Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

Spring
2001

HOWL 73

The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association



POST CARD

Just to let you know, we're all having a wonderful time, weather's fab, made lots of new friends. Won't be coming back...

former
The Wye College
Beagle hunt
Wye College
Kent
England





Both Killed

10 years after the death of Mike
be lost before we get a total ban

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

MIKE HILL & TOM WORBY

Killed

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

YOU WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN



HOWL 73

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

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

EDITORIAL(S)

Hello everyone - welcome to Howl number 73, prepared for you by two brand new editors. Having two editors might seem a bit strange but has firm advantages: all typos, bad grammar and litigious statements can be disowned and blamed on the other editor for instance, whereas anything that receives readers' commendation and applause can be claimed as your own! And while on the subject, if you're not happy with the quality or quantity in this edition of Howl, or would like to see your ideas or letters in print, then please don't be shy about contacting us at the usual address. Please remember also that the views expressed in the pages of Howl are not necessarily those of the editors or the HSA, and the same goes for sloppy writing!

Not wanting to bore anyone who actually bothers to read the editors welcome, I shall swiftly add that it's been a frantic season, with a full calendar of tragedies and victories. As a result, there's lots of news, and as always we've been spoilt for choice as to which comments from the misguided ranks of the Countryside Alliance should go into Huntsman's Balls.

A big thank you to everyone who's sent stuff in and/or contributed to the production of Howl, to my co-editor, and of course to all those who continue to risk life and limb protecting our wildlife.

Fur Elise

It's all my fault. Any offence caused, any mis spellingg, any un pc comments blame me. Everything you've heard about what an arse getting Howl sorted is true - blah, blah, blah.
Next time we'll know what we have to do. and it will probably take us just as long.

Articles - if you want to write them we'll put them in. Photos - we need them. Jokes, crosswords, cartoons, moral guidance are likewise all welcome. The more we get, the more selective we can be and the less crap we'll put in ourselves.

That's it. A man of few words. Stay out of trouble - it's a damp covert in the middle of nowhere out there.

Matt

TONY MEAD

1947-2001

I first met Tony about 5 years ago at a local League Against Cruel Sports meeting and he was introduced to me because he wanted to get involved in direct action rather than just campaigning. I was told that he was a member of the local Badger Group and I remember thinking this could be very useful to the local sabs.

I think everyone's enduring memory of Tony will be his way with words! He never went in for fancy repartee, preferring a more down to earth approach. He joined the local Colchester group and was an active member from then on. He never did anything by halves. Once he had made up his mind to get involved, then he did so one hundred percent! Not only was he happy to go out sabbing as often as possible, but would be there to help with fund raising or trips out to local country fairs to gather photos and information. Before joining the group, photography was one of Tony's passions and this was also to prove useful not only to the local sab group, but also the HSA itself.

Despite coming into the movement rather later in life than most people, Tony never shied away from getting out of the van and into the countryside. He was always first out and wouldn't get back in until he was well and truly exhausted. His knowledge of badger setts and their locations was always a huge asset whilst out with the hunt and the police soon learned to respect his knowledge and take notice of him. Tony wore his second hat for badgers and many an evening would be tramping round the countryside in deepest Essex, checking setts and looking out for fresh badger activity. He would always be armed with a camera and documented many of the seedier aspects of 'country ways'.

It was during the start of the badger cull in 1999 that Tony went for his first visit to Gloucestershire where he met up with some of the local sabs. He fell in love with the Gloucestershire countryside and made a sudden decision to move down there. This came as a shock to the Essex group and we knew we would be loosing a dedicated sab, but also knew he would continue his activities wherever he went.

Tony also served on the HSA Committee for about 3 years, first as Salesgoods Officer and later as New Groups. His time at Salesgoods showed him once again to be a dedicated and reliable man. He never missed a Committee meeting and had great enthusiasm for introducing new ideas to make our salesgoods competitive and attractive. Some of the most successful stalls we had during his time in the job, was down to Tony's hard work and interest in the post.

Sadly, whilst living in Gloucester, Tony was taken ill and in the early part of 2000 underwent major surgery to remove a cancerous tumour from his oesophagus. As a result of this, his family insisted he move back to Essex where his grit and determination to get well led him to give several more months of his time and effort to the HSA. Whilst he was unable to run about across fields, he still made a contribution by taking a computer course and learning to use the Internet. He hoped to combine his duties as New Groups Officer with being able to do research on the net. What none of us realised was that when he had his operation, Tony had only been given three months to live. His courage gave him 12 months and it was at Christmas that things took a turn for the worse. Tony died peacefully in a hospice in Colchester on Sunday 11th February, surrounded by members of his family.



For all of us who knew him, it has been a sad time. Having tragically lost his wife six years ago to a brain tumour, he made the HSA his second family. He had many friends within sabbing, who respected him for his hard work and commitment and loved him for his down to earth humour and generous spirit. In the short time he was with us, he made his mark and the world is a little duller for losing one of its great characters!

NEWS IN BRIEF

An Egyptian man fell to his death on Monday, after a sheep he was raising for sacrificial slaughter butted him off the rooftop where it was kept. The sheep was being fattened for the festival of Eid al-Adha. Police said on Tuesday that Waheeb Hamoudah had been feeding the sheep, which was tethered on the roof top of a three-storey building in Alexandria, when it pushed him off.
Ananova, December 2000

A farmer went to shoot pheasant - and ended up blasting himself in the leg. The 19-year-old was at Broomhill, Peters Marland, near Torrington when he lost his footing in icy conditions. His shotgun went off and paramedics had to treat wounds to his lower left leg and ankle before Devon air ambulance took him to Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital for further treatment.

A farmer in Kenya has been shot dead with an arrow fired by his friend while they were hunting. The two men were hunting for a wild pig that invaded their farm in the Pungu area of Ngombeni district. Kenyan newspaper The Nation named the victim as 35-year-old Mwalim Mohamed Mwasanga.
Ananova, Nov 2000

An accident off the Newfoundland shore Oct. 8 claimed the life of GARY TROAKE, 40, a leading sealer and articulate advocate for Canadian seal hunters. His boat capsized in rough seas while he and his niece's husband, Roger Blake, were bringing in fishing nets. His father, Jack is a former director of the Canadian Sealers Association. Also surviving are his wife, Suzanne Carter; a daughter, Sarah, and two older children by a previous marriage.

POLICE were called when animal-lovers clashed with fox-hunters at Hardwicke. Two women walking their dogs confronted huntsmen and women on horseback in fields near Longney just after midday on Wednesday. "These incidents are always confusing, but the protesters have been accused of shouting abuse and assault," said Sergeant Dino Madders.
The CITIZEN, November 3 2000

Hunter Foro Bator, 38, was killed by a bear he had been chasing as he returned to his camp in Homorod, Romania
Mirror, November 11, 2000

MARCH 18 - NOT IN THEIR DIARY!

Clearly absent from the Countryside Alliance rally in March will be Eddie Stratton, drummer from One Minute Silence who, as quoted by the NME, said:

"*The Countryside Alliance!? Are they the people who say that fox-hunting is part of our cultural tradition? Is that them? They can f*ck off and die! Go on! F*ck right off, you elitist piece of sh*t! F*ck off! F*ck your way of life, mate! The Countryside Alliance can suck my f*cking d*ck!*"

NME, Nov 2000

Something tells me that the columnist and writer Julie Burchill will NOT be joining the apocraphal trillions either judging by the following:

"*I'd have a lot more respect for even nasty people if they just admitted why they do what they do - because they want to. If only a bloke from the Countryside Alliance would stand up just once on Newsnight and say, "Well, Jeremy, the thing is I get the most enormous stiffy when I see that damned attractive little fox bitch being torn apart, and what's wrong with that, what?" But, instead, they wheel out a load of cant about the fox enjoying it (just like rapists!) and it being necessary for the countryside, otherwise all the trees would fall down..... they're sadists, and there's no two ways about it. Why not come out and admit it?*"

Julie Burchill, Saturday October 7, 2000 The Guardian

Other non-attendees include the **Farm Workers' Union**, who has refused to join the bumpkin's picnic on March 18 despite pleas from pro-hunting trade unionists that thousands of jobs will be lost if foxhunting is banned.

In a letter to Richard Burge, head of the Countryside Alliance, the **Transport and General Workers Union** said: "*One of the main objectives of your organisation is to oppose moves to end hunting with dogs and to open up the countryside. These are issues with which we have fundamental disagreements with your organisation*." !
Telegraph, Jan 2001

WYE BOTHER?

To say that it hasn't been a good season for the Wye beagle pack would amount to a cruel understatement. First they lost their hunting ground, then the honour of their traditional title, and finally their entire beagle pack!

The luck of the former Wye College Beagles started to expire last year following the merger with University of London's Imperial College. The new establishment banned them from hunting on the college estate land and then publicly denied having any association with them, forcing them to drop their name from Wye College Beagles to Wye Beagles.

And as if that wasn't enough, in early January 2001 their entire beagle pack disappeared - literally overnight! The ALF claimed responsibility for the disappearance and in a written statement said: "*As the Government procrastinates on their pledge to ban hunting and hunt sabs continue to risk their lives to protect our wildlife the Animal Liberation Front is taking matters into its own hands. All the dogs will be placed in safe, loving homes.*"

DAFT AS A BRUSH!



Following the disappearance of the Wye beagle pack we continue to be amused by comments and literature pouring forth from the hunting community. The following extract was pulled from a Telegraph article in which the author makes the case for why the rehomed beagles won't be happy with their new owners:

"*A beagle is even more set in its ways than the average canine. Deprived of the pack hierarchy, it will find solace in harrying the cat, and grumpily dismembering the small beasts of the garden.*"
Telegraph Jan 7, 2001

Correct me if I'm mistaken but, the author here is clearly talking about how your typical Countryside Alliance subscriber shall be behaving in the event of a ban on hunting!
And they accuse us of anthropomorphism! (attributing human characteristics to animals - dimmy)

MELVIN BRAGG GIVES FREEBIES...

....TO TRY & WIN VOTES IN THE COMMONS

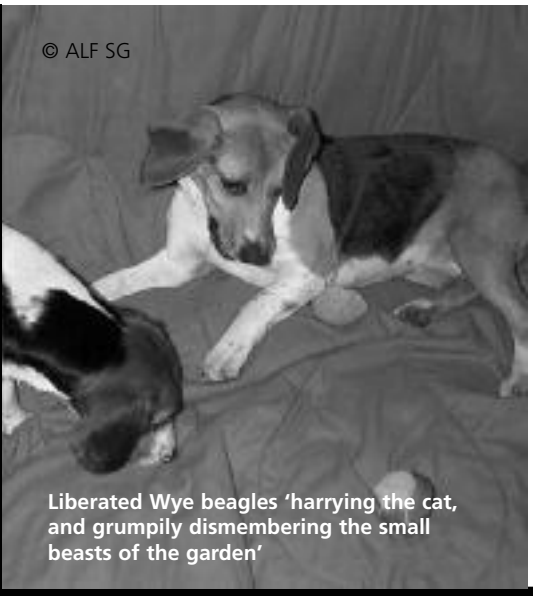
slime-ball presenter and novelist Melvin Bragg has joined forces with the Countryside Alliance offering them the benefit of his yarn-spinning and PR talents. In a last minute appeal to win hearts and minds among the Commons and Lords, Melvin ensured that each House member received one his free videos containing a moving little story that would melt the stone in all our hearts. Set in the harsh reality of England's Lakeland, we follow the life of a hard-working hill-billy, whose livelihood, ability to feed his family, and go to the pub in the evenings, depends almost entirely on being able to terrify and kill foxes with dogs!
Reported by PA News, Jan 10, 2001

Acquisition executives from Walt Disney were alleged to be hot on Melvin's trail in a bid to obtain film rights for the story. On closer inspection however they decided the film was too schmaltzy even for them!

MISSING POLICE FILES PREVENT

PROSECUTION OF HUNT SUPPORTERS

Police files involving alleged assaults on hunt saboteurs in Horsham have mysteriously disappeared. The files contain information about the Crawley and Horsham fox hunt held in Shipley on January 9, 1999, when it was alleged that hunt supporters attacked a man and his wife, at one point in full view of police officers.



Liberated Wye beagles 'harrying the cat, and grumpily dismembering the small beasts of the garden'

The man who was attacked reported the incident to the police. PC Stagg, who was allocated the case, was supposed to keep the man informed as to whether the CPS would proceed with a prosecution. The police officer failed to do this, and by July it was too late to prosecute as the six-month time limit, in which prosecutions must be brought, had expired. PC Stagg claimed that he sent the crime files to the CPS before March of that year, but when the Police Complaints Authority launched an investigation they found no trace of the files.

PC Stagg got off with a written warning as there was no sufficient evidence to prove – beyond reasonable doubt - that there was a neglect of duty or he had disposed of the files.
Reported in West Sussex County Times, December 2000.

MEANWHILE DOWN AT BEAUFORT FOX FARM.....

Prince Charles's favourite hunt was officially cautioned over the dumping of dead animals close to fox dens. Trading standards officials issued the warning to the Royal Beaufort Hunt following allegations it reared cubs simply to chase and kill them. Footage from an undercover investigation showed an employee feeding animals in 15 man-made dens!
A hidden camera filmed chambers being built for foxes to live and breed in and showed dead chickens and pheasants being left outside.

Thomas Burton, the hunt's official terrierman, was allegedly filmed shovelling offal on to stone slabs. The footage also shows a dead sheep used to entice foxes out on to open ground.
EXPRESS November 11, 2000

In defence of itself the hunt said that it was feeding the ORPHANED foxes at the request of members of the public!!!
Some things are just too macabre for comment.....

NEWS IN BRIEF

An illegal case of snaring which left a tame fox mutilated has prompted the director of a Tonbridge-based animal charity to pledge £1000 for information about the trapper. Trevor Williams, who runs the Fox Project in Bradford Street, was called out on Friday to pick up Jules the Fox, after it had been almost cut in half by a home-made wire trap.
Tonbridge Courier, September 1, 2000

Research by scientist at Stirling University has revealed that the dramatic decline in partridges - 86 per cent in 25 years - is owing to Heterakis Gallinarum, a potentially fatal parasite transferred by pheasants introduced for shooting.
Telegraph, December 2000

The illegal shooting of hen harriers threatens to wipe out the rare bird in England, the RSPB warned.
Telegraph, December 3, 2000
(Further examples of 'country sports' conserving our fauna and flora for posterity!)

A New Zealand hunter was recovering in hospital yesterday after he was shot by his own dog. Kelly Russell was tracking wild pigs with his six-year-old mongrel Stinky when the accident happened near Tokoroa on North Island. Having cornered one of his prey, Mt Russell put down his loaded shotgun - but Stinky jumped on it and the ensuing commotion blasted a shot through the 30-year-old's foot.
Daily Post, December 13, 2000

A wild deer trapped and locked inside a small cage at a zoo in Turkey beat its head against the bars until it died.
Several sources, November 2000

Five orphaned fox cubs will soon be ready to return to the wild after a sad start to their lives. The cubs were taken in by Mike Taylor of West Farleigh after being saved by the Tonbridge-based Fox Project in the Sevenoaks area. All of the cubs were rescued after their mothers were killed. Mt Taylor is hand-rearing the cubs and plans to release in about two weeks' time. The animal lover has acres of land that the foxes can roam free on once they are released.
KM EXTRA, September 1, 2000

NEWS IN BRIEF

A man accidentally killed his son with a bow and arrow during a hunting trip. Frederick Searfoss (28) died when dad Gerry heard him in the undergrowth and mistook him for a deer near North Webster, Indiana.
Manchester Metro October 31, 2000

A MINK farmer is being forced to kill his stock and close his business because of the ban on fur farming, according to a report in the Telegraph. Michael Cobbledick (yes that is his real name) is demanding compensation of £6 million for having to close down his farm at Bradworthy, north Devon. His is one of 13 farms that will have to close. And there was us believing all the propaganda about mink farmers killing thousands of animals every year for their fur!

Animal killers have poisoned up to nine foxes before hacking off the dead animals' tails. The barbarians, who struck in Cleethorpes, were today condemned by the RSPCA amid fears a trade in foxes' 'brushes' could be re-emerging. "It is a horrific situation and really hard to understand why people do it," said RSPCA inspector John Jenkins.
"Because they had no injuries, the finger points to the possibility of poisoning with the tails removed as proof of death."
This is Grimsby and North East Lincs December 15, 2000

A maniac with a knife slashed the throats of two horses in separate attacks. Police are searching for clues to the identity of the sick attacker who left the animals for dead.
Daily Record, December 21, 2000

The international organisation that grants wishes for children with life threatening diseases has said that it will not approve any wishes that involve hunting. Zachary Martin, 16, a Californian boy with bone cancer, wrote to the Make a Wish Foundation requesting a hunting trip to Africa with Ted Nugent, rock singer and keen hunter, but his request was declined.
Telegraph, December 19 2000.
My heart bleeds...

