Summer 2001

Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

HOWL 74

The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association

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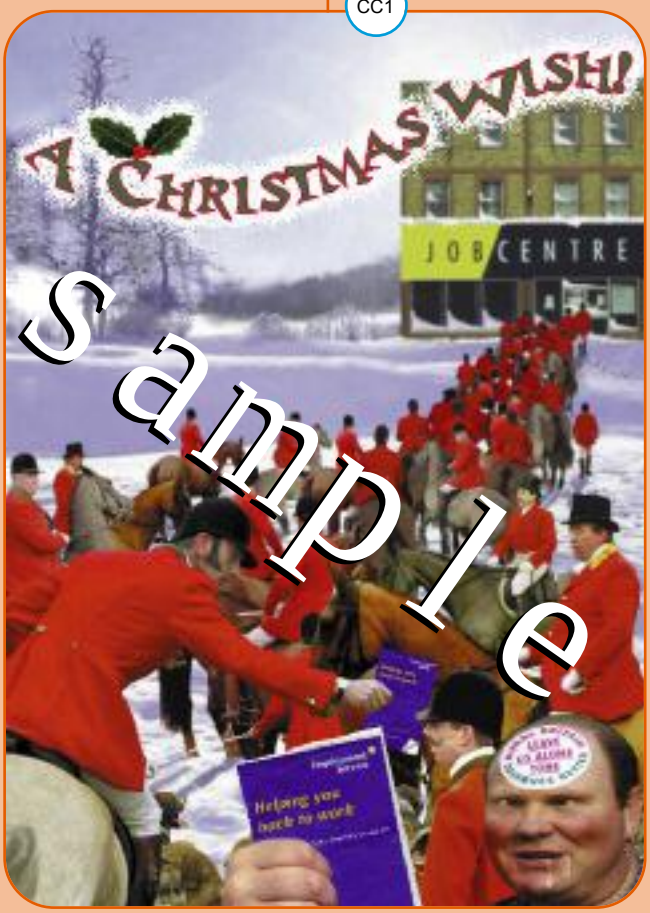
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HOWL 74

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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CONTENTS

regulars

News round up.....4
Letters.....10
Huntsman's Balls.....11
Group News.....18
Out & About.....22
Legal News.....25
Vermin Patrol.....26

features

Organise Yourself
Starting a new sab group.....14
Staying out for the Summer
Chiltern sabs go stall crazy.....17
Foot & Mouth Disease & Hunting.....20
No end in sight for poor farmers
TMD: A Memoir.....24
FM Dearing reflects

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)

Welcome to Howl 75, tardy though it is! Yet again we've been baulked by problems in production, which we always hope and pray won't happen again but like with foot and mouth, these things always tend to come out of the blue - and if we take Farmer Giles' line, are always somebody else's fault!

Anyway, lots has happened since the last issue - not least all the shopping that I got done and the "water feature" I was able to make in my garden during the absence of having to get up every Saturday morning to try and stop grown men and women from doing what ten year old boys would be put into care for.

In addition to F&M and the premature end to hunting season, we also saw some exceedingly tiresome election campaigning - livened up only by what will always be referred to as "Prescott's punch", which incidentally, landed smack-bangon the jowls of a thick-set pro-hunting demonstrator who shoved an egg in Mr Prescott's face. The fact that the egg-thrower (and subscriber to the sinister Earth Dog Running Dog) had a "mullet" hairdo, just goes to show how shameless and dangerously detached from any social framework these hunting types really are! Normally I take a firm stand against any form of Capital punishment, but that mullet was unforgivable and needed to be washed, shorn and quartered!

Then there was New Labour's re-election, the announcement of another free-vote on hunting, followed by a strong feeling of deja-vu. And finally, another hunting season looms as I write, so it looks like I won't get my fencing done now!

A big thank you once again to all those involved in the troubled production process, and to those who sent in material. (If you've sent us letters or articles that haven't appeared in this edition, then it is very likely that they will go into the next one)

Fur Elise

And so our second attempt. It's been a funny old season to be a co-editor of Howl. As hunt sabs everywhere twiddled their thumbs, put on weight and discovered Grandstand ain't what it used to be (and what happened to those Airwolf repeats anyway?), the country sat in front of the news each night as the death toll mounted and millions of animals were slaughtered for a disease that might cause a few blisters if contracted.

