Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

Millenium 2000!

HOWL 69

The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association

RETURN OF THE 3-EYED BUMPKINS!

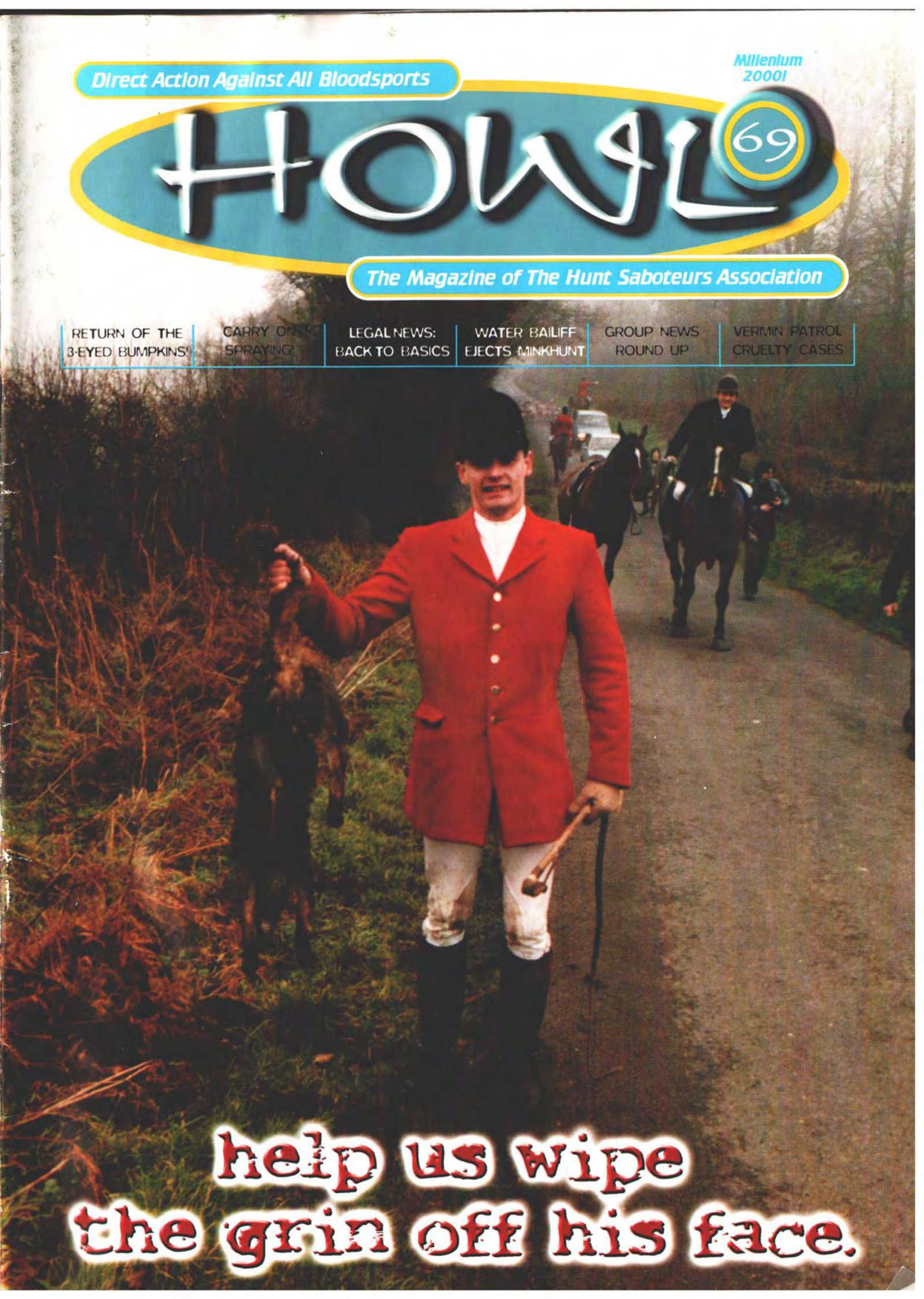
CARRY ON SPRAYING

LEGAL NEWS: BACK TO BASICS

WATER BAILIFF EJECTS MINKHUNT

GROUP NEWS ROUND UP

VERMIN PATROL CRUELTY CASES



help us wipe the grin off his face.

Whats new from the H.S.A.?



Salesgoods 2000 Catalogue....

If you are a member of the HSA you should have received a copy of our Salesgoods 2000 catalogue included with this Howl.

If you haven't or have bought this magazine from a stall or retail outlet then why not write to the office (HSA, Po Box 2786, Brighton BN2 2AX) for a copy of the catalogue now.

You can stock up for Xmas and help hunted wildlife at the same time!

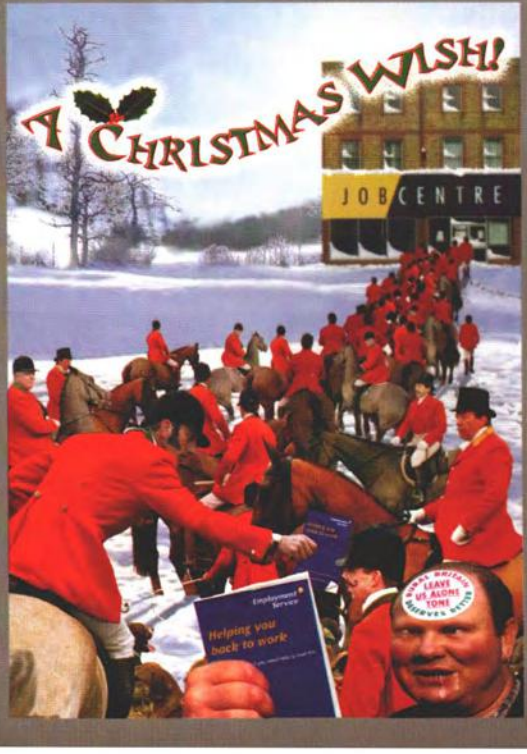


...but some of our salesgoods are so new they didn't even make it into the catalogue!

Be the first to get your paws on the latest in the H.S.A.'s line of clothing; a 'skinny-rib' fitted top just for women, featuring the H.S.A.'s logo and in jet black ('because black is the new black, darhling..') Perfect for posing teamed with cargo pants, down the disco with a micro mini, or just getting drunk down the pub after sabbing with ragged old camo gear! That's right - no more drowning in X-large T-shirts if you're on the smaller side!
Here's something that will actually fit!

HSA 'Skinny T'
(one size fits up to size 14)
£7.99 Bargain! (+ 75p P+P)

A first for the HSA...our very own Christmas Card!



Yep, there's no longer an excuse for buying cards from I.F.A.W. or the L.A.C.S.!

The HSA has commissioned (at no cost!) Howl's designer to convert the famous Howl cover of huntsmen queuing for the Job Centre into a Christmas card design that couldn't be more apt at the moment!

The cards feature a full colour cover with a fitting message on the inside, "'Tis the Season of Goodwill, & not a time to Hunt and Kill. Season's Greetings"

And since the cards cost just £3.50 for a pack of 10 including postage and packing, why not buy an extra pack just to send to your MP, Tony Blair, your local newspaper, your local huntsman.....

...just don't forget your Grannie!

H.S.A. Christmas cards (with envelopes)
£3.50 per pack of 10 including P+P

Buy, Buy, Buy!



Front cover photo: © WSWPG

Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association
PO Box 2786, Brighton BN2 2AX
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www.huntsabs.org.uk

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.

Editor	Roe
Reporters	Roe, Dawn, Nathan.
Group News Editor	Roe
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Legal News	Roe
Features	Nathan, Plymouth Sabs, Rupret, Rob & Gooner Rob.
Vermin Petrol	Paul T.
Distribution	H.S.A.

Thanks also to: Croydon sabs and the lads at the office.

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EDITORIAL

Er, yes, I'm back again!

Even though I said goodbye in the last issue of Howl, I've been asked to fill a gap with this issue before the new Editor takes over in December (a lovely lad - and a good speller, you'll all be pleased to note!). If you are one of the gorgeous people who have sent in clippings, articles, letters and news for Howl, keep it up! It really makes a difference to a beleaguered Editor!

And what will I be doing I hear you cry...swanning of to a life of leisure and luxury, catching up with the latest works of fiction and the latest plot in EastEnders? Hmmm... Unfortunately not. In my new post as Campaigns Officer I will be working closely with the Research and Press Officers in exposing more hunt cruelty and more sab successes. If we carry on the building on the success of the 'Copper' campaign, in a couple of years we won't need a ban on hunting cos we'll have sabbed them out of existence! (Would be nice though, Tony.)

If you are a member of a local animal rights group please be sure to get in touch with me via the office. I am hoping to do a regular mailout to interested groups who would like to use our leaflets and other promotional items, and keep abreast of our latest campaigns. Of course, the H.S.A. is by its very nature, not primarily a campaigning group but as the success of the 'Copper' campaign only goes to show, supporters of sabbing like something they can help with if they can't go out sabbing themselves. And of course campaigns get the H.S.A. more members and more importantly more sabs - already our New Groups Officer is in touch with two new groups set up by people sick of politicians dilly-dallying; and numbers of sabs are rising in existing groups as new faces get involved and old hands return to the front line. To quote a Countryside Alliance news-letter of March '99; "*There are several new local groups* [of saboteurs], *and the trend continues to take hunts and police by surprise.*" Heh, heh! They ain't seen nothing yet....

Roe xxx

P.S. **Huge Congratulations to the 'Save the Hillgrove Cats' Campaign, for their wonderful triumph over Farmer Brown and his disgusting trade in breeding cats for vivisection.** Their success shows that people don't have to be paid any money to campaign for something they believe passionately about, and that ordinary people *can* stop animal abuse without (in fact, in spite of) intervention from politicians - sound familiar?!

Lets hope we'll see similar successes for other campaigns around the country.

SURVEY SHOWS THAT PROTECTING WILDLIFE WOULD WIN LABOUR VOTES

A poll carried out for Royal Society for the Protection of Birds showed that 8 out of 10 swing voters said they would be more likely to vote Labour if the Government gave greater protection to wildlife.

The findings, in a poll carried out in England and Wales by I.C.M. Research, also reveal that 65% of all those questioned said they would be more likely to vote Labour if the Government changed the law to give greater legal protection to wild animals and birds.

The research was commissioned by the RSPB in August amid speculation that the Government may introduce a Countryside Bill in the forthcoming Queen's Speech, and after Tony Blair's surprise statement on foxhunting during B.B.C. Question Time.

Those questioned in the poll were asked if they would be more or less likely to vote Labour if the Government took the following actions:

- Changed the law to give greater legal protection to wildlife (65% said they would be more likely to vote Labour)
- **Banned fox hunting (54%)**
- Imposed a five-year ban on the commercial planting of genetically modified crops (48%)
- Curbed the number of new houses built in the countryside to 25% of all new houses built (46%)
- Passed a law to allow public access to all areas of the countryside that are not used for growing crops (43%).

Fifty seven per cent of those who voted for a party other than Labour in 1997 said they would be more likely to vote Labour in future if the Government were to change the law to give greater legal protection to wildlife.

Chief Executive of the RSPB, Graham Wynne said: "In the face of massive wildlife declines these results show that the public care desperately about protecting what we've got. The Government is failing to appreciate the extent of public concern on this issue. This survey shows that voters will be looking closely at the Government's environmental performance in the run-up to the next election."
So come on Blair, ignore the rantings of the Countryside Alliance and believe what the public are telling you - a ban on hunting *is* wanted and *is* important to us!

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lead shot has been banned for hunting geese and other waterfowl because of the slow and debilitating death spent shot inflicts on birds which ingest it. An attempted voluntary ban on the use of lead shot failed because the alternatives are either more expensive (Bismuth, the best alternative to lead shot costs £14 per dozen cartridges compared to £3 for lead), or in the case of steel shot, are lighter and thus less 'effective'. Spokesperson for the British Association of Shooting and Conservation, Jeffrey Olstead, said "This is a blow in the financial sense but responsible shooters welcome measures intended to improve the environment". Howl has to ask, if that is the case, why didn't the voluntary ban work, Jeffrey?
The ban also applies to all shooting (including 'vermin control') on Sites of Special Scientific Interest (S.S.S.I.'s).
The Guardian, 2.8.99

Captain Ian Farquhar, hunting friend of Prince Charles and Joint Master of the prestigious Beaufort hunt, was forced to ask one of his team of 'Farquar Flyers' to pull out of running in the London Marathon in last April to raise money for the Countryside Alliance. Why? Well, because the 'Flyers' top runner was one Gary Barber, a gentleman with convictions for badger digging! Unbelievably the Countryside Alliance only seemed to find out about Barber's past when someone from the Daily Telegraph rang to warn them only a week before the marathon took place.
Trust the Telegraph to play party pooper; Brixton sabs were looking forward to pointing out his past to TV cameras along the route by tagging behind him in blooded badger suits.
Daily Telegraph, April 1999

A study has revealed that Britain's best known breed of duck, the mallard is in serious decline. The Wetland Bird Survey showed that the British mallard population is at an all time low of 140,213. Just one year ago there were 192,100 mallards in Britain. Experts claim the reason for the decline is unclear.
The mallard is just one of the many species of duck still shot for sport in Britain.
Metro, 16.8.99

High Court Judge, Sir Richard Tucker (68), has offered a £50 reward to catch those responsible for killing 12 badgers in a nature reserve he had created within the grounds of his home. The family of badgers were all killed after diesel-soaked newspapers were stuffed into the ten entrances to the sett.
Metro, 9.8.99

The Swan Pool in Sandwell Valley Country Park, used for angling and other watersports, was shut after an alligator was spotted in it!
Pisces, Summer 1999

Another bloodsports magazine has stopped its presses. "Tackle and Guns", for fishermen, shooters and sad people has been forced to close due to financial problems (and the VAT-man). Likewise, "Coarse Angling" is still in a state of suspension by it publishers.
Pisces, Summer 1999

In an attempt to boost profits sheep farmers are now shearing their sheep at the onset of winter to encourage them to put on weight and so attract higher prices at auction. The practice also allows farmers to squeeze more animals onto trucks that take them to market or slaughter. The RSPCA claim that winter shearing is not cruel as long as the animals are kept inside afterwards, but *Howl* predicts that if cold winters start killing shorn sheep accusations by farmers of 'fox attacks' will also increase.
Sunday Times, 6.12.99

NOT GUILTY! - ACQUITTED PORTSMOUTH SABS

CALL FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO POLICE FAILURE

Two of the three Portsmouth hunt saboteurs accused of Conspiracy to Commit Violent Disorder were cleared at Portsmouth Crown Court in August. Both men, Martin Palmer (40) and Nicholas Checketts (39) were arrested after clashes at the notorious Hursley Hambledon FH in December 1997 where several hunt vehicles were damaged during a national mobilisation against the previously violent hunt. The two had maintained from the start they were being scapegoated by the Hampshire police, who have found it difficult to explain how or why they stood by and watched events unfolding but failed to act until it was too late.

Following the verdict Martin and Nicholas called for a public enquiry into the police actions on the day.

The court learned that the police had advance notice of the planned demonstration and had several van loads of fully briefed and specially trained public order units stationed in a nearby farm. A spotter plane relayed live video pictures of protester's vans to a police incident room and plain clothes officers in unmarked cars monitored surrounding road junctions. Despite these resources and advance planning a potentially highly volatile meeting of sabs and hunt supporters took place unpoliced. Martin Palmer, one of the defendants commented 'I cannot recall one single occasion during my 12 years experience as a hunt saboteur when I have arrived at a hunt meet and at least one police officer was not in attendance.'

So embarrassed were the police at this major blunder of their operation that the Chief Constable of Hampshire, Sir John Hoddinott, felt it necessary to attend the Boxing Day meet of the hunt two weeks later and publicly shake hands with the Hunt Master! Portsmouth South MP, Mike Hancock, wrote to the Chief Constable, as did Portsmouth Labour Councillor and police authority member Jason Fazackarley. In reply the Chief Constable went as far as to admit that the police operation "fell below the standards that I would expect" and "operational decisions were less than satisfactory".

The case was never about the actions of the accused on that day, but rather the polices complete failure to police an incident that they had prior knowledge of, and their subsequent attempt to get someone to take the fall for their mistakes. The three saboteurs accused (another defendant failed to turn up to the hearing) attended the meet to take part in non-violent direct action, but were instead faced with a set of circumstances that can only be viewed as a set-up, which led to them being used as scapegoats. There was never any suggestion that the three had committed any of the damage themselves, so the police came up with the 'conspiracy' charges simply because the three men were all known local saboteurs. After examining the evidence it would seem that the jury came to the same conclusion as most sabs - that the whole thing was rigged in an attempt to discredit hunt saboteurs and provide sympathetic press for the hunters. Hampshire police tried to scapegoat these individuals in an attempt to divert attention from their own failures on the day. Unfortunately (but not surprisingly), Public Interest Immunity Certificates, successfully applied for by the prosecution, prevented any of these issues from being explored during the trial. Only a genuinely independent inquiry of the police operation on that day will prove whether these suspicions are correct.

This case has proved to be a terribly stressful time for the defendants and those closest to them. If you would like to send messages of congratulations and well -wishes write to them via the HSA office and we will pass your letters etc. onto them.

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH MEET WITH COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE

Charles Secrett, director of Friends of the Earth (FoE) addressed a meeting of the Countryside Alliance (C.A.) on the 25th October, on the issue of the rural economy and farming. Even though he stated that the Alliance was "becoming undermined by the inordinate attention being focused on hunting with hounds", it is shocking that such a huge and influential organisation as FoE has fallen for the C.A. line that they cover a range of rural issues. The C.A. was set up for the precise reason of focusing attention on hunting and ensuring it would not get banned!



Write to Friends of the Earth at:

26-28 Underwood St, LONDON N1 7JQ

and ask them to distance themselves from the Countryside Alliance now! (If you are a FoE member, tell them so.)

GUILTY! - TERRIERMAN CONVICTED

OF ASSAULTING SABOTEUR

Northants Hunt Saboteurs have called for the Woodland Pytchley Foxhounds, based at Brigstock, Kettering, to sack terrierman Jim Goodyer and formally apologise for his violent actions after Corby magistrates convicted him on the 23rd September, of common assault on a hunt saboteur. The case related to an incident at a meet of the hunt at Pipewell, Northants on 27th March when hunt saboteurs found themselves under attack from hunt supporters, with one attacking them with a pickaxe handle.

Clive Richardson, one of the saboteurs present at the incident stated "Although we are pleased that this conviction highlights yet again that the real perpetrators of hunt violence are the hunters and their followers, we are bitterly disappointed that the four others who were charged with offences relating to the attack have got off scot free. Even Goodyer's conviction of common assault and an accompanying fine is pathetic when you consider that the incident involved saboteurs being attacked with a pick axe handle and viciously attacked whilst on the ground. We demand an apology from the hunt in respect of the actions of one of its own officials."

This case is yet another sorry example of how the justice and legal system fails hunt protesters. The incident involved hunt saboteurs being attacked, and although police were present at the time to witness part of it they saw fit only to arrest the very people being subjected to the violence - hunt saboteurs. (Although charged with A.B.H., the three sabs arrested were later released after police reviewed the video evidence.)

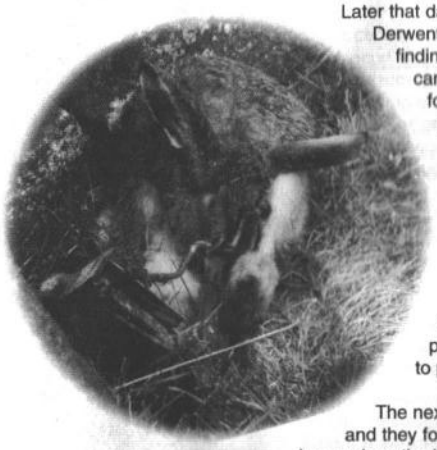
TRAPPED FOR DAYS ON END -

THE TRUTH BEHIND SHOOTING ESTATES



I owl received the following harrowing account by a walker on Derwent Moor, used for grouse shoots. If you agree with Tony Blair that shooting is not a cruel activity then perhaps this will change your mind:

"On Sunday July 4th 1999 I found a young mountain hare with one of its rear legs caught in a Fenn trap (right). This had been set on the National Trust owned Derwent Moors just east of the Derwent Reservoir, North Derbyshire. The hare was still alive, but its leg had been stripped down to the bone by the steel jaws of the trap. I released it carefully and took it to the R.S.P.C.A.'s shelter at Spring Street, Sheffield. Unfortunately the injuries were found to be so severe - its front leg was also broken - that it was decided to put the poor animal to sleep.



Later that day I returned to the Derwent Moors and searched the drystone walls in the area, finding several more Fenn traps. An R.S.P.C.A. Inspector came out to check the traps and asked us to tell him if we found any more trapped animals, as it should be possible to tell how long it had been in the trap - there is a legal requirement to check traps and snares at least once a day.

