foster Bill' I was disappointed that the LACS appeared to play no part in publicising the bill: Surely this was the sole purpose of the their existence?

I have just watched the second installment of the BBC's' 'The Hunt', and quite frankly I am lost for words. Although I have never been on a hunt-sab I know that if I was there with the LACS, and I saw a fox being chased I would have to do something. To see LACS monitors weeping hysterically and saying," these people are wicked - and there's nothing we can do" was awful. This scene really spelt out a few home truths to me.

As a campaigning organisation, I sadly believe the LACS are washed up. We've exhausted the parliamentary process and achieved nothing. However to maintain " there's nothing we can do" is a travesty. Clearly there is something we can do. I have thought about this decision very carefully, and I now believe that **YOU** people; the Hunt Saboteurs, are the only viable option in the fight against hunting.

Please send me details of how I may become an active member of your organisation. I strongly urge other LACS members to follow my lead,after all what exactly is there left for us to achieve?

Yours with insight,

D. Carter
Colls Road
Peckham, London.

.....When hunting is banned

Dear Whoever / Editor

I would like to add some suggestions to those made by Kate about what activities the HSA should concentrate on once hunting is banned.

Here in the North East a number of ex-hunt saboteurs have set up an organisation called 'Country Watch'. The aim of the group is to find and expose acts of cruelty in the countryside.

Basically, members of CW trespass on land and video or photograph what they find. They can then report the matter to the Police or other appropriate body (like Trading Standards); document their findings, and contact the press. Most of our attention has focused on snaring by gamekeepers, though we have also exposed illegal and/or cruel practices by hunters and farmers. So far we have achieved considerable success in publicising the illegal snaring activities of a number of wealthy land owners in the North East.

Unfortunately we have found the Police response to be very poor. To date none of our complaints have been upheld, even though we have obtained supportive expert opinion from the RSPCA, LACS, NAHC, NFBG (National Federation of Badger Groups), and a Police Wildlife Liaison Officer from another part of the country. On the other hand, complaints made by gamekeepers and the like, of criminal damage and theft of snares and traps have been enthusiastically investigated by the Police. Several of our members have been detained by the Police, and one has been charged.

We know, however, that all of our activities can be justified in law and would be happy to pass on our own knowledge to any interested animal rights groups.

Snaring is a horrendous, cruel and indiscriminate practice carried out by gamekeepers on behalf of the shooting industry to artificially boost bird numbers. It is estimated that over 100,000 animals are killed in snares every year. (This compares with estimates of 20,000 foxes killed by hunts annually) Studies also show that between 2/3 and 3/4 of the animals caught in snares are not the target species (as if that matters.) To date members of 'Country Watch' have released cats, rabbits, badgers, sheep and hares and have, by their actions spared thousands (yes thousands) of animals a terrible, agonising death.

If hunt saboteurs want something else to do which is worthwhile, productive and exciting then I would suggest that de-snaring is the thing for them,

Kind regards

Liz Crocker
'Country Watch'
C/O P.O Box ITA
Newcastle
NE99 ITA

For information regarding the legal aspects of traps and snares see the Animal Law article on pg. 14.

Can I quote you on that?

Dear Editor

Thanks for the latest Howl and congratulations on the new and quite professional result.

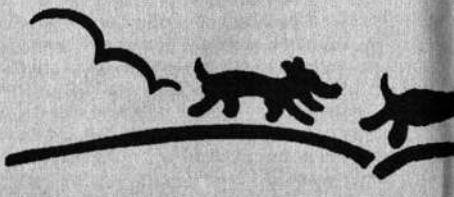
Lynn Sawyer's letter prompted me to write. I was so impressed by this, and with her consent, would like to send a copy to some of our local news papers.

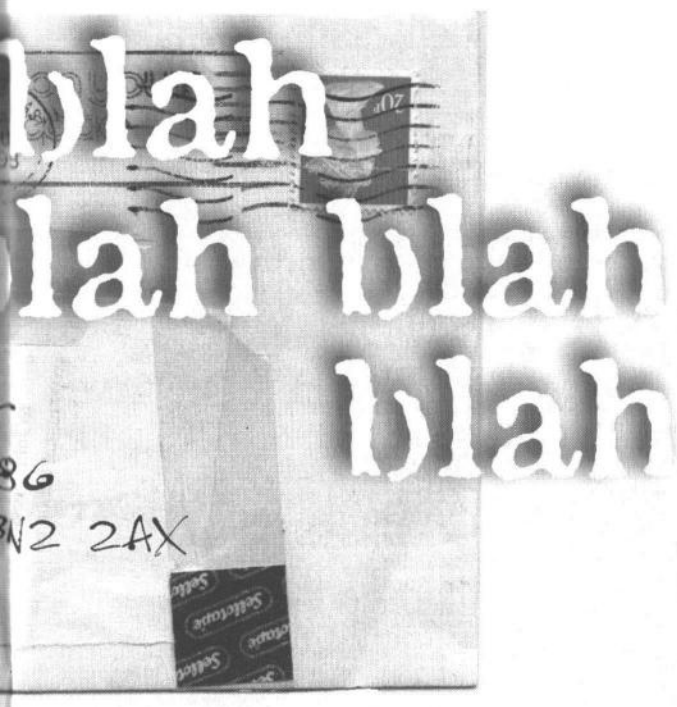
We do not have enough genuine converts and a letter like this is valuable copy, which with the aid of the HSA's national contacts, should be exploited to the full.

Good Hunting

Harry Grimwood
Ashbourne

Lynn is quite happy for anti-bloodsports campaigners to quote from her letter, which was also published in several papers during the debate over the Foster Bill.





The case against Fox Control

Dear Editor

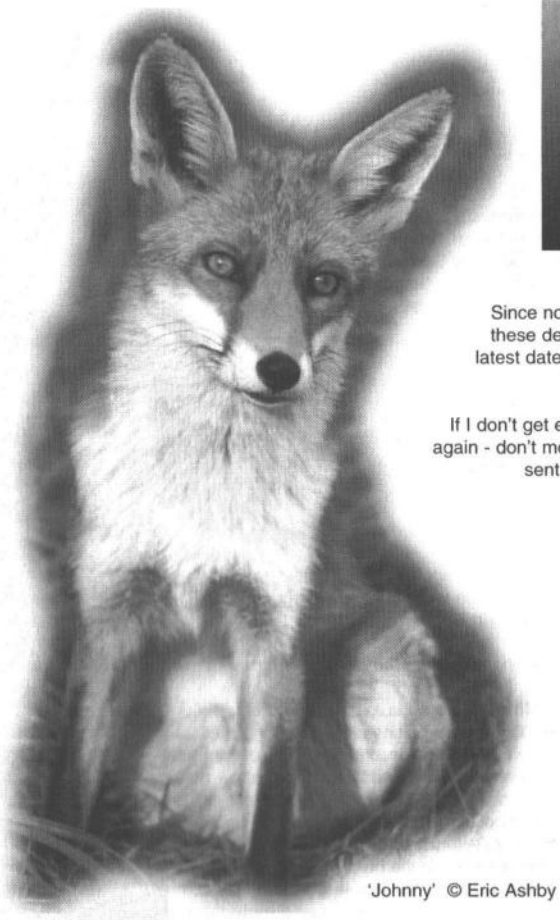
I was very interested in the four page article in Howl 65 - "The case against Fox Control" by Prof. Cris Waller. I am particularly interested in the valuable research by Kreegar of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
Is it possible to obtain a copy of the research by Kreegar into fox hunting, either through Ms. Waller or through the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture? I am sure I can put Kreegar's research into good use!

You may be interested in the enclosed photo of our rescued fox-cub, who I found when he was about 4 weeks old and practically dead. He was too weak to take solids so we had to give him Lactol through a syringe. It was many days before he could stand on his hind legs - we were so delighted when at last he could support himself enough to walk, we named him Johnny Walker!

With Best Wishes
Eric Ashby MBE (Services to Wildlife)
Ringwood
Hampshire

The article Eric mentions is available as a text only article from the HSA For 50p plus p+p and some back issues of Howl 65 are also available (see pg. 31).
Kreegar's research in America, which compared physiological stress responses in foxes killed by various means (including hunted with hounds) should be available from the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal damage Control program, USDA, Washington DC., entitled "Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement".
However, it's probably a lot easier to get access to this research through Cris Waller herself at the Predator Defence Institute,PO Box 5076, Euene, OR 97405, United States .
Since Johnny (above right) is obviously the George Clooney of the fox world, he will soon be starring in a new H.S.A. leaflet. Such high quality photographs of hunted wildlife is always incredibly useful to the H.S.A. since we don't have the spare cash to access photo image libraries.





'Johnny' © Eric Ashby

HOWL 68 DEADLINES

Since no-one takes the slightest notice of these deadlines the dates below are the latest dates to *guarantee* inclusion into the next issue of Howl.

If I don't get enough stuff in, Howl will be late again - don't moan to the office if you have never sent in at least one clipping!

News/Letters:
31th Dec 1998
Group News:
7th Jan 1999

The Editor reserves the right to edit contributions in respect of length and content.

All contributions should be sent to HOWL Editor
H.S.A.,
PO Box 2786,
Brighton
BN2 2AX

OBITUARY

Val Waters

Val Waters, a dedicated campaigner for animal protection and one of the first animal rights prisoners, died earlier this year at the age of 65.

In the 70's Val was a prominent anti-bloodsports campaigner and it was in connection with this that she was sent to prison in 1977. As a member of the Hunt Saboteurs Association, Val was trying to stop the Atherstone Foxhunt from killing foxes when she was violently attacked and her car damaged by hunt thugs. The thugs were later taken to court and bound over to keep the peace, but the magistrates decided to bind Val over too, even though she hadn't broken the law. As a matter of principle Val refused to accept the bind over order and was eventually sentenced to 28 days imprisonment for her refusal to do so. Her case received some positive national publicity and the sentence didn't deter her in any way from taking action against hunting. As well as her anti-bloodsports activities, Val gave a great deal of help and support to ALF activist in the Birmingham area and campaigned on a wide range of animal rights issues.

Towards the end of last year Val was diagnosed as having cancer. She had been vegetarian for many years, but was unfortunately never able to give up smoking, a factor which contributed significantly towards her illness. Although Val realised this herself, she remained philosophical about her situation and refused to get down hearted. Val continued to fight against animal abuse and to take part in protests (especially against live exports) for as long as she could, but eventually became to ill to attend demonstrations and turned instead to letter writing.

Sadly, Val's illness became progressively worse and on the 24th February she bravely took her own life rather than endure the suffering and indignity of cancer's final stages.

She will be remembered with fondness and admiration by many in the animal rights movement.

Ronnie Lee.

Guardians of the Land!

In response to the Countryside Alliance's foray into the pop world, Howl has produced its own 'record' chart - Court records that is! It's interesting to compare George Bowyer's claims about the 'Guardians of the Land', to their actual actions and attitudes towards the land and animals they profess to love so much.

"We know the glory of the countryside..."

The Pytchley FH were fined £5,000 and ordered to pay costs of £820 for causing poisonous, noxious or polluting matter to enter a water-course, after blood from animal carcasses drained into surface water drains rather than foul drains.

"The glory of the beasts there that swim and run and fly..."

The huntsman of the Shamrock Harriers was fined £100 for cruelty to hounds in his care. His claim that the hounds were 'knackered' after a hard season was not accepted by the court.

"It's us who preserve the woodlands, the rivers and the hills.."

Captain Ian Farquar, joint master of Prince Charles favourite hunt, the Duke of Beaufort FH, was fined £6000 after a toxic chemical used to treat the pack for mange, drained into a river and wiped out an entire colony of 10,000 crayfish. The pollution was a major setback for an Environment Agency project to boost crayfish populations in England and Wales. Although Farquar admitted polluting, poisoning or using a noxious substance contrary to the Water Resources Act 1991, it is doubtful that the 'conservationist' Prince will shun the hunt since it remains a firm favourite with mistress Camilla Parker-Bowles.

"And if they'd only let us then we always will..."

Former kennelman of the Avon Vale FH, David Brown (33) was jailed for 160 days after magistrates were shown a video filmed by Brown, of Methuen Avenue, Melksham, Wiltshire, and David Palmer (31) of Palmer Grove, Semington, Wiltshire, of terriers ripping a live cat to pieces. On the video, which was labelled "Hunting", and seized from Palmer's home, the pair could be heard laughing and yelling encouragement to their dogs, before killing the cat by stamping on its head.

"For landscape and wildlife of all sorts, the future lies with country sports..."

Robert Rowe, the Quantock Staghounds' harbourer (responsible for monitoring deer) and Ben Bartlett, the hunt's former Vice-Chairman, have admitted shooting more than 100 red deer on the Quantock Hills since the National Trust banned hunting with hounds. It is thought that 100 deer could be worth up to £310,000. One scientist warned that red deer could disappear from parts of Exmoor and the Quantocks if shooting continued at such a rate.

"oh yes,.. the future lies with country sports"

Yippee.

BowyerBalls

A special edition of huntsman's balls dedicated to the hype behind the chart busting "Guardians of the Land" by pop legend George Bowyer. What do you mean you've never heard of him?

"It is vital to pre-order your copy/copies to enable shops to assess demand and ensure adequate stocks are in the shops for Countryside record week."
Horse and Hound ,1616 July

"Country people in their thousands will buy the record to launch it into the top ten"
Countryside Alliance Press Release, 4 August

"The Independent wrote up George's Countryside Single - Bowyermania!...The DT explained WH Smiths' unhelpfulness in [not] stocking Guardians of the Land. "Controversial subject matter, "said Smiths "
Countryside Alliance 'Good News Week' web pages, week ending 14 August
WH Smiths told journalists later that they had decided not to stock the record because they didn't see much demand for the single. For shame, Smiths!

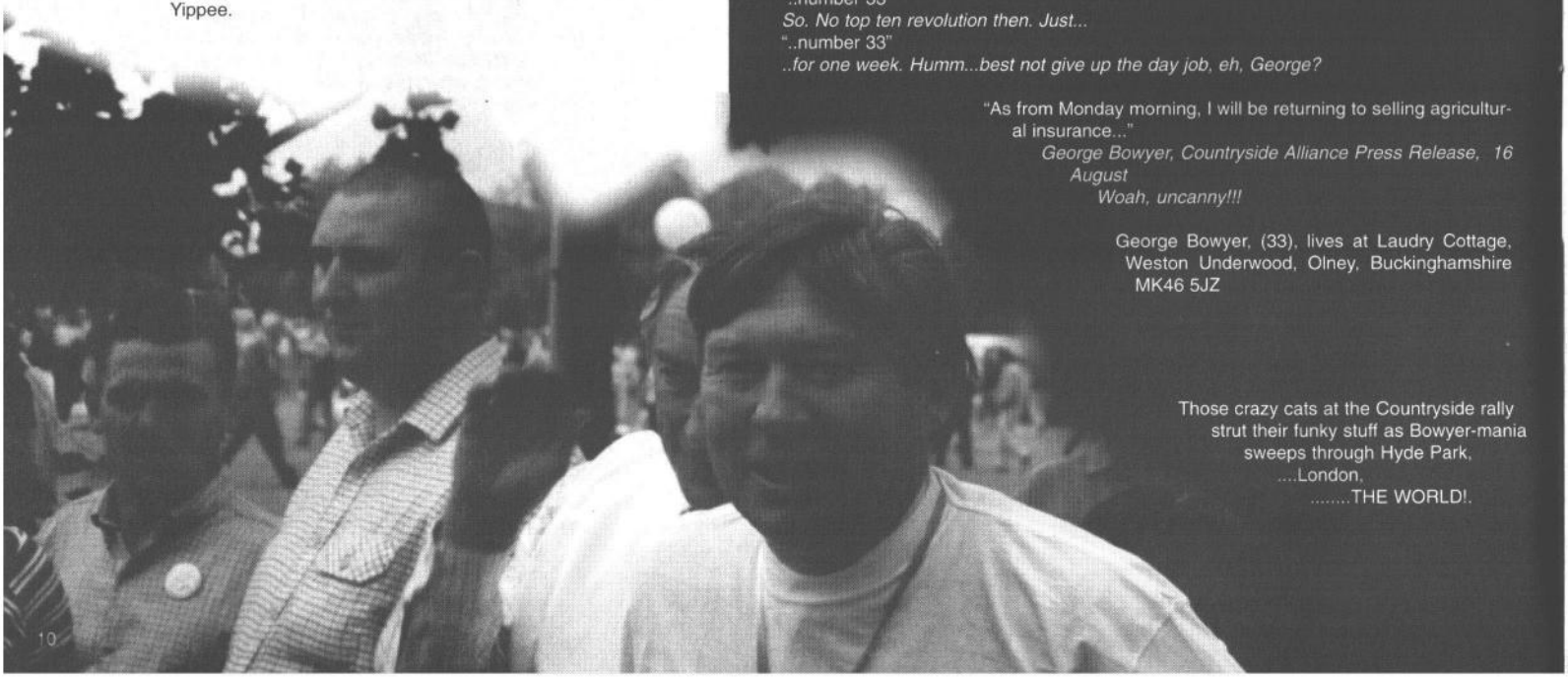
"Within hours of record shops across the country opening for "business as usual" yesterday the countryside single, "Guardians of the Land ",became an instant sell out...thousand of are expected to buy the single and get it to the top of the charts...HMV's largest store in Oxford St, London, was one of the first to report of an instant sell-out"
Countryside Alliance Press Release, 11 August .
Impressive, huh? Except that HMV had only ordered TWELVE copies of "Guardians of the Land", and on the day in question...
"Oxford St.. [was]...serenaded...[by George Bowyer and band].., with an audience including Huntsmen and hounds, falconers, shooters, fishermen and representatives from all aspects of the countryside."
Countryside Alliance Press Release, 11 August .
Ah. So who could have possibly bought the TWELVE records at HMV Oxford St?