Police say that 70 partridges worth £1,400 and stolen from a farm in Sandhurst, Gloucestershire, could be dangerous if eaten because they were on antibiotics.
Telegraph, October 22, 2000

FARMERS SAY BADGER-CULL IS A WASTE OF MONEY

Thousands of badgers continue to be trapped and killed at the hands of MAFF yobs in the controversial experiment which aims to establish a link between badgers and the spread of bovine TB. However, in an unlikely twist to the saga MAFF have been losing grass roots support among farmers, who say that the costs of the operations are just too much and with too little result.

The price on the head of each animal is working out at £7000, which is the annual wage of some smaller farmers. After two years of the Krebs trial there is still no substantial evidence to support MAFF's thesis.



RSPCA MOVES TO BLOCK INFILTRATION BY BLOOD JUNKIES

The RSPCA began legal moves in December to try to stop pro-hunt campaigners "infiltrating" the charity in what it sees as an attempt to change its policy over blood sports. Mr Justice Lightman is being asked to give legal backing, under the laws governing charities, to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' exclusion of around 600 potential new members who, it says, appear to be members of the pro-hunt Countryside Animal Welfare Group. The RSPCA is seeking guidance from the High Court to clarify its membership rules after deciding it needed to block the influx of pro-hunting campaigners.
Western Morning News, December 16, 2001

'GROUSE MOORS DESTROYED BY WORST BEETLE ATTACK IN 60 YEARS'.

Telegraph, October 29, 2000



If the above headline was in any other national I might have thought there was genuine concern for the decline in grouse and the bright purple moors that are turning to shades of brown, which the report went on to describe. But no, the inference I believe, was that this wretched beetle was responsible for the shockingly low turnout of grouse at this years' air-borne blood-bath, known affectionately as 'The Glorious Twelfth', and that measures to exterminate the creature should be employed as quickly as possible!

HARES SPLIT FROM COURSING CLUB!

The ALF have claimed responsibility for the release of over 30 hares from a Coursing club in Co Limerick, Ireland. It disrupted the 30/31st Dec planned two day coursing event. Jack O Rourke Club secretary said over 30 hares were stolen. The raid was reported to newspapers by the liberators.

This is the second hare release over the last few months. Edenderry Coursing club, Co Westmeath was the target of the Irish ALF on 22nd October when wire was cut and over 30 hares were released from an enclosure overnight. ALF was spray-painted on the main gates to the club.

4 BEAGLE PUPS TAKEN FROM HUNT DOG BREEDER

Police are investigating the theft of four beagle puppies from a West country hunting dog breeder. The disappearance of the dogs from Misterton, near Crewkerne in Somerset, has come to light following the theft by the ALF of an entire pack of 55 hunting beagles from kennels at Wye in Kent.

Crewkerne breeders Martin & Marie Hutchinson say their 16-week-old pups were being bred for the Park Hunt-where a hare is chased by beagles and huntsmen on foot. But the Hutchinsons believe the dogs were stolen by thieves hoping to re-sell them as pets, rather than by saboteurs. Despite being worth £300 to £400 each, the puppies have been rendered "valueless" for resale because they have been permanently identified with an ear tattoo.
Reported in Western Morning News, January 9, 2001

BITING THE BALLOT

Hunt supporters were taking their proverbial teddies to bed again (probably mutilated) in November, after more failed attempts to infiltrate the National Trust and overturn the ban on stag hunting on trust land. On this occasion, they were hoping to get Tory boy Nicholas Soames elected to the trust's ruling council, but alas, Mr Soames was one of the big under-achievers in the ballot of 2.7 million members.
Several nationals, November 2000

A big thumbs up to the National Trust and its members.

COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE POSTER CAMPAIGN

The Countryside Alliance is launching a poster campaign in the lead up to its so called civil rights demonstration taking place on March 18. The posters will use images of child abuse, drug crime, homelessness and violence against the elderly, and carry the slogan: "*Do our politicians think foxes are more important than people?*"

Whether our politicians think foxes are more important than people one can only speculate, but the Countryside Alliance definitely think so. It is not homelessness, child abuse or drug crime that is bringing them to London in March, but foxes, and what they see as their right to kill them for a day's fun!

But the march is not the only weapon in their arsenal for what seems to be for them a holy war. They also have their own national broadsheet whose pages are almost entirely devoted to foxes! It is nigh-on mission impossible to come away from a browse through The Daily Telegraph unscathed by the spate of articles, columns and inches promoting blood sports and decrying any bill that dares to threaten them. Just recently the Telegraph ran their own 'naming and shaming' campaign, following the crass trend set by the News of the World. It wasn't to single out paedophiles though, but what the late Auberon Waugh called the 'Tory Stinkers', who had voted for a ban on hunting or abstained in the past and, were in danger of doing so again.

One can only deduce therefore, that the preservation of a decadent activity practised by a minority, combined with the right to inflict suffering on British wildlife, is far more important than the rights of those they are urging everyone else to focus on.

If the Countryside Alliance believes there are more important issues than fox-hunting, then why don't they throw away their pro-hunting placards and do something about them?



NEWS IN BRIEF.

Edinburgh Zoo has been attacked for killing four young endangered animals. The Zoo gave lethal injections to four Arabian antelopes after they failed to find new homes for them.
November 2000

In December the Telegraph reported that 'gangs of poachers are causing chaos in the countryside'. Their source was poll of 4,000 gamekeepers!

Fishermen have demanded a seal cull because they believe the seals are to blame for Britain's dwindling cod stocks, and not over-fishing by industrial trawlers!
Telegraph, October 2000

RSPCA officers found it difficult to describe the horror they found at Elliot House, the Abroath estate home of Dutch businessman, Johannes Hellinga. Nearly 150 calves kept in out-houses in the grounds were either dead or dying. Those still living were suffering from severe malnutrition. Others had their throats cut and many of the carcasses were decomposing. Mr Hellinga, who was previously found guilty at Abroath Sheriff Court, fled the country before sentencing. An RSPCA officer who witnessed the horror made recommendations for a lengthy stay in jail if Hellinga ever sets foot on these shores again.
Daily Record, December 2000

An animal rights campaigner was jailed recently for wrecking the European Angling Championships by leaping into the water and scaring off the fish. The woman snapped the rod of Luxembourg team member Bernard Telen before diving into the River Trent at Nottingham and trying to grab other anglers' lines.
Daily Star, December 20, 2000
Go get em girl!

The TRADITIONAL display of game hanging over a country store's shopfront
has fallen foul of new food hygiene regulations.
Telegraph, December 2, 2000

Police say that 70 partridges worth £1,400 and stolen from a farm in Sandhurst, Gloucestershire, could be dangerous if eaten because they were on antibiotics.
Telegraph, October 22, 2000

Anarchy in the countryside

THE first half of the hunting season has been dominated by yet another series of chaotic incidents involving death and injury to many animals - in addition to the intended 'quarry' - plus serious risks to human safety. These reports come into direct conflict with claims made by Countryside Alliance that hunting people are the natural heirs of conservation and countryside management. Following are just a few of incidents reported:

- In early November fox hounds from the Portman hunt savagely killed a deer by mistake after being left to run out of control. Two builders watched in horror as the pack of dogs chased the terrified animal around a field at Hazelbury Bryan on Wednesday afternoon. They later found the hounds, their faces covered in blood, savaging the deer in a copse.
  Daily Echo, November 11, 2000.

- Later on that same week, three hounds were run over and killed, while others were badly hurt, when the pack strayed from the hunt onto a busy dual carriageway in Carmarthenshire.
  South Wales Evening Post, November 27, 2000

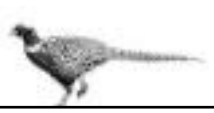
- On the same day, another hound was hit on a main road in Herefordshire. The pack had strayed from the hunt and wondered aimlessly back and forth across the main road. A local vet was called who decided there was no option but to euthanise the animal. A hunt saboteur assisted the vet in holding the animal while the hunt carried on hunting!

- A week later on November 18, two children were traumatised as they watched hounds tear a fox to pieces in their back garden in Yorkshire. On this occasion the fox wasn't killed by a 'quick nip to the back of the neck' and the father of the children described the incident as a 'harrowing experience' which had turned him against fox-hunting.

- In December a fox hunt brought trains to a halt by straying on to a railway line. A fox followed by about 30 hounds and then horse riders, started racing down a railway line south of Treherbert, Rhondda Valley, South Wales.

- On New Year's Day, a horse and some hounds narrowly escaped drowning during a Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray Hunt meet at Comblands near Pulborough, West Sussex. The incident occurred when the hunt tried to cross the swollen River Arun. Hounds late for the crossing jumped straight into the river while trying to follow the sound of the huntsman's horn. They were washed away by strong currents in the flooded river and the police and members of the West Sussex Wildlife Protection Group (WSWP) had to rescue them. Finally, a horse fell off a partly flooded bridge and into water that up to its neck. Again, police officers, members of WSWP and hunt officials had to go into the water shoulder deep, to rescue the animal which was close to drowning.





VICTORY! AS JOHN LEWIS ENDS WAR ON PHEASANTS.

After 40 years of blasting pheasants from the sky at its Hampshire estate, the John Lewis shooting club has folded its guns and shut-up-shop, so to speak. The announcement came in mid January after just 16 weeks of increased pressure from animal rights campaigners, outraged customers and disillusioned staff.

Every year, thousands of pheasants were reared like broiler chickens at the Partnership's 3,800-acre estate in Leckford. To limit the bird-on-bird aggression that comes with over-crowding, John Lewis pheasants were fitted with painful beak clips, which pierced through the membrane in the bird's nostrils. Accustomed to being fed on the ground by human hands the birds didn't see people as a predator to flee from. Therefore, when judgement day arrived many of them were violently kicked into the air by the humans they had come to trust. Around 200 birds were subjected to a barrage of hot lead on each daily shoot.

Stoking the controversy further was the fact that the Partnership was spending company profits to finance a shooting club that had just 27 members, 22 of whom were senior management, out of a workforce of 37,000. Most of their employees were not aware of what a select few were getting up to at the company's expense and were furious once they found out. Some had letters of complaint printed in the company's house journal.

The company also admitted to killing foxes, stoats and weasels - animals attracted to the unnaturally large numbers of confined birds.

FAT LADY RIDES AGAIN

After 20 years of abstention, the remaining Fat Lady has threatened to slim down and try her luck at mounting a stallion once again! As part of a defiant PR stunt to help the Countryside Alliance, Clarrisa Dickson-Wright has announced that she will break the law and ride to hounds in the event of what she calls *"the most undemocratic legislation I have ever seen."*

Let us pray - for all our sakes - that she doesn,t break the law Lady Godiver style! Meanwhile, we remained shocked that the pro-hunting community, who always claim to love their horses, have failed to condemn what will amount to a gross act of wilful cruelty to horses!

Announced January 2001



SEPARATED

Looks like they their fair share of

ANOTHER VIOLENT ATTACK FROM

THE OLD SURREY, BURSTOW & WEST KENT

On Saturday January 26 an alleged, unprovoked attack on a middle-aged woman in which she was beaten to the ground by a hunt member was reported to the police. The incident happened at a meet of the now infamous Old Surrey, Burstow and West Kent Fox Hounds who were hunting at Hever, near Tonbridge Wells,Kent. The woman, monitoring the hunt independently, was filming events after the man's horse had suffered a heart attack on the A264 and died. The man saw her and is alleged to have launched a violent and unprovoked attack, beating her to the ground and smashing her camera. A hunt saboteur present intervened to prevent a continued attack. Despite the attacker admitting his part in the attack to officers in attendance, hunt saboteurs present were shocked to note that he was not immediately arrested. An ambulance took the woman to hospital were she received stitches to her face.

Yet again we see the very people who are currently complaining to the Home Secretary about alleged violence from anti-hunt protesters showing their true colours.

Is Jack too far up his beanstalk to see what's really happening on the ground though?

JACK'S STRAW KNOWLEDGE OF HUNTING

We'd like to flick the V's firmly at Home Secretary Jack Straw for his offensive comments made during the second-reading debate of the hunting Bill at the Commons in December. Jack said that those who seek to disrupt the lawful activity of hunting were responsible for incidences of violent disorder. We waited for it, but there was no mention of the unprovoked violent attacks that anti-hunt protesters have been subject to over the years.

As well as having no relevance to the debate, Mr Straw's comments didn't come as a big surprise and would probably explain his gravitation towards the 'Muddle-Way' on the issue. It would be half decent however, if Mr Straw got his facts right next time:

Two young hunt saboteurs have already been killed while trying to protect wildlife, with a third this hunting season only narrowly escaping after he was airlifted to hospital and spent some time in intensive care. There are two trials currently in the courts involving charges of serious assaults on hunt saboteurs, one involving hunt- stewards employed by the Quorn FH (a favourite of Prince Charles) and the other a hunt supporter, who it is alleged hit and ran down a protester in a 4x4, which had no insurance, tax or MOT.

The truth - which Jack won't find in the popular press - is that it is hunt supporters and hunt staff who attack protesters, as a means of protecting their sordid 'sport'. Jack Straw should stop reading Countryside Alliance press releases and do some homework to find out what really happens. (Previous issues of Howl could enlighten him).



AT BIRTH?

got more than
chins between them!

ONE MAN AND HIS YOBS!

A Scottish MP was cleared of attacking the presenter of One Man and his Dog (the illustrious Robin Page) at a pro fox-hunting rally. Mr Murphy was cleared of any wrong-doing and claimed that rather than attacking the presenter, it was him who was attacked by protesters. He couldn't understand why Mr Page made the allegations and told a Sunday newspaper that he believes he was the victim of a "dirty tricks" campaign by pro-hunt campaigners. Luckily however there was CCTV evidence to show what really happened. Mr Murphy said of his experience:

"The foxhunters will stop at nothing. These were desperate lies by desperate people.... It's a real worry that someone can make up politically-motivated allegations to try to smear me, and in turn the Government for their intent to ban foxhunting".

Reported in the Sunday Mail, October 8, 2000

TORIES CALL FOR HUNTING SEASON

TO BE EXTENDED - NO JOKE!

British Conservative MEPs have signed a document calling for the European hunting season to be extended - allowing hunters in France and Italy more time to kill migrating British birds such as song thrushes and turtle doves. More than 250 people have already signed and if there are 314 signatures by Monday December 18, it could lead to a change in the law.

Among the 23 Tory MEPs who have signed are the Earl of Stockton, Robert Sturdy and Bashir Khanbhai.

Daily Express, Mon 11th December, 2000



Mrs.T (unavailable for comment)

NEWS IN BRIEF

National Beagling Day – See Ya! Wouldn't want to be Ya!

According to information we've received the following beagle packs were done on National Beagling Day: Cheshire Beagles, Forest & District Beagles, North Dartmoor Beagles, Royal Rock Beagles, Surrey & North Sussex Beagles & the former Wye College Beagles. So at least twice as many Beagle packs were sabbed than actually managed to advertise in H&H.

Garth and South Berks give up

Sabs from Reading, West London and Southampton are seeing the fruits of their labour this season as the Garth followed a trend set by the Surrey Union and Old Surrey & B. Rather than hunting every Saturday, they switched to alternate Saturdays and Fridays. This was a sure sign that the pressure the Garth has been under is taking its toll. The New Year however brought a big surprise when they gave up hunting Saturdays altogether. Losers!

Although this move is an attempt to escape sabs it hasn't stopped us from making mid-week visits, with more in the pipeline.. If you're reading this big nose – SEE YOU SOON!