Three weeks later I found another mountain hare, this time dead, with its head caught in a trap. From its condition it seemed obvious that the trap had not been checked that day, so we called the R.S.P.C.A..The following day, the inspector came out and I took him to the site, finding the hare undisturbed. He took some photos and said he would check with his boss on whether to pursue the matter.

The next day he returned with the police wildlife liaison officer, and they found the hare still in the trap - this was now more than 48 hours since the hare was discovered. They approached the gamekeeper who we gather admitted setting the traps, saying that he was in the process of moving house into this area, and had not had time to check them. As was expected, the police declined to prosecute and just gave him a warning - one law for them... He also apparently made allegations that someone had been stealing his traps, but up to now nothing has come of this. This story illustrates the indiscriminate nature of traps and snares and the horrific way in which animals caught in them can die. It also shows the lengths to which shooters will go to preserve their sad 'sport'."

The story appeared in a couple of local papers, and the local animal rights group is asking people to sign a letter to their M.P. - a copy of which is printed below:

"*Dear.....*

I understand that young mountain hares have been found in traps set by a gamekeeper on the National Trust High Peak Estate to the east of the Derwent Reservoir, North Derbyshire.

Traps and snares are cruel and indiscriminate, and animals and birds caught in them usually die a long and painful death, even if the traps are inspected once in 24 hours as is legally required.

Please do everything you can to stop this barbaric practice.

Yours sincerely....."



Write a version of the above letter to your local MP (if you 'customise' it a little you will be more likely to get a response) and send it to:
[*Your M.P.'s name*] House of Commons, London SW1 A 0AA
If you do not get a reply or just receive a standard letter then keep writing until you get a personal response on the issue. Please send copies of any replies to the HSA .

Still not convinced that gamekeepers should be lumped alongside hunters in the cruelty stakes? Read on...

- **Leonard White** (65) a gamekeeper from Margaret Place, Dorchester, Dorset appeared before Bridport magistrates on the 24/5/99, charged with using poison to kill birds of prey on a shooting estate in Sydling St Nicholas. When White was stopped in his truck the police found a bag containing a spoon, a syringe and a bottle of poison that has been banned since the early 1990s (the spoon and syringe could be used for lacing bait such as eat or meat). Magistrates found him guilty of two charges of possessing poison and a syringe under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and possessing various firearms. He was fined a total of £4,500.

- Another gamekeeper has been charged with three animal cruelty offences, after an incident in which a fox was caught in a snare. **Jason Dakin** (26) of the Kennels, Whitfield, Northumberland, faces two charges of killing wild animals by prohibited means and one charge of cruelty and neglect.

- The head gamekeeper of the Holker Estate, **John Drummond** (32), was sent to jail for 3 months after being convicted of 46 charges; 40 of these related to the use of 20 self-locking snares, which cause horrific suffering to the animals caught in them; the remaining 6 charges were for killing two badgers in such snares and harming a third. Although Drummond has been suspended from his post at the estate, he and his family continue to live in estate property, Old Park Farm House, Cark-in-Cartmel, Holker Estate, Kendel.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fundraising plans for Bury St Edmonds Cathedral backfired after anti-hunt protesters picketed the building when it was revealed that hunting and shooting trips had been donated for auction. As one League Against Cruel Sports spokesperson said "One day they are willing to let people hunt, and the next they are singing *All Creatures Great and Small*".
Daily Telegraph 29.7.99

A rough-haired terrier was buried alive after being beaten half-dead with a spade by its owner Mark Quinn (30) of Cambridge Street, Widnes, Cheshire. When the police dug the animal up some hours later it had suffocated. Quinn and another man Christopher Syze were found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to a dog; Quinn was jailed for six months and banned from keeping an animal for life and Syze was jailed for two months and banned from keeping an animal for 12 years. Quinn's girlfriend, Marie Shaw arrived at his home to be told by Syze "*Keep out of it. We're terrier men and this is how it is done*." Syze grabbed the dog and threw it towards Quinn who struck it a heavy but glancing blow with the spade.
Paul T. Nov '99

The great crested newt, dormouse, skylark and other rare species are being let down by current wildlife laws according to Wildlife Trusts. There have been no prosecutions under the Wildlife and Countryside Act for destroying plants and only a handful of prosecutions for harming animals. Since hunting is such a conservationist pursuit can we hope to see the Countryside Alliance stand up for the wildlife under threat. Can we @*~%!
Metro, 22.7.99

Georgina Blundell of Pasture farm,Stadhampton, Oxfordshire who is a member of the Vale of Aylesbury Hunt, was cautioned by the police following an incident with an anti-hunt protester. The incident happened at a her farm in November 1998 when Blundell hurt the protester with her horse.
Paul T. Nov '99

A gamekeeper bled to death after accidentally shooting himself in the leg. Nicholas Mills, 41, was found on the Lambton Estate, Chester-le-Street, Durham, on June 26 this year, where he and two helpers had been keeping an all-night watch at different points in a wood to shoot foxes hunting pheasants on the estate. Mr Mills started the night on a platform in a pine tree. At dawn his body was found at the foot of the tree with a gunshot wound in the thigh which had pierced an artery. A police firearms expert said Mills' rifle, which had a battery powered searchlight attached, was in good condition, but pressure could release the trigger if it got caught in a branch.
Sunderland Echo 13.10.99

The John Lewis chain of stores and one of London's exclusive furriers are spearheading separate legal actions against animal rights campaigners. John Lewis is suing activist Neil Hansen for damages after he continued to trespass in their shops despite being banned for handing out leaflets highlighting the company's continued organisation of pheasant shooting trips for its staff. Neil vowed to continue his protests; "It is an legitimate protest," he said. Barry Zwirn, the co-founder of Zwirn Furs of Mayfair, has also taken out injunctions against 7 individual protesters and two Animal Rights groups: London Animal Action and U.K. Animal Defence League. Mr Zwirn said: "They have made our lives a misery. The harassment of staff with leaflets [ohh, scary!] and barracking [surely not!] has gone on and on. But they have begun to intimidate customers". Shame...
The Sunday Telegraph 31.10.99

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sabs suing Cheshire Police in a test case after being arrested at the Cheshire Forest FH 5 years ago, have received £3,500 each. Another 20 sabs are now in line for pay-outs!
HSA Press Office, Oct '99

A farmer has been found guilty of driving his Land Rover at a group of hunt protesters. On 15/1/99 Chichester Crown Court heard how A police officer witnessed Sampson Smith (45) of Church Lane, Ashington speeding at a group of 30 protesters then shunting back and forth at the group before getting out and brandishing a cane above his head. He denied aiming his vehicle at the protesters. The jury convicted Smith of dangerous driving and he was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay costs of £1,184. He was also banned from driving for 12 months and ordered to retake a driving test before going back onto the road.
Paul T. Nov '99

An adult female Golden Eagle and her chick have been found dead in their nests after being poisoned. It is feared the male bird may also be lying dead, hidden by trees. Experts have pin-pointed the irresponsible use of 'Carbofuron' a chemical widely used to protect crops from 'pest', but the R.S.P.B. have not ruled out the poisoning being deliberate. Golden eagles have been protected by law since 1953 and there are an estimated 425 breeding pairs in Scotland. Gamekeepers are usually blamed for poisoning incidents, often acting on orders from owners of shooting estates keen to protect valuable stocks of grouse.
Daily Record, 18.8.99

A huntsman in his 50's was critically injured whilst hunting near Upper Snodbury. The man fell whilst his horse was jumping a fence.
Teletext 6.11.99

For years hunt supporters have claimed that hunt saboteurs are funded by a motley crew of characters and organisations (namely Linda McCartney and the I.R.A.!).
However last season one group of saboteurs (West Sussex Wildlife Protection Group - W.S.W.P.G.) really did gain some funding from an equally bizarre and unexpected quarter. After their rescue of 'Copper' the fox W.S.W.P.G. were approached by none other than *Horse & Hound* magazine, who paid the group £100 so that they could use images from the video taken on the day!
I can see it now: 'This sab group sponsored by Horse & Hound', on the side of the transit!
HSA Press Office, May '99

They're the focus of an Attorney General review, they're being investigated by the Guardi for alleged cruelty and now the Irish Council Against Blood Sports (I.C.A.B.S.) has once again exposed their cruel form of animal abuse - surely the days are numbered for the Ward Union Staghounds.
The Ward Union Staghounds are one of several Irish packs which hunt 'carted' stags - the semi-tame stags are captured from the estate on the day of the hunt, released so the hunt can take place and then captured again to go back to the estate, to be 'hunted' another day. On 19th January 1999 their cruelty was exposed by video footage of one of their hunts: After an hour and a half chase an exhausted stag was corned by the hounds, which repeatedly bit at its legs and body as it tried to evade capture. Then a hunt member grabbed onto the stag's neck and grappled it to the ground. Other hunt supporters then piled in. The stag was dragged through a farmyard, through three gates and forced into the trailer it had come from 90 minutes earlier, bleeding and terrified.
I.C.A.B.S. Newsletter Spring/Summer 1999

GETTING RID OF THE RED COATS WILL STOP 'HUNT BAN'



This extraordinary claim appeared in a recent issue of Horse and Hound magazine. The article's writer, Michael Poland, is under the impression that is hunt riders look more 'normal' then the general public will forget that hunting involves the torture and death of animals and will come to love the 'sport'. Don't believe me? Read on....

We are perceived as arrogant. Is that not partly of our own making? Red coats are historically reminiscent of repressive authority; top hats a symbol of superiority; stirrup cups and toffee nosed voices show vestiges of snobbery.

"We block roads and park inconsiderately, we ride too fast past pedestrians, we trample on carefully tended verges, we show little regard for other people rights and fears. Too often, we become abusive about others banning the hunt from their properties, whereas we are the first to complain about the government's right to roam proposals.

We are seen as hard and cruel and thoughtless towards animals.....

We should have massive millennium bonfires on to which we throw our red coats, top hats and hunt collars. On saturday 1 January, hunt staff excepted we could all hunt in waxed jackets and anoraks, wearing crash hats if we have them.

Everyone of us should wish every stranger we see "A Happy New Year" "



Poor Mr Poland, I can't see him being asked to write another article for the magazine, can you? Although he is obviously an observant and honest man (jeez, he's admitted hunts commit trespass, criminal damage, ride dangerously, abuse public roads and park illegally on a regular basis) he's completely failed to grasp why most people go hunting and why they definitely won't burn their red coats and top hats. This is because most hunt riders want to look authoritive over the general public, they want to look and act superior and most of all they do it *because* they are snobs.

As to why the general public don't like hunters; there is a very simple reason that Mr Poland only just touches on. The public don't like hunting and want to see it banned because it involves chasing a terrified animal to exhaustion; it involves setting a terrier down a hole to fight a wild animal before it is dug out and shot; it involves a pack of dogs grasping at any part of a fleeing animal before they toss it over and disembowel it alive. And whether the people taking part in this activity wear red coats and top hats, or anoraks and waxed jackets, or pink tutus and stilettos they will still demand an end to it. In fact they may only be content with your burning of red coats if the hunters are still in them.

Happy New Year Mr Poland...



Anyway, who says they look ridiculous?

'HUMANE HUNTING' DISPROVED AGAIN

Once again the fallacy of the "quick nip to the back of the neck" was condemned by hunt saboteurs who described the death of a hunted fox as torturous and barbaric, after it was attacked by hounds and ripped apart during a September cubbing meet.

The fox, which had been flushed out of woods by hounds at a meet of the Fernie Fox Hounds at Laughton, near Market Harborough, was stuck in a mud bank and was rapidly sinking when several hounds tore at its rear flanks and killed it.(Unfortunately it all happened so fast that sabs were unable to stop the hounds before they were on the terrified animal) Video footage of the incident obtained by the saboteurs clearly shows the severe injuries the foxes rear body sustained, whilst the front section remained untouched.

Only the week before the pro-hunt lobby had announced a new regulatory body which is designed to 'clean up the image of hunting', as a direct response to the threat of a total ban on hunting with hounds. Sam Butler, Chairman of the Countryside Alliance stated that "Nobody can be in doubt that the activity [*foxhunting*] is conducted in a proper and humane manner..."! The manner in which this fox died was anything but humane, and unfortunately until hunting is banned entirely then such incidents will continue to occur and our wildlife will continue to be hounded to death.

HOWL 70 DEADLINES

The deadlines below are the latest dates to *guarantee* inclusion into the next issue of Howl.

Please help the next Editor to get Howl out on time and vaguely interesting by sending news clippings in now!

News/Letters:
10th January 2000
Group News:
20th January 2000

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

WANTED

***Howl* readers who come across any of the following items are asked to send a copy to H.S.A., PO Box 2786, Brighton BN2 2AX**

- Anti- and pro-bloodsports letters in local and national newspapers/magazines
- Court reports involving animal abuse cases
- Articles on British wild animals, in particular foxes, hare, mink, deer, badgers etc
- Articles which mention hunt saboteurs
- Articles which mention any form of hunting, shooting or fishing and/or the people involved in them

"YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN IT SCREAM, HA HA HA"

SLAUGHTERED RABBIT DELIVERED TO SABS DOORSTEP

A well know hunt saboteur from Dorchester opened his front door one night at the beginning of October to find a parcel containing a dead rabbit. The rabbit was cut up, had a noose placed around its neck and had a note stuffed in its ripped open stomach which read "You should have seen it scream, ha ha ha" .
This is not the first time that hunt saboteurs in the area have been subjected to tactics designed to frighten, threaten or simply appal them. In December 1997 the same saboteur received a visit at work by known violent hunt supporters who issued personal death threats and advised that any saboteurs who turned up in Dorset for the purpose of hunt sabotage would be either shot or machete'd. As with the latest incident, these threats were also immediately reported to police.
This latest act of intimidation highlights exactly the type of person who supports bloodsports. It takes a very sick person to cut up a sentient creature in the callous way that this rabbit was. But then to put a noose around its neck, take the time to write a note and stuff that in its innards before hand delivering it to the door of someone who holds an opposing view is nothing other than a depraved act. Someone had fun doing this. So much for the 'tolerance' hunters constantly call for.

QUORN FILMED BURYING FOX CUB ALIVE

On Friday 8th October two members of Nottingham Hunt Saboteurs, Kim Anderson and Marissa Carswell, attended a meet of the Quorn Fox hunt which was taking place within a few miles of the Quorn Hunt Kennels at Kirby Bellars. Information had reached them from an anonymous source, that it was the hunt's intention to hunt in a covert known to contain a large and active badger sett, so the sabs attended the meet with the intention of gaining video footage if the hunt interfered with a badger sett (a criminal offence). Instead they got footage of something equally distressing.



Dangar: 'Animal'

At approximately 11am the two sabs entered a field to watch the hounds when a young fox cub appeared in front of the hounds. The hounds chased the fox cub, almost catching it, until it managed to find refuge in a rabbit hole.

Kim Anderson, one of the two sabs present, stated "We continued filming, despite our obvious distress, and were astonished when the Quorn huntsman, Adrian Dangar, approached us in a highly intimidating manner and addressed the camera, informing us of his intention to kill the fox cub because we were there, maintaining that had we not been there he would not have killed it [Ridiculous, of course, because the whole point of cub-hunting is to kill young foxes, regardless of sabs being present]. The terriermen then arrived, dug into the hole, filled it with soil and buried the fox cub alive."

It was Kim's belief that it was the presence of the video camera that stopped the hunt killing the cub there and that, had the camera not been there, the hunt would have killed the fox by digging it out. (In 1991 the Quorn, under a different huntsman, were infamously filmed digging out a fox and throwing it live to the hounds; a scandal that nearly ruined the hunt and cut its membership down to less than a third.)



Adrian Dangar initially tried to deny that he had threatened to kill the fox (and, in fact, threatened legal action), but as the sabs had a record of his words on video, when the Daily Mirror approached him with the story, he admitted;

"I did say those things and I shouldn't have but they made me angry...".

The Mirror ran the story, with video grabs, on the 10th November, under the headline "YOU'RE AN ANIMAL: Hunt master filmed burying fox cub alive after it flees hounds"

● See Page 17 for tips on using a video camera out sabbing

COME ON SCOTLAND, COME ON SCOTLAND!!

No, not the football (as if!!) - a hunt ban! Yes, its become increasing likely that the new Scottish Assembly will do what Tony Blair's Government failed to do - ban hunting with hounds this year! A bill to ban the practice has been presented to the Scottish Parliment by Lord Watson and co-sponsored by Trica Marwick, and if passed as expected, given it has support by both Labour and S.N.P. SMP's, will make it an offence to 'hunt a wild animal with a dog or to facilitate hunting in certain ways'. Although it makes exceptions, in certain cases, for the retrieval or rescue of animals, it will enable courts to disqualify, by order, persons convicted of the offence from keeping a dog, and would make breach of such an order an offence.

Alright, they're not going to decapitate huntsmen 'Braveheart' style, but its a start!!

NEWS IN BRIEF

Roy Burns (50) of Old Craighouse Cottage, Lockerbie, a greyhound owner, was sentenced to a paltry 200 hours community service for tying a live rabbit, which he had already cut with a knife, to the mechanical hare at Hawick dog track before subjecting it to 22 seconds of terror as his greyhound chased it round the stadium. The rabbit died from multiple injuries during the incident which was witnessed by police and an investigator from the SSPCA. (Burns was later found to have another 3 live rabbits in a sack.) Frank McFarlane (49) of Fairhurst Drive, Hawick, the manager at the track, was convicted of two charges of aiding and abetting Burns.
Paul T. Nov '99

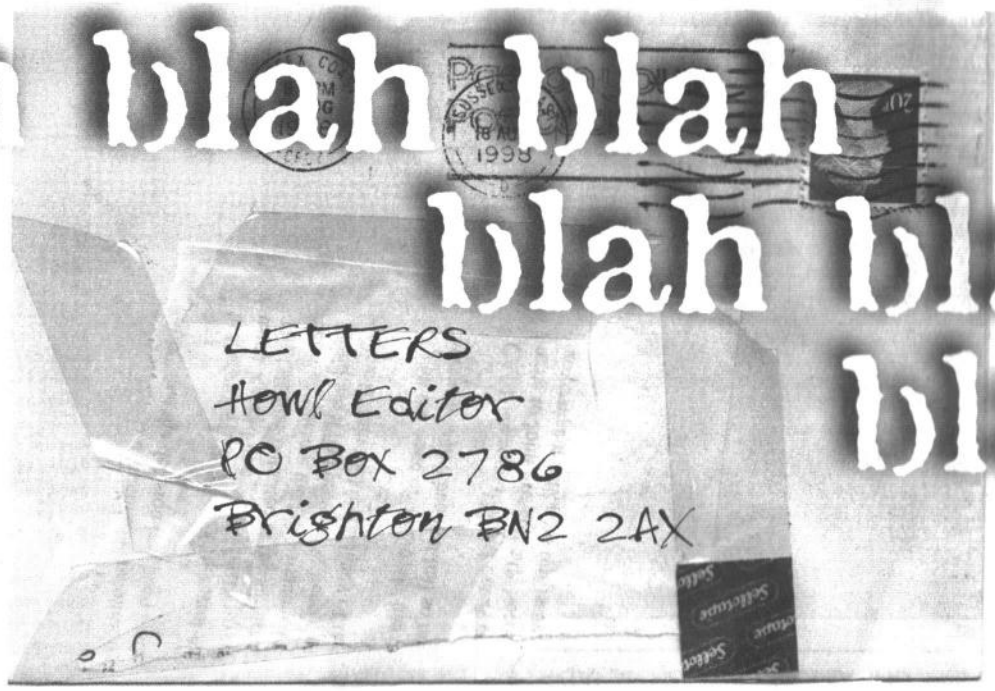
If you thought 'The Blair Witch project' was scary then prepared to be terrified as one of the most terrifying series of images ever published goes on sale for Christmas. Members and supporters of the Sir Watkin Williams-Wynns foxhunt in Cheshire have 'bared all' for a calender to raise money for the Countryside Alliance. One photo shows David Higham, 42, the editor of the hunt's supporters magazine, sitting astride a quad bike with his (gulp) bared backside in the air. Thank God Janet George doesn't hunt in Cheshire...!
The Sunday Telegraph 17.10.99

The National Anti Hunt Campaign has claimed to have exposed cruel practices used in the rearing of thousands of pheasant chicks on John Lewis' shooting estate at Leckford Abbas, Hampshire. In a letter in a N.A.H.C. supporter John Lewis denied the use of bits, spectacles and de-beaking as a form of aggression control among birds bred at the estate. However during an investigation by activists in july around 2000 birds were found crammed into a dilapidated windowless shed. All were fitted with bits - incomplete rings fed between the manibles of the beak and clipped into the nostrils - aimed to force the young birds beaks slightly open to prevent feather pecking (a symptom of stress due to over-crowding). Pheasant shooting on the estate starts in September, continuing through to February.
N.A.H.C. Mailout, August '99

Hear about the honest country couple whose concern for the countryside prompted them into a 1,000 mile walk from Land's End to John O'Groats to raise money for the Countryside Alliance? Major John Holt, 63, a 'farmer and sawmill owner' [*Oh, and chairman of the Sinnington FH* - Ed] from Ravenswick North Yorks and his wife Mary, 53, said "We have derived so much pleasure from the country-side, that we thought we'd give something back." Hmmm...What Major Hicks failed to mention was that the walk has been sponsored by Persimmon Plc, a firm which is planning to build up to 10,000 new houses in Langley Valley, a pristine piece of greenbelt land near Stevenage, which will destroy 800 hectares of unspoilt countryside.
Will the Countryside Alliance refuse Persimmon's slice of the £52,000 raised by Major Hick's for their 'rural campaigning'? Will pigs fly?
Daily Telegraph/Daily Mirror Oct. '99

Oh yes, foxhunting folk really do care about the countryside, so much that they'll even use it as a blackmailing tool if they don't get their way. Dorset Landowner and second richest women in England, Charlotte Townsend, 44, has scuppered an agreement to give National Nature Reserve status to Dorset's Chesil Beach, (a 17-mile long shingle ridge with rare nesting birds, important plant and marine life), in a response to plans to ban foxhunting.
Western Gazette 22/7/99

blah blah blah blah blah blah



Howl 70
Letters Deadline

Come on folks!, get those pens out and get scribblin'.