"In the Cirencester branch of WH Smith, a shop assistant was heard to say "At this rate the record isn't just going to the top of the charts, it's going out the other side!""
Countryside Alliance Press Release, 10 August .
Of course, if London' HMV could sell out - of all TWELVE records - then Cirencester's WH Smith must sur...hey, hang on. What shop was that?
".. the Cirencester branch of WH Smith"
But surely...
"The DT explained WH Smiths' unhelpfulness in [not] stocking Guardians of the Land."
Oh dear looks like the new girl has been learning her trade off an old master of fibbery.
["People would ring up and say, what do we think about such and such…And I'd, like, make something up"
Janet George on her press strategy as the Countryside Alliance Press Officer, Guardian 13/8/98.]
But I digress. Back to Mr Bowyer's musical masterpiece

"The Countryside Alliance...hailed the project a success after the single entered the charts today at number 33"
Countryside Alliance Press Release, 16 August
Eh, I'm sorry? What was that?
"The Countryside Alliance...hailed the project a success after the single entered the charts today at number 33"
A success ? At what number?
"..number 33"
So. No top ten revolution then. Just...
"..number 33"
..for one week. Humm...best not give up the day job, eh, George?

"As from Monday morning, I will be returning to selling agricultural insurance..."
George Bowyer, Countryside Alliance Press Release, 16 August
Woah, uncanny!!!

George Bowyer, (33), lives at Laudry Cottage, Weston Underwood, Olney, Buckinghamshire MK46 5JZ



Those crazy cats at the Countryside rally strut their funky stuff as Bowyer-mania sweeps through Hyde Park, ...London, ...THE WORLD!.

shoots you, Sir!

Ex Howl Editor and North-West sab Dawn is a happy woman as she reports on the Duke of Westminster's 'Glorious Twelfth' going off with more of a whimper than a bang.

Read the newspaper reports prior to the Glorious 12th, the infamous start to the grouse shooting season? I did, and if you believed them you'd have thought that the 12th had been cancelled after the shooting estates experienced rotten luck with our fickle weather, which lead to a large loss of young birds to the elements. However somebody, it seemed, forgot to tell the Duke of Westminster...and so the story begins...

The morning of the 12th brought with it rain, wind and a mist that quickly rolled down the moors in the Forest of Bowland, Lancashire. Oh, and it also brought over 50 sabs ready and waiting to spoil the day of as many shooters as possible! A large party of beaters and shooters where quickly located at the Duke's Abbeystead estate, based on information obtained by the North West hunt sabs and past years experiences. The fact that the shooting party was located immediately on our arrival and that the Duke is a major, and I mean major, contributor to the bloodsports fraternity and one of the UK's richest men meant sabs were in fine spirits and ready for the bum-numbing rest of the day! The terrible shooting weather it seemed had delayed the shooting party slightly from departing for the moor from the estate (not too clever to go shooting in a mist that you can't see further than 10 yards in some places - although at least then they'd have more chance of wiping themselves out rather than the defenceless birds), and this meant that sabs didn't even have to set foot on the moors to bring an end to the planned slaughter for the day.

About 30 minutes after our arrival the Lancashire cops started turning up. You can just imagine the scene at the police station when the call came in for assistance - 'Er, Chief, I've got some geezer on the phone claiming to be the Duke of Westminster - says he's got some of those pesky saboteur types loitering about the place and wants some help sharpish..' or something like that! Anyway, whatever was said seemed to provoke a rather confused response from the police, who didn't seem to know what best to send...so they sent everything they had. Police cars, police riot vans, police horses... and a police helicopter - maybe to see what worked best so they'd know what to send next time!! Despite taking details of all sab drivers and vehicles, and issuing the usual producer document to drivers, the police had little else to do other than sit around, watching us sit around watching the shooting party stand around - for about 5 hours. This very interesting and entertaining (NOT) stand-off situation continued until mid-afternoon when both shooters and beaters gave up standing in the drizzle and opted sensibly to go home empty-handed. Sabs, not quite believing that they had won the day so damn easily without a single shot being fired, followed a few vehicles to ensure that they where indeed heading out of the shooting area. Once this was confirmed sabs met up for a debrief of the day - i.e. retired to the pub.

The following Saturday saw a larger number of sabs, this time around 80, heading back to see the Duke as he had proved such a pushover the last time! As the weather was much more obliging to the shooters, sabs found they had already departed the estate and where up on the moor a few miles north of Abbeystead. Although the beaters had already started by the time sabs caught up with the shooters, shooting had not yet commenced. The party quickly realised that their day was over before it had really started and the sabs present were quite content to walk them back down the moor to their vehicles – and then follow them back to the estate. Once back there a number of sabs stayed at the estate to ensure that no sneaky attempts were made to get back on the moor and others went off scouting for any other shoots in the area.

A second shoot was found a couple of miles away from the estate on Grizedale fell, an area still likely to belong to the Duke to due its close proximity to the estate. The party of shooters, who were just poised to take their first shots, quickly realised that no grouse were to be had despite the fact that beaters were already sending birds up into the air, and these too were escorted back to their vehicles for the trip back home.

So, all in all a very successful couple of days for us and a very upsetting couple of days for the good ole Duke. Do not forget that shooters pay serious money to shoot on the 12th - and the fact that they were paying to shoot on the Duke's estate would have increased this sum quite substantially. A lot of money would have been lost by all concerned, an awful lot of grouse got away with their lives and as an added bonus sabs had really annoyed a man who ploughs hundreds of thousands of pounds into the bloodsports coffers. Grouse are purposefully bred to be shot for pleasure and profit - the so-called 'guardians of the land' only turn up so they can have fun blasting our wildlife out of the sky. See ya next year then...!

A BIG thank you to all groups who attended: Cardiff, Swansea, West Wales, Bristol, Dover, Leicester, Wolverhampton, Nottingham, Leeds, York, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, Bolton, Cumbria, Manchester and not forgetting Lingfield and Croydon!!! Apologies if your group has not been mentioned and you where there! Extra thanks to those groups who managed to make both days.

And also, maybe for the first time in the history of the HSA, a thank you to the Lancashire Constabulary whose bumbling attempts at trying to control the situation to their liking on the Saturday provided priceless entertainment for a number of sabs.

Dawn, HSA Press Officer (North)

badgers under threat - from a Labour government

Badgers are coming under increasing pressure as the government plans to carry out an experiment to test the effectiveness of killing badgers in controlling bovine Tuberculosis (TB) in cattle. The experiment involves the widespread killing of thousands of badgers, including lactating sows, using horrific snares.

By Elaine King. Conservation Officer of the National Federation of Badger Groups.

In July 1996, the previous government commissioned the third Independent Scientific Review into bovine tuberculosis in cattle and badgers, chaired by Professor John Krebs. The final report was published in December 1997 and while the NFBG endorses the majority of recommendations in the report, we are opposed to a proposed experiment, which intends to test the effectiveness of badger culling.

The experiment will involve killing over 10,000 badgers in a five-year period. Most badgers killed will not even be infected with TB.

The NFBG is opposed to the trial for numerous reasons relating to ethics, badger welfare, practicalities and economics. We are particularly concerned that the Report recommends that lactating sows are killed along with other badgers. If this is allowed to take place, cubs are likely die of starvation underground or emerge from the sett to be killed or injured by dogs.

The Report also recommends that snares are used to trap badgers. The NFBG, RSPCA, League Against Cruel Sports and others have evidence of many animals, including badgers, which have suffered horrific injuries in snares and we are appaled that snares may be used in the experiment.

There are also practical problems with the proposed experiment. Some landowners may refuse to allow the killing of badgers on their land. The National Trust and the Wildlife Trusts have both stated that they will not allow this to happen. Direct action is likely to be taken by members of the public, as they did when MAFF started gassing badgers in the 1970s. The experiment is also unlikely to have proper scientific controls as there is evidence that farmers, especially those in the TB 'hot-spots', have been illegally killing badgers for some time and the NFBG has been informed by farmers that culling will continue to escalate, particularly in the areas of the experiment where badgers will not be officially killed.

The way Forward

The NFBG accepts that TB can cause severe hardship to farmers whose herds are affected. However, killing badgers has not reduced TB in cattle and has cost the lives of many thousands of badgers. In February of this year, the NFBG produced its considered response to the Krebs' Report. We recommend that badger culling is replaced by a no-culling policy while fully compensating affected farmers. The money saved could be used to develop a vaccine for cattle, to improve the tuberculin testing system, carry out research into the transmission of the disease and to investigate the effect of cattle husbandry techniques.

The NFBG has also launched a publicity campaign opposing the proposed badger culling experiment and in February, badger group members demonstrated outside Parliament. The campaign was supported by many MPs including Nigel Jones MP (Cheltenham) who lead the campaign and gave interviews to the media. In March, Nigel Jones tabled an Early Day Motion opposing the culling experiment and tabled Parliamentary Questions on the subject of snaring. Letters were also sent to over 600 MPs.

The NFBG is supported in its opposition to the experiment by the RSPCA, the Wildlife Trusts, the National Trust and other animal welfare and conservation groups.

In May, a delegation from the NFBG met Jeff Rooker MP (Food Safety) and Elliot Morley MP (Animal Welfare) to discuss the Krebs' Report and our concerns over the proposed experiment and in June, Dr Elaine King, NFBG Conservation Officer also met Professor John Bourne, Chairman of the Expert Group which has been set up by the Government to advise on the implementation of the recommendations in the Krebs' Report. In both meetings, we raised the issues of lactating sows and the use of snares.

Background

Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) was a major problem in cattle herds in the earlier part of this century and in the 1930s at least 40% of cattle herds in Britain were infected with TB. However, the disease has now been virtually eradicated by tuberculin testing cattle and slaughtering infected individuals and approximately 0.4% of herds were affected in 1997.

However, TB has persisted in pockets in the south-west of Britain and more recently new pockets have appeared in parts of Wales and the West-Midlands.

For over two decades, badgers have been blamed for transmitting bovine tuberculosis (TB) to cattle, and since 1975 over 20,000 badgers have been killed by the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food (MAFF). The badger culling programme also costs the public an estimated £1.7m per year and an estimated £700 to kill each badger.

Despite the slaughter of thousands of badgers, TB is increasing in cattle and it is widely believed that killing badgers has failed to solve the problem. There is also still no direct evidence that badgers transmit TB to cattle under normal field conditions and much of the necessary research remains to be carried out.

MAFF continues to kill badgers to this day. Despite the new Labour government calling for a moratorium on badger killing in 'new' TB areas, such as Staffordshire and Shropshire, the slaughter has continued in all existing TB areas, largely in the South-West Indeed, in 1997, 2,447 badgers were killed by MAFF.



The NFBG has been given no assurances that snares will not be used and therefore in early July we presented an Anti-Snaring Petition containing 50,000 signatures to Roger Gale MP. We also sent a report to Dr Jack Cunningham, Jeff Rooker and Elliot Morley on evidence that farmers were killing badgers illegally, and examples of the injuries caused to badgers and other animals by snares.

How you can help

An announcement from the Government is expected at any time. In the meantime, it is not too late to write to: your local MP; Dr Jack Cunningham, Minister of Agriculture; Jeff Rooker MP and Elliot Morley MP.

By the time you are reading this copy of ' Howl' it is likely that this cull may well be under way. Anyone interested in acting against the cull or requiring further information including copies of the anti-snaring petition, please contact Elaine King at:

NFBG,
2 Cloisters House,
Battersea Park Road,
London, SW8 4BG.
Tel: 0171 498 3220.
Web site:
http://www.geocities.com/RainForest/Canopy/2626/

or the HSA Office at the usual address.

Proposed badger culling experiment

The experiment will test 3 strategies; pro-active culling, reactive culling and no culling. A minimum of thirty 10km by 10km squares will be selected at random from TB 'hot-spots', where there have been large numbers of outbreaks in the past. Each treatment will be carried out on 10 separate squares.

The 'pro-active' strategy will involve culling of all badgers in 10 randomly selected squares, which will mean the total removal of badgers over 1000 km2.

The 'reactive' strategy will be conducted in a further 10 randomly selected squares and will be an enhanced version of the current 'Interim Strategy' (which the Report admits has failed) where all of the social groups of badgers with access to the farm where there had been a herd breakdown will be removed. A final 10 squares will be randomly assigned to a 'no culling' strategy.

NFBG

- The NFBG was formed in 1986 to co-ordinate the efforts of local badger groups and to be a national voice on issues of common concern.
- There are almost 80 local badger groups around the country. All are dedicated to the conservation and welfare of badgers.
- 50,000 badgers are killed on the roads every year in Britain. The NFBG are working with the Department of Transport to encourage them to adopt national guidelines on protective measures for badgers on roads.
- The NFBG works tirelessly to protect badgers from digging and baiting. This includes a database recording badger persecution, prosecutions and sentences. This information is not collected nationally in this way by anybody else.

animal LAW

One of the great things about being a hunt saboteur is that you will come across things no one else will find in relation to the abuse of wildlife.
As section 68 and 69 of the Criminal Justice & Public Order Act can only be properly enforced if aggravated trespass is committed in relation to persons engaged in "lawful activity", then simply exposing law-breakers will not only save wildlife, it shouldn't leave you vulnerable to prosecution. For a change.

Badgers Act 1992

This is one area where hunts can engage in unlawful activity. The act put an end to the practice of digging out a fox that went to ground in a badger sett and protected the sett except under licence - no licence has been granted to a hunt so far.

Earth Stopping

Under the 1992 Act earth stopping was still allowed but only under certain conditions:

a) untainted straw or hay, or leaf litter, bracken or loose soil may be placed in the entrances on the day of the hunt or after midday on the preceding day. Also the tops or sides of the sett entrance must not be dug to get soil for stopping. (An important Divisional court ruling (April 3, 98 Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Sullivan) has recently established that "loose soil"must be "light, of low density, easily removed and thus non permanent." In clay soil "it must not form a compacted structure." Consequently even though only "spit sized lumps of clay" were used by the Vale of White Horse FH, the Divisional Court rejected their appeal on the grounds that their sett stopping formed a compacted structure.)



b) a bundle of sticks or faggots or paper sacks either empty or filled with untainted straw or hay or leaf-litter, bracken or loose soil may be used so long as they are placed in the entrances on the day of the hunt and removed the same day.

Hounds marking to ground at a badger sett

(covered by the 1992 Act)

Hunts are allowed to mark a fox to ground at a badger sett, but must withdraw the hounds as "soon as is reasonably practicable."
Video evidence is a must.

Protection of wild animals Act 1911

(essentially excludes wild animals except when captive)

Makes an offence of "unreasonably doing or omitting to do any act, or causing or procuring the commission of any act causing unnecessary suffering." Hounds in poor condition fall under this act.

The Wild Mammals (Protection) Act

Came into effect in 1996 and makes it an offence to "mutilate, kick, beat, nail or otherwise impale, stab, burn, crush, drown, drag or asphyxiate any wild mammal with intent to commit unnecessary suffering. However, if a person came across an animal disabled by accident or infirmity, and that animal "had no reasonable chance of recovering," then no offence is committed when trying to kill the animal even if the killing is botched. Also, so long as you kill an animal in a "reasonably swift and humane manner" that was injured or taken in the course of hunting, shooting, or pest control activity, then no offence is committed. Bolton hunt sabs recently brought a private prosecution under this Act against Alex Sneddon of the Holcombe Harriers after he trampled a fox with his horse. The prosecution was unsuccessful because it was difficult to prove it was deliberate - this should not put people off from getting legal advice on similar matters.

Poisoning

Look out for owls, birds of prey, etc that appear to have dropped in their tracks. Foxes with foam at the mouth or blood, yet no obvious injury could also be a pointer to illegal poisoning.