The irony of going vegan around the first outbreak hasn't been wasted on me (the two weren't linked - it was actually because of the whales (?Co Ed). After 12 years of being a vegetarian I finally accepted that the 60+ hours I work a week and my inability to cook were no longer good enough excuses for not withdrawing my tacit consent for the farming industry which enabled FMD to cause so much damage and suffering. It's been hard, and fuck I've been hungry and christ am I sick of houmous but you know it's not been anywhere near as difficult as I thought it would be. Soya milk ain't that bad, most pasta is made without eggs or milk (and there plenty of sauces to splodge on top too!).

Anyway, just a message for those who maybe have the same concerns I had before I went. Anyone who thinks they can't do it should think again. It's a bit of will power and a bit of effort sure - but it's worth it. Then you too can help contribute to the collapse of the British livestock industry. SCORE!

Matt

Yeah, yeah. We know. It's late. You can sue us.

GARY WOODLAND

1969-2001

Gary died in Brighton Hospital on the 12th April ultimately from Kidney failure but secondary infections and complications made Gary so weak he was unable to fight his way back to health like he had many times before. Suffering from kidney problems and diabetes since he was a child and even undergoing a kidney transplant donated by his dad, you would never hear Gary go on about his own problems, instead he would be more concerned about the plight of abused animals.

Gary made animal liberation a reality for many, many animals in the here and now, not waiting for laws or society to change.

He was a dedicated and knowledgeable sab and an inspiration to us all. For years Gary did not miss a single meet of his local pack the East Sussex & Romney Marsh F.H. with much sabbing success. He even found time to do old favourites like the Wye College Beagles and the Southdown and Eridge F.H.

He was a miserable git at times but this was balanced by being the most loving, caring and generous person you could meet.

Gary loved his dogs (Skank, Bracken & Barney), his punk rock (loud & fast!), his friends and the odd glass of cider and homebrew.

We all miss you Gary.



Say it with Conviction!

Just Like waiting in Peckham for a no.36 to Lewisham - you wait and wait and then suddenly, **four** turn up at once!

HUNTSMAN CONVICTED OF VIOLENT ASSAULT.....ON DISABLED MAGISTRATE


© Andrew Tester

Jonathan Broise, huntsman with the Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray Hunt had his hopes of becoming a hunt master dashed after being convicted of attacking a disabled magistrate and laying into another man at a point-to-point meeting. Horsham Magistrates were told on February 18 how things started to get out of hand - ironically in the *hospitality* tent - when Broise attacked Michael Halford, a company manager, and then turned on crutches-bound Philip Everest, when the magistrate tried to intervene.

You'd think the magistrate would have known better than to come between a huntsman and his quarry! Still he seems to have got off very lightly compared with others that have been attacked by huntsmen.

HUNTSMAN CONVICTED OF VIOLENT ASSAULT.... ....ON BROKEN DOWN MOTORIST


© Pete White

Woodhouse: In the bag or out the bag?

On March 26, another huntsman, this time with the New Forest Foxhounds, was sent to prison for eight weeks after being found guilty of assault on a passing motorist. Lydhurst Magistrates were told how **Paul Woodhouse**, huntsman with the New Forest FH since 1988, punched the motorist in the face after Mrs Woodhouse launched a verbal attack on the man for towing his wife's broken down car to a spot outside the hunt kennels! As a result of Mr Woodhouse's flying fists, the motorist sustained an injury to his eye, a chipped tooth and broken glasses.

The Master of the New Forest Foxhounds petitioned against a custodial sentence on the grounds that the dogs only responded to Mr Woodhouse and that there would be no-one to look after them while the Foot & Mouth restrictions prevail! This lot will try anything!

HUNTMASTER CONVICTED IN BADGER CASE

An Essex huntmaster has been found guilty of blocking a badger sett to stop a fox escaping. In a landmark case, Anne Hull, 39, of Maldon Road, Burnham, was convicted of aiding and abetting interference with a badger sett by Epping magistrates on April 25 after a two-day trial.

Hull, joint master of the Essex Farmers and Union Hunt, had denied the charge. She was fined £250.

HUNTSMAN CAUSES A.B.H. AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE


© SAHC

Wilkinson: Fox hunter, horse killer & woman-beater

Jonathan Wilkinson, 38, rider with the Old Surrey, Burstow & West Kent Fox hounds pleaded guilty to punching a 58 year old woman in the mouth causing her to need stitches, and also to smashing her video camera at Lewes Magistrates on 26th April 2001.