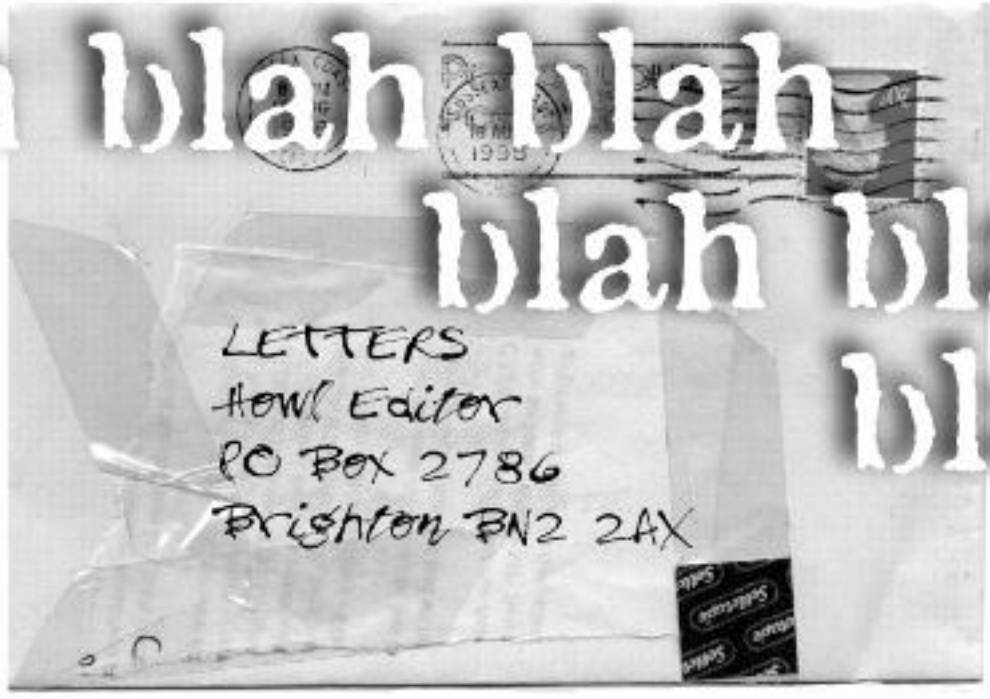
Christmas spirit

Big thanks to all those who supported the stall at the Christmas Without Cruelty Fair in December. We made nearly £1000, which is the best we've done in recent years. There were several new members and some people interested in becoming active. It would appear also that the animal rights movement is slimming down as we sold right out of skinny-fit T-shirts!

Taking the piss is as easy as falling off a horse

We know you've probably all heard about this, but we couldn't pass without mention of the unfortunate accident Charlie had recently. While riding with the Meynell Hunt in Derbyshire he fell of his horse and fractured a bone in his shoulder. 'Ouch' he said, as Royal protection officers on standby trotted him down to the Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham. The doctors said that the injury was not serious and would heal with a rest and sling.
(Reports that the injury occurred while he was fisting Camilla were dismissed by St James Palace.)

blah blah blah blah blah blah blah



Howl 74
Letters

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

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

or e-mail direct:
howl.editor@virgin.net

STEVE FROM CROYDON WRITES

Hi to all tree huggers, anti's, hippies, unemployed paid activists, dropouts and social outcasts. I thought it about time that I wrote a few lines to let you all know how things are going.

As you must all be aware I can't talk about the 'incident' for fear of bu**ering up my forth-coming court case.

September was a quick month for me, being that I was totally unconscious, when I came round I was amazed to find a sea of cards and letters from well wishers not to mention the donations, that had come in from not only the UK but virtually every continent on the planet !, I didn't think I was that popular (croydon , maidstone & hastings still think otherwise).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has sent donations, cards and letters of support to me, they have given me, my family and partner great comfort. I have tried to reply to as many as I can but some people may have been missed out. I get updated regularly on what you lot are up to and my only regret is that I am not out there with you.

I hope that you all had a great christmas and new year, bad news for me, I spent christmas eve and day on my back in hospital with a severe chest infection, (the hospital stupidly sent this fat bloke round wearing a red coat and white beard to try and cheer me up, I soon told him to fu*k off, and they let me out just in time to see that twat who wears a crown appear on TV - that soon got turned off.) Anyway I am due back in hospital at the time of writing to have the metal plates removed and some corrective surgery on the muscles in my pelvis done, I soon hope to be able to come out with you all and thank people personally for their kindness, my partner Tarnya would like to send a special thank you to Croydon sabs for all their support and help at what was a very traumatic and difficult time for her, won't bore you further, be safe and kick ass !!

Steve

WHATS WRONG WITH THIS LETTER?

Countryside Saboteurs
Central Scotland

Dear Supporter,

You have been promoted to cell Leader

The time has come to change our name and re-organise our troops. Now that we have almost won our war to have foxhunting banned, it is time to turn our attention to those other barbaric sports of the idle rich - fishing and shooting. Our battle against the country-side classes will not be over until we have eradicated them and their sports from our nation.

We will recruit from our usual sources to find the task forces of sabbers (*someone's been watching to much 'Frost'! - Ed)* to physically confront the countryside perverts and disrupt fishing matches and shoots. Equally important is the vital role we have selected for you. We want you to act as a Cell Leader in your own neighbourhood to co-ordinate subversive strikes against those bloodsports. An ideal cell size is four saboteurs. Please recruit them with care and keep their names secret. Do not pass their names or addresses to headquarters as we are bound to continue to suffer raids by the fascist police and the fewer names we have on our database, the better for all concerned.

The best way to hit at fishing and shooting is to use poisons to humanely kill the fish and birds before the evil 'sportsmen' have the pleasure of doing it. At the end of this letter you will find details of the specific targets of your cell.

Rivers can be poisoned using Cymag powder. A 2 kilo tin is sufficient for half a mile of river. Work upstream, tipping a full tin in at half mile intervals. For lakes and reservoirs, keep the lid on the tin and punch four or five holes in the sides. Throw a tin of Cymag into the lake at intervals of 100 yards along the shore. Cymag can be bought at agricultural merchants. It is best to get a person of mature years to buy it and if they are asked why they want it, the best answer is rabbit control. When using Cymag be careful not to breathe the fumes it gives off when it gets wet.The best time to kill pheasants and grouse is in the summer when they are kept in 'release pens'. At that time Cymag can be added to the water containers in the pens. At this time of year it is better to find the feeding bins in the woods where the grouse and pheasants are fed. A good poison to add to bird food is undiluted insecticide such as that sold in garden centres for treating roses. A small 250ml bottle of undiluted insecticide added to a food bin will kill peasants and other game birds humanely and efficiently.

A further use of insecticide is to 'doctor' rabbit carcasses to incriminate gamekeepers. Roadkill rabbits can be used for this. Simply pour a bottle of insecticide into the mouth of a dead rabbit and lay it in an open position in a field or farm or estate where shooting takes place. Then phone the RSPB and give them the exact location. They will not insist on getting your name or address.

When going about sabbing business in the countryside, always work in pairs and carry binoculars so that you have the legitimate excuse of 'birdwatching' if challenged. You will be regarded with less suspicion if you work by day rather than at night.

Finally, get all of the members of your cell to write regularly to the local and national news-papers condemning the idle rich of the country-side and their evil barbaric 'sports'. Public opinion is our greatest friend and the public are so ignorant about animal rights that they will believe anything we feed them. Make your l letters as lurid as you can and stress the horri-ble suffering fish and birds have.

Good luck and keep the faith.

(Unsigned)

Thanks to anti hunt supporters who forwarded the above to us and the Police. The letter also included a list of targets that we've omitted. This blatant attempt at dirty tricks (the HSA logo was badly pasted on to the original) is pretty desperate although a worrying development -particularly given references in the last few days trying to link foot and mouth to AR activists. I mean really.....what do they think?

We'll let you draw your own conclusions. It's not rocket science.

FRIGHTENING THE WILDLIFE!

Dear Sir

I overheard an interesting comment made by one of the Countryside Alliance morons at the Boxing Day demonstration against the Holcombe Harriers.
The demo was in full swing as we waved our placards and jeered at our not-so-loveable countryside cousins. Suddenly one of the chinless wonders shouted back at us: "I hope you realise you're frightening all the wildlife".
Wildlife? What wildlife - there's none left. One way or another, these morons have managed to kill everything!

Rod
Lancashire







Deep in the heart of the Surrey countryside, intrepid 'lurker' and keen sab-spotter Paul Gayman claims to have witnessed a Brixton sab bursting out of the undergrowth with gizmo blaring and Surrey Union hounds in tow.

"It was almost 7 ft tall and covered in thick matted hair,.....I grabbed my camera and got these photos, ...it just snarled at me and carried on running."

The authenticity of the footage has split the sab-spotting community in two. Thomas Aubrey, a renown sceptic commented

"Even in the early '90's when the species was thriving there was no conclusive footage of the brixton sab walking upright, let alone effectively sabotaging a hunt. Besides it's not wearing a balaclava "

HUNTSMAN'S BALLS

"There are so few people who actually hunt that banning the sport would be of no consequence".
Mal Treharne of the Countryside Alliance

Is this a Freudian slip from Mal Traharne or is he just galactically stupid?!

The following quote was taken from **'Journal by Nimrod' page 12 - Countryman's Weekly 26/1/01**

Meanwhile, it is becoming increasingly clear that even if hunting is eventually banned no hunts are going to comply with the law. Civil disobedience will erupt across the countryside, leading to outright war between hunt saboteurs, field sportsmen and the police.

Business as usual then!

Germaine Greer made a curious moral distinction between legal and illegal hare-coursing in her **Telegraph Note Book** recently:

"*When Molly (her dog) and I watched the legal hare-coursing on the telly, we marvelled at the magnificence of the greyhounds, especially the black one that caught a very good hare*", she said. Whereas, illegal hare-coursing, she explained, "*is carried out by criminals with no respect for life or property*"! Telegraph, December 2000

It's a crying shame that hares don't speak, otherwise they might be in a position to help to shop these 'criminals' who dare to let dogs rip out their entrails without a licence! Is Germaine Greer compost mentis at all?

Countrymans Weekly 2/02/01:-

Should banks employ sabs?

"A reader has expressed concern that a bank employs Dawn Preston, director of the Hunt Saboteurs Association. He points out that hunt saboteurs have been known to be involved in criminal activity and suggests that people in fieldsports should refuse to have dealings with companies which employ hunt saboteurs or their representatives. For legal reasons, and for the avoidance of doubt, this newspaper wishes to make it clear that it has no evidence of illegal activity on the part of Dawn Preston personally, or of any impropriety with regard to her employment, and it does not imply any."

Likewise hunt scum should boycott their own hunts if the huntsman/masters/whoever have convictions - after all it'd be nice to see their numbers plummet by 90%!... Oh, and nice arse licking for 'legal reasons'

"I haven't got any friends!"

Old woman landowner replying to a sab who alleged her 'friends' (Old Surrey, Burstow & West Kent FH) may be releasing bagged foxes on her land

"We have got lots of members of the BNP who are also members of the Alliance." The Observer 25/2/2001

BNP spokesman Philip Edwards, an Alliance member who plans to join the march confirming once again the strong links between Nazi-scum and honest country folk!

10 years after the death of Mike Hill

- how many more lives must be lost before hunting with hounds is banned?



I never knew Mike, but I wish that I had met him. From what I know he was as dedicated as they come, and had the events of the 9th February 1991 been different, I'm sure he would still be a regular face around the hunts of the north west, long after many other hunt sabs have come and gone. I started sabbing on the first anniversary of Mike's death, and will always remember the sheer dedication of the (at least) two hundred saboteurs that shut down all the hunts in the north west on that day as a mark of respect for Mike. The names of both Mike Hill and Tom Worby are names which I repeat to journalists week in week out in an attempt to get the current frenzied press to understand what we have lost in the battle to put an end to bloodsports. Jill Phipps is, of course, another name that must be remembered alongside Mike and Tom, as the battle for animal rights encompasses many issues, none of which take precedence. What follows is a piece put together by Mike's friends following his death, reproduced unaltered from how it was written back in 1991.

Dawn - HSA Press Officer

At 4.00 pm Saturday 9th February 1991 Mike Hill became the first hunt saboteur to be killed whilst trying to protect wildlife. Mike was only 18 and for two years lived and breathed animal rights, not just dogs and cats but every living creature. He was a vegan, worked at both Heavens Gate Sanctuary and Freshfields Animal Rescue Centre and was an active sab with Yeovil sabs and Merseyside sabs.

Mike was too nice a person for this world. There was no hurt or malice in his soul. He thought good of everyone and everything. He was quiet, unassuming, softly spoken and gentle. He lived and died for his beliefs.

The Facts

At 4 p.m. Saturday 9th February, Mike Hill was killed in action whilst attempting to sabotage the Cheshire Beagles with the Merseyside Hunt Saboteurs. This article attempts to put the facts before the animal rights movement and to dispel some of the downright lies, distortions and rumours that have been put forward by the police, the press and some 'officials', in national animal rights groups. Please feel free to copy all or part of this in any suitable publication.

The Cheshire Beagles met at the Red Lion, Little Budworth, Cheshire (just down the road from Oulton Park Motorcycle Racecourse). All afternoon there were repeated scuffles with hunters, punches thrown at saboteurs and a wheel brace was used against one Liverpool sab. Towards the end of the day, still with no kill under their belts that day, the huntsmen boxed up hounds in the small blue trailer which was being towed by an open-top pick-up truck.

The kennel-huntsman, or paid official of the hunt, together with another hunter, jumped into the pick-up. Three sabs were nearby, who, on impulse, leapt onto the back of the pick-up hoping to stop the man (Alan Summersgill) from driving the pack off to another location to continue hunting away from the hunt saboteurs.

However, Summersgill immediately drove off at high speed, with the three sabs clinging on. For five miles, around country lanes, in icy conditions, towing a pack of hounds and with three sabs perched on top, Summersgill drove erratically and at high speeds.

The three sabs, terrified, trying to keep a grip and wondering where these huntsmen were going to take them (and what for) decided that as soon as the vehicle slowed down enough or halted at a junction, they would jump and run like hell. Unfortunately, it would appear that Mike panicked and, in fear of his life he took a jump from the pick-up as it rounded a bend, having slowed down to what they thought to be about 40 m.p.h. He failed to clear the truck properly and was caught between the truck and trailer which crushed him.

The huntsman would not stop but carried on for a further mile, only halting when the second hunt sab smashed in the back window into the cab. The sab was attacked with a whip as he tried to stop the vehicle. As soon as it stopped, the sab ran back the mile to where Mike's prone body lay in the road whilst another sab, ran to a nearby house to call the ambulance. The huntsman, Alan Summersgill, simply drove off, flagged down a police car shortly after and later in the afternoon handed himself into a police station.

Let us make no mistake, Mike's death was the culmination of the trends over the last 10 years (1980's) of hunt sabbing on the Cheshire Beagles (and indeed trends that are echoed all over the country with other packs). Firstly, there is a sustained level of violence against sabs and secondly a complete absence of police interest in this violence. There has been not one single prosecution by the Cheshire Police for any of the attacks on hunt saboteurs by the Cheshire Beagles over the last ten years, the worst of which resulted in a Liverpool University student receiving a triple fractured jaw.

It would appear not. No charges have yet been proffered against the two huntsmen. Summersgill still walks the street. To our knowledge, the only statements the police have offered to the press indicate that they regard it as a road traffic accident,.

The killing of Mike Hill has devastated his family, his friends, hunt saboteur groups all over the country and at Freshfields Animal Rescue Centre and Heavens Gate Sanctuary.

Mike would have wanted us to ensure that we did three things with his death: Firstly, he would not have wanted to have been forgotten. His name, his love, affection, caring for all and dedication to the movement will live on. Secondly, he would have wanted us to pursue the truth, to gain justice for his death. And lastly and most importantly he would have demanded that the Cheshire Beagles be crushed.'

10 years On

Mike's death was classed as an 'Accidental Death' at inquest and no charges were ever brought against Alan Summersgill. Although no longer associated with the Cheshire Beagles, Summersgill is still very much involved with hunting, most recently publishing an article in that esteemed journal, ' The Countryman's Weekly'.
The Cheshire Beagles continue to hunt, as do the Cambridgeshire FH, the hunt at which Tom Worby met his death.

Although the powers that be did not allow us to achieve justice for his death, I hope Mike knows that hunt saboteurs the length and breadth of the country continue to pursue a wider truth by consistently sabotaging bloodsports. The battle to secure a ban on hunting with hounds continues, and we will not be satisfied until the last hunt goes out for the last time. We would do well to ask as many people as we can 'Just how many more lives must be lost before hunting with hounds is banned?', and also to read the account of the 9th of February 1991 whenever we think we lack the energy to do all we can to stop bloodsports. Mike, Tom and Jill - you will never be forgotten.