If you have any suspicions phone the

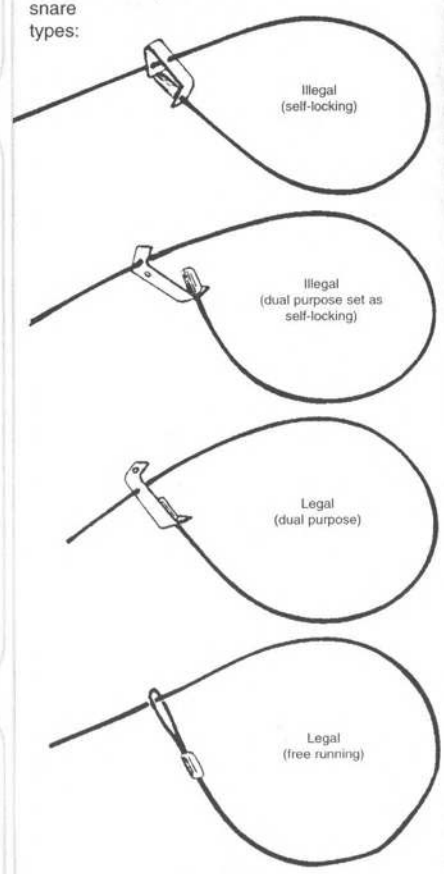
POISONS HOTLINE:
freephone 0800321600.

For Pollution incidents phone your local Environment Agency. (Also see Animal By-Products, above right)

Snaring

covered by Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

There are four possible snare types:



Self locking snares are illegal but still regularly found. Snares must be inspected at least once a day, and therefore it is worth checking to see bow they are anchored. If an animal could run off with the snare then this is illegal. They must not be set where they are calculated to cause bodily injury to a Schedule 6 Animal (Badgers for example). Therefore, look out for nearby badger setts. Snares are most often set around pheasant release pens between September and January, but on grouse moors there is no specific time.



Trapping

Larsen Trap

This is a cage trap baited with a live "decoy bird" and commonly set by gamekeepers. Only magpies, crows, jackdaws, jays and rooks can be used. These attract other birds which land on a cage door which gives way and traps the bird. They are known to catch other birds including birds of prey which should be released - but how many gamekeepers do? A perch, shelter, food and water must be provided, and the bird must be able to stretch its wings. They must be inspected every 24 hours

Anyone wanting to rescue the decoy bird should appreciate that the wing feathers are usually clipped, and therefore the bird will require several months in a sanctuary.



Spring Traps

It is illegal to set these (including rat and mouse traps) in the open, partly because they could trap birds or hedgehogs, and partly because of the conditions laid down by the Spring Traps Approval Order. However, certain approved traps such as the Fenn trap may be set in natural or artificial tunnels to catch rabbits, squirrels, rats, and so-called "ground vermin" such as stoats. Traps must be inspected at least once a day and between sunrise and sunset in the case of rabbit.

Animals by-products Order

This law is enforced by the Trading Standards Department and means that any animal or animal by-product that remains unburied or not incinerated is committing an offence. There are certain exceptions such as hunt kennels - so long as they are registered. Because of the expense of the BSE crisis many people are cutting costs by letting animals rot where they die, so watch out for this.



Hedgerow & Birds nests

Under the Hedgerows Regulations 1997 (SI No.1160) hedgerows finally got some protection. Planning permission is now needed for their destruction in most cases, and those over 30 years old with at least 5 or 6 woody species in every 30 metres should normally be refused planning permission. Also, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, nests and eggs are protected when in current use. The criteria here is that the suspect must have "intentionally" destroyed birds nests. The legal definition of intention is that the perpetrator must have known it was "virtually certain" their actions would do harm. Clearly anyone destroying a dense hedge in the spring or summer is virtually certain do destroy birds' nests and a prosecution is needed. Video evidence of destroyed nests or eggs is vital.



This brings us to....

Police Wildlife Liaison Officers

Many areas now have them on a part time basis. A careful watch needs to be made of them. We only found out recently that our own wildlife officer went shooting and beating. A classic example is Sgt Karen Skippio of Hampshire police. She is now a Wildlife Liaison Officer in Hampshire and attends National Federation of Badger Group's annual general meetings. However, up until two years ago she was Hunt Liaison Officer and policed the New Forest Hunt. Badger group member Ken Golding complained to the police about her getting the Wildlife Officer role. His grounds were that she was seen at hunt social functions and was allegedly heard bemoaning the fact that terrier man Keith Colbert had not bought her a beer one evening. The police wrote back to say they could see no problem with this as she had paid her own way at the hunt function she attended!
Still, South East wildlife can always fall back on Hampshire Police's other wildlife officer, PC Turpin. He allegedly told Mr Golding "I hunt, shoot and fish, but then you have to, to be able to do this job properly!"

Anyone with a query or requiring assistance on some aspect of wildlife abuse should write to me.

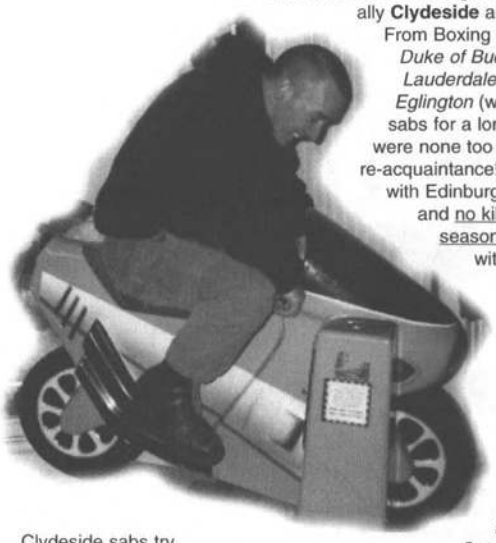
Simon Wild
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WEST SUSSEX WILDLIFE PROTECTION

GROUP NEWS

SCOTLAND

Edinburgh sabs were out sabbing so much last season, they "didn't have time" to write a single hit report. Funny people - you deserve to have your name spelt wrong! Anyhow they apparently spent much of their time with the **Borders** group and occasionally **Clydeside** and **Ayr** groups. From Boxing day onward the *Duke of Buccleuch FH*, the *Lauderdale* and the *Eglington* (who haven't seen sabs for a long while and were none too pleased with the re-acquaintance!) were all graced with Edinburgh's presence, and no kills were seen all season! Teamed up with Clydeside, Borders, Dundee, Fife and Aberdeen groups they also hit the *Fife FH* where the sound of English hounds emitting from the gizmo seemed just as attractive to Scottish hounds as to their cousins in the south. Also visited was the *Berwickshire* hunt, much to the delight of one JEREMY ("At one point I considered suicide") WHALLEY! Correspondence from old friends in the south is probably not welcome! (Or encouraged!)



Clydeside sabs try desperate measures to alleviate their transport problems.

Clydeside, along with **Edinburgh** sabs have been out cubbing a few times at the *Lanarkshire and Renrewshire FH.*, usually with great success and also made it down to Lancaster for the shoots. However, any attempt to sab more regularly has been scuppered by the fact that, with no van, they are having to spend £80 a week hiring one. Unbelievably, thanks to the generosity of the Glaswegian public, they are actually covering this expense, but it means that no money can be put aside to buy one of their own.

MONEY IS DESPERATELY NEEDED FOR SCOTTISH SABS. NO GROUP IN SCOTLAND CURRENTLY OWNS A VAN. IF ANYONE CAN HELP (WITH FUNDS OR A ROAD-WORTHY VAN) EITHER CONTACT THE HSA OR WRITE DIRECTLY TO CLYDESIDE HSA, PO BOX 180, GLASCOW G4 9AB.

NORTH WEST

North West sabs were out three times a week throughout September, sabbing virtually every meet of the *Cheshire Forest FH.* Retired master Peter Hunter appeared to have taken most of the pack with him leaving the hunt with a measly twenty or so animals to hunt with. With replacement hounds being drafted in every week and a new huntsman, Matthew Puffer (ha, ha) who was previously with the *Portman FH*, sabs have been able to take control of the hounds at will. Faced with complete disarray, the hunt held secret meetings with the police who are now attempting to get their own hunt squad together. After several false starts they finally managed to send out 4 riot vans of police and a spotter plane to escort both Cheshire hunts.The nearest sabs however, were 40 miles away in Lancaster, gracing a meet of the *Holcombe Harriers.*

The mood at the *Cheshire FH* has been tense since hunt psycho Anthony Kirkham was jailed for 15 months in July. And many of his friends at this most notoriously violent of hunts seem keen to join him there.

On one occasion sabs pre-beating a covert were driven at by a gang of thugs. However, sabs weren't actually needed in person at coverts as, mysteriously, several rook scarers did the job for them, preventing a draw. **NW** sabs have also managed one appearance with the elusive *Royal Rock Beagles*, who the Northwich police kindly ordered to pack up as they 'couldn't cope' with the thirty sabs present. Hunt Master Peter Jones fumed to no avail.

NORTH EAST

Leeds' summer (like many others) has been dominated by fundraising in aid of the obligatory van maintenance. However they did managed to squeeze in packing up the *Northern Counties Minkhounds*, with **Manchester**, **Sheffield**, **York** and **Nottingham** groups, although few sabs left without minor injuries.

The priority sabbing wise this summer has been shoots; **Leeds** not only attended the national sabs on the 12th and 15th - hailed as a total success - they also attempted to sab on the 22nd. Since Prince Charles had joined this particular shooting party however, the massive police presence and private security made it impossible to sab.

York sabs are hoping this season will be as successful as the last. Last years visits to hunts such as the *York & Ainsty South*, the *Middleton*, the *Holderness* and the *Sinnington FH* resulted in such poor performances by the hunts that sabs only saw one kill all season. That involved the *York & Ainsty South* trespassing on land on which they were not welcome, milling horses trampling down newly planted saplings, and hunt terriermen resorting to jumping up and down on bales of hay in which the fox had taken refuge, to flush it out directly amongst waiting hounds. Humm, another text-book kill.

MIDLANDS

East Northants Anti-Bloodsports made sure that none of their surrounding packs went without a visit during cubbing; the *Woodland Pytchley*, the *Bicester*, the *Grafton* and the *Oakley* foxhunts were all comprehensively sabbed and kills were few and far between for an area in which 8 kills during an un-sabbed cubbing meet is not usual.

Nearing the start of the season, a visit to the *Fitzwilliam FH* gave **East Northants** sabs a good run - and scare! - when hounds got onto a scent and disappeared across the fields in full cry. However, there was no blow for a kill and despite hunting until after midday, hounds didn't catch a whiff of any fox for the rest of the day.

Not content with ruining Michael Farrin's last day hunting the *Quorn*, sabs from **Leicester**, **Stoke**, **Nottingham** and **Leeds** (plus local anti-bloodsports supporters) gatecrashed his leaving do, leaving several old timers on the edge of a coronary before going to ground in the restaurant. Farrin himself remained tight-lipped when he was asked if he was to be 'retired' in the same way his old hounds were 'retired'.

In April, sabs from **Leicester** joined up with others to attend the International Animal Rights Gathering in Amsterdam. While there they gave a talk about sabbing in Britain and showed a bit of sabbing footage to the masses. Over thirty issues of Howl, which had somewhat miraculously got though customs without drawing attention to their carriers, were also given out to German sabs - if any of them have since subscribed, hello and how about a report from wherever you are?! On their return [and recovery ?! - Ed] **Leicester** sabbed the *Northants Minkhounds* just by turning up. After the hunt packed up, an impromptu Huntingdon 'Death' Sciences demo kept one police helicopter, 3 vans, 3 cars and 2 motorcycles on their toes.

WALES

The **Swansea** sab group had an excellent end to last season, concentrating on the *Banwen Miners* and *Llangeinor* and *Gwendreath Valley* hunts with great success. There wasn't a single kill on any of their sabs and a number of dig-outs were prevented. As a direct result of sabbing, the *Llangeinor* pack is loosing all effectiveness. Violence was negligible for the most part, bar a scrap with the *Llanoynor* terriermen and a smashed windscreen courtesy of the *Banwen* terrierman. Nor did they get much hassle from the police, lucky bastards.
Swansea sabs finished off the 1997/98 season by attended numerous hunt balls.
Sabbing is looking up for the new season in South Wales; an increasing number of farmers and freeholders are issuing invites onto their land to **Swansea** sabs, in order to prevent the hunts entering.

SOUTH WEST

Forest of Dean sabs send a great big thank you out to all the 60+ sabs who turned up at the last meet of the *Cotswold Vale Farmers FH* last season. All agree that the day was a great success.
The *Ledbury FH* who began their cubbing meets in late August, appear as useless as ever; last season's royal presence in the shape of Princess Anne has done little to help their cause and the pack seem to be floundering. Hurrah! The *Cotswold Vale Farmers* were a little later in starting their cubbing season, but made up for lost time by trashing the **Forest of Dean** sabs' landrover and becoming the subject of a RSPCA investigation. By the start of the season proper neither packs had actually managed a kill while being sabbed, although the manner in which *'Farmers* terrierman Bob Jackson aims his gun suggests that a tally of sabs may be on the cards before the season is over.
Finally **Forest of Dean** sabs would like to take the opportunity to advertise the *Cotswold Vale* Hunt Ball which is taking place on Friday 18th December, at Cheltenham Town Hall. All welcome!

Cornwall hunt sabs have been keeping busy. On Friday 24th July, 22 people turned out for a demo at a puppy show organised by their local hunt. This attempt by the hunt to show off their nice young, fluffy puppies, while hiding the fact that the older hounds were due to be killed off, was disrupted by two human sized badgers and a fox, which managed to sneak (!) into the main courtyard, catching the huntsman unawares. The following Saturday, 14 people turned out at Crediton to sab a mink hunt and managed to stop a kill.

SOUTH

Southampton sabs were unfortunately hampered last season by the constant attention of Hants Police (who still haven't returned clothing and a 'top notch CB' when they were seized after the Hursley incident). Despite this they attended the action against the John Lewis Partnership shoot at Leckford Abbas as did **Dorchester**, **Wolves**, **East London** and most of Hants police & ARNI. The shooting was stopped, but arrival at another shoot nearby resulted in an arrest - the sab in question being told: 'You lot know the law better than we do"!!
An outing to the *Isle of Wight FH* with **Reading**, **West London** & **New Forest** sabs started with the pack under sabs' complete control but surprise, surprise, a sab got hospitalised and the Hants Police spotter plane was out again (not to find the assault perpetrators of course). One police ambush later and **Southampton** ended the day with the obligatory visit to Newport nick.

Portmouth hunt sabs continue to make regular visits to the *Chiddingfold, Leaconfield & Cowdray FH*, with brief asides to the *Crawley & Horsham FH*. However with three of their number still up for charges of conspiracy to to commit violent disorder arising from the Hursley Hambledon hit last year [*see Legal Pages* - Ed], Hampshire police seem to be taking a inordinate amount of interest in the group; by the end of last season
Portsmouth sabs had spent a total of 642 hours in the nick, had 19 pairs of boots, 15 maps and 3 C.B's confiscated and had 10 houses raided.
Hopefully this season will be better for **Portsmouth** on the legal front. Unfortunately however, they, and neighbouring **Chichester,** may see trouble of another sort since notorious *Crawley & Horsham* hunt thug /'terrierman' (the only time he's seen with a spade he sure ain't digging with it), Adrian Thompson has been promoted to whipper-in. Blimey, he'll need a Shire horse to carry that arse!

SOUTH EAST

In case anyone is wondering what happened to **Wealden** sabs; fear not, they have merely changed their name to **West Kent** and have, in fact, grown in number. As well as the cubbing described below, they spent their summer packing up several local shoot and visited the little known *Valley Minkhounds*. Admittedly the visit only lasted about 20 seconds before hunting was abandoned, but hey! it did the job.

Most of **Ashford**'s summer was spent collecting money and repaying debts, despite Ashford and Canterbury councils refusing the group permission to collect in the towns. Even with these setbacks the group, along with **Dover** sabs, were out on the first cub-hunt of *East Kent FH*,on the19th September. A fantastic morning was had by the two groups; two foxes were definitely saved by their timely intervention. The same evening the groups, now joined by **West Kent** sabs, popped over to the *Ashford Valley FH*, who only stayed out for a couple of hours and didn't kill. Equally encouragingly, none of the usual thugs were out and the hunt didn't say two words to sabs all evening.
A week later and **Ashford** and **Dover** staked out the kennels of the *East Kent FH*, to no avail. On the way home they met up with **West Kent** again, since they had found the *West Street and Tickham FH*. The hunt's new whip seems to take delight in spitting on, and riding at, sabs, but no one was injured and a good day was had. That evening **Ashford** and **West Kent**'s hot date with **Croydon** sabs at the *Ashford Valley FH* was ruined when **Croydon** were all nicked on the way down . Although only numbering only 9 Sabs, **Ashford** and **West Kent** went ahead with the sab anyway. Some thugs were out this time, and although sabs had some success with the gizmo, and despite standing their ground at the boys' first charge, sabs changed tactics somewhat, deciding to spray and pre-beat known draws. In fact this proved very successful, clearing at least one fox out of a wood that was later held up. Yet again no injuries and no apparent kills.