The incident occurred at a hunt meet in January when Mr Wilkinson's horse collapsed from underneath him and died at the side of the road. The horse was obviously unwell and had collapsed at an earlier meet four days previously. This didn't stop "big boned" Mr Wilkinson from treating the horse like a scrap racing car and literally running the broken animal into the ground. Two ladies from the League witnessed the distressing scene and one of them, holding a video camera, tried to capture what she saw as further evidence of the hunts' total disregard for the lives of animals. It was then that Mr Wilkinson gave a consummate demonstration of his total disregard for human life as well, and launched a violent attack on the woman. He subsequently tried to destroy the evidence by smashing her camera.

The court were said to have been quite touched that Mr Wilkinson owned up to the charges and as a result he got off with a year's conditional discharge, £50 costs and an order to pay £550 compensation. The fact that the assailant couldn't plead otherwise because his victim had filmed him seconds before he knocked her to the floor, clearly didn't strike the bench as the *force majeure* in all this. Could we see a hunt saboteur getting the same light justice for Actual bodily harm? Could we see a hunt saboteur beating a 58 year old woman to the ground? An emphatic NO and NO!

FOX BITES RESCUER'S HAND, MAKES A RUDE SIGN AND THEN SKIPS OFF LAUGHING - OR SO THE PRO-HUNT MEDIA WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE!

In February newspapers everywhere ran a story in which a hounded fox '*bites the hand of its miracle rescuer*' causing the man to need stitches. The story went on to suggest that this lucky old fox was an ungrateful bugger and that the man who picked it up must have been a sandwich short of a picnic for even attempting to touch such nasty "vermin".

Clearly produced by sub editors on work experience and not yet over their excitement of having discovered the meaning of irony - the various press treatments of this incident focused on one small part in a much bigger and more telling picture. So, for those of you who were denied the full reportage, here's how the story could have read with a bit more context thrown in:

A huntsman with the East Devon Foxhounds was arrested after it was alleged he attacked a man who tried to shield an exhausted fox from biting hounds. The foxhunter is said to have kicked and stamped on the hunt saboteur who lay crouching over the animal that he had scooped safely away from the hounds just moments before. Eye witnesses told how the saboteur struggled to hold the desperate animal, whose muzzle was being torn at by the dogs, whilst also attempting to protect himself from attack. The fox was eventually dropped and torn to pieces by the dogs in front of everyone present.

Later, the saboteur received hospital treatment for his hand where the terrified fox had bitten him - but not before being arrested himself by some vegetables in uniform lacking all powers of comprehension!

The huntsman was charged with Common Assault in May.

THE HUNTING BILL - ACT 2

In the early hours of June 8 a cautiously triumphant Tony Blair told the nation he had interpreted Labour's second landslide victory - albeit with its very low turn-out of voters - as '*a mandate for reform and instruction for action*'. In the face of recent reports it would seem that the hunting issue hasn't been excluded from the list of reforms that Tony had in mind.

Robin Cook, as new Leader of the House of Commons, told Labour MPs in June that the Government would include a Bill in the next Queen's Speech. Meanwhile anti-hunting campaigners have been told that the 'middle way is dead' and that Labour's huge parliamentary majority will serve to push towards a total ban on hunting with hounds. An animal welfare source said: '*We have been told the Bill will be tabled early in the Parliament*" .

Before the election, Downing Street told animal-welfare groups it was concerned that hunting could become an election issue and that anti-hunting MPs, who were the target of countryside campaigners, could lose their seats or have their majorities reduced. However, out of the 29 rural Labour-held marginals that were the target of countryside campaigners, 18 saw a swing from Conservative to Labour candidates! Labour MPs who led calls for a ban, including Peter Bradley, chairman of the rural group of Labour MPs, had a swing from the Tories.

Tony Banks, Labour MP for West Ham said: "*In the general election the people have spoken and the answer is that we must ban hunting. The middle way is not an option.*"



Get writing to your MP and let them know that the desire for a total ban is still very much alive.

House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Other election good news is that Kate Hoey has been returned to the back benches having lost her position as Minister of Sport. Noted for her pro-hunting stance, she was also responsible for seeing lottery money for sports being directed towards angling for the first time.

ANOTHER HORSE DIES 'DOING SOMETHING IT LOVED'!