To guarantee your rant's considered for the next 'howl', get it to the address on the right by

10th January 2000

STAR LETTER

Yes, it's back! Thanks to modern technology, it's even easier for us to receive abusive messages from bloodsports enthusiasts via e-mail. Unfortunately it still doesn't improve their spelling!

you talk shit you smoke shit you cant even print the trueth do you really think that joe public beleave your rubbish you lot are on another planet the surrey granny group yet to be seen more like the brixton yobs you recall your programe on t.v beam an desilva the hired yobs made a statement in there ex n ireland millitary jeeps button down the hatches lets go to war i thougt you lot were ment to be non violent more shit

FROM: noel@workingdogs.freeserve.co.uk

Er, yes... I presume what Mr Cahill (for it is he) is trying to say is that he doesn't approve of our feature on hunt violence in the last issue of Howl. Of course if there were any mistakes it in regarding Mr Cahill, he could of course take legal action, but then his considerable list of convictions would have to be read out in court....besides, he'd lose.

REAL CIVIL LIBERTIES

The Editor, HOWL.

You are quite right in your prediction that the pro-hunt lobby will try to plead that their vice is some sort of civil liberties issue, although I have yet to meet any of them in the various organisations I belong to that campaign on behalf of real civil liberties.

Just recently, the openly gay financial consultant, Ivan Massow, has been subject to much media publicity, and persistently argues that hunting, like homosexual activity, is a civil liberties issue. It seems sad and ironic that he is unable to see the parallels between the activities of hunt participants and that of "queer bashers", who similarly regard the pursuit of their quarry as some sort of "sport"; who also indulge in the same sort of barbaric triumphalism as hunters; and who will often "rationalise" their vile activities as some sort of public pest control!

Dave Godin
Sheffield

DODGY MAGISTRATES

Dear Howl,

I am writing to inform you that it is now legal for Hunt supporters to assault Hunt protesters, without recrimination, in the following way:-

1) Hunt supporters can headbutt a protester -
Who said so? Corby Magistrates.

2) Hunt supporters can kick persons in the head whilst they are on the ground -
Who said so? Corby Magistrates.

3) Hunt supporters can hold persons down whilst another hunt supporter strikes them across their body with a pickaxe handle -
Who said so? Corby Magistrates.

4) Hunt supporters can drive a motor vehicle straight at someone at 30m.p.h. without stopping
Who said so? Corby Magistrates.

5) Hunt supporters can strike fist blows at persons whilst they are on the ground -
Who said so? Corby Magistrates.

Cn the very slim chance that Hunt supporters are charged and convicted, such as kicking a protester in the head with a boot whilst on the ground, plus holding him down whilst another supporter strikes him with a pickaxe handle it will only cost them £50.

This legislation was passed in a Court Case held at Corby and Kettering Magistrates Court on the 20th-23rd September 1999.

This legislation was passed in spite of there being video and independent police evidence, together with medical evidence of injuries sustained to the hunt protesters in this unprovoked attack.

What was the reason for this assault? - The hunt protesters were walking in a field owned by Sir Geoffrey Palmer.

Yours faithfully,

G. Strong (Mrs).
Clwyd

LEATHER CAN BE EXCUSED

Dear Howl,

While I agree in theory with the ideals put forward by Ms Roberts (letters, 'Leather Loathing' Howl 68), about sabs wearing leather boots, I do find the way the letter was written was pious, patronising, unrealistic and totally mis-directed.

I can only assume Ms Roberts is loaded, as if you flick through a Vegetarian Shoes or Ethical Wears catalogue, any boot that is going to stand the rigors of a couple of seasons sabbing is going to set you back between £50-80. A lot of sabs who are either unemployed or on a low income simply can't afford that, I know I can't (unless you want to buy me some). I am currently unemployed and since my vegan walking boots gave up on me last season (after a good 4 seasons sabbing in them), I face the choice of wearing my unsuitable vegan DMs (the only footwear I own other than a pair of canvas trainers), buying some cheap plastic boots that I know will fall apart within 3 months or spend £12 on a pair of second hand Para-boots. Short of shop-lifting, I can think of no other option.

If Ms Roberts wants to make a point about leather footwear, I suggest she direct it at the manufacturers of cruelty free shoes whose prices are ridiculously high compared to their leather counterparts. If they dropped their prices, I'm sure they would sell more shoes.
I would also like to point out that I know of new-comers to sabbing being put off from coming out again due to the pious and holier-than- thou-attitudes like Ms Roberts being bandied about the back of sab vans. It is also incorrect to assume that all sabs are vegans and go sabbing from a purely animal rights perspective.

I would rather people come out sabbing in leather boots than not come out at all.

Nigel
Ipswich Sabs

To be fair, I thought that Elsa was making a point about people who make a big thing about being vegan out sabbing (we've all met them), while wearing leather boots/gloves/thongs etc. and not new sabs who come out wearing it. Technically, a vegan is someone who uses no animal products whatsoever (not just doesn't eat them) so I thought Elsa should have her say.

Anyone else got any contentious issues they'd like to share?

SABS AREN'T DEFENCELESS VICTIMS

Dear Howl,

I was somewhat disturbed by the last issue of Howl. I think that there was far too much emphasis on anti sab violence, making it seem as if sabbing was an activity only for the suicidal or foolhardy. I think the problem may stem from the idea of Howl as the public face of the H.S.A. Undoubtedly it is, but realistically it is not read by the general public but ironically rather like Horse and Hound it is either read by those passionately for or against hunting. Hence an over emphasis on sabs getting beaten up, shot and lynched is counter productive. We all know that sabs in the field do stand up for themselves against hunt intimidation often with success. Howl should reflect the behaviour and attitude of sabs in the field with more accuracy. I'm not talking about having a page 3 battered huntsman or anything but neither should Howl be full of pictures of bleeding sabs. This projects an image of defenceless victims and martyrs which is totally at odds with the reality of sabbing.

Horse and Hound went through a phase like this about four years ago with articles like 'Saboteur War in the South East' which revelled in images of iron bar wielding, balaclava clad urban thugs roaming around the countryside committing acts of pointless and terrifying violence. This editorial attitude was swiftly dropped after about four issues and now Dog & Donkey rarely mentions saboteurs. The reason I suspect, being that a number of waverers within the equestrian community were probably put off going hunting for life.

I suggest that as Howl may be the first contact point for potential new Sabs it should present a more robust attitude and not scare people off. Please save the pictures of injured sabs and trashed vehicles for press releases and let Howl be the voice of active sabs.

Fuzz
C/o South Downs Sabs

When I originally started compiling the list of convicted huntsmen etc. which are referred to, I realised the risks which Fuzz laid out in his letter. However Howl has always featured stories of sabs being attacked and shown the photos to go with it - in fact old issues of Howl were our main source of information. Of course having it all complied in one feature gives the issue more clout (excuse the pun) and to be honest that's why I decided to run it. Many non-active HSA members don't realise the situation and it was written partly for them. It has also stopped a lot of the very articles which Fuzz talks about in other papers about sab violence - if we can point to what hunts have also done, then the issue stops becoming so clear cut in the eyes of the media.

As I stated on the top of the feature it was never my intention to portray sabs as lily-livered 'victims' or brave martyrs but it is a fact that many sabs have been the recipients of unprovoked and over-the-top violence by hunts and their supporters. After all, the same issue of Howl featured an article devoted to handling yourself when riders use their horses as weapons (which would be equally likely to put off nervous sabs), and yet I have had nothing but praise from active sabs for including it.

For a similar reason it is important to warn new sabs of the **potential** *of hunt violence before they go out - or at least in my opinion.*

As for Howl reflecting the behaviour/attitude of sabs in field, all the articles in the last Howl were written by active sabs - and every issue contains group news which is solely about the activities of sabs in the field. Unfortunately, I have enough trouble getting active sabs just to write this contribution to Howl and consequently have to rely on the same 'old faithfuls' each issue to supply me with enough stuff to fill the magazine. If other active sabs think the writing in Howl should reflect their own ideas more (which I agree it should do), then there is a very simple remedy - write more stuff for it!

But, of course there is a problem with this; most readers of Howl are not active sabs - and many active sabs are not members of the H.S.A.. Maybe this is because they feel that Howl or the H.S.A. does not reflect their views. If so, it's a vicious circle. If active readers would like to change the emphasis then please, help out the next Editor with contributions. You may improve not only the content of Howl, but H.S.A. membership amongst active sabs too.

Roe, Editor

HUNTSMAN'S BALLS

"Somehow, something changed and I suspect it did so because the Prime Minister said something he hadn't actually thought about because he was over-tired."
Labour's Baroness Mallalieu on B.B.C. Radio 4's Today programme. Baroness Mallalieu trying to explain why the Prime Minister announced hunting with hounds was to be banned. I often find myself saying "isn't hunting brilliant" when I get tired.....

"People feel that, even if you don't like activities of a particular minority, you don't take steps to criminalise them at the very least before having a full inquiry into the reasons for doing so - and they must be compelling."
Countryside Alliance Spokesperson, Sept '99. Erm,...I didn't hear the Countryside Alliance calling for an enquiry into the criminalisation of hunt saboteurs through the C.J.A. - did you??

"I always remember the "Tuesday fox" in Warwickshire, which which was often hunted in our local area and used to always to finish the run by leaping up the same willow tree, to be saluted by the huntsmen."
Joan Foden, of Edgarley Court, Clevedon, Somerset, in her local papers Letters page. I can't even bring myself to comment on this one...

I read with interest the letters on....reasons for anti-hunt protesters wearing balaclavas.....as many hunt supporters know all to well, there is a faction [of sabs] who do no not choose to remain peaceful..."
Wendy Peckham, SE Area PR for the C.A. Letters Page, Sevenoaks Chronicle 20/5/99. Note these details....

"HUNTSMAN RAN DOWN SABOTEUR. A huntsman has been arrested following allegations that he deliberately ran down a saboteur during the final meet of the West Kent hunt in March. A female hunt protester suffered a badly broken arm in the alleged incident..."
News Pages, Sevenoaks Chronicle, 20/5/99. Irony; I love it...

"Annual fox mortality in Scotland may be in the order of 50,000 to 60,000. Hunts kill no more than about 750 foxes. Banning hunting will hardly make ant difference to the fox population...."
James Galbraith, hunter in the Borders, The Herald 16.8.99 I wish these people would make up their minds... is hunting pest control or sport?

"I love the idea that our legislature should abandon morality in favour of of becoming a job creation scheme, Mr Adam's [Duke of Buccleuch huntsman] logic opens up such tremendous potential: legalise crack cocaine - more work for drug dealers. Mandatory handguns in every home - new munitions factories across the country. Get rid of speed limits - bonanza time for paramedics. Bring back bestiality - wage packets for sheep. Really, only the sky is the limit."
Unknown and undated [hint, hint!] column from Scottish Tabloid.

"I read your editorial 'Knuckles Bared Over Hunting' (July 15) with some dismay. The pro-hunting brigade is presenting this issue as a 'country folk' versus urban dwellers'. But rural dwellers are far for universally in favour of hunting. I, for one, take exception to being grouped among the pro-hunting fraternity .....I am very much a countryman. Please do not portray me, and the many like me, as belonging to that small minority to whom killing is such a pleasure that it must be defended as a 'right'."
Mr M Towler, Kent. Letters Page, Country Life, Aug '99.

"...this being the West, I accepted an invitation to a rodeo before I left. Now I know that we city slickers have a romanticised idea of horses, but I honestly couldn't see anything entertaining about seeing horses so terrified they were trying to clamber out of 7ft high steel pens, or watch them so tormented with bands strapped around their hindquarters that they turned into bucking broncos....It's just plain cruel...no amount of dexterity or prettiness could hide the fact that the inevitable side effect of the display was to terrify and mortify animals for the sake of fun. Cruelty is cruelty, whichever way you look at it....
If you go to Grand Junction, forget the rodeo. Go for the startling desert beauty; the long sunsets and the night skies of distant blue; the wonderful clear,light desert air; the masterpieces of erosion in the canyons; the hawks and the eagles, jays and cottonwood trees.....Go to glory in nature not to humiliate it. There's much to glory in."
Travel writer Ray Connolly, in the Daily Mail 7.11.99.
Although Connolly was writing about the rodeo, much of this quote could be used to describe the spectacle of any cruel sport - to me it sums up exactly what hunt saboteurs have been trying to get across for years

'Howl' is *your* magazine

Make sure it reflects your views by contributing to it.

Letters, articles, news features and, of course, Group News are always needed.

We are also desperate for photos or video grabs to go with stories

News clippings, especially from local papers, on anything to do with bloodsports, sabbing or wildlife are also *very* important (even if we don't use it in Howl it may be of vital use to our Research Officer)

Please send all of the above to the H.S.A. office marked 'HOWL'

A tale of 2 Minkhunts

Tale 1

On the 31st july the Dove valley Minkhounds decided to break with hundreds of years of tradition, by taking their foul pastime north of the border in order to show a few depraved Scots what they'd been missing.

By a strange twist of fate the Jack Russel Terrier Club were celebrating their 25th anniversary in almost exactly the same area. This led us to believe that the bumpkins could potentially drum up large numbers.....we were not wrong.

As we neared the meet at Mayfield in Fife all seemed strangely quiet. Half a mile down the road however, sabs sighted about 15 supporters including several children. 'Brilliant' I thought, 'It's a family day out; we'll horn the hounds away and they'll pack up within an hour!'

Sadly, my dream was shattered by someone near me saying," er..., look on the other side of the bank...."

Shit! It looked bad; maybe 25 handy looking boys, most armed with 'otter poles' which wouldn't have looked out of place on scaffolding sites. As we disembarked at a convenient bridge the true scale of the situation became apparent.

Now, it's not unknown in sabbing circles for a few excitable individuals to exaggerate or embellish their recollection of the days events. However, on this occasion even the most 'Jackanory' inclined sab would be happy telling exactly what they saw. They just kept coming and coming.

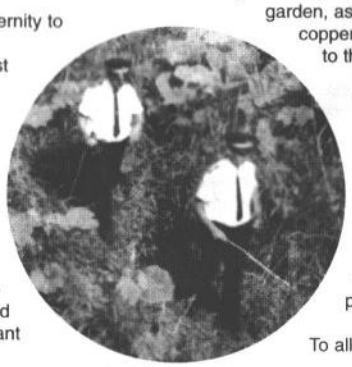
This gathering of undesirables made the Ytene hits of the early '90's look like a teddy bears picnic.As I looked around frantically searching for a glimpse of blue uniform I realised there were none. I couldn't speak for anyone else but at this point I had the 'fear' in a serious way.

We decided fairly sharpish that any attempt at straightforward sabbing would be ill-advised.

Instead we piled back in the van and drove off as fast as we could half a mile ahead of the hunt and began pre-spraying the river bank as fast as our trigger-fingers could go.

During this time we passed three perplexed locals, all of whom told us that there hadn't been any mink on the river for 10 years. One bloke who'd lived by the river for 20 years was insistent that they must be hunting otters not mink! (and he was pro-hunt!)

They seemed to be taking an eternity to catch up with us, so we bravely ventured back down the river just in time to catch them attempting a dig-out (see picture below) by the side of an industrial building suppliers. The Scottish plod seemed completely un-arsed by the fact that supporters and sabs alike were all unprotected in what was technically a' hard-hat' area. One Scottish sab who works in health & safety informed the police repeatedly that a blatant breach of regulations was occurring, but staring blankly ahead whilst pretending to be deaf appeared to be the order of the day for the boys in blue.



Fife's finest demonstrate their impartiality by beating the riverbank with home-office approved 'sticks' Photo: © Clydeside sabs

The attempted dig out involved demolishing half the riverbank by removing huge stone blocks which supported the bank, but again this didn't appear to be a matter for concern. The suggestion that criminal damage may be occurring was met with the same blank impartiality.

Although their numbers appeared depleted we were still too heavily outnumbered to physically prevent them from digging. Instead we had little option but to train both camcorders and all the stills cameras we had on the ensuing chaos.

It was only when one of the sabs started asking what exactly, were they attempting to dig out?, that the hunt noticed the array of evidence gatherers amidst them and decided, rather oddly to give up.

With their numbers down to about 40, and feeling partly responsible for their abandoned dig-out, we marched onwards with a new confidence. Sadly as if the sheer weight of bumpkins wasn't enough to contend with, the police were now hell-bent on shouting out cautions about ' aggravating nuisance and trespassing on private footpaths!'

As it turned out 'hound music' was noticeable by it's absence for the rest of the day, with the sun drying up what little drag (that's 'scent' to you amateurs) that probably never existed anyway.

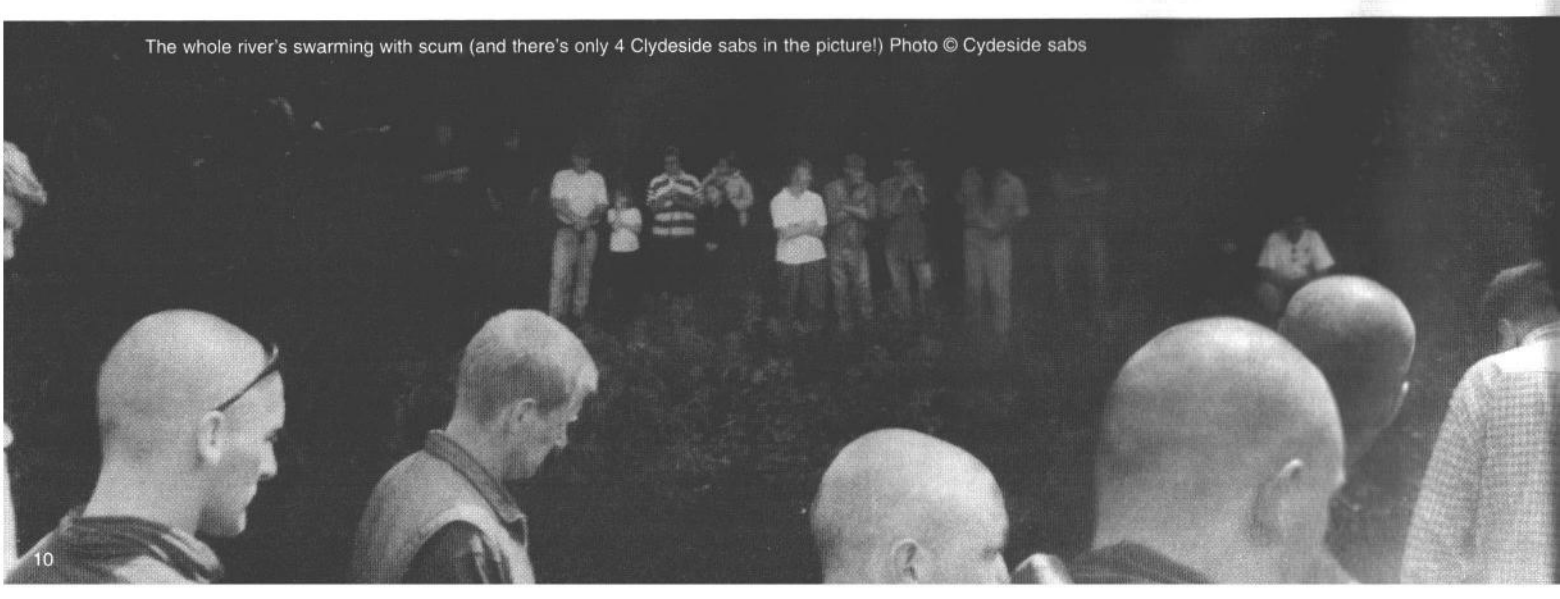
The day was rounded off beautifully by the hunt being refused permission to cross some blokes garden, as well as some dumb-arse coppers who thought this also applied to them!