The hills are alive with the sound of hounds being called off, as the 97/98 season ended very much as it had started for the **South Downs** group. Lots of running and lots of saved lives. Leaving the hunt as the sun set with the huntsman and whippers-in trying to gather hounds scattered over wide areas of woodland made a satisfying end to more than one days sabbing. A fun packed Summer of stalls, recruiting and the odd mink hunt meant that the group started puppy walking in a stronger position than last year!

Croydon and **Brixton** groups have spent cubbing upsetting the-ever-so-elusive *Old Surrey & Burstow FH*. Huntsman Mark Bycroft appears to be as 'delighted' as ever, by the unrelentless sabotage that he and his half-wit cronies have to endure during their days 'sport'. Rumours of a merger with the *West Kent FH* excited sabs so much that they paid them a few visits, in order to gauge the unbridled force that such a mighty coalition might create. Within minutes of arriving the pack was split and spread over a two mile area for the entire morning. Sabs say, "Bring on your pitiful amalgamation, we will still kick your sorry butts"

GROUP NEWS Deadlines: Howl 68

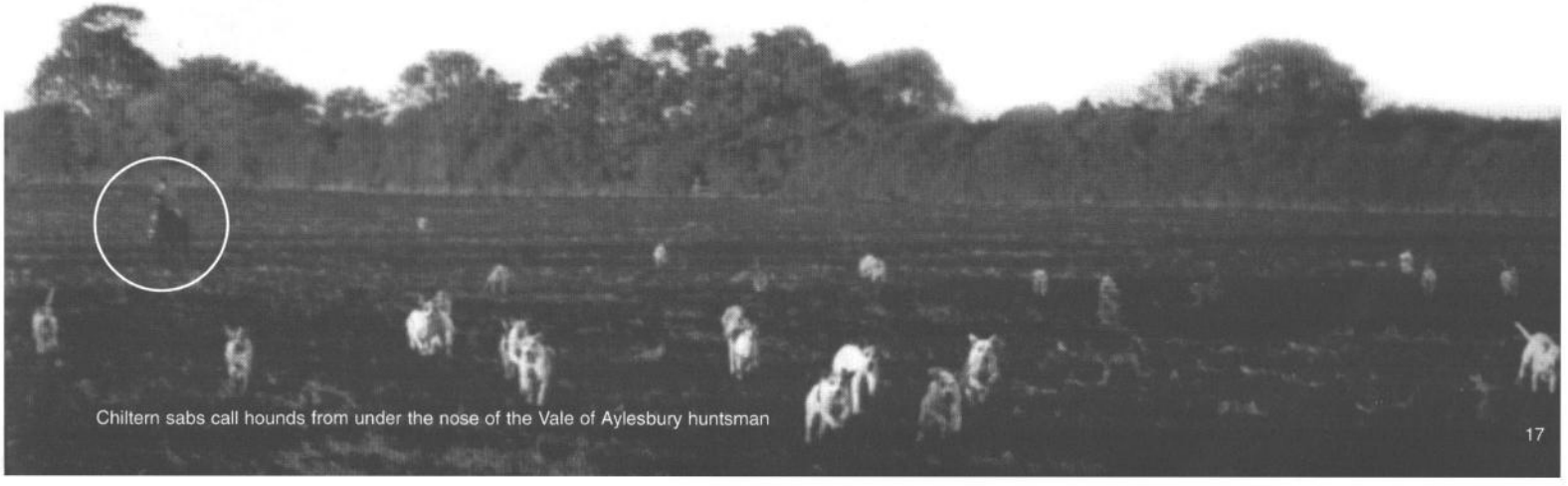
7th Jan 1999

IMPORTANT
From the next issue of Howl onwards all Group News must be typed, on white/pale paper and kept to a maximum of 350 words.

Longer reports may appear as a group feature (as Scooby's has done in this issue). Please separate longer pieces from your regular group news.

DO NOT send items on disc without prior arrangement

Groups who keep in regular contact with the HSA and Howl may be given priority when money is distributed. [I've tried pleading, cajoling and temper tantrums; - lets see what bribery can do! - Ed]



Chiltern sabs call hounds from under the nose of the Vale of Aylesbury huntsman

Summer Holiday?

With the mink hunting season now over, the Plymouth group take a look at the success, frustration and failure they have encountered along the way in an attempt to encourage more activity from other sabs during the summer season.

Sabbed by lack of support from hunt saboteurs.

Imagine the scenario. Summer 1998. The Devon and Cornwall Mink Hunt. Three full time Sabs. 116 known meets covering almost the whole of the Devon and Cornwall region. The words "needle" and "haystack" spring to mind.

Yet against the odds, including a lack of transport, the Plymouth group have had a 66% success rate in establishing the location/movements of the Devon and Cornwall Minkhunt, without even a glance at a meet card, an advertisement or the kennels.

Sabbed by the Sabs

Therefore, imagine the scenario once more. Opening meet - 2 sabs, 40 support. Two weeks later - 6 sabs, 40 support. One week later - 2 sabs, 50 support. No running shoes. Very frustrating. Very, very frustrating. Sabbed by lack of support from hunt saboteurs.

What is it with normally very committed sabs in the Summer season? What is it about being out in the middle of an icy downpour in Winter that is preferable to a Summers day sabbing the one hunt that is out in the whole of the region?

Research

To understand our frustration further, is to understand the reason behind our success in locating the hunt - research. Two years of research has brought us up to this point. Much of this information was collated from past sources dating as far back as the 1970's, particularly that of Ralph Cook, Dave Weeks, Aubrey Thomas, Chris Bishop, a member of our own group and of course, Mike Huskisson's "Outfoxed".

We are grateful to the aforementioned, not only for the information we have inherited, but also for instilling in us the importance of research. Without it, we would have been lost.

Lack of support

However, although we are proud of our research work and the success that it has brought us, it is only the first step. We need more sabs to be able to work against the hunt effectively.

Reading back through old issues of Howl has shown the perseverance of certain sab groups, particularly with the Ytene, over the years (full respect to those groups); however, back issues also show the existence of a drop-off of Summer sabbing activities, dating back as far as 1986 with an article written by Ralph Cook in which he says;
"In the last few years, for all the obvious reasons, too few saboteurs have given up their time to hunt down mink hunts; unforgivable in view of the fact that there is little else for HSA members to do during the summer months".
Not much has changed really has it?

Impact

The impact that sabs could have on the mink hunts is huge; far greater than at any other time of the year. It should also be pointed out, although an obvious fact, that there is no difference between a mink' suffering and that of a fox or hare. Indeed, mink hunts have been named as being the biggest threat to the habitat of the otter, by Wildlife Trusts.

Excuses?

The usual excuse given by most groups for inactivity during the Summer months is that of a lack of advertised meets.
This can no longer be used as an excuse. Our research has proved that, although it would be bloody marvellous to be able to cut out the hours and the miles travelled every week, it is not a necessity in finding them. Besides, the Devon and Cornwall used to advertise a few years ago but obviously decided against it when the sabs saw it as an open invitation. Even obtaining a meet card would more than probably result in the changing of meets, if sabs turn up every week.



The Devon & Cornwall minkhounds, but where are all the sabs?

No excuse?

Well, get researching then. Research is still the best key to success when it comes to locating any mink hunt. They are underground and paranoid enough that any thing you do find out about them really seems to screw them up.

Start by learning about mink hunting in general. Check out articles in back issues of Howl, read "Outfoxed", watch "Rural Vandals" and if you can get your hands on "Hounds" magazine it's invaluable. I set aside a lunchtime a week, note book in hand!, to trawl through the magazines in WH Smiths; The Field, Countryman's Weekly, Horse and Hound; there's plenty of scummy magazines around.

Check out Bailey's Hunting Directory for details on your local mink hunt and also don't forget to check the local press. Some of the more obscure local papers may have information about local public relations visits by the hunt (eg to nursing homes etc).

If you find yourself fortunate enough to have information on a variety of meets already, check them out. Go to pubs and check the walls for meet cards and take a stroll/look around the meet area - I was welcomed into the reception of a country sports hotel and given various brochures on the fishing rights of one particular meet. Alternatively, the pub may have changed ownership or the area may have changed dramatically since the hunt were known to have met there last.

Visiting country fairs can turn up endless information. I attended one in which I found out the name of the new huntsman, that he whipped for a foxhunt during the main season and that they had changed their hound van since the last season. I also stood petting the hounds while the huntsman stood next to me telling someone that it was most important that they didn't attract the wrong sort of person! (Obviously not me then?)!

I could continue detailing ways of researching until I'm blue in the face and I would only be repeating information that is already available through previous articles in Howl (kennel/house watching, phone calls, touring the country). The most important thing is to be persistent, inventive and more importantly obsessive with your research (and don't forget to take lots and lots of photos).

What's the use?

Research is all very well, but all that the Plymouth group have quietly been grafting away at really hasn't come to anything. Yes, we are *finding* them but what is the use if we can't get anyone interested enough to be able to *sab* them effectively.

Either get off your back sides and do some research on your local hunt to enable you to start sabbing them or get out there and start sabbing with/helping those who have done the work and got the information. (*Preferably both!*).

by Scooby
Plymouth.

PS. Thanks goes to the few sabs who have helped with our efforts this summer but particularly to the three sabs in Dorset and the two in Torquay who believed in us.

There are 2 fairly extensive articles on researching into the background of hunts and finding meets without a meet card in HOWLs 59 and 60 Both written by me actually! - ED

Get off your backsides!



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 most 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 A.L.F. Supporters Group, who can provide financial help for these prisoners.

Make cheques/P.O's payable to 'A.L.F. Supporters Group'. Send to A.L.F S.G., BCM 1160, London, WC1N 3XX.

DARREN COLE CX41 37
HMP Longport
Canterbury
CT1 1PJ

KEVIN HICKEY AP79O4
HMP Spring Hill
Grendon Underwood,
Aylesbury
HP1 8 OTJ

BARRY HORNE VC2141
HMP Full Sutton
York
Y04 1PS

KEITH MANN EE3588
HMP Long Lartin
South Littleton
Eversham
WR1 1 5TZ

BARBARA TRENHOLM RL1292
HMP Bullwood Hall
Hockley
Essex

GILLIAN PEACHY RL341 5
HMP Winchester
Womns Annex
Winchester
S022 5DF

GEOFF SHEPPARD MD1 030
HMP Parkhurst
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 5NX

JUSTIN WRIGHT GE3046
HM Young Offenders Institution
Easton
Portland
DT5 1DL

PHIL DeSOUSA AW6717
HMP The Weare
Rotherham Rd
Cashetown
Portland
Dorset
DT5 1PZ

REBECCA GREEN
HMP Brock Hill
Rditch
Worcs.
B97 6RD

COLIN REIDER BS 5862
HMP Bullingdon
Patrick Haugh Rd
Arncott
Biscester
Oxon.
OX6 0PZ

DAN POUSTIE
HMP Sprin Hill
Grendon Underwood
Aylesbury
Bucks
HD18 0TL

ROD CORONADO #3895-000
FCI Unit SW
8901 S.Wilmot Road
Tucson
AZ 85706, USA

COLBY ELLERMAN
Salt Lake County Jail
450 South 300 East
Salt Lake City
UT 84111-3207
USA

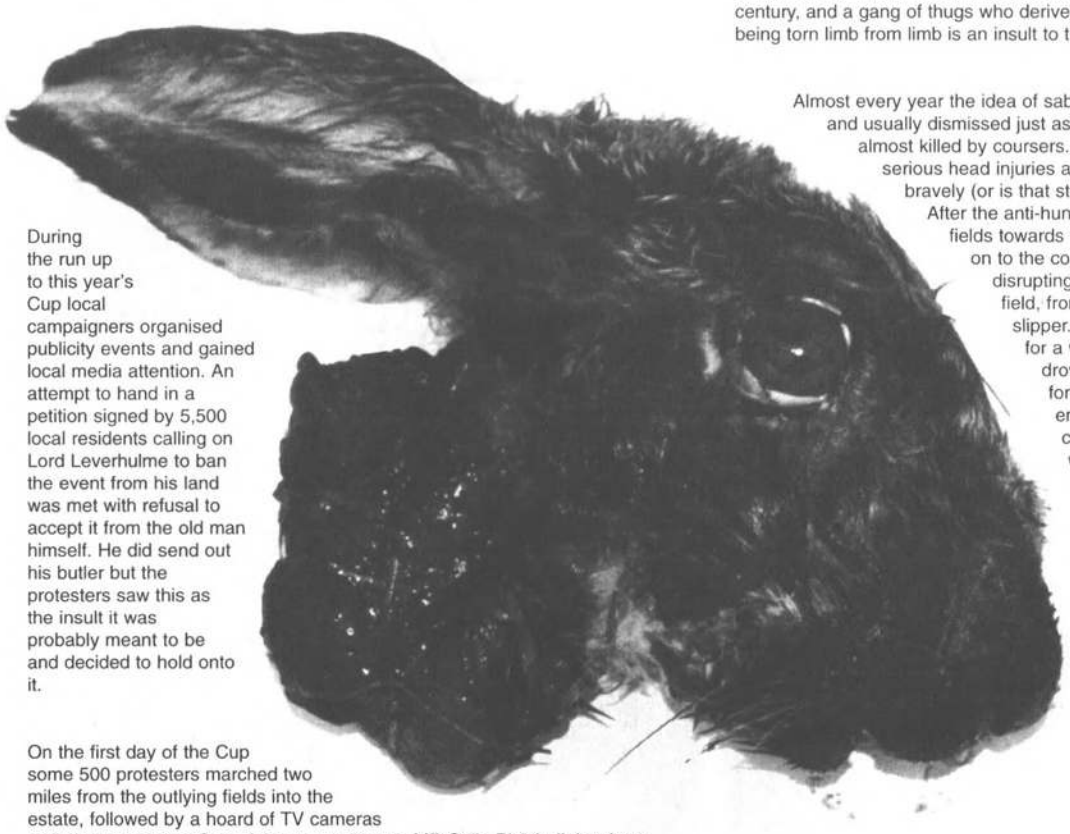
JACOB KENISON #06329-081
Yuma Unit
37900 N.4Sth.Ave
Dept 1700
Phoenix
AZ 85027-7004
USA

MARK KLEIN AA4S
Oxbow Jail Inmate Mail
3148 South 1100 West
Salt Lake City
UT 84119
USA.

COURSING FACES ITS WATERLOO.

Tuesday 24h February saw the first day of this year's Waterloo Cup. This annual slaughter of hares takes place on Lord Leverhulme's land at Altcar, Merseyside.

Hundreds of blood junkies from around Britain converge for the three day event to watch greyhounds and lurchers chase and kill hares. The hares are beaten into the coursing field where they run past the 'shy' (the hide where the 'slipper' releases the dogs when the hare has passed). The slipper releases the dogs when the hare is at least 80 yards ahead. The dogs are then awarded points on how they turn the hare, and although the coursers claim that the idea is not necessarily to kill the hare many hares end up in a live tug-of-war between the jaws of the two dogs. One observer at this year's Cup said that the crowd were complaining that the 80 yard 'head start' for the hare was too much and that they were calling for the dogs to be released sooner.



During the run up to this year's Cup local campaigners organised publicity events and gained local media attention. An attempt to hand in a petition signed by 5,500 local residents calling on Lord Leverhulme to ban the event from his land was met with refusal to accept it from the old man himself. He did send out his butler but the protesters saw this as the insult it was probably meant to be and decided to hold onto it.

On the first day of the Cup some 500 protesters marched two miles from the outlying fields into the estate, followed by a hoard of TV cameras and photographers. One of the marchers was MP Colin Pickthall, in whose constituency the event is held, and who has been trying to get it banned for many years.

Immediately on sight of the anti-hunt protesters a pro-hunt demo was set up to confront them, seemingly organised by Manchester-based Sharston Terrier & Lurcher Club (see bottom right). The protest consisted of 20-30 people with various placards such as 'Coursing Conserves the Hare. We do it you don't'. The bunch of drunken thugs, swearing and shouting abuse, who even the organisers had difficulty controlling, weren't exactly the David Bellamy image of conservation! The brown hare population has declined by 80% over the past century, and a gang of thugs who derive sick pleasure out of watching hares being torn limb from limb is an insult to true conservationists.

Almost every year the idea of sabbing the Waterloo Cup is mentioned, and usually dismissed just as quickly. In the late 1980s a sab was almost killed by coursers. He was rushed to hospital with very serious head injuries and luckily survived. This year sabs bravely (or is that stupidly?!) decided to give it another go. After the anti-hunt march had left sabs entered via back fields towards where the beaters were forcing hares on to the coursing field. Their action succeeded in disrupting the regular flow of hares to the top field, from where they go towards the shy and slipper. This meant that coursing was stopped for a while. One sab reported that a vehicle drove towards him full of beaters, but fortunately police reached him first and ensured there was no violence from coursers. This must be the only time when sabs have been grateful for the police stopping them from getting any further!