A rider with the Essex and Suffolk Foxhounds rode his horse to death at a meet near Hadleigh in Suffolk on Jan 27 2001. The horse collapsed and died in a field at about 3pm. The rider told saboteurs present at the scene that 'the horse died doing what it loved' (err would that be trying to catch its last breath while being constricted by the fat sweaty haunches of a conceited idiot then?) This happened on the same day that a 58 year old woman at another hunt was beaten to the ground by a hunt rider, after she tried to capture the pitiful final moments of his horse as it died by the side of the road.(See left)

KARMA POLICE

A Canadian man accidentally shot himself in the head while hunting raccoons. David Backup, aged 35, is in a serious condition in hosp and may lose an eye. It's thought he lost his footing and shot himself with the .22 calibre rifl He was trying to kill raccoons in his uncle's barn in north Burlington, Ontario.
Ananova 11th April 2001

Two bears have mauled their owner to death at a private zoo in Spai They turned on Jose Ignacio Arest he started to feed them in their Paramedics were called out but co not get to the man because the be wouldn't let them in. He was eventually pulled out of the cage when a visitor managed to distrac the bears' attention at the zoo i Vitoria, northern Spain.
Two years ago the bears attacked woman tourist who got too close t the cage. She had to have a leg amputated.
Ananova 12th April 2001

An elephant handler has been killed on a South African film se after being
knocked over by one of his animals. The incident happened near Johannesburg when the man went to the toilet through some bushes. The cow elephant is believed to have hit her handler with her trunk. It is not clear i walked on the 23?year?old.
Ananova 17th April 2001

At least six people including one Briton have been gored during a

Announcement

The HSA has a new **Sales Goods Officer** - that's official. She's raring to go and looking forward to receiving all your orders, which she promises, will reach you, and at a speedier rate than they might have previously! A new salesgoods catalogue with some new sales items is in the wings - so get those cheque books ready! (See inside cover for goodies available now.)

NEWS IN BRIEF

MAFF sidetracked from badger killing

Thousands of badgers earmarked for extermination under MAFF's controversial Krebs regime have won a reprieve lasting until the end of the year. MAFF are too busy at the moment killing millions of other animals that might otherwise have got blisters on their mouths and around their hooves!Up to the end of January, 2913 badgers had been culled in the Krebs trials.
Source: Western Morning News 9 may 2001

More "red faces" in the Alliance

In January two people at a Labour Party meeting that was to be address by John Prescott were frogmarched out of the sitting when it emerged that they were supporters of foxhunting and the Countryside Alliance, and might have posed a security threat. The Sagars probably thought they could sneak in unnoticed with the aid of a Labour Party members invitations belonging to absent neighbours. However Mr Prescott is said to have spotted them almost immediately by their 'angry, red, contorted faces', a stock characteristic he first noted among CA supporters at the Labour Party Conference in Brighton the previous year!

Mrs Sagar, 40, said she was left "*humiliated, hurt and upset*' - and even more red faced than before no doubt! Jan 2001,

(This wasn't to be the last run-in that John Prescott had with supporters of hunting this year!)

Hunt trespass (again)

In January a young family in Norfolk blasted a local hunt after hounds ripped a hare to pieces in their garden.
Diss Express January 26 2001

Greyhound racers true Moral Standards

The son of a legendary British greyhound was battered and dumped in the road when he didn't live up to expectations. Dom Dan was ditched shortly after a poor performance at the track whereby he failed to line the pockets of his Welsh betting syndicate owners. When he was found he had been hit by a vehicle and was taken to a rescue centre for a life saving operation. After being taken in by some caring people, it was discovered that he was the son of the former Derby champion - rather ironically named by its betting owners as "Moral Standards".
Daily Record Sept 2000

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORTING THE HUNT - WHAT NEXT, F&M LOANS, EU SUBSIDIES?!

We have received disturbing reports that West Somerset District Council are donating prizes to local hunts to help them raise funds to secure the future of their unspeakable pastime. When a council worker complained that it was unethical for a local council to support political organisations not to mention hunting groups, they were told to leave their personal views at home!