Now for the rant: As it turned out, lots of the hunt's support disappeared (probably to dig-like-mad in small groups, seeing as most were terrier-men there for the JRTC anniversary) but about 15 sabs were *still* left to contend with around 40 supporters plus police.

To all you pissed, "friday-nite social" sabs who pledged your physical support at the AGM and then failed to materialise; you're a bunch of slack tossers. Even a phone call to the Scottish sabs with your excuses the week before was obviously too much to ask for.

To the few who pledged their support *and* managed to get off their lardy arses and waddle up to Scotland, the mink (and otters) salute you!

Massive giving it up large style respect to bods from Clydeside, Borders, Manchester, Liverpool, Croydon and (the not-so-mighty) Brixton.



The whole river's swarming with scum (and there's only 4 Clydeside sabs in the picture!) Photo © Cydeside sabs

Tale 2

3rd July 1999 saw sabs from across the South converge on the Kent & Sussex Mink Hounds when they met at Claygate on the River Teise.

Minutes after arrival, this hapless bunch of amateurs (they carry broom handles instead of traditional otter poles) were headed back to the hound van (which it's rumoured they do removals with during the winter) where they awaited the arrival of the cops. Once the boys in blue arrived, there was a lot of deliberation over what should be done. The previous visit to this pack had resulted in almost every sab there arrested. After a lot of debate, common sense prevailed, and when the minkhunters set off along the riverbank again they were accompanied by sabs as well as cops.

They attempted to draw both upstream and down to no avail, with constant voice and horn calls from both sides of the river. The pack were even taken for a run on a couple of occasions. Suffice to say the hunters realised that they weren't going to get to hunt that day, let alone kill. As the assembled mass of flat caps, black uniforms and black hooded tops reached the bridge by the hound van, we were greeted by an irate man emerging from a small van.

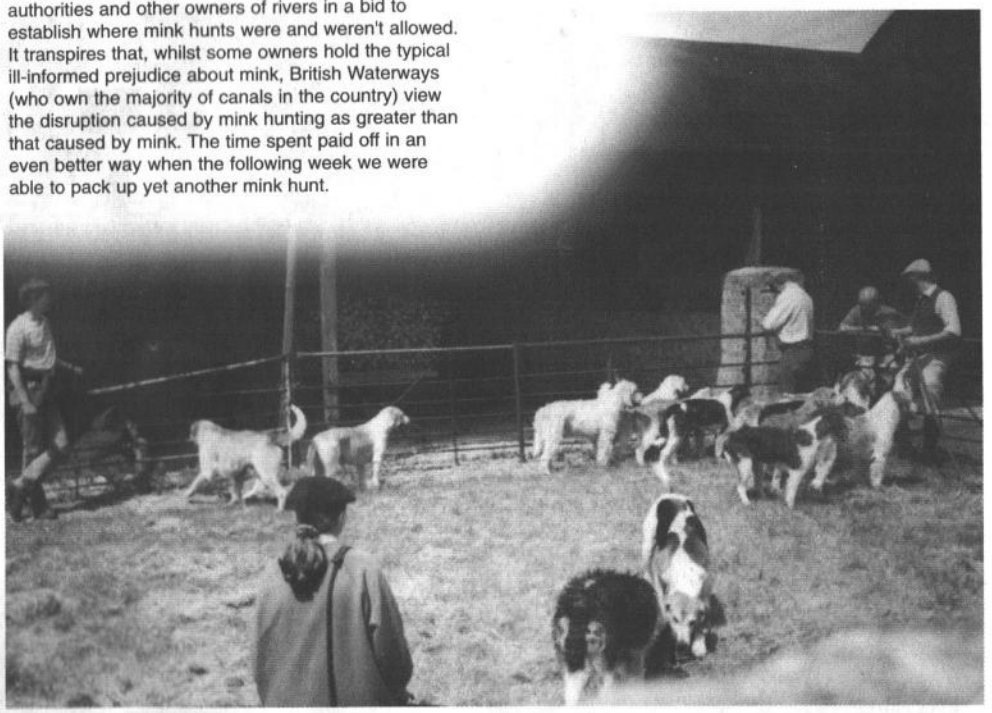
It transpires that he was the Water Bailiff for that area, and the minkhounds HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION TO HUNT. In fact, the landowner for that particular stretch was a big fan of mink, and wouldn't even allow them to be shot. Due to the considerable disruption caused by this bloodsport masquerading as vermin control, they are, we were informed, banned from an 8 mile stretch of the Teise looked after by the River Teise Anglers & Owners Association.

Not only did this event back up the fact that mink hunts cause more disruption to wetlands than mink themselves, it provided us with yet another example of hunts going where they are not wanted. The myth that mink hunts are "welcome" by those who have responsibility for rivers has been blown out of the water (sorry for the pun).

What was also noticeable was that the cops did not rush the embarrassed hunters, letting them take their time. If the landowners agent had turned up and asserted that sabs weren't welcome on the land it would have been a different matter. Two weeks previously Kent Constabulary had swooped on sabs, and there was no time given to leave the land - in fact the majority of arrests had occurred on the public highway. A case of double standards? Nah, never In fact, come to think of it, how many times have sabs been arrested without the cops having knowledge of who owned the land - only to drop the charges later?

Armed with what had happened on the River Teise, I set about phoning up various Country Parks, Canal authorities and other owners of rivers in a bid to establish where mink hunts were and weren't allowed. It transpires that, whilst some owners hold the typical ill-informed prejudice about mink, British Waterways (who own the majority of canals in the country) view the disruption caused by mink hunting as greater than that caused by mink. The time spent paid off in an even better way when the following week we were able to pack up yet another mink hunt.

All photos: © Dorset Sabs



Within minutes of sabs arriving the hunt gather up hounds and barricade themselves in a disused animal pen!



The 'boys in blue' arrive.....



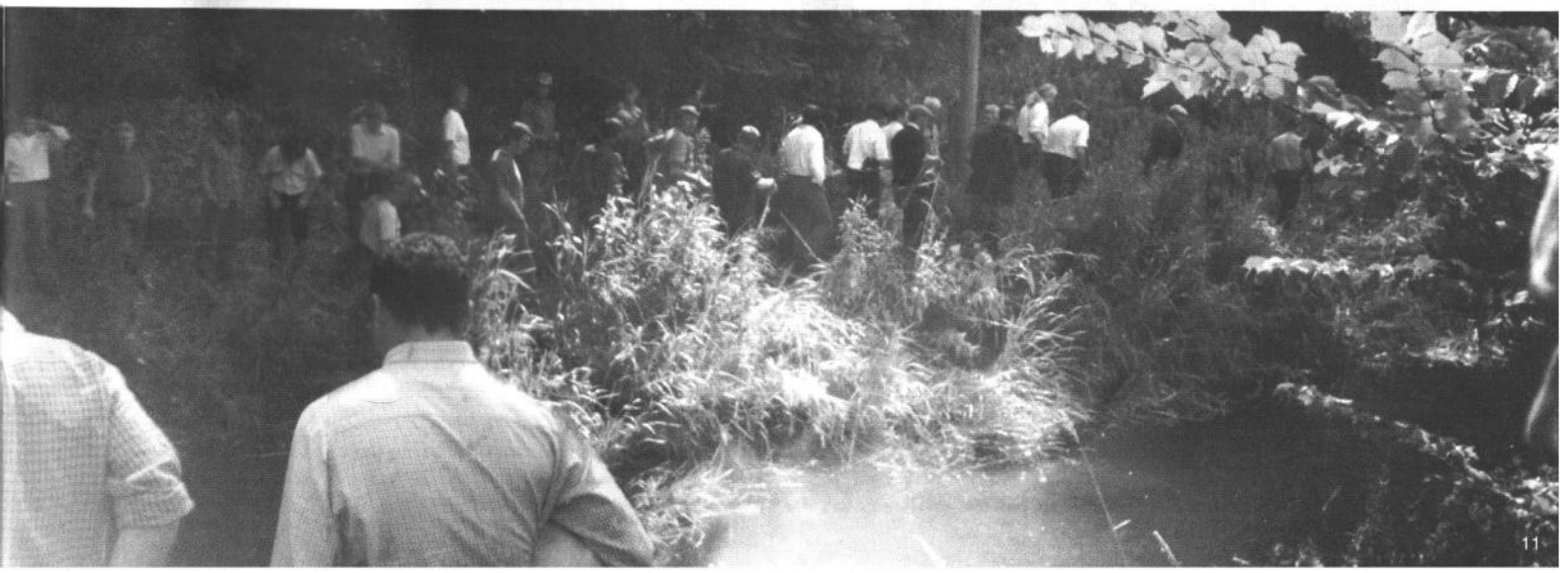
....we all have a leisurely stroll along the riverbank....



The unlikely looking Water Baliliff arrives.....



.....and a 'get orf moi land' scenario ensues resulting in the hunt, rather sheepishly packing up.



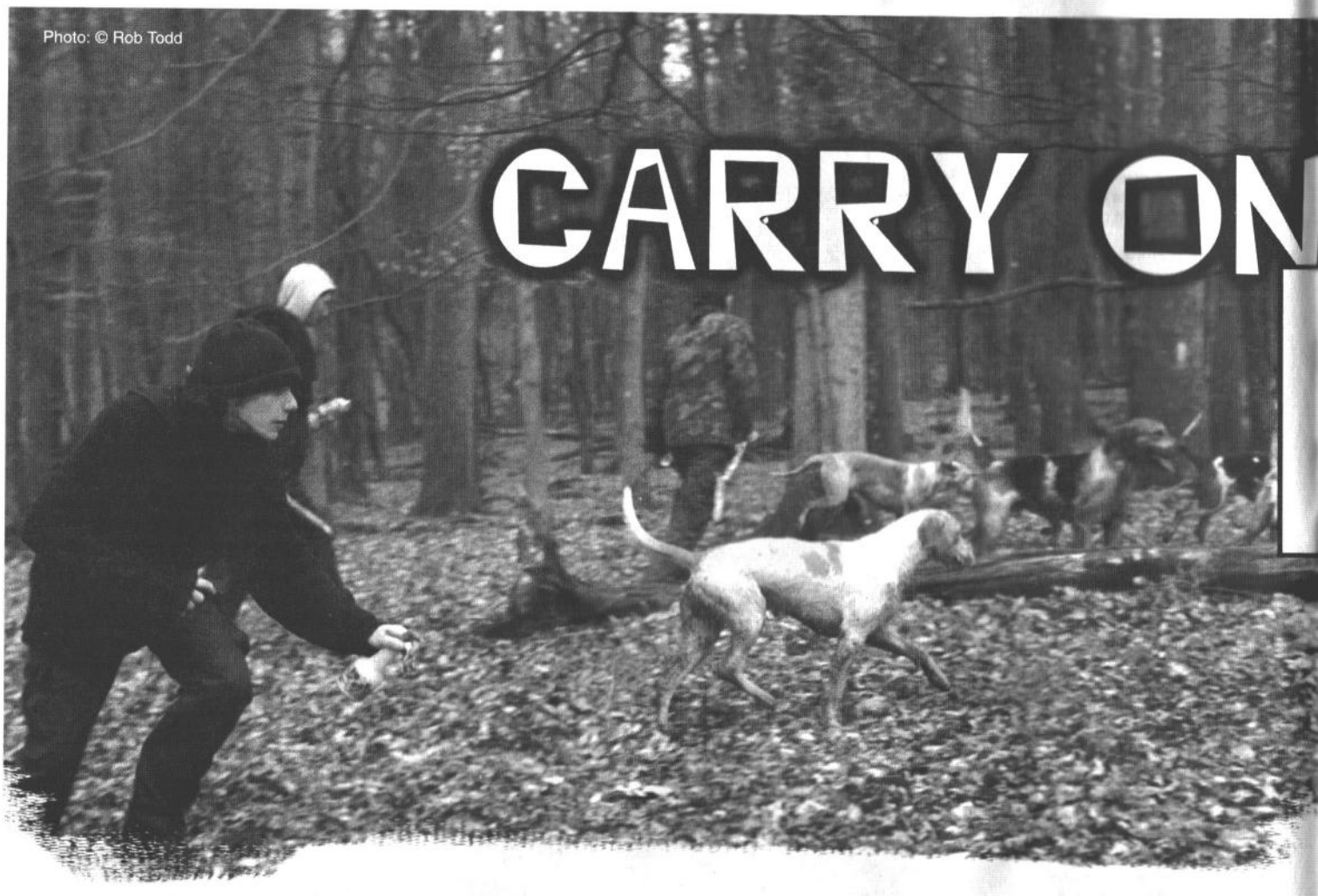


Photo: © Rob Todd

From what I've seen recently out sabbing it would appear that sprays have gone "out of fashion". It used to be the case that every sab would carry one. Now it's all too common for a whole group to leap out of the back of a vehicle leaving all the sprays in the van, if they've brought any at all! Let's face it, if you're not carrying a horn, whip or gizmo what are you actually going to be able to do? Even if you are carrying any of the three aforementioned items there are times when a spray is going to prove to be the most effective way of sabotaging a hunt. And that's what we're there to do....

So, what are we talking about when you read in HOWL that "sabs put spraying to good use"? Sprays are simply scent-dulling liquid in a garden spray - the sort you get at a hardware shop. When you turn the nozzle on the end to the correct setting and it comes out in a mist, the liquid spreads out in much the same way as an animals scent does.

There are various scent-dullers that can be used - **ALL OF THEM HARMLESS**. If the hunting press print that sabs sprayed "ammonia" or some other noxious substance you can be rest assured that they're telling porkies. Sabs would not do anything that harms an animal - we're there to prevent cruelty. In 1989 after a mass arrest at the Cotswold Vale Farmers FH, a sab's spray that was seized was sent to the Home Office Forensic Science Laboratory by Gloucestershire Constabulary. The report by David Michael Rees, Senior Scientific Officer, came back reading:

"Plastic sprayer containing a white/colourless liquid:

The [above] item consisted of a plastic hand spray which was full of liquid. This liquid was neutral (i.e. neither acid nor alkaline) and had a strong lemon odour.
In my opinion this liquid, when sprayed, would be unlikely to produce any toxic effects, and the strong lemon odour would most probably 'mask' any animal scent"

That bottle contained Citronella Oil in water. Citronella is an essential oil that can easily be bought in chemists, where it is sold as an insect repellent. It doesn't have quite as revolting a smell as rotted-down garlic making it one of the more popular scent-dullers; in fact some sabs have been known to spray it on their clothes deliberately!!! (Out of the van and straight down the disco - Citronella No.5)

How can a spray save lives?

Quite simply, the spray covers the scent of the hunted animal. Hounds hunt by smell, so, if you can remove any trace of the scent, you have sabotaged their hunting.
Sprays can be used whilst the hunt is drawing a covert, cutting down their chance of picking up any scent in the first place , but most importantly when the hunt is actually on the scent of the hunted animal.

Pre-meet tactics

If you know which woods or areas a hunt is likely to put their hounds into from a particular meet, you can use spraying to cover the scent of any foxes that you scare from a covert when carrying out pre-beating.

Walking a dog is a good "cover" for pre-beating: You literally walk through the wood crashing about in the undergrowth, banging on trees with sticks or blowing horns/ whistles and some sabs have even used agricultural rook-scarers. Of course we don't advise anybody to use rookies without having the necessary paperwork to make it legal because that would be incitement. It is also worth checking any known fox earths and badger setts and spraying the surrounding area, just in case the hunt find a scent leading away from them. Anywhere you think there may be a scent, spray!

This tactic is one which "non-active" HSA members may like to try as it does not involve being present at the actual hunt itself.

Hunted animal runs towards you

If you're out on a sab and the hunted animal runs towards you with hounds in tow (and in cry!), FREEZE! Any movement could scare the animal back.

Once it has passed, spraying over where it ran will cause the hounds to lose the scent. Even if hounds pick up the scent again by over-running where they lost it, vital seconds have been gained for the hunted animal.

Hunted animal changes direction

If the animal has jinked off to the right or left and you spray where it changed direction the hounds will carry on in a straight line hoping to pick up the scent again, but of course will be travelling in the wrong direction!!

When you've seen the hunted animal and hunt isn't onto the scent... spray over the line. You never know if the hunt is going to draw the area and pick up on the scent left there.

SPRAYING!

Hunted animal crosses a road

This could well happen when you're driving along a lane and a fox rushes out from one hedge and across into another. Scent does not hold very well on roads anyway and a few sprays will make sure that if hounds do find the line of that fox they lose it once they reach the road. It is important to spray where the animal enters the road and where it leaves the road too. "Non-active" HSA members may be in the area of a hunt and if they have a spray handy can get out and cover the line if they see a fox crossing.

It's worth pointing out here that if anybody sees a hunted animal crossing the road and feel like they're not able to do anything because they don't have a spray, revving up your engine whilst stationary can sometimes be enough to cover a scent. The beauty of spraying is that, unlike a horn, the hunt won't know that you're in the area doing it unless they see it happening. That is, until they come to their favourite covert of the day and get greeted with a pungent waft of citronella. On some occasions this alone has been enough to put huntsman off drawing the covert at all.

Tactics involving other gear & spray

When sprays are used in conjunction with other sabbing gear, like a horn or gizmo, the combined effect is greater than that of their sum parts. Whilst you may be able to call hounds if they lose the line of scent or haven't found it yet, well placed spraying can cause an artificial "check" (the name for when hounds lose the line) which then makes them all the more "biddable" (the hounds are eager to hunt because they've been on a scent and respond immediately to the horn/gizmo thinking that the quarry has been found again - of course you're taking them in the opposite direction, but they'll follow...)

The diagrams below give you an idea of where and how sprays can be used in conjunction with other equipment.

KEY

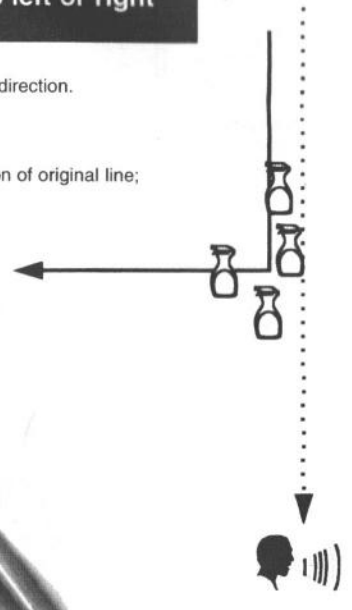
FOX ..... HOUNDS SPRAYS HORN/GIZMO/VOICE CALLS

Case 1: Fox Jinks to left or right

i) Sabs spray where fox changes direction.

ii) Hounds over-run line.

iii) Sabs hunt hounds on in direction of original line; away from fox.



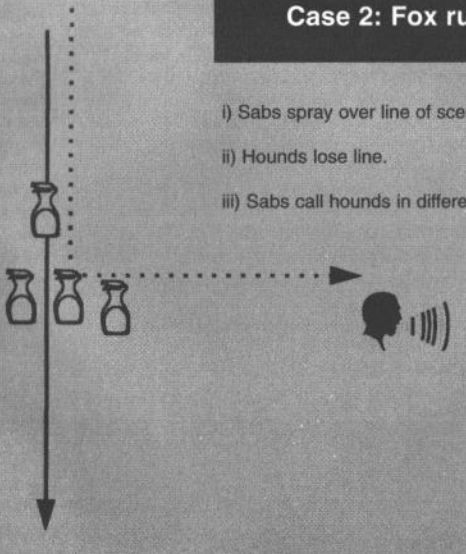


Case 2: Fox runs past sabs

i) Sabs spray over line of scent.

ii) Hounds lose line.

iii) Sabs call hounds in different direction to fox.



So, to conclude, lets see more people carrying sprays out there! If you feel a bit useless because you can't blow a horn - carry a spray! Even if you carry a horn, you may be in a position to save a life with a spray more effectively. If you're not able to sab you may like to give your local area a liberal dousing of citronella when the hunt are nearby. Or you could carry a loaded spray in your car, just in case!

Any sab groups in need of help with tactics can receive a sabbing skills day or tactics talk. Contact the office for details.