Obviously it was felt that this year's Waterloo Cup may be the last, but thanks to our archaic parliamentary system that will not be the case. If the Cup does try to go ahead in1999 it's up to all of us to be there to make sure hares are not torn to pieces.





reviews

Reviewers: PF - Poppy Fisher, FBF - Fat Boy Fat



'KEEP IT ANGRY' HSA BENEFIT CD

If your idea of a good night out involves pogoing in a sweaty mosh pit (and stage diving intermittently),whilst getting pissed out of your face on 'White Lightening' cider before staggering home only to wake up the next morning covered in your own/someone else's urine or vomit and suffering almost total memory loss - then this is the CD for you.
All the finest, and angriest, sab friendly hardcore punk, lovingly gathered together and compressed onto a little, shiny plastic disc. Truly a miracle. For your money you get 10 different bands all doing 2 tracks each, which is quite a nice idea 'cos you then get more of a feel for where each band is like, uh, coming from man, (or at least to work out who you think sounds cool and who you think sounds turd!)
My faves are the excellent snuff-soundalikes 'Road Rage' and harmonic Essex schreechers 'Airbomb' - but hell what do I know, they're all great!.
So, to sum up: agggggghhhhhhhhhhhhhciddddddeeeeeerrrrgonna be sick. Fantastic
You'd be a fool to miss out, not to mention a tight fisted git who clearly doesn't care about the animals. *FBF*

Also Includes:Oi Polloi, Hellkrusher, Riot/Clone, Contempt, P.U.S., Combat Shock, Rampage & Beergut 100

'Keep it Angry' is available from Bomb Factory Records, PO Box 21, Tenterden, Kent TN30 7ZZ.
'Fraid you'll have to write for price details cos the dozy so-and-sos didn't tell me!



'BASIL BRUSH BITES BACK' PLYMOUTH SABS BENEFIT TAPE

In a bizarre, seemingly unthinkable coincidence, some of the bands on the above CD also feature on this tape too. How about that?
Although lacking the slick la-de-dahness of the HSA's afore-mentioned CD, Plymouth Sabs have nonetheless produced a jumbo,dog-on-a-string, special-brew induced masterpiece.
This compilation boasts a surprising variety of 'artistes'; Obviously all crazy punk rock; but a mix of '70's stylee old school and '90's hardcore, opening with 'Sab the Hunt' by the Business and closing with that timeless classic 'Berkshire c**t' by Conflict. In between is 90 minutes of pure angryness ideal for the sab van stereo. Something for all the family (providing your family consists entirely of filthy, cider dribbling crusty-punks, that is).
So too sum up: aagghhhhhhhhhhcidddddddeeeerrrraaahhfuggin luv yah. Marvellous
For parting with your hard earned wonga you get a massive 26 tracks, and a self-satisfying smugness in knowing your money is going to a 'good cause'. *FBF*

Also Includes: P.U.S., Heyoka, Love over Law, Anti-System, Screeching Weasel, Contempt, Alternative, Cracked Cop Skulls, Character Builder, Oi Polloi, Riot/Clone, Shock Treatment, Terminus, Fleas & Lice, Deprived, Bus Station Loonies, Cress, C.D.S, Age of chaos, The Filth, The Haemorrhoids, & The Natural Disasters.

'Basil Brush Bites Back' is available from Plymouth HSA, c/o Devon Wildlife Protection
PO Box 126, Plymouth, Devon PL1 1RY Price £3.00 (Payable to "A Gill")
All money raised goes towards Plymouth's Landrover fund.



UNDERCURRENTS 9

This issue of 'Undercurrents' video news is as packed full as ever with worldwide stories of direct action and campaigns 'against the man', man. In the current media climate, their unashamedly partisan outlook is something of a godsend for the HSA, and they have once more come up trumps with a 'rough guide' to sabbing in issue 9. 'FoxTrotting' may have a corny name, and be only 4 minutes long, but it is probably one of the best introductions to sabbing that you'll have seen. All the basic tactics are covered, backed up by video footage taken by sabs, all of which show how effective our methods are; the gizmo bit has to be the best bit of sabbing footage I have ever seen. The final 30 seconds is a jammed packed collage of more ...hum... 'unofficial' footage, set to a pumpin' sound track. My copy is already damaged by repeated rewinding to the arrest of one Mark Sprake (ex-Surrey Union huntsman). In the back of the police van, out the back of the police van, in the back of the police van.....
Of course, news of other direct actions are also on the tape, and all, particularly the piece on police attempts to control the news, deserve to be watched time and again (except the poetry - hippy nonsense).
Get a copy for your sab group/AR group now! *PF*

The HSA has a limited number of copies of 'Undercurrents 9' available at the discounted price of £11.99 (a percentage of profit from each sale will go to the HSA)
Other back issues are available from UnderCurrents, 16b Cherwell St, Oxford OX4 1BG

It's a miracle anyone reads this crap

The COUNTRYSIDE WEAKLINGS



THIS COUPON IS WORTH 10P OFF A PAIR OF STYLISH GREEN CORDUROY KNICKERBOCKERS

THE MAGAZINE FOR MEN WHO FEEL THE NEED TO PROVE THEMSELVES BY KILLING SMALL ANIMALS

A new regular feature written by Gooner Rob. The best bits of your favourite 'kill everything' magazine, so you don't have to search out the 5 copies actually printed.

Part 1: Real Country Life

Not all readers of Howl may not be aware of the publication 'Countryman's Weekly' produced from British Field Sport Society/Countryside Alliance Headquarters at Kennington. Its all about ... well, killing animals really - with its contributors taking great pleasure in describing exactly how, when, where and what they kill, and what smashing fun it is. The stories, often written in a journalistic style that can be best described as similar to an 8 year old's essay on "what I did during my weekend", do however provide us 'townies' ('cos you're a townie even if you've been raised in the country but still don't hunt) with an opportunity to gain from their clear love of the countryside and the animals in it.

For example Gary Crook (1O.10.97) wrote a touching tale about "Fred" the fox who kept visiting 'Noggins Farm'. Our hero treats us to a blow by blow account (over 2 tedious pages) of all the twists and turns of the pursuit before eventually a shot into darkness kills "Fred". The glorious end to the story comes when Gary tells us that "Fred's mask is on my wall at home and looking at it tonight inspired me to write this little story for you all." Hans Christian Anderson, it's not.

It needs Guy Smith to enlighten us in the 9.1.98 magazine of the pride, bravery and sense of achievement in being a.. er. . coastal wildfowler. Guy waxes lyrical on his memories of "my first mallard, and a Canada goose ... [then relatively uncommon here] ... shot under the most sporting conditions and teal and widgeon zooming past in the half light like F1 fighters."!! One can only hope this man was never in the airforce, or we could have ended up on def-con one had a widgeon strayed inland.

Pat Carey, known as "Warrener", and a regular contributor, speaks with pride of his fox killing antics on 15.5.98 - luring each animal with calls, killing them and then moving on to the next; "After I had shot the fox I did a few vixen barks and a fox answered me back. When I picked up the fox and went back my wife told me she had got it all on film." Lovely couple.
Later Warrener's wife thinks she has spotted a fox curled up asleep in a field. Warrener shoots, of course; "the fox was curled up dead where I had shot him in his seat."

No doubt Pat shares Guy's preference to killing when the general public are not around. On 10.10.97 Guy was clearly upset when he and a dozen "reliable shooting and wildfowling friends" were shooting geese at a holiday camp; "it seemed that every contractor had deserted his job and had gathered to shout abuse at us". Now, why could that be?

PICK OF THE ADVERTS FROM COUNTRYMAN'S WEEKLY NO.1

An article in the 16.1.98 edition dedicated to the "Warrener" told of his new fox control courses. Students can learn how to "refine techniques", how to call foxes, where to set snares and the baits to use. You follow him "on his day to day business, lamping at night... early morning calling... then out again doing the rounds on Pat's shoot and checking snares." Helpfully, Pat also advises on general vermin control, unfortunately only of the four legged kind. Those interested are advised to write to Warrener Productions, P0 Box 36, Tavistock, Devon PL19 8YR.



DO OR DIE NO.7

From personal encounters with macho posturing at road protest camps (hum... sound familiar?), and the Zapatista freedom fighters of Mexico, to damning reports on the Worldwide Fund for Nature and the Oil Industry; plus a comprehensive round up of actions, this collection of "voices from Earth First", is a rivetting read.
Short review, but highly recommended! *PF*

Available from DO or Die, PO Box 2971, Brighton BN2 2TT. £8.00 for 4 issues. Cheques/POs payable to Earth First!

another year, another Law.

There is a chant sung by Millwall fans at football matches which includes the lines "No one likes us, we don't care!"
As a Hunt Saboteur, I can certainly identify with these sentiments.

It seems that hardly a year passes without those in power legislating to plug a perceived hole in current laws to stop our activities despite overwhelming support for a ban on hunting with dogs from the general public.

Under the unashamedly pro-hunting Conservatives, we had the 1986 Public Order Act which (Douglas Hurd assured the lobbying foxhunters and beaglers) included a clause dealing with people causing Harassment, Distress and Alarm, subsequently known to sabs and cops alike as "Section 5". Those of you old enough to have been charged with this offence also probably benefited financially from the hundreds of thousands of pounds the police paid out in civil claims for unlawful arrests and false imprisonment.

After several years of mass arrests but court room embarrassment, the police that could be bothered (i.e. those in areas where the hunt had an unusually direct line to the chief constable) resorted to the age old (cl 361) Breach of the Peace sections.

The hunters' next plan to scupper hunt sabotage was a long time coming but was a far more specific attack on sabs in particular - the introduction of the 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act. We are probably all too familiar with the distant shouts of "stop, you're committing Aggravated Trespass!" from some out of puff, muddy copper, but if they managed to get a sab into custody, often their problems were only just beginning.

Most police officers as we know will take the word of a hunt rider or follower as tantamount to gospel, especially when referring to the ownership of land - after all they are the 'guardians of the countryside'! What the police and CPS found when they started to take sabs to court for Aggravated Trespass was that more often than not, we knew the law better than them, or we were in fact not doing anything unlawful. We have won (or had cases dropped) in the vast majority of Aggravated Trespass arrests, and the civil damage claims are just starting to flood in (an estimated £30,000 paid out for one mass arrest by Essex Police this year).

OK, so where is this all leading to? Well, since the 1994 act came into power, there has apparently been a change of government! We are told we now have a Labour government which is supposedly the same party that was promising to ban hunting before the general election. We all know the fate of the Foster Bill now - huge support from the public and elected politicians, and still it fails due to a few bastard Tory MPs and a gutless cabinet.

To add insult to injury, those in power have now been duped by the Countryside Alliance that hunts are the victims of a vicious new breed of Hunt Saboteur - the balaclava brigade!

Anybody who knows anything about us knows that some sabs have worn balaclavas at hunts for many years for a whole variety of reasons - mainly to protect their identity from those hunt thugs (particularly in Northants and Sussex) who delight in arson attacks, criminal damage and leaving mutilated animals at sabs homes. They can also stop false identification by hunt followers keen to 'fit' their local sabs up, prevent another waste of time and public money on court cases for aggravated trespass or sometimes become a chic fashion accessory (it's true - some sabs wear a bally all day at a hunt and never even get out of their van!). Sometimes it's just bloody cold out there!

Earlier this year it became apparent, from what the police were saying, that the government were considering making it illegal to wear a balaclava in certain circumstances. It didn't take a genius to work out who the law would be aimed at given the repetitive and false impression the hunters spread about us:

"70 hard-core sabs equipped with balaclavas and staves descended on the hunt..." CA press release 30/11/97

"70-80 balaclava clad anti-hunt protesters arrived in vans...baseball bat...an iron bar.. .a stave.." CA press release 13/12/97

"Saboteurs wearing balaclavas and brandishing wooden clubs ran amok..." CA press release 23/03/98

"...was attacked by balaclava clad thugs..." CA press release 06/04/98

"masked saboteurs wielding baseball bats and clubs..." CA press release 21/0/498

Of all the above alleged incidents, only 3 people have been charged (and we cannot discuss this case for legal reasons). If there were any truth to the above allegations, the police would have everyone involved behind bars at this moment.



Also at about this time (April) we heard about a video the Alliance had released updating their "Unacceptable Face of Protest" video, which purported to 'name and shame' the ring leaders of the 'balaclava brigade'.



What it actually contains is a small amount of video footage taken from a couple of hunts in the South of England showing plenty of sabs dressed in black with their faces hidden. It also interspersed this footage with mug shots of well known hunt saboteurs with their names captioned underneath. Very shocking! To date, I have not heard of it being shown anywhere on TV which must have been a bit embarrassing for them.

I heard about it when GMTV phoned to see if I would go on to defend myself against the allegations the Alliance were making. I jumped at the chance, and made sure GMTV were supplied with some of our video to show the other side. After they viewed this, they soon realised there were actually 2 sides to the story, and on balance, that the footage we supplied was far stronger than anything the Alliance had. Consequently the whole item was dropped. It also became apparent that the Alliance had included material that was subjudice and would have landed them and GMTV in a rather awkward position with the law!

The Countryside Alliance are pursuing the "throw enough mud - some of it will stick" line of press management, and unfortunately for us, the media so far has been all too ready to swallow anything Janet and co throw at them. They want it both ways and usually get it - on one hand they say there are only 200 active sabs in the whole country (and they are all "chain smoking vegetarians"!) on the other they portray us to politicians as the greatest threat to the system since the IRA!

The repetition of the phrases "balaclava-clad", "iron bars... baseball bats... and staves" would be laughable to most sabs who go out week in week out in small groups saving animals from violent hunts, were it not for the recent appearance of all these phrases in discussions within the Houses of Parliament. The lack of knowledge and unquestioning gullibility of those politicians involved in the committee stages of the Crime and Disorder Bill is staggering. On reading Hansard (the transcripts of the discussions), I was expecting to read every single myth ever put out about us - from wages to piano wire across rides. It didn't quite get that bad, but it was obvious that if whoever was priming the 'honourable members' had alleged it, they would have repeated it as sworn fact.

Anyway, the upshot of all this behind the scenes prompting and manoeuvring is that an amendment to the 1994 CJ&POA has been introduced which gives the police:

"the power to require any person to remove any item which the constable reasonably believes that person is wearing wholly or mainly for the purpose of concealing his identity"

It also allows the police to seize any item which they believe is intended to be used to conceal a person's identity, and to stop vehicles and remove items as mentioned above.

And that's it. No consultation or fact gathering from outside or affected bodies to verify the truth of the situation, just a hurried amendment to satisfy the powerful hunting lobby. Only the input of the Countryside Alliance and I would assume, the police, has been allowed. Isn't it quick and easy to get a law passed when you know the right strings to pull!

There is no doubt that this legislation has been brought in at the specific request of the pro-hunt lobby, as a reading of the debate surrounding the amendment reveals. The actual clause was tabled by the MP for Cotswold, a Mr Clifton-Brown (he is a hunt lackey and boasts of his meetings with the heads of police to discuss the matter). When asked "To whom does the clause refer?" Eleanor Laing (MP for Epping Forest) replied "Hunt saboteurs come to mind... violent demonstrators, animal rights activists..."

Throughout the 'debate' we were referred to as violent, rent-a-mob, thugs etc. without once mentioning the fact that violence is the first option for hunters and we are normally defending ourselves in any confrontation. Also, only one hunt saboteur was convicted of violent offences at hunts last season, whilst the number of hunters is into double figures!

If I'm totally honest, the job of HSA press officer may become an awful lot easier because I won't have to waste my time defending people for running around in balaclavas and can force the media to concentrate on what we actually do i.e. sabotage hunts to save animals.

One interesting aspect of the clause is that it is an amendment to be added to section 60 (powers to stop and search in the anticipation of violence) of the 1994 CJ&POA. Now, we've only come across section 60 orders in Essex, Surrey and Sussex when the police have had intelligence (usually wrongly) that there is to be a large hit, so either we will see a lot more section 60's being initiated or the new law may not be appropriate to use.

In reality this new law may open up a whole can of worms for the police and the hunts they are forelock tugging for, given the past inventiveness of sabs to run rings around them. It could be another good fund-raiser for some groups.

Not having any tame MPs I can ask, as far as I can tell, the law has had its third reading and has been passed, so it will be given royal ascent at the start of the next parliamentary session or whatever, which is usually around November. Since we have now started the new season I guess we'll have to start coming up with ways to make this law unworkable. After a couple of dozen failed cases, and a few hefty payouts for wrongfu arrest, this law may very well become as useless as the others.

Let's hope it's a cold Winter!

"Legitimate protest means walking around Trafalgar Square with a banner.... it does not include.... making other people's lives difficult"

Eleanor Laing MP (Epping Forest) 9th June '98 Commons Debate





Legal News

PRIVATE PROSECUTION OF 'CRUEL' HUNTSMAN FAILS

The private prosecution, brought by Bolton hunt sabs with the support of the National Anti-Hunt Campaign, of the huntsman of the Holcombe Harriers for causing unnecessary suffering to a hunted fox, has failed because it could not be proved that the huntsman's actions towards the animal were intentional. The case against Alex Sneddon was the first prosecution of a hunt official under the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act of 1996, and has exposed the inadequacy of current legislation to deal with the cruelty within hunting.