Send more "personal views" to West Somerset Council at:
West Somerset District Council, 20 Fore Street,
Williton, Somerset TA4 4QA
Tel: 01984 633 022 email: wsdcsc@netcomuk.co.uk

CHIEF CONSTABLE CONFESSES TO POLICE BIAS

A Chief Constable speaking on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers said in a Radio 4 interview on 18 January 200, (between donuts) that policing a ban on hunting with dogs would be fraught with difficulties and impracticalities. Among the list of reasons cited, was his belief that policing a ban would pose a considerable strain on resources and that local police would feel reluctant to enforce the ban because of the 'good relationship' they have developed with the hunt over the years!

Discriminatory policing is hardly a new phenomenon, but the claim that there are not enough police resources to enforce a ban cannot pass without anecdotal comment:

At a Vale of Aylesbury hunt meet in 1999 a mobile call was made to the police by a rider with the hunt. Shortly afterwards a police helicopter arrived. It circled the skies for over two hours, while reinforcement squads from neighbouring counties were called in to cover the ground. What type of incident could have occasioned this military style effort from our police battalions you may ask? A huntsman's whip I tell you, which had disappeared amid reports that hunt saboteurs had got their grubby hands on it - and would probably try to sell it at a car boot sale!

Meanwhile saboteurs who come from towns or cities are at first always overwhelmed by the sheer number of police at hunt meets. Previously they'd been under the impression that riot vans, helicopters and Special Branch were all TV props! An overseas veteran went so far as to compare the police presence at hunts with his own military experiences: '*Jesus - this is like Vietnam*', he said!

Is any comment needed, or could it be that the police are implying that hunt mobs are violent by nature and by practice and that trying to stop them from killing things for pleasure would require a full scale military operation?

IS GOD TWO FACED WHEN IT COMES TO HUNTING?

Hunt saboteurs now have a new foe to face. As if it wasn't enough having to contend with biased policing, hired thugs, terriermen, violent mounted followers and covering long distances on foot, the hunting fraternity have enlisted the services of the Almighty.

A shooting coach, Rod Brammer from Shalden Shooting School, near Tiverton, Devon has founded the United Church of Country Sports and is calling for a national day of prayer! Although details of the prayer are to be released, it is anticipated that it may contain references such as "smite down those that interfere with our God given right to hunt". However, theological arguments may ensue when the church has to address the issue of whether or not hound breeding is interfering with God's creations!

Meanwhile, Ireland's Bishop Kirby has finally seen the error of his ways and put a stop to the local hunt from using his land. Previously he'd allowed the Galway Blazers to hunt, dig-out and conduct all other manner of profanities on church land. (Source: Irish ALF)

Finally, the Bishop of Reading upped the ante and claimed (quiet rightly so!) that God hates hunting. The Right Reverend Dominic Walker also said that the Church of England is not doing enough to oppose the sport. He made his comments in the League Against Cruel Sports' quarterly journal. The Bishop, chairman of the Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals, said hunting 'cannot be pleasing to God'. He said humans had been given dominion, not domination, over creation, reported The Daily Telegraph.

HUNTERS ABUSE FOOT AND MOUTH LOANS

According to the Telegraph, hunts across the country will try to take advantage of the Government loans set up to help businesses affected by foot and mouth. The Department of Trade and Industry said that loans under the 'Small Firms Loans Guarantee Scheme' would help 'tourist and retail businesses' but it appears that the wording of the regulations may allow hunts to apply.
Source: LACS April 01



Write to your MP and demand for the loan scheme to be changed so that hunts cannot abuse public subsidy in this way.

House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

WHAT THE FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS OF OUR "GUARDIANS OF THE COUNTRYSIDE" REVEAL

Rural campaigners, environmentalists and MPs were said to be hopping-mad in April after an investigation into the financial records of the Countryside Alliance revealed it has stock market investments worth over £530,000 in companies criticised for damaging the countryside and farming communities.

The leaked document showed that the rural lobby group has £40,000 worth of shares in Barclays, the bank that it publicly condemned and claimed would not do business with only last year, after closures of 171 rural branches with the loss of thousands of jobs.

But the double standards don't stop there, as the confidential document prepared by the alliance's financial advisors Wise Speke, also showed that the group has £30,000 invested in oil giant Shell. Bearing in mind its heavy involvement in last year's fuel protests with chief executive Richard Burge calling on the Government to get tough on oil firms, you'd imagine that hypocrisy doesn't come more pronounced!