GROUP NEWS

SCOTLAND

The *Lanarkshire & Renfrewshire F.H*'s last meet of the '98/'99 season in March was still marred by the ever-present **Clydeside** sabs. A typical days sabbing with four police cars and two unmarked ones just to keep sabs on their toes! Later in the day two sabs went into the field and pulled hounds with horn calls etc. Once huntsman Terry Wing regained control of his hounds the two sabs were surrounded by about 8 or 9 riders who decided to try and seriously injure sabs before taking them back to the road; this was a very scary 10 minutes!! [*If you have not read the 'handling horses' article in Howl 68, read it now* - DEL, Clydeside] As the 'gentle-men' on horse back escorted sabs back to the road, Alasdair Campbell M.F.H. who was really enjoying this moment, shouted to the two sabs "WE DON'T MIND YOU COMING INTO THE COUNTRY, BUT YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND OUR WAYS"!!!! Under different circumstances this would have been really funny. Once back on the road the two Clydeside sabs found their van stuck in a ditch - so much for the fast get away!!!! Police took statements from Campbell and Co., and then informed the two sabs that if they returned within 3 months they would be arrested for aggravated trespass. The day ended later with no kills and no arrests, luckily!!

The two usual suspects managed to travel down to the H.S.A. A.G.M. at last, where they entertained the crowds with their wit and banter [*must have missed that part* - Ed], but then back home **Clydeside's** summer holiday was rudely interrupted by the *Dove Valley MH*, who decided that they'd travel North at the end of July. [See News Feature - Ed] Thanks to everybody who made the long trip up from down south, after it was mentioned at the AGM: the spattering of sabs from Manchester, Liverpool, Croydon, Brixton and Brighton -ish! (Maybe the next time they can stay up passed their normal bedtime on Saturday night!!!!!!)



"Right laddie; by my calculations, I reckon between the two of us we should have enough for one full head of hair" Photo: © Clydeside Sabs

NORTH WEST

Sabs from **Manchester**, **Liverpool**, **Bolton** and **Preston** were duly joined by **Cardiff**, **Leeds**, **York**, **Dover/Kent**, **Nottingham**, and **London** sabs for what turned out to be a very uneventful Glorious 12th and 14th! The days spent in search of shoots were good in that it annoyed the hell out of the Lancashire plod, but bad in that it involved hours of driving round to confirm no shooting was taking place before sabs believed what the the cops had been saying all along! Most attention was focused on the *Duke of Westminster's estate* near Lancaster following the amazing shut down of the estate the previous year by sabotage, but several sources confirmed on the day that they would not be shooting this season due to diseased birds - definitely bad news for one of the richest men in the UK. The distinctly arsey attitude of the police, who attempted to direct sabs off an estate that we weren't even on led sabs to conclude that the police had got seriously told off after sab successes last year. Thanks must go to the journalist from the Independent who was interested/brave enough to come out for such a boring day, but surely the sight of the H.S.A.'s Press Officer proclaiming to all present that she wanted to satisfy herself would have made up for it. Just don't ask!!!?..

And now back to those cuddly red fluffy things! Sabs from **Manchester** and **Bolton** have been busy disrupting cubbing at both the *Cheshire Forest* and *Cheshire Foxhounds*, and have been so dedicated that after an early morning run around with either of these they have then been heading into Lancashire to join the *Holcombe Harriers* (they are crap, but sabs like to let them think they're OK!). So far things have been pretty uneventful, apart from Matthew Puffer, hunts-man with the *Cheshire Forest* being far too friendly and helpful - maybe he's pledged to be nicer to sabs for the Millennium???

MIDLANDS

Nottingham sabs have been busy sabbing both the *Quorn FH* and the Cottesmore *FH* during the cubbing season, with the help of **Leicester**. The *Quorn*, still badly shaken from the previous season's excellent sabbing (they only killed once while sabs were out!), have abandoned several of their Saturday meets and have only just started emerging from their kennels at weekends. *Quorn* Huntsman Adrian Dangar seemed to be reconsidering his statement on Central TV's "Central Weekend" discussion programme when he said he "liked to see sabs out at a hunt" when he drove up to the kennels one Saturday morning (nearly knocking one sab over) to find **Nottingham** waiting for him.

Whilst not sabbing, **Nottingham** Hunt Sabs have also managed to produce their own website *[and very good it is too!* - Ed] at www.enviroweb.org/nhsa for those of you with internet access which has attracted a smattering of abusive emails from hunt scum as well as a much larger number of supportive emails, for which they are very grateful.

August saw **Derby** concentrating on fundraising before the start of the new season and generally getting stuff together for the new influx of potential student canon fodder. A couple of cubbing sessions, joining up with **Leicester** and **Nottingham** sabs, took place,(see Notts report.) Once the sabs actually saw hunt staff taking the hounds out for a walk....ah...nice!)
Two Derbyshire Region Angling Matches were also kind of "pre-beat' actually with good results, later in the month.

Northants first sab of the season started with them arriving late at a *Bicester FH* meet but they still managed to prevent any kills. Overall, sabs have had a positive effect (for local wildlife) on this hunt. The *Bicester* have taken to running away at the sight of sabs and at **Northants'** last visit to the *Woodland Pytchley FH* they packed up very early. Sabs had a camera crew from Anglia TV along with them on this day, and true to form, a hunt supporter provided good footage as he threatened to assault the cameraman as the cameras rolled! There have been no confirmed kills yet whilst sabs have been present, and its been a good season so far - - but its very early days, isn't it!

SOUTH WEST

Despite their local hunts being impossible to sab because of lack of advertising or through threat of violence, **Bath** sabs have had a successful time last season sabbing with **Taunton**; **Pewsey** and **Dorset**. Unfortunately at a sab in Dorset the dastardly police slapped a prohibition order on **Bath's** old van which ment the scrapping of said vehicle, close to the end of the season. Since then they have invested every penny the group and individuals had in a 'new' minibus, which still needs work - they are still desperate for donations, mechanical expertise and other offers of help, so if you'd like to help write to them at their PO Box.[*see Contacts List included with Howl* - Ed] or via the HSA. Once these 'minor' problems are overcome **Bath** look forward to another successful season sabbing the , ahem!, out of South West hunts.

The last fox hunt of the '98/'99 season brought together sabs from **Plymouth** and **Torquay** for a date on 17th April with their favourite Dartmoor pack, the *South Devon FH*. This was a special occasion as it was the last time **Plymouth** and **Torquay** would see Patrick Cooper, huntsman and master, as he was moving onto pastures new. Not wanting to disappoint him, sabs put in extra effort to give him a good send off and as a result, he spent the day galloping around the moors trying to avoid them - he even abandoning a dig out on sabs' approach. Needless to say, sabs did not receive an invitation to his farewell tea party at the end of the day.



Devon & Cornwall minkhound with chunk of flesh missing from its side. Photo © Dorset sabs

With hardly an opportunity to catch their breath, it was straight into the summer season activities of mink sabbing the *Devon & Cornwall MH*. The season has got off to a cracking start with 4 out of 7 unadvertised Saturday meets being found and sabbed, much to the annoyance of the hunt.
Saturday 1st May saw sabs from **Torquay** and **Dorset** joining **Plymouth** to travel west for a meet at Chapel Amble, near Wadebridge. By mid afternoon, a dig out was called through to the mobile sabs and everybody piled in. Despite one minor scuffle, the women in the group planted themselves in the holes around the bottom of the tree forcing a stalemate situation with the hunt resorting to call the police. While awaiting the plod, the only thing being thrown around were banter and sarcasm from all directions. Two policeman finally arrived but seemed confused about what they could actually do - even stating that the sabs knew exactly what they were doing and what their rights were! The hunt and the police then left and the holes were moved away from in the hope of the mink leaving of its own accord. However, 30 minutes later riot vans accumulated on the road and the sabs moved back to the holes. On the return of the police and the hunt, an ultimatum was issued of which, either way, the hunt were going to dig out and the hard decision was made to leave the land in the hope that the mink would have got away. Thankfully the decision paid off as, not long after, the hunt had returned to the road without success.

After a couple of weeks unexciting sabbing, due to virtually non-existence hunting by the Devon *& Cornwall MH*, sabs expected more on Saturday the 15th May -a meet advertised as part of the 25th Anniversary Jack Russell and Terrier Show in North Devon. However, the hunt were nowhere to be seen and so a search of the area was made. With a vague tip off from a friendly policewoman, **Plymouth** turned their attention to different areas and found them about 15 miles due south. The day proceeded fairly uneventfully with a minor excitement/embarrassment for the sabs when they attempted to pile in to a dig out, only to find that it was a plastic duck race! Amid fits of giggles, sabs were then chased from the land by an irate 80 year old woman with a walking stick.

SOUTH

Summer always means a spell on the river banks and **Southampton** had a couple of cracking days with the *Kent & Sussex MH* to the tune of the James Bond theme played on a gizmo. Some innovative research revealed the whereabouts of the *Wealden MH* in July so they hot-footed it to Sussex with a few mates and put an end to their fun [*see News Feature* - Ed]. A big thanks goes to all the groups willing to turn up without knowing where the meet was.

Numbers have been rising with a few new sabs and the return of some old faces. Cubbing meets of the *Vale of Aylesbury FH* and *Vine & Craven FH* have been sabbed, and other hunts staked out . October saw **Southampton** wreck a cubbing meet of the *Hampshire Hunt* with **Reading** and **West London** then zoom off to a beagle meet, stopping at a shoot on the way. When sabs arrived at the **Sandhurst & Aldershot Beagles'** Opening Meet, they quickly got to work. Hares were popping up all over the place every couple of minutes, with hounds often putting up two at once. Despite the abundance of hares there were no kills, just lots of sabbing, with the pack constantly split or completely taken. At one point the beagles were taken with sprays and a gizmo when they were just 100 yards behind a hare. They were then lead off for a dip in a dirty ditch coming out dark brown. After that, the huntsman seemed to lose all interest and a while later pleaded with sabs to give his hounds back cos he'd "had enough".

SOUTH EAST

West Kent sabs spent most of the summer fundraising for their shiny new landrover but still managed to squeeze in a couple of visits to the *Kent and Sussex MH* and one to the *Wealden MH*.

Their first cubbing meet with the *Weststreet Tickham FH* was made all the more entertaining when the police informed sabs that someone had broken into the kennels overnight and stolen all their saddles. After only an hour and a half huntsman Allen Morgan's temper had got the better of him and the masters told him to pack up. **West Kent** also had good days with the *Ashford Valley FH* and the newly merged (take a deep breath...) *Old Surrey, Burstow and West Kent FH*, as well as sabbing the first 2 meets of the *Wye College Beagles*. Sabs had a close call on the *Old Surrey, Burstow and West Kent's* last Saturday cubbing meet in Kent whilst out with **Croydon** and **Dover** sabs. A fox ran out from a bramble bush closely pursued by 3 hounds, tripped and was pounced upon by 2 of the hounds but a split second later a **West Kent** sab rated the hounds back allowing the fox to make off unharmed through a line of riders. Sabs managed to hold the whole pack up long enough for the fox to escape even though huntsman Mark Bycroft was trying to hunt the pack on only 10 feet behind them.

West Kent also managed to sab 3 opening meets altogether on the same day, the *Ashford Valley FH, Wye College Beagles* and the *Old Surrey, Burstow and West Kent* where sabs finished the day sitting in muddy holes to prevent the hunt digging out. Cheers to all the groups they've been out with this season so far; **Croydon**, **Hastings**, **Dover** and the **South Downs** "tree-huggers" sabs.

Speaking of **South Downs**, they didn't do a report for the last Howl so a brief run-down of last season goes thus; sabs concentrated on the *Southdown & Eridge FH*, preventing any kills while they were out; they also visited the *East Sussex and Romney Marsh*, the *Old Surrey & Burstow* (as was), the *Chiddingfold, Leaconsfield & Cowdray FH*, the *Crawley & Horsham FH* and the *Surrey Union*.
(Managing to visit the last three all in one memorable day, packing up 2 of them)
Over the summer, they joined up with other groups to do a few minkhunts but spent most of the time pretending to do fundraising while lunching out at festivals.
More recently they been doing the *Wye College Beagles* with "all camo and no action" **West Kent** sabs [*enough of this*! - Ed] This pack really should be done more often - the sight of six weak-chinned public schoolboys being screamed at by a nightmare in white lycra, whilst staring forlornly after their hounds as they disappear over the horizon with sabs for the twentieth time that day, is one to cheer the heart of any sab.

A particularly good days sabbing for **Croydon** during cubbing came after a fruitless stake-out at the *Old Surrey, Burstow & West Kent FH*. Sabs moved onto the *West St Tickham FH* in good time because of the nicked saddles incident [see West Kent report]. Whinging to the police fell on deaf ears, so the hunt packed up an hour early, and sabs decided to journey to Essex to join forces with **East London** and **Essex & Suffolk** sabs to sab a minkhunt. Low and behold, the Essex police had their helicopter out, which made the hunt dead easy to find. For the second time that day a hunt packed up pretty much as sabs arrived, but not before a sab was arrested for laughing a a copper who fell in the river whilst crossing a weir. Well, okay, technically it was for carrying an 'offensive weapon' - yep, a whip - but wait till a jury hear the story.

Brixton & **Croydon** sabs enjoyed days out at the *Kent & Sussex MH* where the pack were more than willing to spend some 'quality time' away from hunt staff, as well as joining the *Wealden MH* for their spectacular trespass event [see News Feature]
A delegation of **Brixton** & **Croydon** also travelled to Scotland for the *Dove Valley MH* invasion and would like to apologise to Clydeside sabs for any stubborn staining they may have caused.
Two sabs ruined a midweek Old *Surrey, Burstow & West Kent FH* cubbing meet by pre-spraying covers and using Gizmo and horn calls to good effect. Whilst lurking in the 'lemon-scented' bushes sabs were delighted to hear Huntsman Bycroft muttering to his hounds about what a 'f**king shame it was' .

GROUP NEWS
Deadlines:
Howl 70

7th Jan 2000

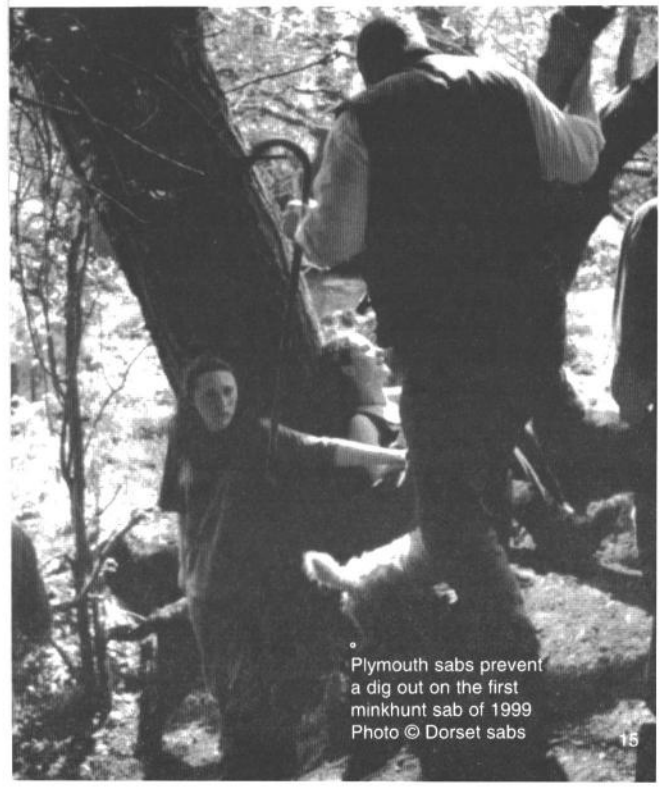
IMPORTANT
All Group News must be typed, on white/pale paper and kept to a maximum of 350 words.

Longer reports may appear as a group feature Please separate longer pieces from your regular group news.

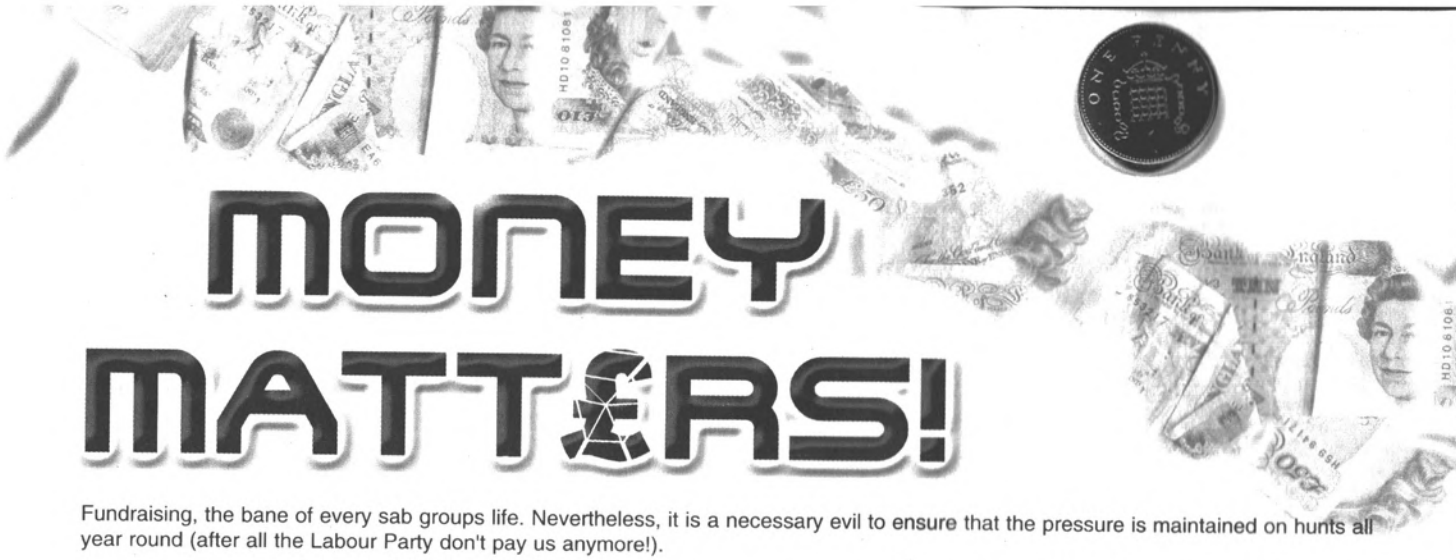
DO NOT send items on disc without prior arrangement

Groups who keep in regular contact with the HSA and *Howl* may be given priority when money is distributed.

Please start your next reports from the Opening Meets, up to and including Boxing Day and New Year.



Plymouth sabs prevent a dig out on the first minkhunt sab of 1999
Photo © Dorset sabs



MONEY MATTERS!

Fundraising, the bane of every sab groups life. Nevertheless, it is a necessary evil to ensure that the pressure is maintained on hunts all year round (after all the Labour Party don't pay us anymore!).

We have found from experience that it is important that all members of the group contribute and constantly come up with new fundraising ideas to keep the bank balance in the black. In this article, we (Plymouth Sabs) would like to share with you just some of the weird, wacky and conventional routes we have taken in our never ending fund- raising mission (excluding the bank jobs of course - only joking!) because, as other groups no doubt know, as soon as money comes in, it's already spent.

BENEFIT GIGS

Involve local bands and musicians who are willing to play for free or at the very most for a couple of quid for petrol.

Find a venue which is sympathetic to the cause and preferably cheap to hire for the night. Advertise as much as possible particularly if your local council, like ours, tend to remove fly posters as fast as they go up.

Don't set the door charge too high so as to attract as many people as possible.

These tend to be stressful events until the over-heads have been covered and you go into profit. If you're lucky, the bands will take some of the pressure off the organiser by ensuring all the equipment needed is there on the night.

More importantly, have fun and always take the opportunity to have an information stall, fully stocked, for interested parties.

SPONSORED EVENTS

Our first sponsored event was a simple 14 mile walk. A wonderful day was had by all involved, including a few sympathetic people not actually involved in sabbing, and, despite sore feet, it was a very useful money raising exercise (exercise being a very apt word).

Our most recent sponsored event was a little more adventurous and involved dangling 1 60ft off the side of a viaduct - in other words, an abseil. Again, non-sabbing people got involved and, despite the distinct whiff of fear, it. was a challenging, enjoyable and profitable couple of hours.

Friendly pubs, shops, etc....
If you are lucky enough to have a place that you meet in (or sommat) and the staff are amenable, raffles and other fund-raising events could be an option.

In our local pub (HQ), in the build up to Christmas, people were fined for using the "C word" (or any word associated with it) before the 10th December and it even became a game where people would ask things like "Which of the Gallagher brothers writes the songs?". Answer; "Noel". 20p fine! "What's the name of that film with David Bowie in a Japanese prisoner of war camp?". Answer; "Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence". 20p! !. "Oh, b*ll*cks!".

And yes, even a swear box in an office could work and collecting tins in pubs, veggie restaurants and alternative book shops, bring in a certain amount of money.

STALLS

We have been doing stalls at gigs for a few months now and, in the run up to Christmas, we also took to the streets during late night shopping. Our council does not allow us collecting tins on the streets without a licence, however that does not prevent us from putting donation "tubs" on the stall.