I To commemorate the anniversary of Mike's death, a successful day of action took place in the north-west. Hunt saboteurs established a presence at both the Cheshire Beagles - the hunt responsible for Mike's death - and the Cheshire Foxhounds. This was followed up with a postcard campaign and banner-drop in Chester reading '*Mike Hill - killed by the Cheshire Beagles in 1991*
How many more lives will be lost before hunting is banned?'
The Cheshire Daily Post, Chester Chronicle and Cheshire Leader sent photographers. Granada T.V. sent a camera crew and it was carried on the news bulletins throughout the day reaching people all over the north-west, including all of Cheshire.



Alan Summersgill

An unusual 'sabbing' action.

I normally expect to be rescuing foxes, hares, deer, etc during weekend hunt sabbing and was therefore surprised to find myself involved in saving five deer from being shot near to my place of work.

It was announced via my employer's database that a neighbouring firm had hired a 'deer expert' to cull several Roe Deer which were fenced in on land belonging to the company (Technischer Uberwachungsverein -TUV). Unfortunately, I received the message a week late, as I had been on a sabbing excursion to the Isle of Wight for a few days and the culler had already "taken the buck".

I went to the TUV and asked to speak to the Managing Director. I sat and waited in the reception area and was finally put through to the site manager by telephone. He said that the decision to cull was final, but he offered to arrange for the 'deer expert' to contact me.

Later in the day I received a call from the deer killer and he explained that he had already shot the male and was shortly going to kill the five remaining does. I suggested a meeting with him which he agreed to. We met in a pub and the man had game-keeper written all over him. He ranted on about the stress the animals would suffer by any relocation attempt and, that anyway, there were too many Roe Deer in Britain! I tried in vain to get him to agree with allowing Graham Cornick from Hydestile Wildlife Hospital to remove the deer and relocate them to a safe haven.

Further discussions with TUV bosses combined with media pressure and complaints from TUV staff resulted in the Managing Director giving the deer a one month's stay of execution.

Detailed maps of the site were prepared and after a visit to the location Graham Cornick set a date for a rescue attempt. On Sunday 19th November Sabs from West Sussex Wildlife Protection Group, RSPCA officers and local volunteers set up netting and the first doe was captured and placed swiftly into its crate.
The other deer had become wise to our plot and stubbornly avoided our carefully constructed funnel-nets. A second animal was caught by Graham using a large hand-net and it was then decided to call it a day and bring these two deer to their new home.

I accompanied the vehicle with the crated deer to the release site: 250 acres of Hampshire woodland owned by a Hydestile honourary member. Shooting is not permitted there, nor in the surrounding countryside. The doors of the crates were simultaneously opened and the deer fled unharmed into the dusk.

The remaining three deer were released at a later stage after two more visits to the TUV site. Staggering the capture of the deer kept any disruption to a minimum. Because the estate is not fenced the deer are obviously in a wild environment and free to wander off elsewhere. However, the deer have been sighted subsequent to their release and recognised by their colouring.

They will now live out their natural lives in a superior habitat with a plentiful food supply. Despite all the "concerns" by so-called deer experts the deer are showing no signs of stress and, most importantly, are still alive.

Philip Elston (Southampton Sabs)



National beagling Day 2000 Farce



Blink and you might have missed it but November 18th was **National Beagling Day!** Far from being a key date in the hunting calendar, National Beagling Day (NBD) has developed over the years into something of an embarrassment to the hunting fraternity. And as the Government's Hunting Bill was due to be announced in the Queens speech just a few weeks after NBD, the Countryside Alliance, the bastion of bloodsports, it seemed wanted nothing other than to keep the debate to their preferred quarry of foxes. After all, what threat to crops or livestock does a hare honestly represent?

In a blatant attempt at media spin, the Countryside Alliance stated in their NBD press release that the recent Inquiry into Hunting with Dogs supported their 'conservation' claim in relation to the brown hare, but this is stretching the truth to say the very least. The report actually states that '*…there is little or no need to control overall hare numbers and, indeed, they are a Biodiversity Action Plan species*' (Sec 5.94; p102) (a species deemed to be in decline or under threat in a 1995 Government report). So here what we actually see is yet another attempt by the media machine at the Countryside Alliance to fool the general public into thinking that the report comes out in their favour, when in fact even a cursory glance shows it clearly does not. However, they knew that to cancel this date would be a huge embarrassment, and so had to press on with it regardless. Here's how the day unfolded in just one area of the country…

NBD in the North West was truly a day to behold! Thanks to tip off from a friendly local we had advance information on precisely where and when not just one, but **three**, beagle packs would be meeting. Considering it rude not to turn up on such a prestigious date in the Association of Master of Harriers and Beagles diary, sabs duly arrived at the meet held near Nantwich, Cheshire and pulled up in the car park right in the middle of the gathered support.


© Animal Watch

The first pack to hunt was the Cheshire Beagles, infamous for their involvement in the incident in which Mike Hill, a dedicated hunt saboteur from Merseyside, was killed after being driven over by the then huntsman Alan Summersgill. (see page 12) A new huntsman now hunts this pack, although all does not seem to be well with the Cheshire Beagles, as they are yet again advertising for a replacement. Something we said perhaps…?

Saboteurs were present with the hunt from the moment they left the meet and thanks to our efforts (combined with very poor ground underfoot) the hunt and support returned to the pub just a couple of hours later without any kills. Both hunters and support then retired to the pub for a long lunch, before venturing out again at 2pm ready for the second pack to hunt. Royal Rock Beagles huntsman Peter Jones then set out to hunt with a beagle pack made up of his own dogs and also Forest and District Beagles. He obviously has a very low tolerance level when it comes to hunt saboteurs, as it took him only 30 minutes before he decided to call it a day, being heard to declare '*I'm going back – we can't get anything with this bloody lot here*!'.

And so with less than three hours hunting conducted in total, and certainly with bugger all to show for it apart from some very muddy britches, National Beagling Day for three packs in the north west was swiftly brought to an end. And reading December's 'Hounds' Magazine it seems that even the hunters themselves have finally realised what a farce NBD is, stating '*Next year, it is probable that we shall move to a more flexible arrangement where each hunt can choose its own most suitable date and venue for a 'newcomers day', as has been very successfully practised by the foxhunters.*'
Let me just put that into plain English for you – National Beagling Day is no more!! Up the bloody anti's!

Far left: Royal Rock beagle staff pulling hounds by scruff of the neck.

Above left: Royal Rock beagle huntsman assumes classic 'bloody anti's ' posture.

Below: Simon Barnes - Cheshire Beagles current huntsman


© Animal Watch


© Animal Watch

out + about

West Kent HSA

V

Ashford Valley F.H.







Words & Pictures by Sidney McQueen

Muddy fields galore! as sabs go head to head against the scurge of the countryside

Eleven sabs made up the West Kent HSA on December 9th 2000. They worked hard to ensure a kill-free day on the Ashford Valley F.H. which met at Grafty Green, near Maidstone, Kent.

Sabs took hounds off a hunted fox below Elmstone Hole. They hunted the hounds over the fox's line at the first check and kept them running through the steep woodlands. Hunt Staff regained control after some distance had been covered, and couldn't refind the scent despite drawing back through the woods meticulously. Sabs were in close attendance throughout having given Kent Police the slip at this stage.



The hunt was hustled on through the orchards and small woods towards Boughton Malherbe, and then south to Roughetts Wood and the village of Broadstone. Three more foxes were found, and lost. Hunt support dwindled to a meagre dozen or so mounted field and vehicle followers by mid afternoon. Three police landrovers were on hand too, to give the sabs the benefit of their advice.

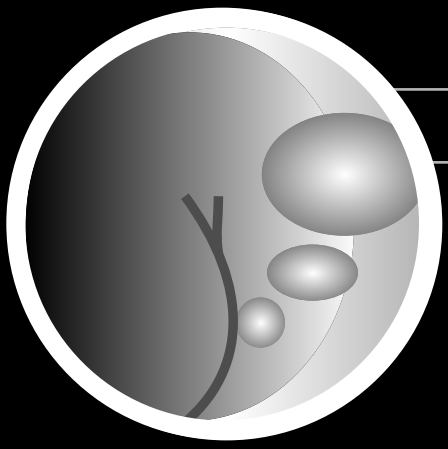
A good days sabbing was wrapped up at Southpark Wood. Hounds circled the Chestnut coppice on a scent, and were stopped with voice rating. When they next came close to sabs, horn and voice calls were used to excellent effect. Hounds were diverted off their quarry and run out of the woods into a field. Sabs collected some hounds in a group and let others split off.

A message from the sab landrover informed those in the field that the hunt was looking for lost hounds and the police were fuming, ready to get their notebooks out. A retreat was made into the depths of the wood. As darkness fell shortly after, the intrepid sabs slipped quietly away into the evening mist.

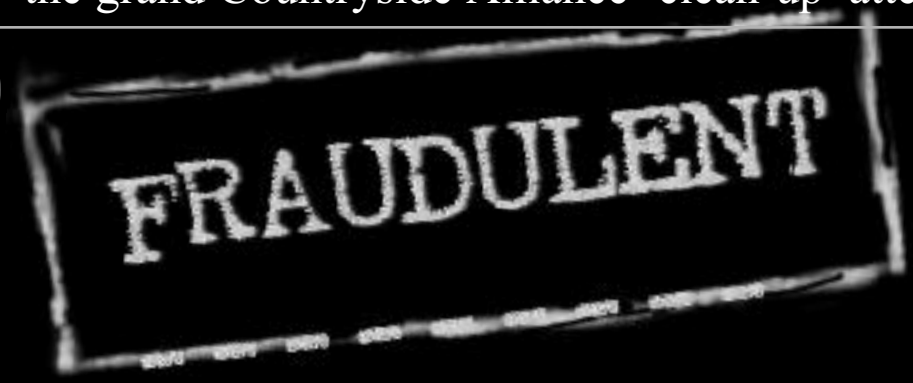
Sid McQueen December 2000



West Kent Sabs
PO Box 478
Yalding Kent ME18 6LA.



the grand Countryside Alliance 'clean-up' attempt:



The Hunt Saboteurs Association condemns claims by the Countryside Alliance, the bastion of field sports, that it is cleaning-up the practice of hunting with hounds, as 'fraudulent'. Their eight point press release, issued in October, claims to respond to recommendations made in the recent Burns Inquiry (Committee of Inquiry Into Hunting with Dogs In England & Wales) but in fact it does little to even correctly represent the finding of the report. Far from being an attempt to respond to the valid points made in the report, this actually represents a fraudulent interpretation of many of the points made. his action should be seen purely for what it is – the last ditch effort of condemned bloodsports fanatics to protect their so-called 'sport".

Interpretation versus Reality – what the Countryside Alliance said & what the Report actually states: -

CA Point 1
Openness and Accountability

The CA announce that by the end of 2001 all hunts will have a website which will include '…maps, fixture cards (times, dates and locations of where the hunt meets)…'. The Inquiry Report stated that '*...organised hunting must be conducted on a more open basis than at present…*' (Sec 9.10; p 147). The question, which must be asked, is why on the Internet, and why in 14 months time? To gauge the level of secrecy that the vast majority of hunts maintain simply try contacting one as a member of the public wishing to watch a days hunting and see how far you get. The HSA thoroughly recommends that all interested pop down to their local newsagents to buy the latest copy of Horse and Hound (20/10/00 edition), as this has a splendid Hunting Directory which supplies phone numbers for most of the hunts up and down the country. Keep it to hand so that when an incident occurs during the season you can contact the hunt directly rather than having to encounter the huge media machine that the CA represents, as that is the only way you will ever get real comment on the issues!

CA Point 2
Accidental Trespass

The CA state that the '...recent Inquiry accepted that incidents of trespass were extremely rare'. The Report in fact merely stated that such events were '*not numerous*' (Sec 9.7; p147). Such strong language on this matter can be viewed as confirmation of the fact that the hunters themselves attach little importance to this issue, despite the obvious distress and disturbance such incidents inflict on those suffering the trespass. Indeed the Report itself comments on the '*arrogant, high-handed and unsympathetic response*' that those who suffer trespass by the hunt had reported to the Inquiry team (Sec 9.4; p146)

CA Point 3
Regulation

The CA cite the Independent Supervisory Authority for Hunting here, and it is assumed that this is their response to the Inquiry's suggested option of a '*…reputable, independent body*' (Sec 9.10; p147). In fact the ISAH predates the Inquiry report and is an invention of the pro-hunt lobby.

CA Point 4
Field Visits

The Inquiry Report did not comment on this matter in its section on concerns (Chapter 9).

CA Point 5
The use of terriers

Read this carefully and discover that this simply confirms that there will be no change to the current practices. And this despite the Inquiry comment that even in the absence of a total ban on hunting with hounds '*…serious consideration could be given as to whether this practice should be allowed to continue*' (Sec 9.20; p149).

CA Point 6
'Holding up'

This practice is carried out almost entirely during the cub-hunting season, which runs from early August to the start of the main foxhunting season on the 1st November. As such the CA have decided to respond on this issue after the very practice has been carried out on an almost daily basis for the last three months. No change in policy is recommended, but as with terrier work a simple reiteration is issued for the sake of clarity. In stark contrast the Burns Inquiry suggested that in the absence of a ban several options could be considered, including '*…prohibiting the practice (of cub hunting) entirely*', to '*…prohibiting the practice of "holding up"*'. (Sec 9.16; p 148).


© Gweedo

C.A. Chief EXecutive Richard Burge: Open & accountable ?

CA Point 7
Artificial Earths

No change proposed here, but simply the comment that although some 'landowners, farmers, occupiers or shooting tenants' are known to maintain these, foxes 'cannot be forced to' occupy them. No mention of the fact that both the Sinnington FH and the Duke of Beaufort FH have both been documented using artificial earths to encourage and feed foxes, and certainly no mention of the Inquiry Report comment that '*The active use of artificial earths, with a view to hunting, is inconsistent with the stated objective of controlling fox numbers through hunting. In the absence of a ban, hunts could be required, or encouraged, to end this practice*' (Sec 9.27; p 150) No such encouragement can be found here it seems. (CA Point 8 – Fox rescue' relates to this point also).

Points the CA failed to respond to despite the Inquiry Report expressing'concerns'

Stopping-up

The practice of blocking fox earths, badger sets and other similar refuges for the hunted animal. The Inquiry Report had *'particular concerns*' on this (Sec 9.24: p 150).

Closed season for hares

Inquiry Report stated an option would be to '*introduce a closed season*' (Sec 9.33; p 151). CA has not commented.

Hunting hinds with calves

Inquiry Report stated that '*…action could be taken to end this practice in the absence of a ban*' (Sec 9.35; p152). CA has not commented

Full issue of cub-hunting

The CA has avoided this issue as a whole, despite commenting on the main component of cub-hunting – the practice of 'holding-up'. The Inquiry report stated that in the absence of a ban '*…consideration could be given to…prohibiting the practice entirely*' (Sec 9.16; p 148)

The COUNTRYSIDE WEAKLINGS

Killing things since birth.



5P OFF A PADDED, CHECKED SHIRT - IDEAL FOR MAKING YOU LOOK QUITE HANDY WHEN YOU ACTUALLY POSSESS THE PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES OF A PRE- PUBESCENT LADY
(PHOTOCOPIES NOT ACCEPTABLE)

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

Gooner Rob takes a wistful look back at the 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 shite.

Part 4: Killing things abroad is even more fun than killing things here

If you can possibly ignore the constant repetition and comical whining about "townies" and "Herr Blair", the sudden concern for minorities (themselves) and civil liberties (the right to torture an animal for fun), you can still find plenty of enlightening articles in Countryman's Weekly, explaining the activities that have excited them and their readers over the season.

There have been the usual articles on rabbiting, stalking, ratting, hunting, slaughtering pigeons - 350 in one day according to one correspondent - and fox shooting. One shooting tale however, affectionately describes a bizarre instance where a squirrel ran up the shooters cousin's skirt causing her to react, grab the squirrel and "squeeze until it was dead"!

But all this UK slaughter has not prevented envious eyes being cast over other parts of the world where there are endless opportunities to kill other types of animal. We have seen a piece about raccoon hunting in America: "Not for the weak hearted, it is fast moving and can sometimes become violent", we are warned. Boar hunting in New Zealand also sounds attractive: "The dogs had caught a 70lb sow. Steph managed to dispatch it with his knife. Not a bad start but the best was to come". "*The best*" appears to have been the wild goat hunting from helicopters: "The goats were surrounded and very few got away. Goats like to run uphill from danger and the chopper is the ideal tool to foil their plans. . . we shot 40 goats".
Mountain lion hunting in Colorado, USA sounds brave beyond belief: "To crawl 30ft into a cave to face 4 mountain lions - well, lets just say it takes a special type of person". I think we can all agree on that, hopefully next time our hero crawls in, he will go without being armed to the teeth.