Until you read some of the alliance's campaign literature that is, in which they claim: *'We promote conservation and the viability of the countryside as part of the national heritage....We plan to build on our sponsorship of work on biodiversity... we take notice of concern in rural areas about pollution and pesticides.*' Fair and honourable enough compared with its other more notorious objectives, but while it holds large investments in ICI, one of the worst polluters in this country, and £18,000 of shares in Rio Tinto, the controversial mining company condemned by governments around the world for its atrocious environmental record, one has to question what the Countryside Alliance is really about underneath all the spin and hamming up to the media?

My own judgement tells me that either there are two groups operating under the same name yet with diametrically opposed agendas, or that this report confirms what we've known all along: that the Countryside Alliance is a single issue organisation capitalising on the frustration felt by rural communities facing hardships, other then the abolition of chasing animals to the death as part of a fun day out.

ONE MAN AND HIS SOBS!



Page: Bitter

Rather than consider the possibility that watching erratic Border Collies chasing sheep around fields doesn't stimulate the minds of mature adults, Robin Page, alliance loony and alleged twin sister of Clarissa Dickson-Right, has dreamed up yet another conspiracy theory and accused the BBC of 'political and social exclusion' after they chose not to renew the contract for his series, One Man and his Dog.

He claims he was flushed out by the BBC because of concerns about his public involvement with the Countryside Alliance:

"*My sacking from One Man and His Dog reveals exactly what the BBC thinks of the countryside and country people....It is political and social exclusion of the worst kind*",

wrote the big girl's blouse in a half-page spread in the Telegraph! Clearly the political and social exclusion of the apartheid regime in South Africa, a system which Mr Page extolled the virtues of back in the 1980s, didn't qualify for 'political and social exclusion of the worst kind'!

NEWS IN BRIEF

Secretary loses "livelihood" after affair with Alliance chief.

A tearful former secretary with the Countryside Alliance told a tribunal how she was sacked after her affair with a leading figure in the organisation became public. She claims that the organisation was guilty of sexual discrimination when it sacked her and allowed her ex-lover to keep his post. The alliance denied sexual discrimination and claimed that she was dismissed for financial reasons.
Everywhere Wednesday 7 March 2001

Sexual discrimination? Anything's possible with that lot. Financial difficulties? Over half a million last time we heard!

Lower House wants to ban wild boar drive hunts

A majority in the lower house of Dutch parliament has asked for a legal ban on large scale wild boar drive hunts. This will mean an end to the royal hunting parties on the royal estate of Het Loo near the city of Apeldoorn. Political parties PvdA, D66, GroenLinks, ChristenUnie and SP are calling for the new wildlife protection laws, still being drafted, to be implemented as soon as possible. Drive hunts on other animals, like deer, have been banned already.

The Ministry of Agriculture didn't want to comment on the consequences of the debate for the royal family's wild boar hunts at the Loo. There is speculation that the royals will give up boar hunting voluntarily before a ban becomes law. Spokesmen for the family refused to comment.

Reported by De Telegraaf, a pro-hunt Dutch newspaper! Freaky coincidence or parallel worlds?

Newspaper admits CA bias

A west country newspaper has confirmed its support of the Countryside Alliance after one of their readers complained about the one sided comments and skewed facts that are a permanent feature of its editorial selections. Other concerned readers can write to the Western Gazette at: The Western Gazette, Sherborne Road, Yeovil, Somerset, BA21 4YA

NEWS IN BRIEF

Basil's brush with power

A fox sneaked its way into the House of Commons on February 5. It made its way up three flights of stairs before finding a comfy spot on top of a filing cabinet. Nicknamed Basil, the fox was captured by the RSPCA and released at a spot nearby. The fox was on the same floor as the Public Bills Office. The RSPCA's animal collection officer said: 'Perhaps he wanted to thank MPs for voting to outlaw the cruel so-called sport of hunting'.
Telegraph 6 Feb 01

Foxhunter stands trial for rape

On February 5th a member of the Four Burrow Hunt in Cornwall was charged with rape and indecent assault on a 16 year old girl. On the first day of his hearing at Plymouth Crown Court, the horse and donkey trader, who cannot named for legal reasons, was said to have emerged from court with a smug grin on his face, after the young girl he stands accused of raping failed to make a good impression in the witness box.