Bolton sabs had brought the case against Sneddon after they witnessed the huntsman repeatedly riding over a fox that the pack had wounded. (Despite being saved by the sabs, the vixen died that same night at the vets.) Sneddon's defence first claimed that the horse had not gone anywhere near the fox, but a postmortem concluded as well as the 35 bite wounds to the belly and thigh (no 'quick nip to the back of the neck' here) caused by hounds; the fox also had a broken leg, broken back and internal injuries caused by the horse. Since the defence did not object to this postmortem, it then changed its story, admitting the horse had trampled on the fox but that Sneddon hadn't deliberately caused to! This was to be the turning point since under the 1996 Act it is only a offence to (among other things) "crush a wild animal *with intent* to cause unnecessary suffering". (Interestingly enough, Sneddon's original denial of the incident was backed up by Chief Inspector Alan Bingle of the Metropolitan Police Mounted Division, who argued on oath that it would be "impossible" for a horse to trample a fox. When the results from the postmortem were read to the court, the discredited Chief Inspector was strangely silent.)

To try to prove that Sneddon's actions had been deliberate, prosecuting solicitor Des Murphy described events on the day; "Just before 1pm the fox was flushed out. The hounds then set about it, but very quickly Mr Sneddon, still on his horse, rode amongst the hounds, causing them to come off the fox leaving it injured but still alive on the ground" Witnesses then described how Sneddon then manoeuvred his horse in such a way that it backed back over the fox and stood on it. "He was clearly aware that the fox was under his horse's feet and those actions were deliberately meant to injured the fox." added Mr Murphy. Sabs at the scene then went on to tell how Sneddon had smirked at them when he saw what he had done.

Stipendiary magistrate, Jonathon Finestein, for the first time in his legal career, took the unprecedented step of having to think about the evidence overnight before making a decision. Unfortunately, he then concluded that there was not enough evidence to show, beyond reasonable doubt, that Sneddon's actions had been deliberate. However, he did agree that "the fox did sustain harm and must have suffered considerable pain.

One positive outcome of the case was its extensive media coverage on radio, television and both local and national papers, none of which were impressed with the descriptions of hunting given by both sides while in the dock. Many also repeated NAHC concerns that hunters are incapable of regulating their activities and that under current legislation acts of extreme cruelty, which under other circumstances would be punishable by law, can still go on unhindered within hunting.

● Despite the incident happening in view of around 8 hunt riders only the Master gave evidence for Sneddon's defence and he hadn't witnessed the incident! Useless to the defence, he then acted as an unofficial character witness for the 3 sabs who brought the case, saying he had known them all for some time, that they had helped save hounds that had been involved in accidents, and that they were trustworthy! This is not the first time he has jumped to sabs' defence. He previously told press that protesters have "every right to sab the hunt", and often enquired after Keith Mann, expressing outrage as his sentence! (Keith was a regular face at the Holcombe).

Not surprisingly, he has now resigned as Master.

LAWYERS SUPPORT ANIMAL RIGHTS

A group of lawyers in London are attempting to form an association of lawyers with the object of "the advancement of the welfare and interests of animals."

A meeting held recently was attended by the HSA as well as groups such as LACS, NAVS, RSPCA etc. The association aims to help Animal Rights groups and campaigners in several ways, such as:

● monitoring and commenting on domestic law, international treaties and EC legal issues relating to animal welfare
● commenting upon political and legal aspects of related issues
● bringing appropriate civil or public law proceedings or criminal prosecutions against animal abusers
● providing legal advice regarding demonstrations, publications etc
● developing a database detailing members' areas of specialism and willingness to provide assistance on a pro-bono basis
● staging seminars with those whose activities may lead to litigation, (e.g. sabs!) on their rights, police powers and gathering forensic evidence (to bring or defend actions).

Kate at the HSA office is helping to compile a list of sympathetic solicitors to pass onto the group. so please ring her at the office with any details.

ADVICE FROM EUROPE - SUE THE POLICE

In August 92, hunt sab Helen Steel waved a white flag during a grouse shoot sab to make the birds fly higher and out of the range of the guns. For this Helen was arrested for Breach of the Peace and detained for 44 hours. At a later court appearance she was ordered to be bound over to "keep the peace and be of good behaviour." When she refused she was sentenced to 28 days in prison.

On the 18th of May '98, Helen challenged her arrest in the European Court of Human Rights. At the hearing Helen's legal team argued that It was wrong to jail someone for refusing to be bound over because it is not clear what constitutes "keeping the peace and being of good behaviour". The British Government's Barrister argued that as Helen had not sued the police for wrongful arrest then she had accepted the arrest as lawful.! Unbelievably, the Commission sided with the British Government.

The lesson to be learnt from this case is - even if you don't expect to get much cash from it - if you are arrested, sue the police. If you don't, you're accepting the arrest as lawful.

BRIGHTON SAB JAILED

Phil DeSouza, a well known Brighton hunt sab, was sentenced to nine months imprisonment in July, for assault and affray charges relating to a scuffle with two joint-Masters of the Southdown & Eridge FH, in September 1996.

The result took a long time coming after the first trial at Lewes Crown Court resulted in a hung jury. At the second trail at Hove, the jury found Phil guilty by a 10-2 majority.

South-East spokesmen for the Countryside Alliance wet their collective pants at the result and sentence, and attempted to use the case as an example of 'hunt saboteurs' dreadful behaviour'. However, by bringing the matter to press attention, sabs were able to point out that Phil's was the only saboteur conviction for anything remotely confrontational last season, while convictions of violent hunt staff/supporters was well into double figures. The hunt itself also seemed to believe that the jailing of such a well known face would deter other sabs in the area. Judging by the number of times they have managed a sab free day during cubhunting, it would seem that this was another miscalculation on their part!

At the time of writing Phil is floating somewhere of the Dorset coast on 'luxury yacht', The Weare. Apparently he's been using the time to detoxify the old system and get fit. Oh dear.

Phil is due to be released in November. If he's still inside by the time you get this *Howl*, drop him a line at Phil DeSouza AW6717, HMP The Weare, Rotherham Rd, Cashetown, Portland, Dorset DT5 1PZ. Or give him a wave from your surf board.



Phil in action with Surrey Police in the early '90's.

Legal News



TRESPASS RULING CLARIFIES CJA

Sabs from the East Midlands were celebrating a High Court ruling this summer, despite losing their appeals against convictions for Aggravated Trespass. The case may provided saboteurs with valuable guidance in future cases, and will be welcomed by landowners fed up hunts trespassing on land.
The case's two senior judges have made it clear that hunts unlawfully crossing, or pursuing quarry, on land without permission from the owner, cannot seek the protection of the law if they are then sabbed while trespassing.
In April last year foxhounds and whippers-in from the Woodland Pytchley FH, whose huntsman arrogantly believed he had permission to be on Railtrack property, trespassed on a railway line, committing a criminal offence. Because of this, the ten hunt saboteurs arrested for sabbing the hunt would not have been guilty of aggravated trespass and criminal disruption under the 1994 Act if they had confined their activities to when the hunt was on Railtrack property, because at that point it was not "a lawful activity". The sabs only broke the law by continuing to sab in nearby fields where landowners *had* given the hunt permission to pursue foxes. (Hence the loss of the sabs' appeals.)
The decision of Lord Justice Simon Brown, sitting with Mr Justice Hooper, will upset many ignorant hunt supporters who believe that since hunting is, in general, a "lawful act" in the UK, they are therefore entitled to protection under the 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act in all circumstances.
Perhaps the case could be made even more interesting if Railtrack were, in turn, to prosecute the hunt for Aggravated Trespass, since a pack of hounds on the line would undoubtedly disrupt the lawful activity of train drivers.

PORTSMOUTH THREE UPDATE

The three people arrested for the events at the Hursley Hambledon FH last December, are now facing trail in March 1999. Chief Constable of Hampshire police, John Haddinott, has so far resisted attempts to have them remanded before trail by members of the bloodsports community, namely Penny Hamblen of the Hursley Hambledon FH.
The 'Portsmouth Three' as they have become known are all charged with 'Conspiracy to Commit Violent Disorder' for their alleged part in the organisation of the regional hit on the notoriously violent hunt, which made the headlines after numerous vehicles belonging to the hunt and their supporters were damaged by people who later claimed to be the 'Hunt Retribution Squad'. There is no suggestion by the police that the three people facing trail committed any criminal damage themselves, or in fact that they are anything to do with the 'Hunt Retribution Squad'. Rather the suggestion is that anyone involved in the organisation of the legal mass sab can be held responsible for any illegal activity that happened during the day.
Since this trail is in no way punishing anyone who actually damaged any hunt vehicles, the trial would seem to be motivated by the desire of the hunt to get revenge on anyone who stands against them, and a justification of the police's use of mass indiscriminate arrests on the day (42 people were arrested and 39 released without charge). It is also obviously intended as a deterrent to anyone else considering organising large sabs.

For more details about the case, contact:
The Portsmouth Three Defence Campaign
P0 Box 1119
Dorchester, Dorset, DTI IED
(Donations towards the campaign are greatly appreciated. Please send your donations to the Dorset address.)

Send letters of support to the Portsmouth Three, c/o Portsmouth Hunt Saboteurs, Box H, 167 Fawcett Road, Southsea, Hampshire, P04.

EXCLUSIVE - EDUCATED SAB FOUND!!

Tim Walker, ex-sab and now solicitor is offering his services to sabs in the South East and Midlands, and can also do free (whoopie!!) legal talks in London. 0171 831 1750

BUNGLING BUMPKINS IN BOXING DAY BUGLE BONANZA

A judge at Winchester Crown court was far from impressed by a member of the Garth FH who claimed his horn had been stolen by hunt saboteurs at last year's Boxing Day meet. The judge, who had apparently just finished the slightly more important matter of a murder trial, was forced to listen to the pathetic whinging of the Garth's former huntsman, who pointed the finger at two sabs from Reading and West London on 28th October 1998. At first the sabs accused of the heinous crime, were said to be known to the huntsman but it later transpired that, in actual fact, the huntsman knew supporters of the hunt who knew the sabs. As a result the 'eye-witness' evidence was deemed to be hearsay and was thus dismissed
Police reaction to the incident was equally ludicrous at the time; grabbing the opportunity to have a nose around by breaking into one of the sabs' houses under the guise of looking for the stolen property. The nearest thing they could find during the subsequent raid, however, was a large cavalry bugle!
Thames Valley Police, on the ball as ever!

STAGDEN CROSS PAYOUT

Its worth suing the police even if you do have to wait few years. Sabs from around the country, who were arrested at the now legendary 'Battle of Stagden Cross' in 1993, have recently received pay outs of between 2 and 3 thousand pounds each from Essex police. Most payouts were for wrongful arrest, malicious prosecution, unlawful detention and assault, and were settled out of court.
The arrests came when, in response to appaling violence from hunt stewards who regularly attacked local sabs, a national hit was called on the Essex Foxhounds on the 23rd of January, 1993. The large number of sabs was important not only as a warning to the stewards and the hunt that such behaviour would not be tolerated, but also to prove to a point to the police, who had done nothing to curb the escalating violence faced by sabs. In fact, Essex police had seemed more than happy with the situation as it was; if the sabs are not able to interfere with the hunt because they were to busy fending off attacks by stewards, then naturally the police wouldn't have to waste any quality donut eating time watching sabs.
The national hit was an interruption to the status quo in Essex, which the police and of course, their friends in the hunt, did not appreciate. On the day itself 26 arrests were made as the police went berserk, making totally random and on occasion violent arrests. Many sabs were arrested for one offence and later charged with another. Whilst in custody they were all re-arrested and charged with conspiracy to cause violent disorder. Having been held overnight they were interviewed and released the next evening, some having spent over 30 hours in police custody.
A handful of those arrested successfully sued Essex police; unfortunately the cost of taking a compensation claim to court prevented many sabs, who were not eligible for legal aid, from also benefiting from Essex police's over-zealousness. For those that did manage to go ahead with the claims (thought to have totalled over £30,000) the payouts have proved that although it may have seemed like hell at the time, every empty pocket can have a silver lining!

CRAP STOP AND SEARCH OF LAST SEASON

Returning from a demonstration outside an ostrich farm, Dorset hunt sabs were stopped by cops who claimed officers in the police helicopter had noticed that the kingpin on the van wheel was loose. Entry requirements for Dorset police obviously now include telescopic sight & x-ray vision!

[*Many thanks to Schnews for that one! Pity I didn't hear about it from you though, Dorset.* - Ed]

VERMIN PATROL

CRUELTY CASES IN THE COURTS

wildlife
VERMIN

William Lowther, **Andrew Lowther** and **Ian Priestley**, appearing before Dewsbury magistrates charged with damaging a badger sett and causing unnecessary suffering to a dog, claimed they were trying to rescue their dog that had been stuck in a badger sett for two days. All were found guilty of the offences and sentenced to 160 hours community service for each offence (to run concurrently) and ordered to pay £50 compensation. Priestley, the owner of the dog, was banned from keeping dogs for three years. The dog in question was confiscated.

Kevin Wilson (17) c/o 2 Craigievar Road, Aberdeen and **Christopher Allan** (17) of 26 Craigievar Crescent, Aberdeen admitted intentionally inflicting unnecessary suffering to a hedgehog at Aberdeen Sheriff Court on 28/2/98. Both men were seen kicking the hedgehog several times, apparently "for a laugh", in Craigievar Crescent in August last year. Several people intervened and called the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The Sheriff suggested that if each made a £50 donation to the SSPCA, he might be more lenient with them. The hedgehog spent a couple of weeks at the Grampian Wildlife Rehabilitation Hospital before being released.

Lee Burden (18) of Kingsbury Road, Erdington, Birmingham pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to a hedgehog he found at the gates of Rycotewood College, Thame, while after a drinking session with friends. "Egged on" by pals he then put it in a microwave.Other students entering the kitchen saw smoke pouring out of the microwave and one of Burden's friends was sick as a result of the "prank". A vets statement to Henley magistrates court on 21/4198 confirmed the animal would have suffered an agonising death, concluding: "This method of causing death would be intensely painful and distressing to the animal and, as such...constitutes unnecessary suffering." Burden was sentenced to 90 days.

James Dempster, **Gregor Mitchell** and **Mark McLay** all of Blackburn, West Lothian and **Daniel Scott** of Livingston were all found guilty of breach of the peace, under Scottish law, after torturing a pregnant vixen to death. The court heard how the incident was caught on video at a disused factory in Rathgate. The video showed the vixen was kicked and then thrown to four waiting terriers; one of whom was also kicked by Dempster after it refused to attack the vixen. Dempster was sentenced to three months (but was released on bail pending an appeal) after the court heard he had a previous conviction for being involved in a dog fight. Mitchell, McLay and Scott were ordered to do 200 hours community service.

bird
VERMIN

The conviction in March of **William Dunne** of Riverstown, Killucan, County Westmeath, followed the conviction of seven other men on charges arising out of a cock-fight watched by as many as 100 people. Twelve cockerels were seized by the Gardai, including one dead and two injured birds.The cock-fight was discovered taking place at 10.45 a.m. on 6/7/97.by two Gardai. After a search, two bags, each with a cockerel inside, were discovered at the rear of Dunne's car. **Hugh Behan**, who was convicted in February in relation to the same incident, said that while visiting Athy market he was told by Dunne of an "exhibition" of birds taking place that Sunday morning. Dunne told the court that after the Garda arrived he had sat hiding in a ditch for four hours. He admitted being present at the incident, but denied cruelty charges. The Judge fined Dunne £200 and ordered him to pay £100 towards veterinary expenses.

Wild animal rescue and rehabilitation centre owner **Brian Dudley** (50) of Claydon Court, High Wycombe has been fined £200 for putting birds of prey on display to make money. A police officer found two "extremely nervous" common buzzards, with broken feathers from being caged, at Marlow Wildlife Centre, Pump Lane, Little Marlow, in May 1997. Dudley pleaded not guilty to displaying two buzzards for commercial purposes and guilty to displaying four tawny owls for commercial purposes at the centre but was found guilty of all charges and was also ordered to pay £120 costs. The centre faced closure last year when it was revealed that £2,000 had gone missing from its bank account.

University scientists helped to convict a man for illegally possessing a wild bird by carrying out DNA tests on birds of prey chicks in Northumberland. **Scott Baldwin** from Essex was found guilty of possessing a wild goshawk, making a false declaration to the Department of the Environment and failing to register a bird. Magistrates fined him a total of £1,050 with £3,500 costs. Two goshawk chicks had been stolen from a nest in Northumberland in June 1996. A young goshawk, in poor condition, was then found flying free in the Thames Valley. Co-operation between Northumbria Police and other forces led to Baldwin. Sadly, because of its condition, the bird had to be destroyed but DNA from a blood sample linked the goshawk to the Northumberland nest.