Back to the UK and mink hunting, "I do so much prefer a quick humane end to an enjoyable hunt", we are told by Typp Ratcher (I thought all hunts were supposed to have a quick humane end?). Typp goes on to tell how some hunted animals can appear to be dead - but still be living - and tells a pleasant tale about a polecat: "I was on my way to put him in the dustbin when he came round. . . the correct term for this happening is "catatonic trance." Howl readers may have more appropriate descriptive terms.

Conservation is always in the forefront of the minds of these sportsmen; indeed in the lOth December 1999 edition we are told that the mallard is reported to be under threat. Sadly this news was too late for the mallard mentioned later in the same edition: "A one ounce load of 5 Bismuth did its magic. A fat autumn mallard bounced at my feet".

An article on the welfare of live decoys by James Taylor was educational. Having talked to many gamekeepers, estate managers and landowners James observed: "Many decoy birds seem only to survive for a week or two when held captive…. some of these deaths are unavoidable. Older birds may not settle to their new confines and will rapidly exhaust themselves, refuse to eat and therefore die. Some however, die more of a consequence of neglect or simple ignorance." James thought the biggest cause of death is dehydration and provided some specialist but much needed advice to the guardians of the land: "It is essential to keep a dish of water topped up"!

At the other end of the spectrum, a different article told us of the success of Cheshire Game Supplies, who sell over 700,000 day old chicks and 6 week old poults every year to estates and game farms.

We have also been treated to a view from a "man on the street" about why hunting should not be banned. The man recalled how his father used to ring a live chickens neck every week and how his father told him that during the war his elder sister had killed the family goat with a coal hammer in the kitchen. "Maybe there is something in encouraging a degree of familiarity with violent death", said the "Man". He made the point that Army officers are hunting and shooting types, and that we could not afford officers who turn pale at the sight of blood. He proceeded to make further, equally valid points saying: "Banning fox-hunting would deprive both hunters and saboteurs of a great deal of fulfilment in their lives". Thanks for the concern but. . .

What about some helpful countryside knowledge? Jonathan Davies described badgers as "brainless" and helpfully explained - as a true countryman would - that "what has made badgers this stupid is that as they are no longer hunted and, because they have no natural predators, they have nothing to fear." Jonathan made it clear that he does not condone badger baiting but thinks that "not hunting them is a big mistake".

So - on to the Anti's. The same tiresome remarks feature, one reader describing us as "ill-educated unwashed yobs. . . they couldn't pull the skin off a rice pudding," Nimrod follows up with similar comments. Then a January headline "Sick thugs use claw hammer, woman and children targeted in hunt attack." Absolute rubbish of course, and funnily enough even the infamous Kent Police decided against any action after viewing video footage.

Finally, Penny Hamblen from Hampshire writes in to express her upset about her "townie neighbours" who feed local foxes: "I shot 10 foxes that were half-tame town foxes that came running to my squeak" she boasts. "Heaven preserve us from animal lovers" adds the delightful Penny.

If any saboteurs find themselves reflecting on whether all the agro is worth it, just browse through one of these magazines and remind yourself why you need to be out there protecting wildlife.

GROUP NEWS

SCOTLAND

Despite going out at various times and days during cubbing, *the Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire FH (L&R)* were sadly totally elusive during the times **Clydeside** sabs were out. *L&R's* first meet of the season on 28/10 saw a pathetic turn out by riders and supporters at Houston House. Joined by the **Edinburgh** group pre beating was done despite the presence of the Police. During the day several foxes were spotted and 3 times in one hour sabs managed to pull hounds off foxes with calls, sprays and horns. The hounds seemed inexperienced and a kill & arrest free day was a good start to the season.

There were several more visits to the *L&R* over the following couple of months which saw dwindling hunt support, dwindling police interest and no kills. On one a mad guy on a mountain bike accused sabs of 'poisoning plants' by spraying anti mate while pre beating. This guy actually followed sabs through some woods on his mountain bike! There was Police involvement at the end of November but it was the Fashion Police who sabs had to call for a hunt supporter in a Fiat Panda wearing a Ten gallon Stetson hat. Loser!

On Dec 9th the hunt failed to arrive at the meet publicised in Dog and Donk. A drive round other meets saw no hunt anyway. This date was the anniversary of Sab Derek McCulloch's Death (see Howl 71) and sabs found out later that Derek's mate had rung up the hunt the night before telling them he was a supporter and that the hunt told him that 'out of respect for the anniversary of Derek's death' there would be no hunt that Saturday. So for at least one day this season the wildlife of Ayrshire got a day off.

After a spot of van trouble which kept sabs off the road for a couple of weeks **Clydeside** were ready for the *L&R* on boxing day but because of freezing temps the hunt cancelled as were meets on 30th and New Years Day. **Clydeside** are pleased to say *L&R* are having their worst season in years with low turnouts, cancelled meets losing them money, good sabbing and the possibility of a ban looming large. This could be the year the *L&R* sink or swim – A fine way for this particular Sab group to celebrate their 20th year of sabbing!!

***L & Rs'* Alisdair Campbell points out naughty sabs!**



© Clydeside sabs

WALES

West Wales sabs have got themselves a old grumpy landrover and called it Bessie to help them in their sabbing work. While numbers are not as great as they'd like *Emlyn beagles* and *Camarthenshire FH* have received continuous visits which in turn has seen their numbers diminish over time. The *Vale of Clettwr* has had to be avoided due to escalating violence despite hits and ongoing court cases including one which saw the Master and two of his terrier men in court for interfering with a badger set (unfortunately thrown out after three days).

The Police have been less than helpful with regular use of the CJA particularly when sabbing the Beagles. A sympathetic solicitor has managed to get two cases thrown out and his support has helped reassure us when we are sabbing.

NORTH WEST

The usual motley crew comprised of sabs from **Bolton**, **Lancaster**, **Preston** and **Manchester** have been busy sabotaging the sordid activities of the *Cheshire Forest FH* and the *Holcombe Harriers.*

On top of this regular stuff north west sabs also managed to visit the infamous *Cheshire Beagles* not just once but twice so far this season. The second visit was by far the best as we descended upon them on the annual farce that is National Beagling Day and, better yet, not only disrupted their fun by also the two other packs who were hunting with them! **The Forest & District Beagles** and *the Royal Rock Beagles* looked as delighted as the *Cheshire Beagles* to see us, and indeed not one kill was to be had all day (see main article page 14).

The Christmas period saw a number of excellent demonstrations at meets of both the usual packs which got good media coverage, and the new **NWHSA** website (www.nwhsa.org.uk) also made it on the front page of a local daily paper thanks to the efforts of our webmaster/geek. We also managed to put together a new local leaflet and took part in a Granada TV debate.



© NWHSA

MP Nicholas Winterton (Con) supporting *the Forest & District Beagles*

New Years Day sabbing had it's own treat as the large police presence at the meet of the *Forest & District Beagles* alerted us quickly to the fact that we found the hunt on a day when the local MP Nicholas Winterton (Con) was to be found amongst their midst. Thanks to our presence they caught bugger all, and you never know, if we're lucky we might get a mention in the House of Commons after so upsetting such a pro-hunt MP!



One spoilt brat on the boxing day Portman FH meet refuses to leave 'my little pony' chrimbo present at home.

Hull Sabs have done their best to publicise their group more but have struggled with an apathetic area (probably brought on by the smell of fish). Despite leafleting, stalls and postering much of the sabbing has come about as a result of support from the **Leeds** group. Their involvement has enabled the *Holderness FH* to be visited and be well sabbed. *The Beverley Westwood* was visited on Boxing day and despite a large number of arsey looking supporters sabs did their best during the day to disrupt the hunt.

MIDLANDS

The first hit of the season for **East Northants** Sabs was a bad one as the *Grafton* killed. A second visit later in the month saw a particularly leery police presence despite which a fox, hiding in a drain-pipe, was protected. The end of the month and a visit to the Woodland Pytchley saw no kills, but the psycho who shot out our van window last season threatened a sab. A local farmer went loopy when we went onto his farm to check the hunt had packed up. More visits to *Woodland Pytchley* followed including one in late October when a sab got kicked below the knee by a horse and banged their head on the road

East Northants joined the *S & B* hit - loads of sabs, loads of confusion, no kills. The following months saw continued visits to *Woodland Pytchley* and *the Fitzwilliam*. Later in November the infamous David Reynolds was being particularly offensive, and allegedly assaulted a sab with his crop, without being arrested. Despite this, we continued to sab.

A visit to the *Cottesmore*, on 25th November, and we managed to get between 3 bolted foxes and hounds. After this the hunt ran, and they packed early due to heavy rain. We were soaked but happy, as they hadn't killed. December 2nd another visit to *Woodland Pytchley*. Two of their horses were killed on an A road the previous night, having escaped. They packed early, and we found some shooters who were shooting over a road! We did our public duty.

Boxing day and we attended *the Pytchley* meet in Harlestone Firs plantation where a supporter admitted to being both homophobic and racist. They galloped off, and tried to give us the runaround. However, sabs kept up well. They came perilously close to a fox, but didn't kill. One of the sabs lost his mobile phone in the confusion, but managed to find it again after a long search. Very much a heart in the mouth day, but they packed up early which was great.

Overall, a hard though reasonably successful season so far. Only 3 kills that we know of, and the police have been mostly fair. Though at times we've had to work round them (as you do). Some hunts and supporters have continued to be a problem. David Reynolds continues to be a lunatic, but we've not had any serious problems.

By and large the hunts tactics have been to disappear, and keep running, when we show. Even abandoning hunting to a certain extent. On Occasions it's felt like they've been planning confusion with split field and mad loops round the countryside.

SOUTH WEST

Bath sabs have finally got a new van (20 years old) almost together and have been meeting up with **Pewsey Vale** sabs and concentrating on the *Tedworth FH*. With the weather being so crap early in the season all their low level meets where waterlogged so many were moved to high ground giving the sabs alot of well needed exercise. Even with the hilly terrain the *Tedworth's* huntsman couldn't keep his hounds for very long which caused some dismay amongst the terrier men who took it out on a Pewsey sab (nothing serious).

On Boxing Day we joined a banner demo at the *Avon Vale FH* where we picked up eight new recruits, because of lack of experience we decided to sab the *Wiltshire Infantry Beagles* who we kept on the run most of the day until the police piled in and made two arrests for aggravated trespass. After this, all but one sab lost the beagles. He was picked up an hour or so later when it was decided to go and pick up the arrested sabs as there had been no kills and the new sabs were knackered. We later found out after we left, the hunt got three beagles killed on the main A350. Apart from the beagles deaths we have had a pretty good season.

Does any group need seats for their van?

The folding seats from the old Bath van are available !!

Contact P.O. Box 426, BATH, BA1 2ZD

Dorset, **Somerset** and **Bournemouth** Groups are going out regularly together but sometimes its down to just three or four **Dorset** Sabs. We have mostly been doing *Dorset* hunts and carried out four successful sabs over the Christmas period. We have had to stand up to increasing thuggery on the *South Dorset* but Dorset Police seem to be very fair, no problems on the *Cattistock Hunts* and only one kill seen this season. Boxing Day we sabbed *the Portman* successfully and New Years Day another good day at the *West Somerset Vale.* We have also had lots of on-side media attention with only the Western Gazzette still pro even though many reporters are not. Lets hope we can keep this up.

A demonstration of that famous South West England sense of humour was to advertise Beagles for sale with all monies to the ALF after the incident with the Wye Beagles. Ha Ha!!

Plymouth began the season disrupting the cubbing activities of the *South Devon Foxhounds*, often packing them up after a couple of hours. The group's Landrover was off the road at the beginning of November but **Plymouth**, along with other **Devon** sabs used cars to attend the *South Devon's* opening meet at Widecombe. The day was a success and despite several foxes being seen in the area, the hunt failed to kill and packed up mid afternoon.

T*he North Dartmoor Beagles* were visited on National Beagling Day and, as in previous years, the presence of sabs kept the hunt contained in a small area. Hunt support dwindled to a handful and the day ended with no kills. The rest of the year Ú

Dorset Anti-Bloodsports & Taunton sabs chill while the *Purbeck & Bovington Beagles* begin to scour the four corners of the globe for their missing dogs





A tight-fisted Southdowns sab avoids paying petrol money (again)

Ú was spent concentrating on the *South Devons*. Most hits were successful with hounds responding well to sabs calls and the hunt kept on the move. The attendance of sabs and poor weather conditions caused the hunt to pack up early on most days. On one occasion hounds were only yards behind a fox. They checked briefly and sabs were able to pull the pack to them allowing the fox to escape safely. On Boxing Day, **Plymouth** and other **Devon** sabs turned their attention to *Spooners and West Dartmoor* at their meet at Tavistock. Despite snow, a bitterly cold wind and difficult terrain, sabs stayed with the hunt for several hours until it became clear that effective sabbing was impossible so it was decided to leave to locate the *South Devons*. On arrival though it was found that they had succumbed to the bad weather and had packed up.

Poor weather continued to affect *Dartmoor* packs up to the new year with many hunts cancelling meets ensuring that the local fox population were briefly left in peace. The new year began badly when the gearbox and clutch of the **Plymouth** Landrover finally died. However, sabs have managed to continue to hit the *South Devons* regularly.

SOUTH

The first excitement of the season saw **Reading** travel to the *Surrey Union* to help **Guildford** sabs with the first cubbing meet of the *Surrey Union*. This was sociably held in the afternoon enabling the group first to kennel watch a foxhunt at some unheard of hour in the morning.

As usual the *Garth and South Berkshire* have been firm favourites. **Reading**, usually with **West London** and **Southampton**, have visited whenever possible. *The Garth* were less than pleased to see us when we did catch them and on one occasion remained at the meet for two hours waiting for the police to show up and then going home. Time was also found for visits to the *Hampshire Hunt* who put on an altogether more spirited performance.

The opening meet of the *Sandhurst Beagles* was deemed worthy of a visit. As this has been hit consistently for the last few years the hunt thought it would be a clever move to change the meet. Not quite clever enough though! The hunt stayed at the farm whilst supporters tried to put a brave face on things. One bumpkin received a ticking off from a copper after attempting to run him over. We did laugh. Eventually the huntsman conceded defeat and humbly asked if he could let his hounds out of the trailer to relieve themselves before heading back to the kennels.

Reading and **West London** attended the opening meet of the *Old Surrey, Birstow and West Kent* (or whatever they are called these days). It was encouraging to see how many groups put the effort in to attend, sending a clear message that violence against hunt saboteurs will not be tolerated.

It transpired at the start of the main season that *the Garth* were hunting alternate Saturdays (can't think why). This left plenty of Saturday's free to visit the *Hampshire Hunt*. No doubt the *Hampshire* were less than happy with this new arrangement. The Saturdays that *the Garth* did hunt saw a tiny field which got smaller with each visit. Boxing Day saw *the Garth* banned from their regular meet due to the mess they made last year. Instead they were forced to meet at the pub down the road. A few sabs from **Reading** travelled a couple of miles down the road to the *Sandhurst Beagles*. They packed up as soon as the sabs arrived but it was worth the trip just to meet the man in the green boiler suit who said "What?!".

The pantomime season reached its peak on New Years Day. **Reading** and **Southampton**, with a contingent from **Croydon** (cheers guys & gals), visited *The Garth*. The hunt postponed the off until 12 o'clock. Sabs passed the time enjoying the spectacle of the plod trying (and failing) to be everybody's mate and the local animal rights group using a megaphone to hurl abuse at the hunt supporters as they arrived at the meet. When the time came the huntsman led an impressive field of twelve riders away from the meet. Within twenty minutes at least half of these had called it a day. The hunt put a brave face on things and soldiered on until 2:30 before packing up.

It transpired in the New Year that the Garth would not be hunting any more Saturdays this season. Can't think why.....