Horse cruelty Royal-link

A team-mate of Prince Charlie's went on trial in April for allegedly causing unnecessary suffering to horses. (No they weren't his sister and Camilla!) Two polo ponies were rescued by the RSPCA after they were found in a skeletal state without enough food or shelter.
April 2001

I fought the law (& the law ~~won~~ lost)

A hunt saboteur in Germany was told that she'd go to prison for 4 days for non-payment of a fine she received for attempting to stop a shoot. She ignored the notification informing her when the sentence was to commence and instead wrote to the authorities telling them why she wasn't going to cooperate and why they were wasting their time. The sentence was never completed and eventually expired.
January 2001

Hunts in line for countryside subsidy

Hunting, shooting and fishing could be subsidised by the Government under radical plans to pay country landowners for stewardship of the traditional English landscape.
The Times May 2 2001

FOX CUBS PERSECUTED IN ARSON ATTACK

West Sussex Wildlife Protection is calling for changes in Arun District Council's planning policies following an arson attack on a family of fox cubs that were living under a wood pile on a development site in Shripney Road, Bognor Regis.

The incident occurred in the early hours of Friday 25th May, just hours before the wildlife group were to start their rescue mission to move the foxes, as was agreed in consultation with the developer. Jaine Wilde of WSWP said: '*We are concerned that someone associated with the site thought that we were going to be a nuisance or else were anti-fox. We are saddened if this is the case as many of the site workers had been feeding the fox cubs because they felt sorry for them*'.

The current policies of Arun Council permit year round site clearance operations by developers even on overgrown sites, which provide a haven for many species of wildlife throughout the summer months. WSWP are calling on Arun District to follow the good example of neighbouring Chichester District Council and write a clause into their policies prohibiting clearance of 'overgrown sites' between February and August.

The police have been investigating the incident, not only because it was an act of arson, but also because the deliberate burning of a mammal is an offence under Wild Mammals Protection Act.


© Molly

"BLOODSPORTS" NOT POLITICALLY CORRECT...
...SAY HUNTERS!

Is there a PC way of describing the activities of those who chase and rip animals apart for fun? You wouldn't think so, but not surprisingly members of the Countryside Alliance believe otherwise and are taking a stand against what they see as politically incorrect terms commonly used to describe their animal killing activities.

For instance, a coursing club travelling to London by train complained bitterly when members saw that the platform notice board was marked: 'Train for bloodsport contingent'. Fearful platform workers scrubbed the board immediately and changed the notice, as requested, to: 'the sporting set'!

Meanwhile an angry theatre-goer told a Kent newspaper how he left a Christmas pantomime incensed and upset after hunters in a version of Cinderella were characterised as 'foolish' after a fox outwitted them! Christopher Gower said: '*The final insult came when Cinderella said it was cruel what the hunters were doing to the poor fox.... I and a good many others made it quite clear by booing this scene that we felt it was out of order to use an innocent children's pantomime to broadcast subliminal political messages.*'! In response, the theatre manager said that the pantomime was a 'complete sell out' and that it was one of their most successful years!
Source: The Telegraph, Newshopper

JANET GEORGE FOAMS OVER LOST DEAL

Janet George is blistering at the mouth after an online travel firm cancelled its affiliation with her website following complaints from outraged members of the public. e-bookers.com dropped hounds.org, which campaigns for the continuation of hunting with dogs, after just one week of entering into the deal. The travel firm explained to George that it couldn't afford to take the risk of falling into disrepute by being associated with her site. Ms George is convinced that animal rights protesters are behind it and in a private mail to fellow blood junkies said: '*I actually couldn't care less about losing the affiliation with e-bookers but I do hate the ratbags getting away with this sort of thing*'. She then urged them all to write angry letters to e.bookers business development manager.



You can counter Janet's action by writing to ebookers.com and thanking them for doing the right thing (and perhaps even booking a holiday!) at:

ebookers.com UK, 34-42 Woburn Place, London WC1H OTA

ALLIANCE IN DERANGED DOGHOUSE!

In April the loony alliance proudly announced that one of Britain's oldest dog clubs had agreed to lend its support to those opposing the Hunting Bill. In one of the Countryside Alliance's pitiful press releases a spokesmen for the club was quoted as saying: '*The Kennel Club learned much from the dangerous Dogs Act fiasco. It will do everything it can to prevent the UK, in future, from suffering from poorly drafted and increasingly draconian anti-dog legislation*'.