There is no doubt that stalls do bring in a bit of money but also gets information out to the public enabling them to contribute either by donating or signing petitions.

Stalls have also brought us new recruits; another important factor in keeping the group going.

BENEFIT TAPES

Tapes are obviously the cheapest form of recorded music to produce and can be offered at an affordable price with a profit still being made by the sab group responsible for the project.

Either contact local bands to donate tracks or any established groups who are likely to be sympathetic, particularly those involved within the "punk" scene. We are lucky enough to have a "punk rock entrepreneur" within our midst who has many contacts within the punk movement and compiled and produced the tape for us.

These tapes are sold on stalls as well as by mail order and although profits are not huge, any amount helps.

From here, our ambitions have gone further and we now have a sympathetic local electronic musician who is currently compiling a CD in the more electronic style with contributions (both monetary and music) from people locally.

MERCHANDISE

Following from the success of selling the benefit tape, we have strived to offer a selection of merchandise to attract the punters to our stalls (as well as having rather splendid home made banners to exhibit our wares under).

With a photographer in our midst, with access to a darkroom, we produced a postcard of a sabbing scene (you can buy ready-made post-cards to print onto). These sold very well and we are now working on more ideas for photo shoots for future postcards!

Another good seller, amongst the usual array of HSA badges, pens and back-issues of Howl, were our "cosmic foxes". These were small Fimo, brightly coloured foxes and it seemed that not many people could resist them! We're planning another production line of them soon! And T-shirts are next on the agenda.

JUMBLE SALES & CAR BOOT SALES

Yes, we have resorted to such levels and what interesting experiences they have been too!

We managed to hire a hall for the day for just £10 and with a couple of months of collecting an interesting assortment of jumble, we opened the doors to a frenzy of barging OAPs. A couple of hours later, we shut the doors, collapsed and gorged ourselves on the remainder of the vegan cakes from our 'temporary' tea-room, while counting the pennies. To our surprise, the pennies mounted up (despite the haggling over pennies that we had endured!).

The remainder of the jumble was sorted with the best kept for car boot sales and the rest taken to animal friendly charity shops.

Car boot sales were equally as interesting with hoards of people descending on us before we'd even turned off the engine! We found that making it clearly an animal welfare fund raising stall, with leaflets and petitions clearly visible, also made it more profitable.

So there you go, just a few of our fund-raising ventures disclosed in an attempt to help other groups raise much needed cash.

Fund-raising isn't easy, especially when, like us, most members of the group work full time. However, you have to work hard at making time for it, because without it, we'd be unable to do the business every week.

We'd also like to point out that, despite our efforts, we are by no means loaded and the funds we have received from the HSA have made a huge difference to us. We've greatly appreciated them.

We hope this has been a help to someone and wish everybody the best of luck with all their life saving and fundraising efforts.

Plymouth Hunt Sabs.

If you'd like more ideas on fundraising the HSA does have a fundraising booklet available free of charge (just stick a couple of 20p stamps in for postage - yes, we do need funds too!)

VITAL VIDEO



The story of the fox cub buried alive by the Quorn hunt in October, once again highlights the importance of the video camera out sabbing. Firstly the presence of the camera stopped the hunt from killing the animal then and there, which gave sabs a chance to help the fox later. Secondly, it meant that sabs could prove that Dangar had said what he had said what he had, stopping legal action on that point; and thirdly it provided a newspaper with a proven story, complete with images.

USE YOUR VIDEO CAMERAS - BUT USE THEM WISELY!

As a Tactic

- Presence of a video camera can be used at dig-outs, which can make the hunt uneasy and less likely to digout. At a digout always film the area around the hole, looking for indications that badger's use it (check out the web page for signs to look out for).

- Film good sabbing! The H.S.A. is desperately short of good sabbing footage, probably because whilst people are sabbing well, they are too busy to film. Still if there are enough of you, try and get some on film.



Video still from the 'Copper' rescue which gained extensive national news coverage

As a Legal Tool

- Always film arrests - but don't give the tape to the police at once. Take it home, copy the relevant parts, and remove any footage that may incriminate sabs (e.g aggravated tresspass) *before* giving it to the police. Original tapes have a habit of going missing or wiping themselves once they go into a cop-shop.

- Film aggressive behaviour by the hunt; it may be useful later in the day if someone is hurt. Again, only pass *copies* to the police.

- Footage of hunts trespassing on railways, land where they are not allowed (particularly if own by a local authority or wildlife trust etc.) can be passed to the relevant authorities and get the hunt into trouble.

As a Media Tool

- Always mention in Press Releases, or when informing the Press Office, if you have video footage. It increases the chances of getting your story in a paper if you have visual, and audio, proof of the story and it means they can illustrate the piece. Its almost unheard of to get a story onto television news without video footage.

- If you have any vaguely interesting footage at the end of the day, make it into a press release. If the press has a 'quiet' day they will take almost anything to fill the gaps, while on a day when something more 'newsworthy' happens (Liz Hurley shows her breasts - again) don't be disappointed if even the best footage (huntsman force-feeding live fox cub to small children, for example) doesn't get used. Persevere!

As a Campaign Tool

- You'd be surprised what footage the Campaigns Officer can use (Oo-Err)! Apart from all of the above ideas also video riders jumping fences then check (whilst filming) fences for barbed wire etc (dangerous and potentially cruel to horses); undernourished hounds, injured hounds, hounds beginning mistreated; hunters being rude to the public, blocking roads, getting pissed at the meet etc. etc.

MONEY!!!

- After a story has broken, hint that money is always need to fund the fight against hunting and see if it stirs any generosity from Editors. Or in *Horse &Hound*'s case [*see News in Brief*], demand it!

- If all else fails film hunters (or even members of your group, or better yet the police) making an arse of themselves (ie. falling off, falling over, mooning etc.etc.) and send them to 'You've Been Framed' (FREEPOST You've been Framed). £250 every time!

If anyone has any other ideas write to the Letters Page and let others know!

It's a miracle anyone reads this crap

The COUNTRYSIDE WEAKLINGS



5P OFF 'TERRIERMAN' STYLE, MOULDY GREEN TIE WITH 20 COUPONS (PHOTOCOPIES NOT ACCEPTABLE)

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

Our regular feature written by Gooner Rob. Edited highlights of the most-definitely-not bestselling, 'It's coming straight at us - shoot it!' magazine, so you don't have to waste your money on such toss.

Part 3: LESSONS FROM THOSE WHO KNOW ABOUT THE COUNTRYSIDE

It has become clear that many of us have been going through life without the benefit of the words of wisdom from the magazine produced for the killers of Britain's wildlife - the Countryman's Weekly. Read on and regret your misconceived views of fieldsports.

On 14 11.97 Janet George (B.F.S.S. Press Officer) referred to shocking and grisly pictures allegedly showing fox "victims" - clearly we need to destroy these killers to protect their victims. But no says Janet, "if hunting is banned that will remove any incentive farmers have to tolerate foxes, and many more will be killed than at present". Confused? You soon will be.

Those antis keep confusing the issues by gathering scientific research. Professor Stephen Harris' research was discussed on 23.1.98 and was attacked by the knowledgeable B.F.S.S. journal; "...he concludes with the blindingly obvious statement that there is no evidence about the effect of a hunting ban on culling levels.. .this is of course true..." Er, what did Janet say on 14.11 about the result of a ban on the level of killing?

"Boffins say stop Foster, he's wrong!" blasted the 28.11.97 headline. New scientific evidence about hunting perhaps? Not quiet. "The report.. .has revealed that cats kill over 80% of wildlife and cause a great deal of animal suffering". Contributor "Gunner" understands the point that is being made (even if nobody else does). On 5.12.97 he says, "can you imagine how unattractive a Foster bill to ban hunting with cats would be?".

So, the real vermin are the cats. Oh, and badgers too. They kill hedgehogs according to John Winch, the Countryman Weekly's barrister on 29.8.97. John does not have much sympathy for badgers and makes the point on 26.12.97 that "The Badger Act 1973 made a pest into a protected animal, and diggers thereof into criminals to be hauled before the Courts."

Well at least the 'sportsmen' love their dogs we assume. A readers letter on 5.12.97 gives us a clue "The countryman, when his dog is failing does the proper thing and it is put down,"

No doubt John the barrister would approve of the hunting tale set out in the 3.10.97 edition describing a fox that was put to ground after a chase and terriers were put in to drag it out; "...with bated breath we all awaited our first sighting of the huge dog fox that had put up such a valiant fight. Instead the sight which greeted us was of a very small vixen who was one of the skinniest things I have ever seen. We were astounded and could not believe that this fox could possibly have stood its ground for so long against such game terriers..". The vixen was, of course, shot.

John the barrister could no doubt help us understand the logic behind the banning of the use of terriers on badgers because of cruelty while the use of terriers on foxes is still legal.

21ST CENTURY FOX
the only calendar for the year 2000!

This beautiful calendar has been jointly produced by the National Fox Welfare Society and The Fox Project. The A4 calendar features thirteen stunning, full colour, professional photos of foxes looking their beautiful best.



At only £4.95 (inc. p&p) these perfect gifts are selling fast - order your copies soon to avoid disappointment.

All profits from the calendar are split equally between the N.F.W.S. and the Fox Project (both voluntary organisations).

Make Cheques/PO's payable to 'N.F.W.S.' and send, with your details, to: N.F.W.S., 32 Bradfield Close, Rushden, Northants, NN10 0EP



Legal News

Legal Briefs

A judge who adjourned a trial for six months last summer because he had booked tickets for the men's semi-final of Wimbledon, had to then disqualify himself from another case - because he is a shooting enthusiast. Judge Patrick Hooton was due to hear an appeal by an anti-hunt protester against a conviction for aggravated trespass on land where a pheasant shoot was taking place. Just as the trial was about to start Judge Hooton told the court, "Before we start I have to declare an interest, I am a member of the Countryside Alliance. I support shooting. I have taken part in shooting and beating. It is most unfortunate because I only realised the nature of the issues when I saw the file this morning." Hooton has been a circuit judge since 1994, after being called to the bar in 1973. He was educated at Downside School in Somerset and then at Trinity College (home of the Trinity Foot Beagles), Cambridge.

The law lords have ruled that protesters have a legal right to assemble on public roadsides for peaceful demonstrations. At a case revolving around two Stonehenge demonstrators that had been convicted of "trespassory assembly", an offence introduced by the 1994 Criminal Justice & Public Order Act, a three-two majority of the law lords held that the convictions were wrong. The act introduced a power for chief constables to ban groups of 20 or more people which exceeded "the limits of the public's right of access". Before this case many courts had taken this to mean that the public had a right of access to public roads only for travelling!! (Don't stop for a chat anyone!)
Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor ruled; "the public highway is a public place which the public may enjoy for any reasonable purpose, providing the activity in question does not amount to a public nuisance and does not obstruct the highway.....*there is a public right of peaceful assembly*"
So there you go, sabs are perfectly entitled to mill around for 20 minutes at a time before making any form of decision!

Notes from the Countryside Alliance
Campaign for Hunting Newsletter, March '99:
"SABOTEURS.....*There are several new local groups, and the trend continues to take hunts and police by surprise.*
We do need accurate and prompt reporting of all saboteur incidents however trivial or repetitive they may seem, ... Unless we get the total picture we cannot convey the extent of the problem to the Animal Rights National Index (ARNI) at Scotland Yard.
The way to minimise the saboteur problem must be through the police and the implementation of the law. The basis of this is good understanding attained at pre-season meetings between hunts and the relevant Assistant Chief Constable (Ops). Also we need more hunt supporters who are prepared to make witness statements to the police, and if necessary attend court..... I appreciate the fear of retribution, but unless individuals are prepared to be positive, saboteur activity is likely to escalate."

LEGAL BASICS - ESSENTIAL READING FOR NEW SABS AND A USEFUL REMINDER TO NONCHALANT OLD HANDS...

Every so often it a good idea to run though some of the basics about the law and what to do if you are arrested (or how to avoid getting arrested in the first place. Since sabbing is going through a bit of a boom at the moment (well, relatively), and the HSA has got so many new members in recent months, I thought it would be a good idea to run this article written by The HSA Legal Officer, Rob, with the help of practising solicitors, in this issue of Howl.

ARRESTS

If you are an active sab or have attended any sort of demonstration it is likely that you will have been told what to do if you get arrested. You are probably sick of the phrase "say nothing - alright?", however it might be that there are things you are unsure of or don't understand. this may seem to be a very patronising article, however it is very important that everybody involved in direct action knows the score - making a mistake could cause you or someone else a load of problems.
Unfortunately you cannot tell before a sab or a demonstration exactly what is going to happen or how the police will react to the days events. You can, however, be prepared and by using your head help yourself and those around you. Before you even arrive in the area make sure you have the number of a good, reliable solicitor; you may think you know what to do but the ability to contact someone who is fully trained and knows what the police can and cannot do is very useful. Also if you are part of a group make sure everybody (especially new sabs) know what to do.
On the whole, communication with the police usually means stress, so try to keep confrontations to a minimum. Try to keep physically ahead of officers present, this will allow you valuable time to sab unhindered. On very rare occasions the old bill might actually try and help, but most of the time they are after your details, they will try and take photographs or ask to search you. Conversations may also allow them the chance to lay down the law e.g "don't stray from footpaths" and "do not disrupt the hunt", and as a result they will consider this an official warning which could cause problems later if arrests are made.
It is well worth remembering that if the police cannot catch you they cannot arrest you. It is not resisting arrest to run away from police officers - belting them whilst they try to handcuff you is though!. If you have been pinpointed or singled out, swap clothes with someone who is dressed differently. It may be a good idea to leave the area or at least keep a low profile. If the police pull out all the stops and fly in a helicopter with heat seeking equipment try and hide under pylons, bridges or underground bunkers It may sound bizarre but sabs have eluded cops in this way.
Throughout sabs and demos try to stick with people you know, so that if you get nicked the rest of your group can be informed and arrangements can be made about meeting up with you upon your release from police custody.
If you see someone being arrested try to take photos or video footage of what is going on; this can greatly help a sabs defence if the case goes to court. Also try to note down information such as the time, who was present, the numbers of arresting officers and a brief description of events *as soon as possible* after the arrest has been made.

AT THE COP SHOP

As part of your preparation, it might be a good Idea to get clued up on your rights whilst in police custody. Should the police 'forget' or delay any thing you are entitled to, prior knowledge will help you remind them. For example you are entitled to adequate food and drink, medical attention and access to toilets and washing facilities. Make sure you exercise your rights and make a note if the police make things difficult.
Phone your solicitor immediately and let someone know you have been arrested; they may allow you to phone someone yourself but this is not always the case.
Police stations are designed to be intimidating and being locked in a cell can be scary, but try to keep calm.

IF YOU ARE INTERVIEWED

Hopefully you will have been told by your solicitor what to say in an interview. It is considered to say something along the lines of (for an aggravated trespass charge):

"I have not done anything illegal, I was not aware that I was trespassing or interfering with the hunt and so I do not wish to make a statement or answer any question".

Solicitors reckon that this is worth saying if the case goes to court. They consider a 'reasonable' response more favourable than saying nothing at all. GET THIS BIT RIGHT THOUGH! Agree with your solicitor beforehand exactly what to say, but if in doubt say nothing at all.
From then on say nothing. Answer 'no comment' to every single question they ask. Police officers will use various techniques to get you talking, don't forget the golden rule and just keep quiet. PC Nasty may try and scare or pressure you into answering questions, Sgt. Nice might mention that he/she is sympathetic (and daughter is veggie etc) and if you just let them know what went on you'll be allowed to go. One trick is to chat to you beforehand about your job or football etc. in the hope that you will relax and chat on even when the tape is recording. Being persistent or just asking questions that seem irrelevant are other tricks applied to try and trip you up so that you spill the beans. Attempting to explain yourself may seem like an option if you think, "well I haven't done anything wrong so I'll just explain what I was doing"; DON'T! You may inadvertently implicate someone else as well as drop yourself in it. Save the talking for the court case - if there is one.

Legal News

CAUTIONS

Only in certain circumstances should you ever consider accepting a caution. If you have a number of charges outstanding it may be a good idea to accept one, also if you are leaving the country (and intend to return again) it may cause you problems to go whilst you are halfway through a case. Once again it is vital to consult your solicitor for advice. However appealing it might seem to accept a caution and get the whole business wrapped up, it is still admitting guilt. If you get arrested again a caution will be brought up, and will definitely cause you extra strife.

Cautioning people for an offence will allow the police to arrest you, and others, again in future for the same thing. If the case is instead taken to court, and the sab is found not guilty (or the charges are dropped during the proceedings) the police may think twice about trying the same thing again.

In order to keep tabs on sab activity it is likely that the police will take your fingerprints, DNA sample (mouth swab or hair) and photograph.

FINGERPRINTS ETC

Regardless of whether you have committed an offence or not, fingerprints, photographs and DNA samples will be taken and put on the polices 'extremist' files along with far right and religious cult groups.

Whilst police officers can use force to take fingerprints and DNA samples, people in custody have got away with covering their faces or looking away when having a photo taken, but this gives cops the right hump and it is possible to get done for obstruction for this. Its up to you whether you risk it or not.

Getting arrested for some things however, can prove a point. Sabs get nicked for offences such as cruelty to animals (yeah right!), talking on mobile phones or waiting outside a hunts kennels. You might feel that being threatened with arrest for something as ridiculous as those mentioned above is worth pursuing. If for example you get warned about carrying a whip you can either a) give in and lose the whip but never be able to use one again or b) allow yourself to be arrested hoping that charges will be dropped (or that the arresting officers will be told off and you'll be allowed to go), and that the police will realise that a whip is not an offensive weapon and allow you to carry one.
Ask yourself whether getting nicked will be worthwhile or a futile waste of time. Consider if the police are being out of order or if there are grounds for arrests to be made. Of course, a lot depends on the police force of the area; things you can get away with in Surrey are viewed as hang-able offences in places like Cumbria or the Isle of Wight.

WHAT TO DO WHEN RELEASED

The advice of the current legal officer is: stuff your face, get rip-roaringly drunk, avoid trouble/getting in fights/run in's with policemen, listen to Conflict/Celine Dion records or Ice-T, watch 'Riot Police: The Video', phone your mum and say that sabbing went really well and that everything is OK, and prepare for the next Saturday!

This article is only meant to be a basic guideline and not a hard and fast bible for every arrest. Its purpose is to stress the importance of being prepared. Please contact the office if you have any questions; there is a legal tactics booklet available which is free to active sabs (send a couple of 20p stamps for postage) and we have a useful list of sab-friendly solicitors. We can also arrange a legal skills day/legal talk for your group so that everyone who is an active sab knows the score.



Smile! It's not the end of the world after all. Photo: © Derek McCulloch



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.

BARRY HORNE
VC2141
HMP Full Sutton
York Y04 1PS
(Sentenced to a total of 18 years for arson. Currently recovering following a 68 day hunger strike against vivisection.)

TONY HUMPHRIES
AP7965
HMP Swaleside
Brabazon Rd
Eastchurch
Sheerness
Kent ME12 4DZ
(Sentenced to 7 years for conspiracy to cause explosions.)

RODRIGO LOPEZ
EC5409
HMP Birmingham
Winston Green Rd,
Birmingham
B18 4AS
(Sentenced to 12 months for 'violent disorder' during a protest at Hillgrove Farm in April last year. All letters are a ppreciated, but Spanish is his native language.)

JUSTIN SAMUEL
Gevangenis Hasselt,
Martelarenlaan,
42 - 35000 Hasselt,
BELGIUM
(Being held while facing extradition proceedings to the USA in connection with raids on fur farms in Wisconsin in which 3,600 mink were released.)

ARILD ERIKSEN
Bregen Kretsfrengsel avd.
Ostery Postboks 43,
N-5726 Vaksdal,
NORWAY
(Norway's 1st AR prisoners; Arild was sentenced to 8 months imprisonment. He was convicted of destruction by fire of two meat-trucks.)

AARON RUDRA
PB 43,
5726 Vaksadal,
Norway
(Sentenced to 10 months for the same arson attack as Arild and for other DFF (Norwegian ALF) actions.)

REGULAR READERS OF HOWL MAY REMEMBER AN ARTICLE WRITTEN T PARK, BY OUR INTREPID PRESS OFFICER AT THE TIME, PAUL. THIS YEAR THE SWEATY MASSES OF BEEF-FED FLESH, AND WRITE A FOLLOW-UP TO BRACE YOURSELVES FOR THE....