Southampton sabs have stretched their catchment area to include Winchester, the New Forest and occasionally a Bristol roughneck. Numbers are fluctuating from one to more than we have room for. A new personnel carrier is being organised as we write. As per usual most of the first half of the season has been spent with **Reading** & **West London**. *The Garth & South Berks* and *Hampshire Hunt* have been feeling heavy pressure. A visit was also made to the *Cattistock* for a successful kill-free day out. This season has seen 4 "doubles". A days cubbing with *the Hampshire* was followed by the Opening Meet of the *Sandhurst & Aldershot Beagles*, who decided not to leave the meet. A day out on *the Garth* found 4 of us sabbing the foxhounds whilst the rest disappeared for half an hour to pack up a nearby shoot. *The Garth* came up trumps for us again on a meet near Stratfield Saye which happened to be where the *Sandhurst & Aldershot* were due to hunt. 5 sabs peeled off for a half hour run with the Beagles and both packs were boxed up by 2.30. Boxing Day saw *the Garth* putting on a pathetic attempt at shaking off sabs who took them off a couple of foxes, whilst the *Sandhurst & Aldershot* got a Xmas present in the form of a visit from sabs again. Suffice to say they packed up sharpish once they got their pack back.

The best day has to have been with the *Hampshire* on December 16th. The pack were laid onto a fox and then split. A small crack squad peeled off with the 10 hounds that had gone the opposite direction from the fox and hunted them on for 3/4 mile. The half that had gone after the fox were halted by a large group of sabs who then played hide & seek with the cops. Despite lots of red faced horn blowing and calling by the huntsman & whip, the missing hounds would not come back. As a result, most of the hounds were back in the hound van at 1 p.m. An early finish, but not too early for an arrest, and it took an hour and a half to round up all the sabs!!!

SOUTH EAST

Essex sabs efforts this season so far have been concentrated on the *Essex Farmers and Union.* Although not able to attend every weekend due to work commitments, the meets that sabs were able to get to were successfully disrupted where necessary and no kills resulted.

During cub-hunting a reporter from London Tonight joined a group of **Essex** and **Kent** sabs at Dammerwick Farm, Burnham-On-Crouch for an afternoon cub hunt. The following week a reasonably sympathetic piece was broadcast.

Crawley & Horsham **Foxhound killed after repeated drawing near the A24**



The only blot on the landscape occurred when 3 sabs attempting to disrupt the Parklands Farm meet on 14th October, found it very suspicious that at least 7 or 8 foxes were put up from one small area. Bravely ignoring threats and intimidation from the hunt, they managed to act to save most but accepted there were at least two kills.

On the 11th November Sabs from **Norfolk**, **Suffolk** and **Essex** joined up for a visit to the *Stour valley beagles*. The day started with a blockade of the kennels, which attracted the usual police presence plus the counties new pride and joy. A HELICOPTER (double points for airborne police – ED). The blockade was eventually dispersed and a friendly copper came over


© Chair-bear

A *Surrey Union FH* rider dismounts to get a closer look at the grass

to tell us that the huntsman told him that he wasn't going out today anyway. The policeman in question looked bemused when faced with the phrase 'pissed up your back and told you it's raining'.

Being the cynical types we hung around and sure enough the Hound truck left about 15 minutes later full of dogs. The meet for the day turned out to be at the Swan Inn at Monks Eleigh. After several minutes of huffing and puffing the hunt set off and proceeded to do a 1.5 mile long circular walk along the lanes and back to the pub! He then proceeded to tell everyone he was n't hunting due to a local outbreak of swine fever leaving a bunch of disgruntled supporters to head off in to the pub. Shame!

The season did not get of to a goods start for **Croydon** with the near death of one of our sabs Steve Christmas by an alleged supporter of *The Old Surrey Burstow and West Kent FH*. The start of the season was pretty active with lots of demos against the *Burstow*. With the *Burstow* not going out some Saturdays we were able to travel to other hunts.

We met up with **Maidstone** Sabs and visited the *Ashford Valley* during Cubbing and witnessed the police revving motor-bikes to turn the fox back to the hounds.


© Hastings sabs

***Southdown & Eridge hounds* promise sabs they'll disobey the huntsman repeatedly**

We Joined up with **Brighton** sabs and paid a visit to the *Wye college beagles* (when they had some). A week later we packed up the *Blean college beagles* on their opening meet and packed up *the Brighton & storrington beagles* the week after.

The 28th October was *the Old surrey and Burstows* opening meet. We had 150+ sabs and representatives from 25 groups around the country. There are too many to name but thanks for coming. Everywhere the hunt went they were met by sabs.

Every time the *Burstow* have gone out since then they have been sabbed. They cannot hide from us. A vanload of sabs from **Croydon**, **Brighton** and **Hastings** sab them any day they go out in the week and with bigger numbers if they go out on Saturdays

.

National beagling day we paid a visit to the *Kent & sussex beagles* with no kills. **Croydon, Brighton** & **Hastings** have also paid visits to the *Southdown and Eridge*, *the Crawley and Horsham, the Bolbrooke beagles* and the *Surrey Union*. Watch out scum we could visit you soon!

Hastings sabs have been concentrating their efforts on the *Old Surrey, Burstow & West Kent FH* along with sabs from **London**, **Croydon** collective and the **Southdowns**. Sabs have consistently hit *the Burstow* with 10+ sabs during mid-week hits, and Police have requested the hunt pack up on Saturdays due to the large number of sabs present. This is a hunt in serious disarray!

Southdowns sabs have also been targeting the *South Down & Eridge FH and the Crawley and Horsham FH* who on 27th January had a hound run over on the A24 in Sussex (one of the major roads in the area). The Huntsman insisted on repeatedly drawing his hounds within 100 yards of the A24 for most of the day. A hound ran onto the road and was hit by a distressed lorry driver who had his 10 year old daughter on board. Needless to say she was well upset. Sabs managed to get to the hound - but although it was still alive, it had a broken back and died soon after. Later in the day the A24 dual carriage way had to be closed to one lane each way due to hounds rioting along the road, causing major hassle and danger to other road users. This also tied up 6 or 7 police vehicles. A compassionate fat twat bumpkin in a rangerover with a silly hat commented "*so what we've got plenty more of them*".

Latter that day two **Southdowns** sabs found an abandoned horse galloping up a lane towards the A24. Sabs managed to calm it down and take it for a "walk". It was a good 2 hours before rider and horse were reunited. In the words of Jeremy Whaley: "*we've had your horse mate*".

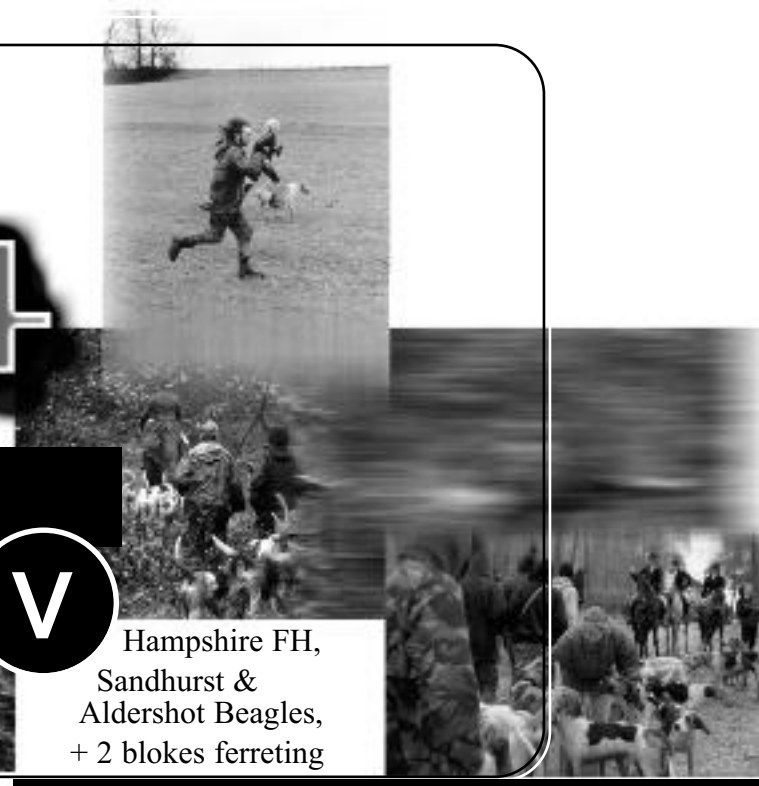

© Chair-bear

Two fat masons: 88 (Stone?)

IMPORTANT – ALL GROUPS PLEASE READ

We (as in the new Howl Eds) are very keen to include as much group new as possible. If you are a group contact or if you fancy acting as your groups contact for Howl News please email us at **howl.editor@virgin.net**
Alternatively send us a letter with a number we can contact you on to the office address so that we can make harassing calls to you when we don't get your news!

out + about



Reading, West London & Southampton sabs



V

Hampshire FH,
Sandhurst &
Aldershot Beagles,
+ 2 blokes ferreting

Words & Pictures by Sidney McQueen

Reading, West London & Southampton Sabs score a Sabbing McNab* in Hampshire



During October nearly two dozen sabs from West London, Reading and Southampton had a hugely successful day blitzing Blood Junkies in the heart of the English South.

The Hampshire hunt was targeted first, a cubbing meet at Cheriton. sabs were swiftly into action, using horn and voice calls to divert hounds of the line of a fox from a scrubby covert behind the meet. Hounds were gathered, and taken away at pace by the huntsman. This set the tone for the 3 and a half hour hunt, with sabs keeping both hunt and hounds on their toes and on the move.

A fox was hunted fast across the vast Hampshire countryside to Arlesford Golf Course. Foxy double backed, and here sabs caused enough delay with sprays and horns to stop this hunt.

Another fox was marked to ground in woodland with sabs in on foot, and left. The arrival of West London HSA at this point certainly swung the pendulum in favour of the fox.

Hounds were kept under close control by the huntsman. They were speedily run through woodland to Titchbourne Park. Sabs followed on foot in different groups, popping up at the hunts every twist and turn. The four wheel drive vehicles kept tired sabs constantly one step ahead, always driven with skill and tactical awareness. The experienced sab drivers seemed to be always in the right place at the right time.

Two foxes were found in Titchbourne Park. One was inexplicably left alone.



The other was hard pressed by hounds. He ran through the park, over the fledgling River Itchen and up a wooded hill to the South of the village. Hounds checked and the fox doubled back, down the hill and right passed sabs who were close at hand. As he splashed through the flooded water meadows, sabs who had just crossed the Itchen froze where they stood and the fox passed safely. The whipper-in had seen the fox and was hollering. However, this was in vain because sabs on top of the hill had kept in close disruptive attendance and this in turn had forced the huntsman to keep on running the wrong way.

This was the last serious action on this hunt which ended before midday.

Left: **Bored Police pester sabs**
Above: **Sabs with Hampshire Foxhounds**
Above Right : **Sabs stop hounds on a fox**
Above right middle: **'S & A' Beaglers hunt down tea & biscuits**
Right: **Sabs pack up the Hampshire FH**

*McNab: three species caught in one day

Inside information had alerted sabs to the opening meet of the Sandhurst and Aldershot beagles at nearby Preston Candover. The weary sabs converged here.

On the way Southampton HSA packed up two ferreters who were rabbit hunting at Cheesefoot head, with minimal fuss.

Beaglers looked in horror as sabs arrived at the meet. No attempt was made to hunt and stalemate continued until late afternoon. By this time hunt support had dwindled to virtually nothing. Relations between sabs and Police (who's determination not to get muddy feet infuriated the hunters) was even at time most friendly.

With darkness little over an hour away, the huntsman asked sabs for permission to let the hounds out of their trailer for a wee. The sabs decided that this was okay, in view of the polite manner of the huntsman (he had offered sabs his horn as insurance against him lying). This done, the hunt went home.

A fine day for sabs, who bid farewell to each other and retreated to the various cities, towns and villages from whence they came.

Sid McQueen October 2000

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PO Box SABS, 4 Onslow Road, Bevois Valley, Southampton, Hants SO2 0JD.
e-mail: sabs@tinyworld.co.uk

Reading Sabs
c/o The Rising Sun (Folder 17), 30 Silver St, Reading, Berkshire RG1 2ST
e-mail: readinghuntsabs@wildmail.com

West London Sabs
c/o HSA, PO Box 2786, Brighton, BNQ 2AX.









Legal News

HUNTING BILL

Is it too good to be true or do we actually stand a chance of seeing hunting banned?

This is the closest that we have come to seeing a bill to ban hunting pass through into law. What makes it different from the previous attempts such as the Foster Bill, the McNamara Bill and the McFall Bill to name a few is that it is government sponsored. Previous Bills have been Private Members Bills, which only have limited time to pass through Parliament. Pro-bloodsports MPs such as Michael Colvin, Nicholas Budgen (both now deceased) Nicholas Soames and David MacLean could prevent it becoming law by filibustering, which basically means playing silly buggers and doing anything to expend crucial parliamentary time. Old favourites have included reading out the electoral register! With a government sponsored Bill on the other hand, there is enough time for it to pass through the various stages of becoming a law. However, this is not a Bill to Ban Hunting, it is a Bill to decide on the future of hunting.

There are 3 options that will be voted upon the least popular two of which will be discarded, leaving the parts of the Bill that remain to become Law:

Option 1: *Supervision*
Option 2: *Regulation*
Option 3: *Prohibition*

What is particularly strange about this Bill is that the Home Office was assisted in writing the different options by interest groups: the *Countryside Alliance* were consulted on option 1, the parliamentary '*Middle Way*' group on option 2, and *Deadline 2000* on option 3.

The different options explained:

Previous animal welfare legislation provides exceptions for hunting. The Protection of Animals Act 1911, The Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996 and The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 allow hunts to carry out activities that would otherwise constitute cruelty or unnecessary suffering and as such be illegal. The Game Act 1831 and Game Licenses Act 1860 also make special allowances for hunting and coursing.

Option 1: *Supervision*

This option will remove those exceptions within the Protection of Animals Act & Wild Mammals (Protection) Act except hunts that are 'supervised'. By supervised, they mean supervised by an organisation that is a member of the ISAH (Independent Supervisory Authority for Hunting). Do not be misled by the name. It is has none other than Sam Butler, Chairman of the Campaign For Hunting, sitting on it. It is an attempt to legitimise the Master of Foxhounds Association and other organisations that 'supervise' or 'regulate' hunting, coursing & terrier-work. Of course, from experience we know that when a hunt contravenes the rules, all these organisations do is give them a slap on the wrists, come up with an excuse or change the rules! (see previous editions of HOWL for more details).
According to guidance notes on this Bill, this option is designed so that supervision is voluntary and so brings into question its validity. But then again, the validity of hunting organisations supervising themselves (handshake, nod, nod, wink, wink) is regularly brought into question.

Option 2: *Regulation*

This option sets out how hunting will be licensed. Hunting without a licence will be made an offence. A new hunting authority will be set up with supposedly at least half of its membership made up from people who are neither pro-hunt not anti-hunt. When you look at such a polarised issue as hunting it becomes difficult to believe that it will be possible to find people who have no opinions either way. It sounds almost plausible until you find out that anyone whose application is rejected can appeal to a magistrate's court. My limited (ahem) experience of magistrates is that they either know nothing about hunting or too much - because they hunt themselves!
The membership of the authority is appointed by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State can add or delete conditions that have to be satisfied in the licence, parliamentary approval withstanding. So, lets imagine for one minute that we have a pro-hunt Home Secretary (what do you mean, unheard of?). He or she could adapt the licence conditions so that levels of cruelty or behaviour that were not allowed under a previous Home Secretary (e.g. bolting, digging out, holding up) would be given the thumbs up.

Option 3: *Prohibition*

Put simply, hunting wild mammals will be banned. People taking part in or allowing their land to be used for hunting or coursing would be liable to arrest and face fines of up to £5,000.
The exceptions in the current animal welfare legislation that protect hunters from cruelty charges will be removed. However, there are still exceptions: 'Rodent control' will still be permitted, provided no dogs are entered below ground and that permission is given by the landowner. (I can hear the Meon Valley Rat Hounds breathe a sigh of relief) Stalking and flushing out of a fox, hare or rabbit is permitted when it is to provide food (for humans or animals), or to protect livestock, crops, game birds or fowl. This seems to be to placate the Gamekeepers, and Gun packs who flush foxes out & shoot them. Falconers are allowed to flush out mammals for birds of prey to hunt.

So, what happens next?

Parliament will turn its wheels; the press will get excited; there'll be a glut of chat shows and documentaries on TV and radio; the alliance will come to London and issue threats; the hunts will keep on killing. Assuming MPs decide to go for Prohibition, once the Bill has been through the Committee stages and the Lords, we are still looking at 2003 - if we're lucky - before the ban is implemented.