John Dodsworth (39) of Cheviot Road, South Shields admitted collecting 800 eggs on two trips to the Shetlands at a hearing in March. Dodsworth claimed his collection was legal and gathered before the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 outlawed egg collecting. Magistrates, however, found him guilty on seven specimen counts of illegally possessing eggs. He was given a two-year conditional discharge and ordered to pay £200 costs. The eggs were also confiscated. The RSPB is pushing for prison sentences for egg collectors pointing out that if someone can be jailed for poaching salmon then the same should apply to someone stealing the eggs of a rare species.

Harry Sissen (59) of East Cowton, North Yorkshire, and an international authority on rare birds, was arrested on 7/5/98 by Customs and Excise officers investigating the alleged importation of endangered species from South America.The Customs and Excise National Investigations' Service had raided his farm twice in five weeks, and removed more than 120 birds with estimated value of £200,000. A spokesman for Customs and Excise said: "We have an open mind on the outcome. No charges have yet been made."

Gamekeeper of 30 years **James Davidson** (46) of Tynabaich Cottage, Craithe, Invercauld Estate, Scotland appeared before Stonehaven Sheriff Court charged with using an illegal spring trap. Davidson had used the traps believing predatory birds were eating the rabbits he had caught in other traps. He was discovered when a dog walker came across a bird on the ground caught in the trap. When the police questioned Davidson about the incident he admitted placing the trap and knowing it was illegal to set one uncovered above ground. He was fined £120

A fisheries owner was cleared on 25/2/98 of killing cormorants that had been feeding on stock in his lakes. **David Marie** (57) from Newport Paguell, Buckinghamshire had been accused of shooting seabirds at a nature reserve that bordered his land. Marle was cleared of two charges of killing cormorants, two of attempting to kill them and four charges of possess ing a shotgun with intent to commit an offence. He claimed he had only ever fired blanks or deliberately missed the birds in order to scare them away, in line with Ministry of Agriculture guidelines.
After the case Marle said he had been persecuted by the RSPB and environmentalists who wanted to make a case against a fishery owner.

Landlord **David McGannity** (48) of the Holly Bush pub, Bollington, Cheshire admitted hitting a goose and its nest, but denied damaging its eggs, during a round of golf. McGannity discovered the nest near the 11th hole of Shrigley Hall Golf Club, near Macclesfield when he found the nest. McGannity was given a 12 month conditional discharge and ordered to pay costs of £1,200. Playing partner **Graham Mellor** (41) of Sandy Lane, Bollington was found not guilty of aiding and abetting the offence. The charges were brought under the Wildlife Protection Act.

farm VERMIN

The newly-elected **President of the National Farmers' Union of Scotland**, **George Lyon** (41) of Kildavannan Farm, Rothesay on the isle of Bute was fined £250 for allowing seven ewes to be moved when they were sick and unfit and £150 for allowing a ewe to suffer unnecessary pain and distress. Six of the ewes transported from Rothesay to Stirling auction last October were suffering from mastitis, a disease affecting the udders, and the seventh was left standing on three legs through severe damage to a knee joint.

The sister of supermarket chief Lord Sainsbury has been fined £1,000 with £13,000 costs after admitting 22 charges of animal cruelty. RSPCA inspectors seized over 40 emancipated animals; most needing urgent veterinary treatment but many had to be put down. **Annabel Kanabus**, 50, ran the 400-acre New House farm in West Grinstead, Sussex, with **husband Peter**, 49, **and son Jason**, 22. They admitted all charges and were each fined £2,000 and £13,000 costs, however Kanabus blamed government policy over BSE for letting her cattle starve!! Sainsbury's are one of the country's biggest factory farmers and butchers. The family is worth billions.

Westcountry sheep farmer **Roger Baker** (55) of Tolcame Cottages, Beacon, Cambome whose flock was described by a vet as the worst he had seen in 26 years' practice, was jailed for six months by Truro Crown Court on 15/11/97. He has also been banned from keeping sheep for life.
At his failed appeals against his conviction and sentence Baker had claimed that some of the sheep were emaciated and in poor condition when he originally bought them at market to rear through the winter. Baker faced 46 summonses when he appeared before Truro magistrates on 28/8/97. He was convicted of 17 offences of causing unnecessary suffering and admitted a further two, as well as causing unnecessary pain and of transporting an unfit animal. He also pleaded guilty to eight offences of failing to dispose of carcasses and was convicted of a further four which he had denied. The other 13 summonses were not proceeded with. Baker has a number of offences dating back to 1972 for causing unnecessary suffering and related offences. He had been previously disqualified and had also received jail sentences which had been suspended on appeal.

Three bosses of a rare breeds trust in Buckinghamshire have been found guilty of cruelty to animals following an investigation which cost the RSPCA £100,000. **David Watkiss** (58) of Bouquet House, Prestwood, **James Cozens** (42) of New Road, Princes Risborough, and **Jeremy Smith** (35) of Dunsmore Avenue, Monks Risborough, had denied charges of animal cruelty during the two-week trial at Chiltern Magistrates in February. The Rare Breeds Conservation Trust, set up in January last year, aimed to help unemployed and disabled people get back to work by training them to look after animals. RSPCA inspectors found 44 rare Saddleback pigs and a White Park cow sheltering from "heavy snow and icy wind" in inadequate sheds near Speen, Bucks. Some piglets were so hungry they were eating the carcasses of their dead herd.
Watkiss was found guilty of 34 charges of causing unnecessary suffering to animals; two charges of causing unnecessary distress to animals; and five charges of falling to dispose of carcasses. Cozens and Smith were found guilty of 27 charges of permitting unnecessary suffering to animals. The trio were released on unconditional bail until sentencing. All the remaining animals at the Trust have been handed over to the RSPCA to be re-homed.

equine VERMIN

Horses were painted 'for a laugh' by a group of drunken men Wirral magistrates heard on 18/3/98. A Shetland pony at the Fender Riding School in Moreton was striped like a zebra with white gloss which was also thrown or painted on others. The pony suffered skin burns and other horses distressed by the incident needed treatment. A fingerprint from a beer can at the scene led police to **Terry O'Hanion** (22) of Arley Close, Beechwood, Birkenhead. He and his friends had been drinking heavily and thought it would be a laugh if they painted the horses. He thought they had used emulsion and was "horrified" when he found out it was gloss. He declined to name his colleagues, but said he was sorry for what they had all done. O'Hanlon pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to nine horses. He was ordered to serve the maximum 240 hours community service, pay the vet's fee of £203 and £35 costs.

update VERMIN

Two men sent to prison for digging badger setts were returned to jail after their appeal against conviction and sentence was thrown out by a judge at Oxford Crown Court on 12/1/98 **David Clark** (37) of Bentley Close, Lillington Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, and **Richard Underhill** (38) of Abbey Lane, Southam near Banbury took their protest before a judge after Banbury magistrates gave them both 60 day sentences for attempting to take badgers, sending a dog into a badger sell and damaging a badger sett in August 1996. Clark and Underhill claimed they were digging into the sett to rescue their terrier which had run into it. The judge ordered the men to serve the remaining time of their original sentences, and added 30 days each on the other 2 charges, to run concurrently with their longer sentence.

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. Following a failed appeal at Derby Crown Court on 12/2/98, Holland was sentenced to four months, Wragg and Pettipierre both received three months sentences.

A show-jumper banned from keeping horses for life has won a legal fight to keep on riding. **Thomas Herriott** (48) of Baxters Buildings, Seaton Delaval, Northumberland was given the life ban after admitting cruelty to one of his ponies, found under-nourished and severely infested with worms in its paddock. However, Herriott, a freelance show-jumper who also ran Tilery Stables in Ponteland, claimed the sentence barring him from having custody of any horse had cost him his livelihood. At his appeal at Newcastle Crown Court on 27/2/98 the judge decided the lifetime ban had been too harsh and barred him only from owning any horse of his own for 10 years 'We take the view the lifetime ban is too draconian in the circumstances," the judge said. Herriott did not contest the £1,000 fine and £3,231 costs order which was imposed by magistrates when they heard the case.

Jane Cherrington (25) and **Michael Topping** (32) both of Eldon Place, Peel Green, Eccles, near Manchester appeared before Salford magistrates on 13/5/98 and admitted running a breeding establishment without a licence. At an earlier hearing they also pleaded guilty to 21 charges of causing unnecessary suffering. The charges arose when the police and RSPCA officers raided the property in April 1997 and found 27 dogs being kept in appaling conditions. The pair were each ordered to do 240 hours community service, pay costs of £300 and banned for life from breeding dogs. However, they were allowed to keep their two pet dogs ! !!

John Hannifin (37) from Rugby, Warwickshire pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to animals when he appeared before Rugby magistrates. The court heard how Hannifin had not given a nine-month-old pony called Jasper enough care and attention during his three months of ownership. A visiting RSPCA inspector found Jasper suffering from dehydration with sores to the abdomen, lips and hind legs. Even with constant care given by the RSPCA Jasper was still unable to stand for six weeks. Hannifin was fined £250, ordered to pay £255 costs and banned from keeping horses for three years. Jasper has made a full recovery.

John Howard (54) and his wife **Susan Howard** (42) both of Runcorn Road, Barnton, near Northwich, Cheshire pleaded guilty to mistreating 17 horses and sheep in February. The couple, who used to live in a caravan on farmland they owned in Senna Lane, Antrobus, Northwich, admitted they kept some horses in cages!, but, wait for it, rotated them on a regular basis!! When the RSPCA first visited their farm they offered the couple help if they needed it after finding the animals in cages. However, seven weeks later (!) when the RSPCA returned they found one dead pony and six others all extremely emaciated, malnourished, and infested with lice and all kept in wire mesh cages. More horses needed other treatment and two sheep were also suffering in cages. They were both sentenced to six months in prison, ordered to pay costs of £1,700 and banned from keeping livestock for life.

Lesley Conyers (32) of Aberdovey Close, North Bransholme, who by failing to look after one of her horses caused it to abort its foal, was given a conditional discharge for two years and ordered to pay £200 costs by Borough magistrates last October. An RSPCA inspector called out about four days after 20-year-old Meggan aborted found her in an emaciated state. She had not been getting enough food nor been wormed for a time. She was taken into care and has since made a good recovery. Conyers denied underfeeding the animal saying she had spent 20 years looking after horses; "I feel this is injustice and intend to appeal." she said.

A pensioner already banned from keeping horses for 10 years has been found guilty of cruelty to another animal. Tyneside pensioner **James Draycott** (70) of Eighton House, Long Bank, Birtley had denied causing unnecessary suffering to a black stallion and keeping a horse while disqualified, but was found guilty of the two charges at Blaydon magistrates on 27/2/98. Two RSPCA officers called to North Farm, Lamesley, Gateshead, last year found among a group of mares and foals, a black stallion wearing a neck collar made out of car seatbelts and held together with twine. The makeshift headcollar had slipped over his head and become embedded in its skin cutting into its jaw every time it fed. Once the collar was removed it left a gaping six-inch wound where it was possible to insert a finger; there was also a one-inch wound above its eye and another on its face. Draycott first admitted the horses were his but then denied owning them, claiming they belonged to his son David, who was working abroad and he had only came to "look" at the horses. He was given a conditional discharge for two years, ordered to pay costs and banned for life from keeping any animal (in 1993 Draycott had been banned for 10 years from keeping horses after being found guilty of maltreatment) The stallion has now made a good recovery.

domestic VERMIN

A man has been banned from keeping animals for life after a Bradford court heard that he caused unnecessary suffering to four dogs. **John James Wilson** (34) formerly of Bradford but now of Brooklands Close, Seacroft, Leeds, was also ordered to do 140 hours community service and pay £150 costs. His girlfriend **Julie Glister** (24) also of Brooklands Close, Seacroft, was put on probation for a year, banned from keeping animals for ten years and ordered to pay £150 costs. Both had been convicted in their absence of four charges of causing unnecessary suffering to a dog by failing to provide it with proper care and attention.
In June 1997 police found three lurcher-type dogs in a

➜

fenced-off back garden covered in dog excrement. All the animals were thin enough to show the ribs and had open sores and large patches of hair missing due to mites and generally poor condition. Two months later, police and an RSPCA inspector visited the house again and saw another lurcher-type dog in a similar poor condition. The couple claimed they had taken the dogs off previous owners in poor condition and Wilson had attempted to treat them himself. Both defendants said they would appeal against their conviction.

A drunken ex-soldier who killed his son's puppy by stamping on it was jailed for four months and banned from owning animals for 10 years. **Samuel Benson** (36) stamped on the whimpering King Charles Spaniel three or four times in Winnock Road, Colchester, after drinking 11 cans of beer, a bottle of sherry and half a bottle of vodka.

Craig Turton (26) of Windmill Crescent, Darton near Barnsley appeared before magistrates on 12/3/98 charged with causing unnecessary suffering to an animal, destroying a dog and using threatening behaviour. Magistrates heard how Turton had killed a four-year-old terrier after becoming angry when his car was returned dirty by friends following a rabbiting trip. **Robert Round** was unloading the car at the home of **Gerhard Barker** when Turton arrived in an angry mood. Round told the court how his terrier was in the back of the car when Turton struck it twice with a spade then picked it up, hit it against the tailgate and then threw it to the floor. Evidence from a vet confirmed the dog had died from a heavy blow to the head. Turton counter-alleged that he saw a dead badger in the car; however, both Round and Barker denied any knowledge of it. Magistrates found the offences against Turton proven and adjourned sentencing until reports were prepared.

A Hull couple who admitted cruelty towards their pet mongrel have been banned from keeping or looking after dogs for five years. **Rohan Rigg** (31) of Bamsley Street, east Hull and his estranged wife **Kathleen** (28) of Perran Close, Bransholme, pleaded guilty on 13/2/98 to causing their four-year-old cross bitch unnecessary suffering. RSPCA inspectors found the dog in the garden almost completely bald. Her "catalogue of problems" included skin disease, conjunctivitis in both eyes and undernourishment; a vet recommended destroying her straight away. Riggs' defence told magistrates "My clients did not just shut the dog away to get into that condition. They realised something was wrong two years ago and took her to a vet several times for tests...They admit losing confidence in the vet when he was unable to diagnose the problem, and not going back again during the past 18 months." Magistrates ordered the couple, who have five children and other pets including rabbits and goldfish, to pay a £75 fine and £75 prosecution costs each, and banned them from owning or having custody of a dog for five years.

Richard John Hargreaves (22) of Bedfont Avenue, Shaw, Oldinam admitted in February cruelly treating and causing unnecessary suffering to his girlfriend's dog, which he had beaten so hard after it fouled the floor, it died. He was also charged with assault on his girlfriend and was placed on probation for 12 months and ordered to attend anger management courses and ordered to pay £500 compensation for assault on the girl.

A former drug user was banned from keeping animals for five years on 3/3/98 after a starving pet dog was rescued from his "hovel" of a flat as he fed his addiction elsewhere. **Christopher McDonald** (22) of Moorhouse Estate, Ashington, Northumberland failed to feed his five-year-old cross-collie properly and left it in the squalid flat while he drifted between the homes of friends as drug dependency began to take over his life. The dog which was emaciated and infested with fleas was eventually rescued from the flat by the RSPCA. McDonald admitted cruelty to the dog in September last year. As well as the five-year ban he was ordered to pay fines and costs totalling £250 The dog has since recovered, and found a new home.

The smell from a flat which was home to 21 cats was so foul that RSPCA officers needed breathing masks to enter it. All the cats inside were flea-infested, dehydrated and thin with no food or water. Magistrates heard how **Heather Kilding** (29) of Raleigh Walk, Stockton had left the flat after splitting up with her partner. Kilding admitted cruelty to five of the cats, but said her former partner was responsible for the others. She was given 50 hours' community service, banned from keeping an animal for five years and ordered to pay RSPCA costs of £50.

A man who hammered his dog to death because it kept chasing after children was jailed for 30 days at Arbroath Sheriff Court on 1 7/2/98. **Paul Wilkie** (45) of 5 Church Place, West Hemming Street, Letham tied up his collie bitch and repeatedly struck her over the head with a hammer because be said she "kept going for children and would snap at their faces". Wilkie admitted wantonly, unreasonably and deliberately striking the dog on the head with the hammer, causing the animal unnecessary suffering which resulted in its death. Wilkie claimed he had not realised there were more humane ways of having the dog put down. He was jailed for 30 days and banned him from keeping animals for five years.

A vet who examined a cat belonging to **Elizabeth Hardon** (36) and **David Mason** (38) both of Bus Row, Widdrington, Northumberland, said the animal had been caused pain and unnecessary suffering for between two and six weeks after a broken leg went untreated The couple admitted cruelty and were each given a conditional discharge for 12 months. They were each ordered to pay £323 costs and magistrates ruled the cat should be given to the RSPCA.