RETURN O



Warning: Some of the monsters pictured in this article may not be suitable for viewing by those of a nervous disposition. From left to right: handsome, big-boy, Noel Cahill, Keith Colbert & Richard Burge

Photos: © Gweedo

BACKGROUND TO THE MARCH: THE EMPLOYMENT SCAM & DODGY ARITHMETIC

When the Countryside Alliance, in the guise of James Boughey, Joint Master of the South Dorset Hunt, announced that they were going to march on the Labour Party Conference I laughed out loud. Surely they couldn't be serious? They were... .and after local sabs announced to local media that they would be opposing the March, things quickly escalated - the focus of the march was now to be employment. The Alliance weren't going to swamp Bournemouth with their vast numbers. Oh, no! On the 28th September, only those who might lose their jobs if hunting were banned were allowed to come. This was because if they all came, too much disruption would occur. Or so the story goes....It seemed strange how, with just 12 days to go, the Alliance had to appeal in a national publication for more people to attend.

Horse & Hound, always eager to put their foot in it, announced on 16th September that "organisers want a further 4,000 people whose livelihoods would be affected by a ban to join the 12,000 already taking part". But, hang on a minute, surely the Alliance must have let all those people whose jobs would be affected know about the march? Surely they must have kept a record of the people who they claimed would lose a job? Or were they making it all up?. Judging by the piece in Dog & Donkey, oops! I mean Horse & Hound, the focus was no longer those who would lose their jobs, but those "whose livelihood would be affected" If you consider the amount of time spent hunting by some of its sicker enthusiasts, then I imagine it would have an effect on their livelihood - they would have the time to go to work more often!!!

Suffice to say, we did not see 16,000 people who would lose their jobs if a ban came in. The Alliance even admitted it by claiming that the 16,000 who allegedly turned up "represented" the number whose jobs would supposedly go. There were hunters present from as far afield as Northern Ireland, yet the bulk of the March wasn't made up of those who would lose their jobs simply because the figure they quoted was vastly exaggerated.

The pro-hunt lobby have never been noted for their intelligence (as a quick glance at Huntsman's Balls in back issues of HOWL will show) but over the years their arithmetic has been really poor. Strange manipulation of figures has always gone on, as the following example will show.

In an issue of 'The News' (Portsmouth's local paper) dated Monday 23rd March 1992, Robin Mackenzie a spokesman for the then British Field Sports Society (whose name has since changed to the Countryside Alliance) stated that in Hampshire 669 people were employed full time and 250 part time by 15 packs of hounds. The same report went on to quote Michael Porter, then joint Master of the Hampshire Hunt who stated that 5 full time staff relied upon the hunt for work. Peter Humphrey, joint Master of the (notorious) Hursley Hambledon Hunt stated that they employed 2.

If you remove these 7 from the total, that means that the remaining 13 packs would have to employ over 50 full time staff EACH. The Beagle packs in the area would have a hard time attracting a field of 50, let alone raising the finance to pay more than one person. Without going into too much detail it's safe to say that the figures JUST DON'T ADD UP.

The strange arithmetic employed by hunters (remember, they count in couples and braces - one being "half a couple" or "half a brace ") would lead me to believe that they cannot be believed when they say that 16,000 people are employed by hunting. This opinion is supported by the fact that an independent survey undertaken by Neil Ward of the University of Newcastle says that less than 1,900 jobs are at stake.

THE MARCHERS

The people (loosest sense of the term) on the march were a mixture of hunt supporters - marching under their respective hunt banners - interspersed with a few hunt staff and those involved in the darker side of bloodsports. Amongst the infamous characters parading their faces (this was no beauty competition) were Geoff & Keith Colbert (New Forest Terriermen & recent Howl cover stars brandishing a club, axe and spade between them!) Tony Smart (South & West Wilts Terrierman, Ytene Minkhunt Master & Huntsman), Noel Cahill (Surrey Union thug [see Letters - Ed]), Robin Cooper (New Forest & Ytene thug, now Wilton terrierman), Nick Stevens (Portman terrierman & convicted thug) Sophie Hill (everyone's favourite C.A. spy) and Mark "Basher" Bycroft (Old Surrey Burstow & West Kent huntsman convicted of assaulting a sab). They were accompanied by Coursing Clubs complete with banners reading "Lurcher Pride", the Fell & Moorland Working Terrier Club and other organisations who promote the persecution of wildlife.

FASCISTS

"Fascistas es assassinos" is something you will see written on walls on the continent - "Fascists are murderers". This would explain what they've got in common with the hunting fraternity. The British National Party gave out leaflets at the first Countryside March, hoping to build on the bigoted values that seem commonplace amongst hunters. A leaked memo from their party headquarters in July stated "..we have many friends and allies among supporters of field sports..". It came as no surprise, then, that a "national mobilisation" of the B.N.P. and other fascist groups was announced for the day of the Bournemouth March. It seems they were going to defend the "British way of life". Rather than try and distance themselves from the fascists with a pro-active response, the Countryside Alliance limply told the Observer "We cannot stop them". Doesn't sound to me as if they were bothered about really trying.

The statement about "friends and allies" will be of no surprise to anyone - it is what we have always known. Racial comments are commonplace in the hunting field, and last year an anti- hunting monitor in the New Forest was subjected to racial abuse, called "Black Bastard" by a terrierman.

WO YEARS AGO AFTER THE ORGINAL 'COUNTRYSIDE RALLY' IN HYDE IT WAS THE TURN OF HSA RESEARCH OFFICER NATHAN, TO BRAVE PAUL'S HORROR STORY "THE INVASION OF THE THREE-EYED BUMPKINS"...

OF THE THREE-EYED BUMPKINS!







Despite the media interest, the fascist threat to turn up and attack anti-hunt activists didn't materialise in the form of an organised group, although there may well have been members of fascist organisations present. What struck me was the flying of the George's Cross flag and a Confederate flag next to the Union Jack in the middle of the march.



Photo © Nathan

The sight of these three emblems seen together is common place at fascist gatherings, the Confederate flag being a favourite of the Ku Klux Klan and the George's Cross adopted by adherents of British Nationalism. Draw your own conclusions.

COUNTER DEMONSTRATION

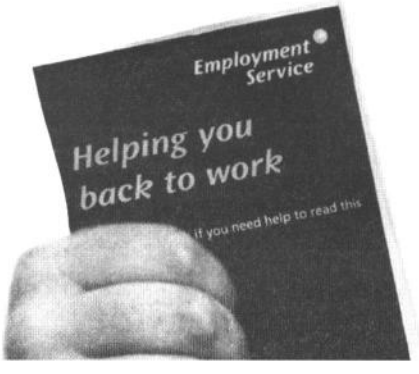
Following discussions with people on the internet, the idea of a counter demonstration went one step further with the plan being to occupy a space on the marchers route and effectively stop the march. With support from groups such as Reclaim The Streets local activists decided to hold a "Carnival Against Bloodsports". Unfortunately the 'Carnival' didn't exactly happen - probably because most of those who might have come had to go to work!!

POLICE ATTITUDE

The counter demonstration was made up of a small yet vocal group of dedicated anti-hunt activists - mainly sabs - and attracted more attention than the horde who had come to threaten Tony Blair. Police surveillance was not directed at those who had threatened that "Tony Blair will be assassinated" (Bicester & Whaddon Chase FH supporter, quoted in The Sunday Citizen 12.09.99). Even the risk posed by a national mobilisation of fascists didn't warrant a change in attitude. The focus of police attention was, as per usual, sabs but you get used to these things.

As much as I wanted to join in the chants and heckles, I decided to perch on top of a bus stop and video the assembled inbreeds - believe me this is what I'd call a real video nasty!!

The best chant of the day had to be, "Unemployed, unemployed, unemployed.." to the tune of "'Ere we go, 'ere we go, 'ere we go". They seemed to take it fairly well but then, as I stated before, very few of those assembled are going to lose their jobs..



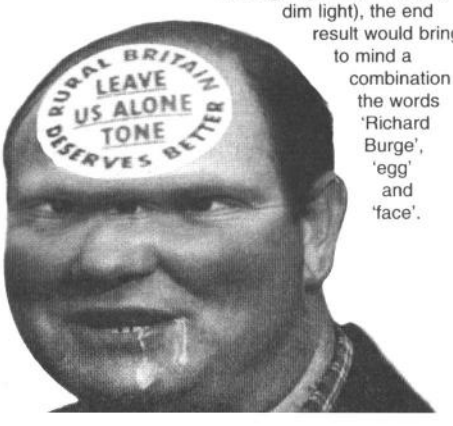
HOW MUCH IMPACT DID THEY HAVE?

The marchers directed more of their energies towards hollering, shouting and blowing horns at sabs than they did towards the government, not realising that sticking two fingers up to someone who is videoing is just what we want to video them doing. They really should learn to keep their tempers.

In some respects the police attitude could be seen as positive, as it shows that the Countryside Alliance are not seen as any kind of threat. This view was compounded when Tony announced in the Conference centre that despite the demonstration, "there has never been a safer day for the British fox".

The local TV coverage they got certainly didn't do them any favours. To the uninitiated - most of the general public - hollering at the sabs & in the general direction of the Conference was hardly likely to bring home the point of rural jobs; more likely to raise ridicule and the question "Why isn't that looney locked up'?" !!! Especially when accompanied by footage of a grown (and boy do we mean grown!) man with stickers all over his head.

So, after all the engineering that went on, all the money spent, the publicity (most of which presented hunting in general in a fairly dim light), the end result would bring to mind a combination of the words 'Richard Burge', 'egg' and 'face'.



VERMIN PATROL

CRUELTY CASES IN THE COURTS

wildlife
VERMIN

William McGregor (33) from Kinross, Fife, was accused of torturing a fox while it was trapped in its den by using terriers equipped with radio location collars. McGregor denied torturing and terrifying a captive fox by using two terrier dogs to prevent it escaping from its earth. During the trial on 26/3/99, the owner of the wood told the court the accused had no permission to hunt or kill foxes on his land. When police searched McGregor's house they found a diary - the entry for 2/1/99 read: "Went to Dalgety Bay to where there are some fox holes. There was one with a dog fox. Birky's dog tried for about one hour but it was too fat. Tried Cougar. He did very well for an hour and then let the fox go." Police also found two terriers suffering from injuries. Although the Sheriff was not persuaded that McGregor *had* blocked the escape holes of the earth, he was fined £250 for neglecting his two dogs by failing to feed them properly or provide them with prompt veterinary care.

John Walter Hemus (56) of Hoole Lane, Chester appeared before Chester magistrates on 26/5/99 charged with causing unnecessary suffering to a caged fox by not giving it food and water for up to two weeks. The fox was kept in a 2m by 2m cage and was emaciated,with no body fat and its muscles wasted. The RSPCA also found dead and decomposed rabbits and hares in a bin, the body of a Canadian goose in a bin bag and a dead rabbit and three dead mammals in the hedge. The fox was taken to a nearby animal hospital where happily it has since recovered. In court Hemus said he liked shooting as a sport and was regularly invited by farmers to shot vermin on their land. Magistrates found him guilty and sentenced him to only 180 community service with £250 costs. Hemus also admitted possessing a rifle, shotgun and ammunition without a licence.

Darren Wilkinson of Bells Lane End, Hartshorne was jailed for two months on 6/3/99, and disqualified from keeping a dog for 10 years after a court ruled he had used two dogs, one of which was found with horrific injuries, for hunting badgers. An RSPCA officer and a policewoman discovered the Jack Russell terriers at Wilkinson's home. The most severely hurt dog had most of its snout missing - the other had bite wounds on its ears, cheek and leg. Wilkinson admitted causing unnecessary suffering by failing to get medical treatment for the animal. (He claimed to have 'found' the dog while out walking and taken it home). Wilkinson's live-in girlfriend Angela Yates (24) was also given a one-year conditional discharge and disqualified from keeping a dog for three years. The terriers have since made a full recovery although the worst hurt had to have its face surgically reconstructed.

William Cahill of Shady Grove, Hilton admitted causing damage to a badger sett was fined £1,700 and ordered to pay £75 costs by Derby magistrates on 27/6/98. Cahill ordered a bulldozer to clear away trees and bushes which destroyed 60 metres of tunnels within the sett which could have housed more than 15 badgers.

Andrew Williams was sentenced to 100 hours community service and fined £400 for digging out a badger set near Newbury. Williams was arrested in March 1998 with a badger cub and four dogs in the boot of his car.

Two Derbyshire men found guilty of digging for a badger have been jailed for two months. **Lee Robert Burton** (25) of Tower Road, Hartshorne and **Richard Alan Atkins** (31) of Elmsleigh Green, Swadlincote were found guilty on 23/3/99 of digging for a badger after a five-day trial at Coalville magistrates. Three dogs with scratches on their faces and the warm body of a badger was found at the scene. When apprehended Burton threatened police with a spade he was carrying.When the dogs were taken back to their house all the dogs immediately set upon a concrete badger in the front garden. Both men were sentenced to two months in prison. All their equipment was destroyed and both men were disqualified from owning a dog for three years. The three dogs have been re-homed.

bird
VERMIN

A Dutchman who tried to buy 16 peregrine falcons to smuggle out of Scotland has been fined £2,000. **Wilhelmus Enzlin** (53) of Jan van Eychgracht 84, 5645 Tj Eindhoven, Holland also had his car impounded and £4,000 in cash seized after he was arrested in an operation involving Scottish and Dutch specialists in wildlife crime.

Kevin Gray (35) of Scobell Street, Tottington near Bury was convicted of offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act after diary extracts written by his friend **Jan Frederick Ross** (44) of Bury Road,Tottington, who at an earlier hearing had admitted nine offences and was found to be in possession of 304 wild birds eggs, described how he had been involved in the taking of eggs from sites around the country. Magistrates fined Ross £5,000 with £600 costs and Gray £1,200 with £450 costs. Both now face separate proceedings for intentionally disturbing protected birds after being stopped in Scotland.

A fish farmer who illegally shot three cormorants and then stored their bodies in a freezer was only discovered when a policeman working with a television film crew called at his premises on a completely different matter. When they called at **Nigel Early**'s Bulldog Fish Farm, at Snapper, near Barnstaple they asked Early's mother if it was alright to examine the freezers at the farm. In one of them, along with cuts of venison, were the corpses of three cormorants. Early (40) pleaded guilty to three charges of intentionally killing wild birds and one of possessing a shotgun capable of being used to kill a wild bird and was fined £200, given a conditional discharge for six months and ordered to pay £100 costs

Albert Henthorn (59) of Chapel Row, Broad Lane, Rochdale claimed he spent years collecting birds eggs so he could show them to his grandchildren and that he was concerned about the missing countryside!!! On 4/5/99 Henthorn admitted taking and possessing nearly 300 birds eggs and having equipment to take the eggs. He was fined £600 with £45 costs.

equine
VERMIN

Donald Hall of Northumberland Street, Alnmouth, Northumberland who runs the Beaches restaurant in Alnmouth was banned from keeping horses for letting his horse become emaciated and very lame in one foot. He was fined £3,000 with costs of £4,851. A similar charge against Hall's estranged **wife Susan** who lives next door to him in was withdrawn because she had agreed to a five-year voluntary ban on keeping animals.

Thomas Moulding (31) of Dalton Avenue, Lynemouth, Northumberland, was fined £600 and banned from keeping animals for life after allowing his horse to die from neglect. The animal was found covered with sores and lice on waste ground. It was suffering from dehydration, malnutrition, diarrhoea and a high temperature. and died four days after being rescued.

farm
VERMIN

Farmer and rare pig breeder **David Watkiss** (58) of Bouquet House, Prestwood, Buckinghamshire has been jailed for three months after being found guilty of 41 charges of animal cruelty. The sentence, which he unsuccessfully appealed against, related to starving pigs, failing to dispose of carcasses, causing distress, and neglecting a cow (See Howl 67). In a separate case he was also convicted of causing unnecessary suffering to six Dartmoor ponies and was ordered to carry out 100-hours community service with costs of £2,000. On appeal the £2,000 costs were quashed and the community service order replaced with a month's imprisonment to run concurrently with the three month sentence. Watkiss, a founder of the now disbanded Rare Breeds Animal Conservation Trust, also received a life ban on keeping all animals, except his present dog. His business partners in the Trust, **James Cozens** (43) of Princes Risborough, and **Jeremy Smith** (36) of Monks Risborough,were each fined £900 and ordered to pay £1,500 in costs for the pony case; for their involvement in the other case they were banned from keeping all animals, except cats and dogs, for ten years and fined £1,450 and £1,200 respectively after being found guilty of 28 offences. Each were ordered to pay £5,000 in costs. After Cozens was refused an appeal he was ordered to pay a further £3,000 in costs.

A farmer already serving a 15-year ban from keeping animals has been jailed for two months for neglect causing suffering to 15 lambs. **William Jones** (60) of Hafod y Bryn, Bwlchwyn Wrexham, will also serve a two-month suspended sentence for the offences committed on land in Hurleston. Jones' partner **Elaine Smith** (48) also of Hafod y Bryn, was also sentenced to 60 hours community service and banned from keeping animals for two years. Jones, who has five previous cruelty convictions, has been in jail for twice for causing unnecessary suffering to farm animals in 1993 & 1996.

A farmer who starved a flock of sheep and failed to treat a sick goat was banned from keeping both types of animal for two years. **Esmee Ferguson** (49) of Botley Road, Curdridge, Hants faces losing her 133 strong flock following the sentence imposed by Fareham magistrates, so the ban was suspended pending an appeal lodged after the hearing. Ferguson had admitted three further charges of failing to dispose of animal carcasses, including a calf and four sheep one charge of failing to tag the calf that died. Ferguson has a previous conviction for causing unnecessary suffering to sheep by failing to treat sheep scab.

Chickens were left to starve on a allotment because the owners could "not afford to feed the birds as well as their children". **Kevin Brown** (33) and **his wife Ann,** (32) of Montgomery Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells both admitted 17 offences of causing unnecessary suffering by failing to provide proper care. They had bought 600 'end of lay' birds from a farmer as a money-making project. When the RSPCA went to the allotment they counted 535 chickens. There was no food and a number were dead. Others were later destroyed; 463 survived.

A company that runs a mink farm at Crowhill Farm near Ringwood has been fined £5,000 with £15,000 costs after admitting 15 charges of cruelty and breaches of animal welfare rules. The case against the Hampshire farm, where animal rights activists released 6,000 mink in 1998 is the first of its kind in Britain. But all the charges against the farmer **Terence Smith** (73) whose farm trades under the name of TT Smith (Mink) Ltd were dropped. Some of the cages had faeces piled up underneath them, some were missing nesting boxes and nipple feeders were broken. Blocked drains were overflowing with maggots and faeces and a number of the mink were injured. Some of the animals were so badly hurt that bones were protruding from infected wounds, many of which were inflicted by other mink. Some were in such a bad condition that they had to be put down.This is the second conviction in connection with this mink farm [see Howl 68 for more details].

domestic VERMIN

John Parker (34) was convicted on 5/3/99 of two charges of causing unnecessary suffering to two bull terriers by entering them for illegal dog fights. He and his wife Clare (34) of Kexby Lane, Kexby, near Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, were also convicted of failing to treat a whippet with a broken leg. Parker was sentenced to four months in jail and banned from keeping dogs. **Clare Parker** was ordered to do 80 hours community service, pay £300 costs and banned from keeping dogs for five years.

Marian Aitken, who runs the Rhosneigr breeding kennels for Skye terriers, at Aish Road, Stoke Gabriel, under the name of Marian Crook was ordered to pay £700 of the council's £1,500 claim for costs after magistrates took just 15 minutes to reach their decision after hearing concerns about the mental state of the dogs, as well as the way they were kept and cared for.

A three-year-old greyhound rescued by an RSPCA inspector, had been "systematically starved" and was only just alive when found. The owner **Stephen Bond** (20) of Bitton Park Road, Teignmouth was banned from keeping any animal for 25 years after the chairman of Teignbridge magistrates told him they were "quite appalled" at photographs of the dog when he was found. Bond admitted causing unnecessary suffering to the dog and was also was ordered to pay £344.61 costs at the rate of £5 a week. The dog is was now in good health.

update VERMIN

Steven Woodnut (32) of Athol Road, Hendon, Sunderland who was convicted of starving his two dogs has walked out of prison after his sentence was reduced by a month. Woodnut was jailed for six months after two dogs kept in his backyard were found so starved they had fed on the carcasses of his two other dogs. His wife, Kim Woodnut (38) also of Athol Road was jailed for five months by Sunderland magistrates after admitting two charges of causing two dogs unnecessary suffering. Woodnut appealed against the sentence at Durham Crown Court on 22/2/99, having already completed half his time in jail and the judge reduced Woodnut's sentence to five months. He did not lift Woodnut's life ban on keeping animals.

Following an appeal hearing on 5/3/99 at Chelmsford Crown Court a judge reduced the sentence on former police dog trainer **Kenneth Boorman** (46) to three months instead of four. Boorman was convicted of six charges of cruelty while at the Essex Police Dog Section head - quarters [see Hoel 67], for ordering police handlers to chastise dogs by hanging them over fences and kicking them. **Andrew White** (38) who was given a four month sentence after being convicted of seven cruelty offences had his appeal rejected by the court but his sentence was reduced to 28 days in jail, suspended for a year.