In the meantime, thousands of animals will be hunted and killed in the name of 'sport'. The HSA will remain committed to its objectives and promises that until the day we see a ban on hunting with dogs in this country, hunt saboteurs will be out in the fields saving lives.



© Sid McQueen

FREE LEGAL AID!

As of October 2000 anybody charged in a police station who appears before a magistrates court for an offence which:

i) **Can only be tried by a Magistrate, e.g. Aggravated Trespass, Obstruction of the Highway, Section 4 & 5 Public Order Act (1986) etc**

or

ii) **Can be tried by a Magistrate or Crown Court e.g. Theft, Public Order Act Section 3 (Affray), Public Order Act Section 2 (Violent Disorder) various assaults etc.**

will get **free** legal aid regardless of income or savings providing the legal merits test is met (i.e. it's a case that the magistrates would grant legal aid for - not a parking or minor motoring offence etc.).

From April 2001 the Crown Court only offences, Murder, Robbery, Explosives, Conspiracy etc. will also be included.
The only catch is that if you are convicted the court can make an order for legal aid costs to be repaid if you're wealthy enough. It remains to be seen whether that happens in any but the most serious cases.

Thanks to Des at Christmas and Sheehan Solicitors for the info.

BEWARE THE FASHION POLICE!

A Sab arrested in sunny Yorkshre recently had an HSA key ring and hat taken as evidence. Apparently it implies you've a predisposition to commit a 68. Tenous but you may want top think twice about wearing the latest fashions from HSA salesgoods.

Slightly More Worrying:

Three Sabs arrested on the same hunt also had their mobile phones taken as evidence. The reason given was the Police believe the Sabs were using their phones to co-ordinate their actions and commit 68's.

THINK HOWL'S CRAP?

Howl is **your** magazine

Make sure it reflects your views by contributing to it.

Letters, articles, etc and Group News are always needed.

We always need photos/video grabs to go with stories

All contributions to the office marked 'Howl' or e-mail direct to

howl.editor@virgin.net

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 Belmarsh
Western Way
Thamesmead
London SE28 0EB
Sentenced to a total of 18 years for arson at several premises on the Isle of Wight and attempted arson in Bristol.

MEL BROUGHTON
DY8216
HMP The Mount
Molyneaux Ave
Bovingdon
Hemel Hempstead
Herts HP3 0NZl
Sentenced to 4 years for possession of explosives Co-defendant of Tony Humpries

MARK KULSDOM
Bledamfejens
Faengsel
Blegdamsvej 6, 2200
Copenhagen N
Denmark
A Dutch activist sentenced to 10 months imprisonment for conspiracy to raid fur farms

ROBERT MOLENAAR
Vestre Faengel
Cel 408
Vigerslev Alle 1, 2450
Copenhagen SV
Denmark
Also sentenced to 10 months. The co-defendant of Mark Kulsdom

GEERT WAEGEMANS
Begymenstraat 42
2000
Antwerp
Belgium
Remanded in connection with arson attacks against McDonalds, 2 slaughter house meat trucks and a meat processing plant

VERMIN PATROL

CRUELTY CASES IN THE COURTS

bloodsport

VERMIN

On 23/10/00 two men from Nottinghamshire were fined for attending an illegal dog tight following an undercover investigation earlier this year. **Andrew Taylor** (29) of Caernarfon Grove, Sutton-in-Ashfield was fined £300 and **Nigel Greensmith** (32) of The Quadrangle, Newstead Village was fined £250 after they both admitted attending the fight when they appeared before Mansfield magistrates. They were also ordered to pay £150 in costs. Four other defendants, **Kenneth Langan** from Portslade in Sussex, **Anthony Mullen** from Northfield in Birmingham, **Jeremy Brown** from Chesterfield and **Ryan Nuttall** from Newstead Village have all denied various offences relating to dog fighting and causing unnecessary suffering to dogs. They are due to stand trial at Mansfield magistrates 26/1/01.

A group of four men found netting salmon beneath the Wye Bridge at Monmouth were fined a total of £800 at Monmouth magistrates 19/12/00. **Clinton Stephen Edwards** of Woodland View, Wyesham; **Phillip John Oates** of Granville Street, Monmouth; **Christian Bradbury** of Wyesham Avenue, Wyesham, and **Luke John Short** of Carbonne Close, Monmouth all pleaded guilty to taking salmon using a fixed net. They also pleaded guilty to placing and using a fixed engine, namely a net and to taking salmon from water where there is a private right of fishery. Edwards was fined £250, Oates and Short £200 each and Bradbury £150. In addition to their fine, each man was also ordered to pay £100 costs.

A gamekeeper was cleared of killing a golden eagle on 20/12/00 after prosecutors dropped the case. **David Campbell** had been accused of using illegal poison to lace a red grouse as bait for birds of prey. But the fiscal dropped the charge at Perth Sheriff Court, saying a key witness in the case lacked credibility. Following an investigation into the death of the golden eagle and a buzzard on West Glenalmond Estate in Perthshire it was discovered that the eagle had been poisoned with the outlawed pesticide Yaltox. The buzzard was found dead next to a grouse which had been set up with poison to act as bait for birds of prey.

bird/egg

VERMIN

A massive haul of 1,487 rare and valuable birds eggs was seized by police after a lengthy undercover operation lasting several months. Officers raided a house in Blyth, Northumberland, and recovered the eggs - many from birds on the verge of extinction. **Barry Sheavils** (40) of Ogle Drive, Blyth, has been charged with a string of offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act which came into force in 1981 to protect Britain's dwindling bird life. But Sheavils did not attend when his case was called before magistrates at Bedlington on 21/11/00. His solicitor successfully applied in his absence for an adjournment to January 2001 for a pre-trial review. Sheavils is accused of 12 offences of taking and possessing wild birds eggs and under current legislation he could face fines of up to £1,000 per egg and up to £5,000 for the most rare Schedule One eggs if convicted. Included in the collection, which appears to have been built up over a number of years, were eggs from the rare black-neck grebe, the red-throated diver, the peregrine falcon and the chuff. This bastard has a previous convictions for stealing eggs.

An unemployed father of four was fined £1000 at Dornoch sheriff court on 20/12/00. **Mark Dawson** from Carlisle, pleaded guilty to being in possession of two black-throated diver eggs taken from a nest in the north of Sutherland in breach of the wildlife and countryside act.

equine

VERMIN

A man who hacked a horse to death with an axe because a neighbour complained it had been eating too much grass has been sentenced to three months in prison. **Gregory Martin** from Ballina, Ireland was convicted for what the judge called "*absolute, wanton cruelty*". Martin told the court he believed he had the right to kill the mare because "*the Bible says man has dominion over animals*". Martin argued he was competent to cut up the animal because of his experience in an abattoir and pleaded not guilty. Martin was fined £365 and directed to receive appropriate medical attention.

A woman from Carmathenshire who allowed two horses to starve to death escaped a fine when a court ruled she had no means of paying. **Anne Kasica** (46) of Felindre, Llandysul was convicted of 12 cruelty charges on horses in her care by magistrates. But she immediately lodged an appeal against the convictions and fines of £17,200. This meant that the RSPCA, who had seized all 12 horses, was unable to find new homes for them until after the appeal. However, Kasica withdrew her appeal at Swansea Crown Court on 24/10/00. RSPCA officers found the 12 emaciated horses in boggy fields near Llandysul and took them into care but two later died. Magistrates in the original case at Carmarthen ordered Kasica to pay £600 for each offence and costs of £10,000 a total of £17,200. But after withdrawing from an appeal hearing Kasica was told she would have no fines to pay because she had no way of paying them. The 10 horses that have been in care are now fit and healthy. A 10-year ban on keeping horses, which was imposed on Kasica by the magistrates, still stands.

A starving horse left tethered to a chain in baking heat had to have the soles of its feet removed to give it any chance of survival Derwentside magistrates heard on 6/11/00. The mare, owned by **Steven Wilkinson** (21) of Peartree Terrace, Chopwell, near Gateshead was shockingly emaciated, riddled with worms and was so thirsty when rescued that it drunk 33 gallons of water in one day. The mare was just skin on bones and was covered in cuts and open sores. Wilkinson denied causing unnecessary suffering but was convicted by magistrates, who ordered ownership to be transferred to the BHS. Wilkinson was given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £150 court costs.

A former Olympic show jumper has failed in his attempt to lift a ban on him keeping horses, and now faces ruin with debts of £150,000. **Carl Dicker** left a horse to starve to death in a field while other horses were kept in luxury. Magistrates banned him from keeping horses for seven years. And last night a judge refused to lift the ban imposed in October. The 43 year-old rider wanted to keep his equestrian centre at Adlington, near Macclesfield, running. Patrick Thompson, appearing for Dicker at Knutsford Crown Court, told Judge David Morgan Hughes he already owed £150,000 to a mortgage company, and had difficulty working because of a head injury suffered 10 years ago. .

Dismissing his appeal, the judge said: "*It is a bad case and I have seen the photographs. It is perfectly obvious that for weeks and possibly months this horse had no care and the magistrates were right to disqualify you.*" Later, Dicker, of Bideford Road, Stockport, said: "It is all over now".

assorted
VERMIN

Mark Gathercole (36) of Flybarn Farm, Stow Bedon, near Watton was jailed on 9/10/00 for 12 weeks after he pleaded guilty to 20 charges of animal cruelty and running an illegal slaughterhouse. Thetford magistrates heard that the farmer slit animals throats without prior stunning and then passed the meat off as Muslim 'halal'. Gathercole pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering, transporting an animal in a manner likely to cause suffering, slaughtering without appropriate knowledge and skill, acting as an unlicensed slaughterman and failing to dispose of animal by-products. The raid followed a tip-off from Hillside Animal Sanctuary. 150 sheep were found on the premises.

A taxidermist who illegally sold a "sickening" array of stuffed animals such as tigers, leopards, chimpanzees and wolves faces jail after the biggest prosecution of its kind in Britain. **Robert Sclare**, who called his shop 'Get Stuffed' in Essex Road, Islington, north London, packed it with endangered species including a tiger and her young litter and a leopard that had been stillborn at a British zoo. Also found at the shop, were a gorilla's skull, an elephant foot fashioned into a table and rare birds such as vultures, sparrow hawks and snowy owls. A spur thighed tortoise and a loggerhead turtle were also seized. He pleaded guilty to 29 counts of forgery relating to applications to obtain permits to trade in the animals when he appeared at Snaresbrook Crown Court. On 13/10/00 he also admitted 12 counts of illegally displaying the animals for a commercial purpose. Sclare is due to be sentenced on 3/11/00.

A butcher and his girlfriend from east London are to appear in court on Thursday charged with selling meat from a rare monkey and other rare animals. **Mobolji Osakuade** (39) who has premises in Ridley Rd market, Dalston, and **Rose Kinnanne** (34) face 12 charges in connection with illegally smuggling a tantalus monkey and other wild animals into Britain from West Africa. They are also accused of importing a pangolin (a species of ant eater), 13 lizard skins, and a number of python skins. The couple will appear at the City of London magistrates on 26/10/00.

On 2/11/00 Preston magistrates dismissed charges of cruelty on a technicality concerning the method that the information was obtained. Fur farmer **Tim Proffitt** of Bourne End, Billsborrow, Lancashire was accused of five charges relating to unnecessary suffering and not carrying out his duty on checking animals/taking action to prevent suffering.

farm
VERMIN

On 12/10/00 a Carmarthenshire farmer was jailed for a year after a sickening catalogue of cruelty was discovered at his farm. Llanelli magistrates also banned **Arwel Jones Clement** (50) of Penlan Farm, Hendy from keeping animals for life after hearing the case against him. Clement had pleaded guilty to 27 separate animal welfare charges at an earlier hearing. Inspectors found the carcass of a six-month old calf lying in muck in a shed passage. It had been castrated using a rubber ring strictly against MAFF rules. A post mortem examination found the animal had suffered chronic under-feeding and had a worm infestation. The animals had diseases such as chronic pneumonia, diarrhoea and ring worm.

A Highland sheep dealer was jailed for cruelty to more than 1,100 animals. **Colin MacLennan** (20) of 5 Tomich, Beauly, was sentenced at Dingwall Sheriff Court on 21/10/00. He will serve three months' imprisonment, having admitted a string of cruelty-to-animals offences. He was also banned from keeping sheep for 10 years and fined £1,150. More than 400 animals had to be destroyed after shocked SSPCA inspectors found scores of animals starving and collapsed at various sites in the Highlands. MacLennan had taken advantage of an unprecedented slump in the market to acquire thousands of lambs and ewes from markets throughout the Highlands and Islands. He lacked the experience to deal with the animals, with the result that many were left to suffer. The court heard of one particularly harrowing scene in which 30 sheep carcases were found lying unburied. A number of ewes and lambs had eye infections, were lame and covered in sores and parasites, and others were starving and in a state of collapse. A total of 462 were destroyed. MacLennan pled guilty to 17 out of 30 charges. Most of the charges involved causing sheep unnecessary pain, distress and suffering by failing to provide prompt veterinary treatment or failing to provide adequate food or grazing.

A farmer has been jailed for eight months for a string of animal cruelty offences. **John Herbert** Buckingham (52) of Furze Barn Farm, Warkleigh, near Umberleigh, was convicted in his absence of 15 offences including failing to bury carcasses, causing animals unnecessary suffering and distress, and breaching a 10-year ban from keeping farm animals. The ban was imposed by magistrates when magistrates also gave Buckingham a suspended six-month prison sentence. But at Barnstaple magistrates on 31/10/00 Buckingham again faced magistrates for sentence and was jailed for a total of eight months. The court was shown video evidence showing a number of sheep in poor and emaciated condition on Buckingham's land and sheep bones and carcasses strewn across a field. One sheep carcass was found in the cab of a lorry on Buckingham's land.

domestic
VERMIN

Anthony Sharman, 27, of Bungay, Suffolk, who stabbed his girlfriend's hamster to death and then posted it to her, was jailed for five months on November 16 by Lowestoft Magistrates.

A man who hurled a kitten against a wall in a drunken rage has been banned from keeping animals for life. Ex- soldier **Shaun Mortimer** later dumped the dead animal in the garden. In his defence, the solicitor said that Mortimer had been drinking and over-reacted after the kitten – a family pet – repeatedly scratched him. Brave soldier!

A Stone mason who killed his dog by throwing it from the balcony of his third floor flat has been sentenced to two months in prison and banned from keeping a dog for five years. Bromley Magistrates Court heard last month how the 13month-old male Staffordshire Bull Terrier, named Max, bled to death after the impact of hitting the ground forced its ribs into its lungs. The black and tan coloured dog fell the 20 feet from the flat to the ground during a blazing row between **Richard Henry**, 30, of Lullington Road, Penge, and his partner, **Lynn Cooper**. Henry claimed he threw the dog from the balcony to prove to Miss Cooper he loved his family more than the animal. She had accused him, he said, of attaching more importance to the dog than to his loved ones. RSPCA inspector Ian Gough said it was one of the most horrific cases he had ever dealt with. He said: "*I am not surprised that he was sent to prison because the offence was so serious.*" He added: "*Mr Henry was very remorseful about what happened and now wants to put it all behind him. He was intoxicated at the time and it was his way of showing the family meant more to him than his dog.*" Henry admitted to causing unnecessary suffering to the dog at Bromley Magistrates Court and was sentenced on November 30.

A bright A-level student was sentenced to four-months in jail after he sprayed a family pet with lighter fuel, causing it to burst into flames. **Alan Moxon** (19) of The Meadows, Sutton, Hull was observed as he sprayed the flammable liquid on to his friend's 14-year-old red setter bitch. On 22/12/00 Hull magistrates heard how the dog suffered burns to its head, legs, tail and eye. Its injuries were so severe it had to be put to sleep 11 days later. Haulage contractor's son Moxon pleaded guilty to a single charge of ill treatment of the red setter bitch. He was subjected to hate mail and threats against his life after the details of the case were made public. Moxon was also banned from keeping a dog for life.

A couple have been fined £2,500 after they left their dog to roast to death in a hot caravan. Dover magistrates were told on 26/1/00 that GP **Janice Woodrow** and her husband **Graham Woodrow** both from Aberford Road, Stanley, Wakefield were on holiday when their dog died. The pair admitted causing unnecessary suffering to the dog. Ú

Ú **Ian Knight** (21) of Middlewood Avenue, St Helen Auckland, County Durham has been jailed for beating his pet puppy to death after it soiled his carpet. He was sent to prison for 4 months and banned from keeping animals for 10 years on 8/1/01 by Bishop Auckland magistrates after admitting the attack on his 8 month-old pet.