Berwick magistrates banned a family from keeping any animal for life on 5/2/98. **Robert Elliot** (54) of Prior Road, Tweedworth, Berwick, his wife **June** (57) and their children **Robert junior** (31) and **June junior** (20), (what original names!!!) They all pleaded guilty to unnecessary suffering to a pet dog and cat and also failing to provide them with the necessary veterinary care.

Thanks to all those who have sent in cuttings of cruelty cases .Keep 'em coming!! Send to: North West H.S.A., PO Box 155, Manchester, M60 1FT or main office.

various
VERMIN

A circus worker admitted in court on 30/4/98 to beating three elephants with shovels and an iron bar. **Michael Gills** (64) of Shipton Bellinger, Tidworth, Hants was **employed by the trainer Mary Chipperfield**, hit one of the animals at least 21 times in one session. Gills admitted six charges of cruelty to animals. The prosecution told Basingstoke magistrates: "This case concerns... a number of elephants being hit with shovels and with an iron bar which had a hook attached. One elephant was hit 21 times in one go." Gills admitted four charges of beating a male elephant called Tembo last year and two of beating the female elephants Rosa and Rhanee The attacks, between October and December 1997 were exposed in an undercover filming operation by the charity Animal Defenders. Gill's offences were at his employer's home in Over Wallop, near Andover, Hants.

Two men involved in a multi-million pound deal to sell rhino horn on the blackmarket were jailed on 12/3/98. **Wilfred Bull** (63) of Coggeshall, Essex (already serving a life sentence for murdering his wife), was jailed for 15 months to run concurrently with his life sentence. The judge at King's Lynn Crown Court, also ordered that his collection of more than 120 rhino horns be confiscated and ordered him to pay £700 costs. Also jailed was **David Eley** (53) of Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire (nine months); **Carol Scotchford-Hughes** (50) of Willingham, Cambridgeshire, was sentenced to 120 hours community service. Sentencing on the fourth defendant **Elaine Arscoft** (40) also of Great Shelford, was deferred.
All four pleaded guilty at a earlier hearings to conspiring to sell rhino horn contrary to the Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Act 1985. In February a fifth man **Paul Rexstrew** (45) of Wimbledon, was acquitted of the same charge. Bull, who murdered his wife in 1985, was a former antique dealer who had collected the horns legitimately between 1961 and 1985. By the mid-1990s he was looking forward to parole and instigated the sale of the horn from his prison cell. Defence counsels for all four defendants said they had not known the trade was illegal. Rhino horn powder is sought after in the Far East as a medicine and aphrodisiac but trade was banned in 1985. The court was told the gang was offering 235kg of horn at £12,000 per kilo making a total estimated value of £2.8m.

LITTLE FOXES
ORPHANED WILD MAMMAL CARE



COBB HALL COTTAGE, BACK WAY, GREAT HASELEY, OXON. OX44 7JS

Even though it was formed only 2 years ago, this small full time sanctuary has seen over 600 wild animals pass through its doors.

They specialise in the care of wild mammals and birds, with the express aim of rehabilitation to the wild. Contrary to the policy of many vets and mainstream animal sanctuaries, no animals are refused and consequently, there is heavy pressure on the network of experts and volunteers.

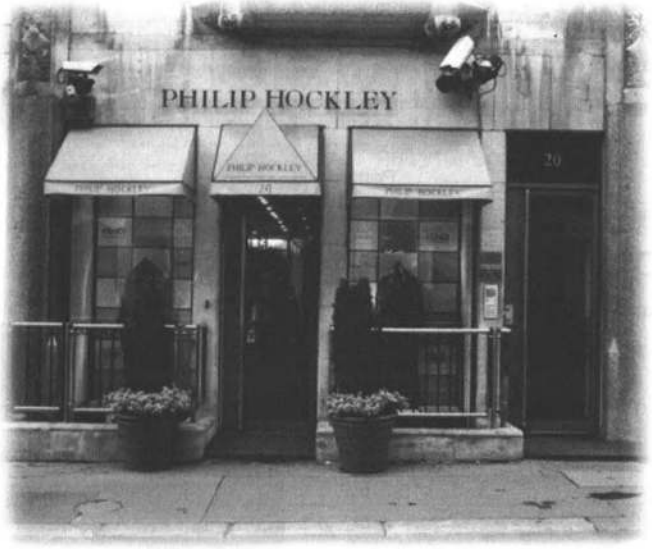
As the name implies, foxes are one of the mammals the sanctuary specialises in, and there are strong links with the National Fox Welfare Society.

As with all wildlife aid, funds and local volunteers are always needed, so please help them out if you possibly can. A new range of merchandise including an amazing T-shirt featuring "Laser Eyes" (one of last years' intake of foxcubs) will be available soon - get in touch with the above address for details.

Animal Rights actions

FUR-FREE LONDON

London Animal Action is locked in battle against one of the capital's last remaining fur shops and the only one to open every Saturday - Philip Hockley Furs. It has been picketed regularly for three years but the police have moved demonstrators further and further away until now they are told to stand behind barriers - the 'pen' - 120 feet away on the opposite side of the road.
Since November 1995 anyone standing outside the shop has been threatened with arrest for obstruction or behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace. Such oppressive police behaviour is unique to Hockley's - we have no problem leafleting other shops - and in February 1998 three activists decided to test the legality of the police's actions by peacefully protesting and refusing to move. They were arrested for obstruction but had film of themselves, and in court this clearly showed them standing on the edge of the curb with a good 6-7 feet of pavement clear for passers by. The one copper in court was duly humiliated and the three acquitted.
The following Saturday the same three went back and were arrested again, this time for 'behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace', a common law offence by which the police can detain someone to prevent a disturbance happening. They are supposed to have good reason to believe that violence is likely to occur but instead use it to prevent people peacefully protesting. After the shop had closed the three were released without charge. In fact 'behaviour likely to cause... is a non-chargeable offence. A couple of years ago the then-manager Michael Hockley physically attacked protesters and was himself arrested and bound over to keep the peace. Shortly afterwards he resigned following a mass picket outside his North London home.
The next stage took place on 9th May when it was decided that protesters would walk up to the shop one at a time or in pairs to maintain a presence for as long as possible. It worked really well. As one person was taken away in the van the next one walked up and continued leafleting. The police were clearly unable to cope with the number of arrests, and two people remained in front of the shop without being arrested for nearly an hour. Those who chose to remain in 'the pen' ecstatically cheered and chanted as the police scurried around in a panic. All this was filmed too.



Ten people were arrested that day for 'behaviour...' and released after the shop had closed. Two days later two went back - this time without being filmed - and were arrested and charged with obstruction. So the police's policy seems to be to arrest for obstruction if no filming takes place or 'behaviour...' if it doesn't.
On 30th May eight more people went back one by one and were arrested again for 'behaviour...'. Amongst them was someone who drove a lorry covered with anti-fur posters and parked it outside the shop. Once again all were released without charge.
We are now hoping to escalate the campaign by turning it into a national issue. London campaigners alone will find it difficult to keep the pressure on, we need the support of the movement in the rest of the country. We would like individuals or better still groups to pledge themselves to turning up on a particular day. 15-20 people would be ideal. Anyone who wants to make such a commitment should call London Animal Action on 0171-278 3068 to discuss it first as clearly a lot of coordination will be required.
Remember this isn't just about the fur trade, it's about the right of peaceful assembly and to demonstrate. If they can try and stop us here it can happen anywhere. Philip Hockley's address is 20 Conduit Street, London WI. 0171-493 6362.

London Animal Action, BM 2248, London WC1N 3XX. 0171-278 3068.

STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS...STOP PRESS... On Saturday 26th Sept., activist arrived outside Hockley to claim their 'pitch' directly outside the shop. As soon as the police were informed they sent down some officers, who threatened to arrest people who wouldn't cross the road. However the protesters stood their ground and the police, somewhat humiliated backed down. When the shop opened at 10pm, staff were unable to install their private security in their usual position immediately outside the shop. All this meant that Hockley's had a line of demonstrators right outside the door until they closed at 4pm.
This day must have had quite a effect on profits and staff morale because since then the police have returned to their old ways of arresting anyone who won't cross the road (although happily the 'pen' has yet to make a re-appearance!). Help is still desperately needed to close this relic down. Make a date in your diary for at least one visit this season, or pop along if your local hunt's packed up early because of your fantastic sabbing!!

SUPERDRUG POLICY CHANGE

Superdrug have joined Sainsbury's in abandoning their fixed cut-off date for cosmetic ingredient testing - marking a disturbing new trend towards policy reversal amongst supermarkets and chainstores. Superdrug have not openly admitted to the change.



Write to the Managing Director at:
Superdrug Stores PLC
118 Beddington Lane
Croydon
Surrey CR0 4TB

USEFUL ADDRESSES

ALF Press Office
BM 4400, London, WC1N 3XX

ALF Supporters Group *publishes ALFSG Newsletter*
BM1160, London, WC1N 3XX

Animal Rights Coalition *publishes ARC News*
P0 Box 339, Wolverhampton, WV1O 7BZ

Arkangel magazine
BM 9240, London, WC1N 3XX

Campaign for the Abolition of Angling
publishes Pisces
BM Fish, London, WC1N 3XX

Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade,
publishes Anti-Fur News
Po Box 38, Manchester ,M60 1NX

Earth First! *publishes EF! Action Update*
Dept 29, 1 Newton St, Picadilly, Manchester, M1 1 HW
also *Do Or Die, c/o PO Box 2971, Brighton, BN2 2TT*

Green Anarchist magazine
BM 1715, London, WC1N 3XX

Genetic Engineering Network
publishes Genetix Update
PO Box 9656, London N4 4JY

London Animal Action
publishes London Animal Rights News
BM 2248, London WC1N 3XX. 0171-278 3068.

National Anti Hunt Campaign
P0 Box 66, Stevenage, Herts, SG1 2TR

National Fox Welfare Society
publishes Vulpine Observer
c/o 32 Bradfield Close, Rushden, Northants, NN10 0EP

Portsmouth Three Defence Campaign
publishes The Tally-Ho!
PO Box 1119, Dorchester, Dorset DT11ED

SchNEWS
PO Box 2600, Brighton BN2 2DX
Web: http://www.cbuzz.co.uk/SchNEWS/

Sea Shepherd
UK (mail only - not an office):
35 Vicarage Grove, London SE5 7LY
USA (International Headquarters):
Po Box 628, Venice, California 90294, USA

IN THE NEXT HOWL...

FEATURES ON

HUNT VIOLENCE

- The definitive record of huntsmen convicted of violence against saboteurs and other anti-hunt protesters. Iron bars and shotguns Galore!

PHOTOS AND COURT DETAILS STILL NEEDED!



HANDLING HORSES AND RANTING RIDERS



- A guide for the nervous sab. How a horse works (!), how to spot and avoid a potentially dangerous horse and how to cope in horse - hazardous situations

FREE PUBLICITY !

- Getting your message across in the local media.

PLUS:

Group News from around the country - get yours in on time!!
Legal News
Vermin Patrol
News Round up
Sab Letters
and all the usual bumpf!

NEWS CLIPPINGS / WRITE-UPS, LEGAL NEWS, LETTERS, GROUP NEWS AND PHOTOS DESPERATELY NEEDED FOR HOWL 68.

PLEASE SEND ITEMS IN BEFORE 31TH DECEMBER 1998

HOW YOU CAN HELP END BLOODSPORTS

The Hunts Saboteurs Association needs your help in defeating bloodsports.

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

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

There are several ways you can help the HSA.

- Get in touch with your local sab group (details from the office on 01273 622 827) and either go sabbing yourself or help in other ways such as fundraising or mechanics.
- If you are not already a member of the HSA, please join now by using the form below - it only takes a few minutes to fill in and return to us.
- If you are already a HSA member then please photocopy the form and pass it on to someone else you think may like to join us.
- Ask the office for back copies of HSA to leave in place where they can be read by members of the public (ie. doctors waiting rooms). If you are still at school or college why not leave a copy in the library reference section?
- Support us by buying HSA T-shirts and other merchandise. Phone the office if you don't already have a salesgoods order form.
- Let the hunters know what you think! Write to your local newspaper's letters page and write to your MP to let them know your views on Government plans either regarding hunting or hunt saboteurs. Your MP's address will be House of Commons, London SW1 A 0AA

HSA MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

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

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

❒ £7.50 unwaged ❒ £10 waged ❒ £100 life membership

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

Name (Ms / Mrs / Miss / Mr) .....

Address .....

.....

..... Postcode .....

Telephone Number.....

❒ I wish to pay by Visa / Delta / Mastercard / Access

Card Number _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Expiry date ...../..... Signature .....

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

Return to HSA, PO Box 2786, Brighton BN2 2AX

For a standing order form or more information phone 01273 622 827

★ WINNERS ★ CLUB DRAW ★ WINNERS ★

APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
1ST M SUTCLIFFE, SUFFOLK	1ST BATH HSA / AR GROUP	1ST R WILSON, DEVON	1ST F FORD, LANCASHIRE.	1ST P HUTCHINSON, DERBYSHIRE	1ST H C HEADY, KENT
2ND P YOUNG, TYNE & WEAR	2ND K POUND, CORNWALL	2ND P FENN, SURREY	2ND T WILES, HULL	2ND J COLE, MIDDLESEX	2ND S FENNER, BERKSHIRE
3RD R WILSON, DEVON	3RD R MATE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE	3RD S STEPHENS, KENT	3RD O FOX, ESSEX	3RD B CHAPMAN, CHESHIRE	3RD P FRANKLIN, ESSEX

AS PART OF OUR FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES, THE HSA OPERATES A CLUB DRAW. IF YOU'D LIKE TO TAKE PART FILL IN THE LEAFLET WHICH SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN YOUR ISSUE OF HOWL. IF THE SLIP IS MISSING, JUST WRITE TO THE HSA OFFICE AND REQUEST AN ENTRY FORM.

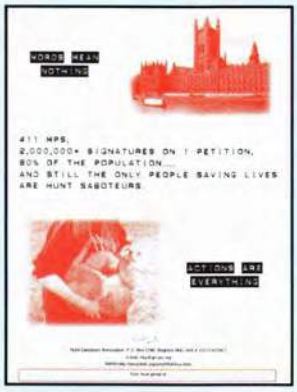
HSA PROMOTIONALS

The HSA has produced a new range of leaflets which are now available to sabs, other animal rights/welfare organisations and individuals. Each A5 leaflet, printed in two colour, gives a brief outline of how a hunt operates, how it is sabbed and well-researched arguments against that form of hunting. Types of hunting included include: Foxhunting, Hare hunting, Hare Coursing, Game Shooting, and Mink Hunting.

These leaflets are available as a 'mixed bag' (ie. equal numbers of each leaflet making up your order) or you can order each type of leaflet separately. (It is strongly advised to have some of all the leaflets on a stall - game shooting is as cruel as fox-hunting!)

Price per 1000 'And How to Stop It' leaflets ..... £20 plus p+p

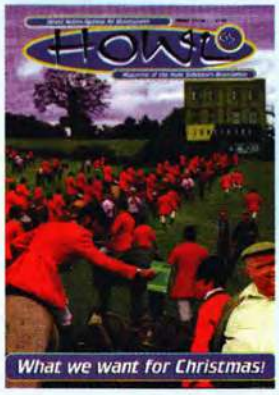




The HSA also has the first of a series of posters available. (Size A2)

Featuring the advert that appeared on the back of the last Howl ("411 Mps, 2,000,000+ signatures on one petition, 80% of the population....and still the only people saving lives are hunt saboteurs"), and as seen in the Big Issue, these high quality glossy, two colour posters can be purchased in large or small quantities.

Price for 1 - 20 posters .... 50p each (+p&p)
Price for 20 - 50 posters .... 35p each (+p&p)
Price for 50+ ....25p each (+p&p)





BACK ISSUES OF HOWL

There are still some back issues of Howl 66 and Howl 65 available from the office.

Individual back issues ..... 75p each
Bulk orders (over 10 copies).... 3 copies for £1
(ie. for £10 you will receive 30 copies which can then be sold on stalls etc. for 75p - £1 each)

ORDERING MORE COPIES OF THE LATEST HOWL.

You can also order more copies of this Howl to give to friends etc for the cover price of £1.50 per copy (+p&p).
Orders of ten or more Howls (for stalls / group etc.) takes the price down to £1 per copy (+p&p, of course!)

NB: **All sab groups receive a discount of 20% when ordering (cost price)**
Please quote the name of your group contact when making your order.

Postage & Packing: Please add 10% of your total order.

FOR EXAMPLE: 1000 leaflets (£20), 3 posters (£1.50) and 2 back issues (£1.50) come to a sub-total of £23.
You will then have to add 10% of this for p&p (£2.30) to make a total cost of £25.30

Still legal under Labour...



...still prevented by saboteurs

Support your local sab group

Support The Hunt Saboteurs Association

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