Robert McKee (24) of West View, Haslingden, Lancashire admitted causing unnecessary suffering after leaving his bull mastiff on its own in a flat, feeding it only once every three days. By the time the animal was rescued she was only half her normal weight, suffering dehydration and had some kidney failure.

Anthony Edwards (38) and **Susan Edwards** (37) both of Mount Pleasant, Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent were banned for keeping dogs for life after a RSPCA inspector visited the house and found the dog, which they had had for 6 months. It was so thin, its ribs and spine could be seen through its coat. As well as the life ban each of them was fined £100 with £202.25 costs.

When her landlord entered the former flat of **Jean Westren** (47), now of St James House, St James Place, Ilfracombe, he found two dead cats and one very thin ginger cat, that Westren had abandoned Westren told magistrates I have got nothing to say. I have pleaded guilty

David Sung (38) of 24F Randolph Crescent, Little Venice, London admitted causing criminal damage to a cat after his neighbour found a cat, on his doorstep in a pool of blood. A second charge against him of causing unnecessary suffering was dropped. During an operation on the cat, the vet found an air rifle pellet. Neighbours then placed posters on trees in the area asking for any information on the shooting of the cat and it was discovered that Sung was renowned for taking pot shots at pigeons from his balcony. Sung's air rifle matched the pellets found in the cat. Magistrates fined him £400 and ordered him to pay £200 costs. He was also ordered to pay £1,004 vet fees and £760 compensation. Sung is also a keen huntsman and has shot squirrels, hares and pigeons, and says he will carry on shooting.

Victoria Smith (21) of Patterson Road, Cirencester starved her two pet dogs for six weeks until they were little more than skin and bone. Smith pleaded guilty to two charges of causing unnecessary suffering to animals by failing to provide the necessary care and attention. She was banned from keeping pets for five years and fined £200. Both dogs are now back to full weight and have been re-homed.

A Plymouth woman who starved a dog and caused horrific suffering to another has been banned from keeping pets for 20 years. **Lorraine Bostick** (38) of Sussex Place, The Hoe, was also put on a year's probation, and ordered to pay £250 costs The dogs had been found in Bosticks former home in Shrewsbury Avenue, Whitleigh. Sadly one of the dogs died; however the other has now recovered.

A top dog breeder, and former president of the Skye Terrier Club, has been barred by a South Devon council from holding a licence to run a breeding kennels. Two dogs were cooked to death after being locked in a car for three hours on a baking hot day. **Diana Percy** (33) a Glasgow University student, left her mother, Lady Bute's dogs locked in her car as she wandered around the Royal Horticultural Gardens while the temperature soared inside the car. A vet said the dogs were subjected to cruelty of "a hideous nature". Percy admitted two charges of causing unnecessary suffering.

A man who kicked a dog to death and then attacked its owners has been jailed for four years. **Dean Hicks** (21) from Sheffield admitted one charge of cruelty to animals and one of having a dangerous dog in a public place. He also admitted four charges of assault. Hicks, who had taken heroin and alcohol, attacked a border collie and then set upon its owners.

An internationally renowned dog breeder, **Phyllis Colgan** (51) of Winster, Derbyshire was found guilty of 16 counts of allowing unnecessary suffering to her pedigree Newfoundland dogs. Ten of the animals died of heat exhaustion after being transported in the back of a hired box van. Colgan, who has bred dogs for 30 years, was given an absolute discharge and ordered to pay £2,000 costs. Sixteen dogs had been loaded into cages in the lorry while another 16 were loaded into Colgan's camper van. Colgan and her son-in-law **Duncan Elliott** (34) of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, who was driving the hired lorry, were moving the dogs to new kennels in Derbyshire. When they stopped at services on the M1 seven dogs collapsed and died at the scene. Three others were taken to a local vet where one died and two had to be put down. Elliott was convicted of 16 counts of conveying animals in a manner likely to cause unnecessary suffering. He was also given an absolute discharge and ordered to pay £160 court costs.

David McLaren (21) from Failsworth, Manchester tortured and killed three dogs after being thrown out of a party he had gate crashed.He returned to the house drunk and started smashing furniture before killing 16 goldfish. McLaren then attacked the three pet terriers. He was sentenced to 12 months in jail.

Vivienne Marie Holdstock (40) and her husband **Ronald John Holdstock** (45) both of Harefield Avenue, Worthing forced their show dogs (Afghan hounds) to spend hours in a tiny cage. Both guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to each of their four dogs. Vivienne Holdstock was ordered to pay £400 compensation and her husband was ordered to pay £250 compensation. They were both disqualified from keeping any animal for 10 years.

Michael Raftery (32) of Holland Street, Tunstall, drowned or attempted to drown a cat and six kittens in a bucket of water, before dumping the animals, some dead, others dying, behind a scrapyard where they lay undiscovered there for around 20 hours. The court heard he killed the cats after his former wife **Fay Jones** (28) of McKinley Street, Tunstall, contacted him because she was unable to cope with them. Jones was banned from keeping any animal for life and ordered to pay £280 costs for her part in the cruelty case.

A court martial heard that soldier Nigel **Horsley** (23) had drunk 20 pints in a three-day binge when he snatched the hamster from it's cage and ordered his room mate to iron it. He refused, unplugged the iron and moved it away from Horsley who put the pet's head in his mouth and boasted he had once bitten off the head of a pigeon. The laughing Horsley then held the hamster down on the ironing board, placing the hot underside of the iron on the back of its head for approximately three seconds before placing the hamster in the microwave oven and switching it on. Soldiers heard him say: "I've put it in for 30 seconds to warm it up." When he opened the oven the hamster was dead. Horsley apologised the next day and then went AWOL. A member of the 29 Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps at South Cerney, near Cirencester, Horsley was demoted from Lance Corporal to Private and given a 140 day sentence after admitting disgraceful conduct of a cruel kind.

A semi-comatose puppy found in the back garden of **Karen Sullivan**'s (34) house in Tan-y-coed, Clydach was a victim of hypothermia; despite a vet working for two hours trying to save the 10-week-old pup, by immersing it in a bath of warm water and applying artificial respiration, it suffered brain damage and had to be humanely destroyed. Sullivan who kept the puppy in a wooden shed in her garden was fined £100 and ordered to pay £200 costs.

Christine Challinor (36) of Cedar Avenue, Newcastle Under Lyme, pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to a dog after it was discovered in an emaciated condition in her back yard. The dog was attached to his kennel by a light chain and in a vet's opinion, he had not received adequate care and attention or feeding over a period of about four weeks. Magistrates fined Challinor £50 and ordered her to pay £150 towards costs and was banned from keeping an animal for five years.

A former Kennel Club judge and exhibitor has been jailed for the second time in two years after admitting causing unnecessary suffering to five dogs. **Jennifer Bosson** (52) also known as Jennifer Garbutt of South Hanningfield, Essex, was sentenced to four months imprisonment for the five counts of cruelty and an additional two months for breaching a previous disqualification order. Bosson was previously convicted of cruelty to animals in February 1997. That conviction resulted in a four-month jail term and a lifetime ban on having custody of any animal.

A dog which had been left to starve had become so hungry it tried to eat the metal door on a fridge and had been gnawing at tins in a bid to find food. When police officers raided a flat they found the remains of the dog which had been dead for over two months. The owner, **Gordon Palmer** (42) of Poplar Crescent, Dunston, Gateshead was jailed for three months at Gateshead magistrates and banned from keeping any pet for the rest of his life. He had left the flat to move to Springfield Road, Winlaton, after getting divorced.

Magistrates found **Deborah Exley** (37) of Steps Meadow, Wardle, Rochdale guilty in her absence of unnecessary suffering to four puppies by performing operations on them. Tail docking had been performed for cosmetic reasons to make the puppies sell easier.

Michelle Martin (23) of Midland Street, Accrington was banned from keeping animals for 10 years, ordered to pay £250 costs and given a 12 month conditional discharge after RSPCA inspectors found her emaciated and extremely nervous 12-week-old puppy on a lino floor in the kitchen which was covered with excrement and urine. There was no electricity in the house making it cold and damp.

The founder of a pet sanctuary sent to prison for cruelty to animals has failed in an appeal against her sentence. **Ann Stott** (57) who set up the Crewe Animal Rescue charity, was jailed by magistrates for two months after 140 animal carcasses were found at her home and nearby properties in Edleston Road and Alton Road, Crewe. She had admitted 24 charges of causing unnecessary cruelty to animals.

A couple have been banned from keeping animals for 10 years because of the appaling state of their house. **Leslie** and **Dawn Meyrick** both from Caerphilly, South Wales must give up their dog, cat, 19 rabbits and 11 guinea pigs after the RSPCA reported them to the magistrates after finding their kitchen covered in rubbish. They were convicted of 28 charges of causing unnecessary suffering to their pets and given three years probation.

Two men have been banned from owning a pet shop for two years following an RSPCA investigation in which inspectors rescued more than 700 animals. Hyndburn magistrates banned **Kelvin Kirby** (46) and **Neil Hacking** both from Hermitage Street, Rishton, Lancashire from running the Creature Comforts shop in Rishton. They each pleaded guilty to 14 charges of causing unnecessary suffering to animals. They were also ordered to do 240 hours community service each with £500 costs. Hundreds of rats, rabbits, hamsters and a chinchilla were found crammed into dirty cages in an upstairs room without food or water. Animals were later found in similar squalid conditions in six sheds at an allotment in Holt Street in the town. A total of 1,500 animals were found in the two raids and more than 700 were taken away.

Michael Prosser (25), a trainee mechanic of High Street, Newchapel, Newcastle Under Lyme, was banned from keeping a dog for a total of 10 years and fined £100 for negligently keeping a dog which had suffered serious head injuries. He also had to pay £150 costs. When questioned about the swelling on the dogs head Prosser said the dog had got jammed in the corner of the garage, and he had pulled it out by its legs to avoid being bitten. He assumed something fell on the dog's head.

Sheila Barnes (70), of Station Road, Oakham, bred whippets for nearly 60 years before she fell ill and left the animals caged in "absolutely appaling conditions" Melton magistrates heard on 27/4/99. RSPCA officers found 30 whippets crammed into a kitchen, 11 in a garden pen, three in another pen and 14 wandering loose in the garden. All 58 dogs were seized from the house by the RSPCA and police. Some were in cages too small for them and there was insufficient food and water. Barnes was ordered to pay £1,000 within 28 days towards costs and banned for life from keeping dogs.

Jonathan Hall (31) of Hyde Road, Gorton, Manchester, denied causing unnecessary suffering to animals in his pet shop. However, following an eight day trail at Manchester magistrates he was convicted of eight offences and sentenced to 100 hours community service with 12 months probation and ordered to pay £2,250 costs. He was also banned from running a pet shop for 15 years. Hall's **wife Marilyn** was also convicted of the charges and was given a conditional discharge and was banned from keeping a pet shop for seven years.

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

Do Or Die

Voices from the Ecological Resistance



Do or Die No. 8 is 350 A5 pages crammed with reports and analysis from the world-wide ecological frontlines. From tribal resistance against Indonesia to the festive attack on the financial heart of London on June 18th these are the voices, not of outsiders, journalists, or academics, but those involved in the struggles themselves. In these times of concrete alienation these voices shine hope from movements that aims to defend nature, create revolutions and re-wild humanity

We no longer take subscriptions but for a copy of Do or Die Number 8 send a cheque or postal order made payable to 'Do or Die' for £5.00 UK or £6.00 elsewhere (including postage to:
Do or Die, c/o Prior House, 6 Tilbury Place, Brighton, East Sussex BN2 2GY, UK
E-mail: doordtp@yahoo.co.uk

Back issues have sold out but are on the web at: http://www.eco-action.org/dod/

advertisement

Committee news

Who's who on the Committee:

Treasurer - Norma	Membership - Sean
Tactics - Joe	Press - Dawn
Group Mailout - Shaun	Research - Nathan
Campaigns - Roe	Stalls - Iris
Salesgoods - Tony	Contacts - Steve
Legal - Rob	New Groups - Clive

Others working off committee:

Foxcubs - Sam	Website - Paul G
Office - Drew & Co	Telephone - John
Howl - Roe (temp)	
Fringe Bloodsports - Paul T	

What's going on then?

This is what we're doing...*and these bits are how you can help us!.*

Membership & Campaigns

Our 'Copper the fox' leaflet has been a huge success both on stalls and as an insert in several magazines. Together with the lapsed member mailing, this has seen a sizeable increase in membership. A further print run of the leaflet has been arranged as stocks of the two runs are almost out. *Want to help us get more members? Contact the office for supplies of leaflets; prices are shown opposite.*

Tactics

We are working on a tactics video, and will be busy collecting footage this season. Our web-site contains an 'online' tactics book from which info can easily be accessed or a printed copy can still be obtained from NW Sabs via PO Box 155, Manchester, M60 1FT by sending a cheque for £3.50 to cover costs. *Got any good video footage? Send a copy to the office, please!*

Research

Most of the summer was spent researching mink hunts - and it paid off (see page 10). Also sorting out hunt files as they are being returned to the office - if your group still has some please return them a.s.a.p.. Want us to look up anything specific? *Have you got any info that might be of interest? Contact the office!*

Salesgoods

The new catalogue is out! And there's even newer designs out too.. (pg. 2) Salesgoods details are also on the website.

Legal

New legal tactics booklet has been finalised and is available online via the website. Hard copies are also be available - contact office.

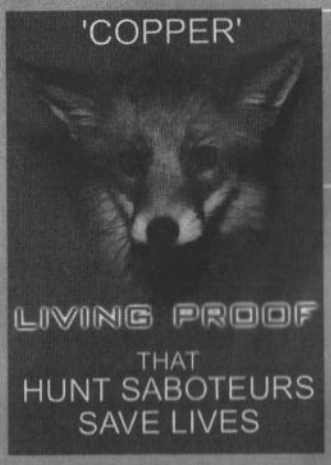
Stalls/Fundraising

A stall was held at Vegan Festival which did very well, and we will again be present at the Christmas Without Cruelty fayre. *Know of an event where the HSA should have a stall? Let us know!*

Press and Website

We've had a lot of interest following the Blair announcement, with a lot of it coming from the Nationals. Interviews done with Radio 5 and Sky News on Glorious 12th as well as more local press. Also ongoing projects with B.B.C Online, a couple of Channel 4 programmes and also a national paper.Press releases are going up within 24 hours of release, which is a lot more than can be said for the Countryside Alliance site, who don't seem to have had a 'Good News Week' since the end of July! *Please keep the Press Officer informed of incidents - arrests, assaults, threats, rescues, whatever! Press No. 0961 113084*

HSA PROMOTIONALS



Copper the fox is still going strong and so is our leaflet! The famous fox has been immortalised in a superb HSA full colour A5 leaflet which describes his rescue, treatment and the vet's findings. And has lovely piccies of him too!

Please help us to publicise Copper's story as the hunting debate heats up again, by ordering and giving out as many of these FREE leaflets as you possibly can. ***More than 60,000 already gone out!***

NEW 'Copper' leaflet ..... **FREE!** (+p&p)

The HSA also has a range of leaflets which are 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 are: 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!) Unfortunately, as the range of these leaflets is so large we can only have each leaflet printed in relatively small numbers which keeps the cost of them high - that's why it is necessary for us to charge a nominal amount for them.

Price per 1000 'And How to Stop It' leaflets ..... £10 plus p+p **NOW HALF PRICE!**

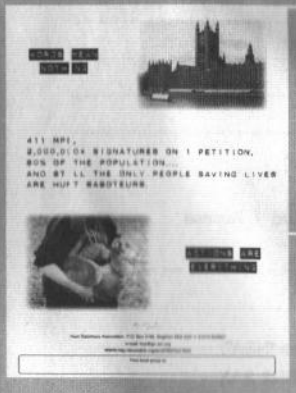








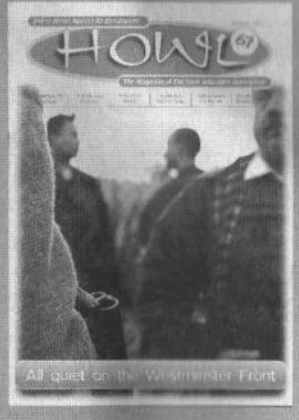




The HSA also has the first of a series of posters available. (Size A2)

Featuring the advert that appeared on the back of Howl 66 ("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 - 5 posters .... 20p each (+p&p) **NEW LOW PRICE!**
Price for 5+ posters .... **FREE!** (+p&p)





BACK ISSUES OF HOWL

There are still some back issues of Howl 67 & 68 available from the office.

Individual back issues ..... 50p each **NEW LOW PRICE!!**
Bulk orders (over 10 copies)....**FREE!** (+p&p)

ORDERING MORE COPIES OF THE LATEST HOWL.

You can also order more copies of this Howl to give to friends etc for the price of £1.50 per copy (+p&p).

YOU CAN ALSO AFFILIATE TO THE HSA FOR £30 FOR 4 ISSUES OF HOWL. AFFILIATED GROUPS WILL RECEIVE 10 COPIES OF EACH HOWL IN THE COURSE OF THEIR SUBSCRIPTION (The cost of affiliation includes postage)

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

POSTAGE AND PACKING
To keep most of the leaflets etc. free we would ask you to make a donation to at least cover postage.
To give you some idea of the size of donations needed, 1 Howl costs 40p to send as do 5 posters.
250 leaflets cost approx. £3.50, 500 leaflets £4.00 and 1000 leaflets £6.00.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

A.L.F. Press Office
BM 4400, London, WC1N 3XX

A.L.F. Supporters Group
publishes ALFSG Newsletter
BM116O, London, WC1N 3XX

Animal Rights Coalition
publishes ARC News
PO 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

Countryside Protection Group
Oakliegh House, Oakleigh Court, Newbury, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4HZ

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*

The Fox Project
The Old Chapel, Bradford St, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1XY

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
PO Box 66, Stevenage, Herts, SG1 2TR

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

Save the Shamrock Monkeys
PO Box 3090, Brighton BN1 3QU

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

Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty
Publishes Regular Newsletter Update
PO Box 381, Chetenham, Glos GL50 1YN. 0121 632 6460
e-mail:info@shac.u-net.com www.welcome.to/shac

HOW YOU CAN HELP END BLOODSPORTS

The Hunt 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 HOWL to leave in places 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 SW1A 0AA

HSA MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

PHOTOCOPIES WELCOME

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 H.S.A.'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 ☆

MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
1ST P HUTCHINSON	1ST F FORD	1ST B CHAPMAN	1ST P FENN	1ST A LAIRD
2ND T SMITH	2ND M WISHART	2ND MRS ANDREWS	2ND M WISHART	2ND D LANGLEY
3RD B DICKINSON	3RD J BICKNELL	3RD D DUNBAR	3RD H HEADY	3RD E MILES

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.

Dear Mr Blair

The fox shown overleaf died in the foxhunting season after Michael Foster's Bill failed to become law, and before you made your current pledge to ban hunting with hounds.

Please, this time round, do everything in your power to make sure legislation to ban this abhorrent practice is passed and our wildlife is protected from the 'sportsmen' who get their kicks from killing.

Yours sincerely

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Published by The Hunt Saboteurs Association, PO Box 2786, Brighton BN2 2AX

PLEASE AFFIX STAMP HERE

Rt Hon Tony Blair MP

10 Downing St

London

SW1A 2AA

Dear Mr Blair

The animal shown disembowelled by hounds is a hare, one of this country's rarest and most timid mammals. It's not just foxes that are subjected to the cruelty of the chase and kill, and to most people in the countryside hunting is *not* acceptable, whatever the quarry.

Please, this time round, do everything in your power to make sure legislation to ban this abhorrent practice is passed and our wildlife is protected from the 'sportsmen' who get their kicks from killing.

Yours sincerely

Name.....

Address.....

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Published by The Hunt Saboteurs Association, PO Box 2786, Brighton BN2 2AX

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10 Downing St

London

SW1A 2AA

Dear

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Don't let another Bill fail. Please do everything in your power to make sure legislation to ban this abhorrent practice is passed and our wildlife is protected from the 'sportsmen' who get their kicks from killing.

Yours sincerely

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Published by The Hunt Saboteurs Association, PO Box 2786, Brighton BN2 2AX

PLEASE AFFIX STAMP HERE

.....MP

House of Commons

London

SW1A 0AA

PLEASE CUT OUT THESE POSTCARDS AND SEND THEM TO YOUR LOCAL MP AND TONY BLAIR

Dear

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PLEASE AFFIX STAMP HERE

.....MP

House of Commons

London

SW1A 0AA

PLEASE CUT OUT THESE POSTCARDS AND SEND THEM TO YOUR LOCAL MP AND TONY BLAIR





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