A couple who set up and ran a rescue centre for unwanted rabbits and guinea pigs have been convicted of animal cruelty offences. **Alan** (48) and **Lynda Vernon** (42) of Lytham Road, Blackburn have been banned for life from keeping any animals after Blackburn magistrates heard of the gruesome discovery made by RSPCA inspectors who visited their home in. In a variety of filthy hutches the officers discovered the bodies of 17 rabbits and 12 guinea pigs in various stages of decomposition. There were two rabbits and two guinea pigs still living in the squalor and without food or water. They each pleaded guilty on 1/8/00 to 10 offences of causing unnecessary suffering by omitting to act. As well as the life ban, they were each fined £250 and ordered to pay £350 prosecution costs to the RSPCA. They were given a formal seven days to pay in full after Alan Vernon said he would come to court the following day and pay the total of £1,200.

A father and son have been banned from keeping any animals for 10 years after pleading guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to their pets. **Harry Riley** (71) and **Alan Riley** (48) of Derby Street, Accrington were also sentenced to 12 months probation and ordered to each pay £50 costsfor the "gross neglect" of their cross breed terrier Zak and cross breed dog Misty. The dogs, who were 10 years old, had to be put down because their condition was so poor Hyndburn magistrates heard on 15/9/00. The court heard that Misty, a black female, had an untreated tumour on her stomach, was suffering hair loss to most of her back and had overgrown claws. A vet believed she had suffered for at least three months. Zak was suffering hair loss to nearly all his body, his skin was itchy and red with infection and his claws were overgrown. His mouth was diseased with infected gums.

A man accused of strangling a two month old kitten to death appeared at Stratford magistrates 0n 11/10/00. **Michael Muggleton** (42) of Woodgrange Road, Forest Gate, is charged with causing unnecessary suffering to the kitten at his address. He also face a criminal damage charge for the incident and two counts of common assault on Larisa Muggleton. He was remanded on conditional bail to appear on 27/10/00.

A woman has been banned from owning a pet for two years after leaving her kitten's severe injuries untreated for nearly three weeks. The 15-weeks-old kitten suffered horrific injuries to his hind leg, mouth and eyes. On 17/10/00 Nottingham magistrates were told his owner **Leainn Beresford** (20) of Quarry Avenue, Bulwell, failed to take the kitten to a vet immediately. The court heard the tiny kitten may have been struck with a heavy object or dropped from a great height possibly by the woman's violent ex-boyfriend. The neglect has left the pet permanently blind in one eye, partially blind in the other eye and walking with a limp. Beresford pleaded guilty yesterday to neglect and omitting to provide the kitten with veterinary treatment. Beresford was fined £100 and ordered to pay £50 costs.

A man has been jailed for three months and banned from keeping pets for 30 years after leaving his four dogs to starve in terrible conditions. When police broke into a house in Aspley they found one of the dogs had died after being attacked by the other three. **Ronald Perkins** (51) of Bulwell, Nottingham, admitted four charges of animal cruelty. He was jailed at Nottingham magistrates on 18/10/00 for three months for each offence, to run concurrently.

A 20-year ban on having custody of animals was imposed on a Cambridgeshire man after he was found guilty of subjecting nine greyhounds to unnecessary suffering. They were found in outdoor building at **Nigel Day's** (44) home in Elm, near Wisbech. Some pens had water, while others had food bowls containing bits of white bread or old pieces of bone. There was no dog food. The animals were underweight with rotting teeth, parasitic infections, pressure sores from lying on soiled bedding and puncture wounds, possibly from fighting. Two dogs were particularly unwell. One was lame, bruised with bleeding wounds and the other had several unattended wounds, inflamed skin and gums and an ingrown flea collar. Wisbech magistrates found Day guilty on all nine counts of causing unnecessary suffering. Day was also ordered to pay £1,000 towards costs and carry out 180 hours community service. All nine dogs have been successfully rehomed.

Gareth Edward Robins (23) from Chadderton was jailed 0n 21/11/00 for two months for slashing a puppy's throat. But he walked free from court on bail pending an appeal hearing. The court heard how who was also banned from owning an animal for 10 years, had delayed getting treatment for the eight-month-old cross-bred dog for nearly two hours. He was convicted of cutting the animal's throat, exposing its jugular vein and wind pipe. The dog needed 40 stitches in a life-saving operation. Robins, who has now moved to Prestwich, admitted that he did not tell the vet that the dog belonged to him because he could not afford to pay for the treatment.

Thomas Jefferson (39) of Dyer Square, Southwick was banned from keeping animals for life after his dog was found near death. Sunderland magistrates heard on 29/11/00 the Lurcher was half its normal weight when RSPCA officers called at his home. Jefferson admitted causing unnecessary suffering. He was given a two-year conditional discharge and ordered to pay £400 costs.
On 10/11/00 a former vet who was prosecuted for cruelty by the RSPCA has today been ordered to carry out 100 hours community service after she was convicted of breaching a ban disqualifying her from keeping animals for the second time.
Dr **Helen Hein** (72) of Amberwell Kennels, Newlands Corner, Guildford, was banned from keeping and breeding dogs for seven years on March 19th 1996, after admitting eight charges of causing unnecessary suffering and another of breeding and selling dogs without a licence. Today magistrates imposed a 100-hour community service order and ordered Hein to pay £250 in costs after she pleaded guilty at Guildford magistrates to two counts of breaching the ban imposed four years ago. In-breeding had caused hideous deformities among the dogs. Some had no eyes or stumps instead of legs, leaving one dog to drag itself around the room. Others had cuts and sores and were running wild in packs. Every room in the property where Dr Rein illegally bred the animals for sale, was caked in excrement and over-run by dogs. Puppies were found in and under the bath with food scattered among faeces on the floor The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons struck off Dr Rein in November 1996, following her conviction. In September 1997 she was convicted on three counts of breaching the disqualification order on keeping dogs imposed in March 1996 and given a two-year conditional discharge.

Lee and **Jeannette Ripley** from in Rowntree Avenue, Clifton, York went on honeymoon leaving a menagerie of exotic pets behind. A tarantula died and a Mexican red knee spider and Chilean rose spider were discovered in containers with no controlled heating or humidity levels. A bearded dragon lizard was so weak from starvation that it could not eat crickets that had been left in its cage. The animals were among four cats, a dog, three rodents, a canary and four chinchillas left without proper food or water for nine days at the couple's home. The Ripley's pleaded guilty to ten charges of causing unnecessary suffering to animals at York magistrates on 17/11/00. They were banned for life from keeping animals, and ordered to pay £2,040 costs.

When an RSPCA inspector discovered an ill-treated dog she was so touched by the plight of the animal she decided to give it a home herself. It's previous owner, an unemployed man from North Yorkshire, was banned from having custody of any animal for five years after admitting causing unnecessary suffering to the white German shepherd dog. Selby magistrates heard how **Kenneth Webb** (48) of Cliffe, near Selby, locked the two-year-old dog in a concrete porch area, measuring six feet long and two feet wide. She was starved of food, water and affection, and forced to lie in her own excrement. The court heard how the dog was put on a drip before having a blood transfusion and anabolic steroids. She was under half the normal weight for a German Shepherd of her age, but after six weeks of medication and correct diet she has almost fully recovered. Webb was sentenced to 100 hours community service, put on 12 months probation, ordered to pay costs of £850 and given seven days to rehome his other dog which has since been rehomed.

A man has who used a puppy like a foot-

ball has been jailed for the savage attack. Burnley magistrates were told on 17/11/00 how the puppy was violently abused by **Christoper Ian O'Leary** (26) of Cleveland Street, Colne who had owned it for just a week. O'Leary was jailed three months after admitting causing unnecessary suffering. He was also banned from keeping animals for 10 years. A vet concluded the dog died of internal bleeding and had gone through suffering beyond belief.

A man who was found with two dogs, two ferrets and a dead hamster in his home, in defiance of a life ban against keeping animals, was warned on 7/12/00 he could face a jail sentence. **Christopher Neill** (38) of Callendar, Ouston, Chester-le-Street, (pictured above) was banned by magistrates for keeping animals for life after being found guilty of cruelty charges three years ago. But Derwentside magistrates heard that Neill was keeping animals at home in filthy conditions. Neill, who



denied seven charges of causing unnecessary suffering to animals and breaching a previous court order, claimed a man left the animals in his care for one day while he was moving house. After hearing how he was unable to name the man in question, magistrates found him guilty of all seven charges and adjourned sentencing for reports until 3/1/01.

A man who drowned nine puppies was banned for life on 21/12/00 from keeping any animal. **Matthew Douglas** (27) of Cringle Court, Redcar told RSPCA officers that he thought the puppies would die from shock in the cold water. Douglas pleaded guilty at Teesside magistrates to causing unnecessary suffering to them. He was ordered to do 100 hours community service, and put on probation for 12 months. He was also ordered to pay £150 costs.

A woman who ripped the wings off her son's budgie in a drunken rage has been banned from keeping another animal for life. **Christine Lawson** (45) of Granville Road, Middlesbrough savaged her son's pet in front of him and two policemen. Then she crushed the green bird in her hand and flung it on to the floor. One of the officers had to put it out of its agony Teesside magistrates heard on 12/1/01. The RSPCA found every bone in its body was broken. Lawson admitted cruelty and was put on probation for 12 months and ordered to pay £100 costs.
A dog owner who battered his pet over the head with a claw hammer has been jailed for eight weeks. **John Maher** (41) of Keresley, Coventry, bludgeoned the Staffordshire Bull Terrier with the hammer after returning home from the pub. Coventry magistrates were told on 8/1/01 how neighbours called the police after hearing the dog's cries. The animal, which survived the attack, has now been rehomed. Maher admitted causing unnecessary suffering to the animal at an earlier hearing. Magistrates also banned him for life from keeping animals and ordered him to pay £250 court costs. The court was told Maher came home from the pub and was playfully bitten by the dog. He retaliated by picking up a claw hammer and smashing the dog's skull at least three times.

A kitten was left in agony after its owners wired its jaws up with the tag from a freezer bag in a botched attempt at DIY surgery. **Anthony Dannatt** (22) and **Christina Warcup** (18) both of Grange Road, Darlington claimed they were only trying to help their three-month-old kitten after it broke its jaw, Bishop Auckland magistrates heard on 8/1/01. Dannatt and Warcup both admitted causing the injury and each was ordered to pay £150 legal costs and banned from owning an animal for five years. The kitten underwent two operations, has now made a full recovery and been given a new home.

Surrey Anti-Hunt Campaign

Have you subscribed to our free newsletter yet? Join today if not.

Surrey Anti Hunt Campaign (SAHC) was initiated in October last year in response to the violent attack on Croydon sab, Steve. The aim is to stop the Old Surrey, Burstow & West Kent FH from hunting. Our broader aim is to campaign to stop hunting across the three Counties of Surrey, Sussex and Kent and to provide a model that groups country-wide can adopt.

We campaign legally to end hunting but make no apologies for upsetting hunt scum and putting pressure on them through pickets of their homes and phone blockades of hunt pubs. These people are as guilty off the field, as they are on it and we intend to keep the pressure on all members of the hunt. We have not and do not engage in fire-bombing or criminal damage, we do not need to. But as Deana Scott said in an interview for BBC Radio Kent
"*We do not mind them protesting while we're hunting, but we don't like them coming to our homes*"
We say 'Tough'

The response to our naming and shaming website is for Matthew Knight solicitor for the Countryside Alliance to threaten our provider with High Court action. There are no legal grounds for a High Court Action, but Matthew Knight as many of you know is a bully (He is also joint Master of the Ashford Valley FH). This was fantastic news because we knew we were having an impact. Every home on the website was covered by the police the day 12 of us turned up to do a peaceful home demo!
The website has moved to America and will be back up as I write this article. We have several mirror sites in locations most of us can't even spell. That should keep Matthew Knight busy for a while.

Our pre meet leaflet has been very useful and can be used by any sab group. 'Lock Up Your Pets, the Killers are Coming' warns local people that the hunt will be in the area the following day and asks them to keep a camera ready and report any trespass etc. This allows us to utilise the silent support we have in rural communities.
This hunt is already dejected and battle weary and we haven't even got all our literature printed yet.

Sabbing alone will not stop hunting. A campaign such as SAHC takes away their support base and therefore their income. It drives a wedge between hunt scum and the community and provides a public face that people can approach. With numbers dwindling to nothing and hunt violence reduced sabs are more effective on the day. Fund raising has allowed us to provide sabs with disposable cameras so that they can identify potential thugs and record possible hunt violence. It also allows the hundreds of people who feel passionately that hunting is wrong an opportunity to do something. Our newsletter is not full of '*Look how well we are doing on your behalf*' its about '***look what you can do***.' The campaign offers all its newsletters, leaflets and stickers free. We will support any group anywhere in the country that is fighting blood sports.

We are supporting our local sab groups and passing on details of new sabs. Our mailing list now has over 1200 supporters. We estimate we will have nearly 2000 by the end of the season. This is a growing campaign that is keeping the issue of blood sports in the press. It is growing because we provide people with something to do as well as something to read. What we need now is the broad based support of saboteurs. We need sabs to see sabbing not just as a Saturday and occasional mid week event, but a yearlong day in day out event.

We will support any sab group in the country with merchandise; all we ask is the sabs support us, because we are winning the battle against the Old Surrey, Burstow & West Kent FH.

Celia (SAHC - see useful addresses on next page)

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

Justice for Steve Christmas
get well cards,messages of support & donations to:
Steve Christmas c/o Croydon H.S.A., PO Box 1072, Coulsdon,
Surrey CR5 2ZT
www.jfsc.atfreeweb.com/

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 Newchurch Guinea Pigs
PO Box 74, Evesham, Worcs, WR11 5WF
01902 564732

SchNEWS
PO Box 2600, Brighton BN2 2DX
01273 685913 email: schnews@brighton.co.uk Web:
http://www.schnews.org.uk/

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

Surrey Anti-Hunt Campaign
Publishes free regular newsletter
B.M. Box 7099
London WC1 3XX
0771 903 1066 email: surreyantihunt@yahoo.com
www.sahc.org.uk

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*)

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

r I enclose a donation of £..... to help fund the H.S.A.'s work

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

Address .....

.....

..... Postcode .....

Telephone Number.....

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

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

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

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

Please return to HSA, PO Box 2786, Brighton BN2 2AX

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



d by hunts.

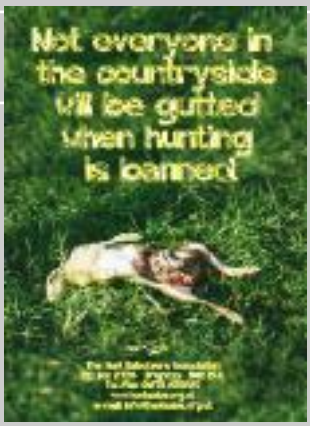
Hill how many more lives must
n on hunting with hounds?

HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION

www.huntsabs.org.uk

HSA PROMOTIONALS





NEW Full colour, glossy A2 posters. Ideal for stalls, displays, and any empty wallspace!
.....**FREE (+p&p +DONATION)**



NEW Full colour, glossy, A5 leaflet explaining cubhunting; the side of foxhunting the hunters want to keep quiet. Help spread the word and expose this barbaric practice by distributing as many of these leaflets as you can.

'Cubhunting' leaflet .....**FREE! (+p&p +DONATION)**



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 175,000 already gone out!***

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

The HSA also has a range of 'How to...' A5 leaflets
Each A5 leaflet, 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!**











BACK ISSUES OF HOWL

There are still some back issues of Howl 69, 70, 71 & 72 available.

Single back issues 50p each

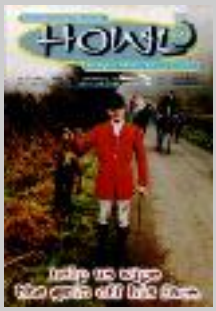
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ORDERING MORE COPIES OF THE LATEST HOWL.

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

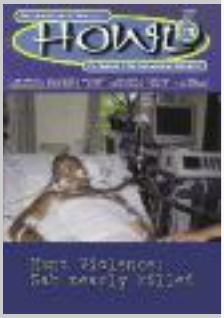
You can also affiliate to the HSA for £30 for 4 issues of Howl. Affiliated groups will receive 10 copies of each Howl in the course of their subscription. (The cost of affiliation includes postage)

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.