"Anti-dog legislation"! Either the Countryside Alliance is pulling the hair over this mutt club's eyes, or the kennel folk have a more sinister agenda than their title suggests? Is the Kennel club aware for instance that tens of thousands of dogs used for hunting and coursing are killed by their owners each year, for reasons such as being too slow, reaching the grand old age of six, or failing to demonstrate the desired hunting or coursing spirit? It is estimated that annually around 3,500 hounds receive a bullet in the brain, while a much greater number of greyhounds and whippets are dumped, hanged, beaten to death or set on fire by owners disappointed by their dog's performance on the field or track.

Eugenic activities aside, hundreds of dogs are killed and injured every year whilst following the huntsman's cries. Many perish on the roads, railways, or by falling from cliffs, while others, namely terriers, are injured or killed in vicious dig-outs. If the Kennel Club is genuinely concerned by "anti-dog" culture in this country, then it should be backing a ban on hunting with dogs, which in turn, would save thousands of dogs in the UK each year.

Of course the amusing side to this story is that in spite of desperate front and back door efforts made by the alliance to appear to get the moral backing of the country's foremost animal welfare and conservation charities - the RSPCA, National Trust, CIWF to name but a few, the group has so far only managed to get the backing of a dog club - one, it seems, that doesn't have the welfare of the dog at heart.

QUORN THUGS GET-OFF AS EVIDENCE IS MISHANDLED.





Three hunt stewards employed by Prince Charles' favourite hunt, who allegedly carried out a series of violent attacks on anti-hunt protesters, walked away from their trial scot-free after a judge ruled that court regulations had been broken following a breach of process relating to the disclosure of footage taken from the hunt. **Dean John Ironmonger** (39) from Wysall, Notts; **Kenneth Scott Rumph** (22) from Willoughby-on-the-Wolds, Leics and **Paul John Tomlinson** (40) from Clifton, Nottingham appeared in Leicester Crown Court on March 4 and faced a range of charges, including ABH, relating to incidents at a meet of the Quorn Foxhounds on the 4 March 2000. (photos © NWHSA)

HUNTSCUM ON THE RAMPAGE OVERSEAS

51 hunters, 39 from the USA, the rest from South Africa, Denmark and Egypt will be flocking to Zimbabwe from May onwards to fulfil their animal-killing fantasies. So as not to get bored, they will employ a variety of killing methods using the old bow and arrow, hand guns and dogs trained with electric-shock collars. The dogs will be used to hunt leopards - an illegal activity up until recently when compassion king President Mugabe lifted the ban - and goats will be used as live bait to catch the leopards and other "big game". So in summary, a thoroughly enjoyable day out for all perverts and scum of the earth attending.

Source: ZNSPCA, Zimbabwe

Meanwhile George Dubaya Bush has written to the authorities in neighbouring Botswana asking them to lift the ban on hunting lions, already a seriously endangered species in the area!

A spokesman defending Bush said that as soon as George learns how to count up to ten he might then be in a position to comprehend the meaning of "endangered", but as things currently stand, anything more than 5, to Georgy means infinite!

NEWS IN BRIEF

Illegal trap destroyer imprisoned

Tireless anti cruelty campaigner John Gill was back behind bars in April after his latest run-in with the law over cruel snares. The 52-year-old former steelworker was hauled before magistrates to explain why he hadn't paid £1,020 in fines and costs imposed for destroying illegal animal snares. Gill told the bench that he had no intention of paying the fines so they jailed him for seven days. He has spent the past 10 years removing wire snares set by gamekeepers on big estates between the Scottish border and the Yorkshire Dales after his own pet Collie was caught in one of the traps.
April 21 2001
Newcastle Evening Chronicle

Dorset Fur Farm closes

Villagers and animal rights campaigners celebrated the sudden closure of one of the area's two controversial fur farms. Empty cages remain at Terry Smith's Windmill Farm, Child Okeford, near Blandford after several thousand mink were removed. Residents have spoken of their delight at the shutdown, which comes just four months after the government passed a law outlawing fur farming by 2003.
Dorset Daily Echo February 2001

Pimpernel by name - and by nature it seems

Two beagles used for hunting vanished from a farm in Salisbury in January. The disappearance was feared to be the work of animal rights protesters. Joint master of the Pimpernel Beagles Kennels, Robin Clarke, said: 'To me, it's like having my children stolen. They're beautiful dogs and quite valuable, especially to me because they are my friends.'
Western Morning News, Devon 1/5/01

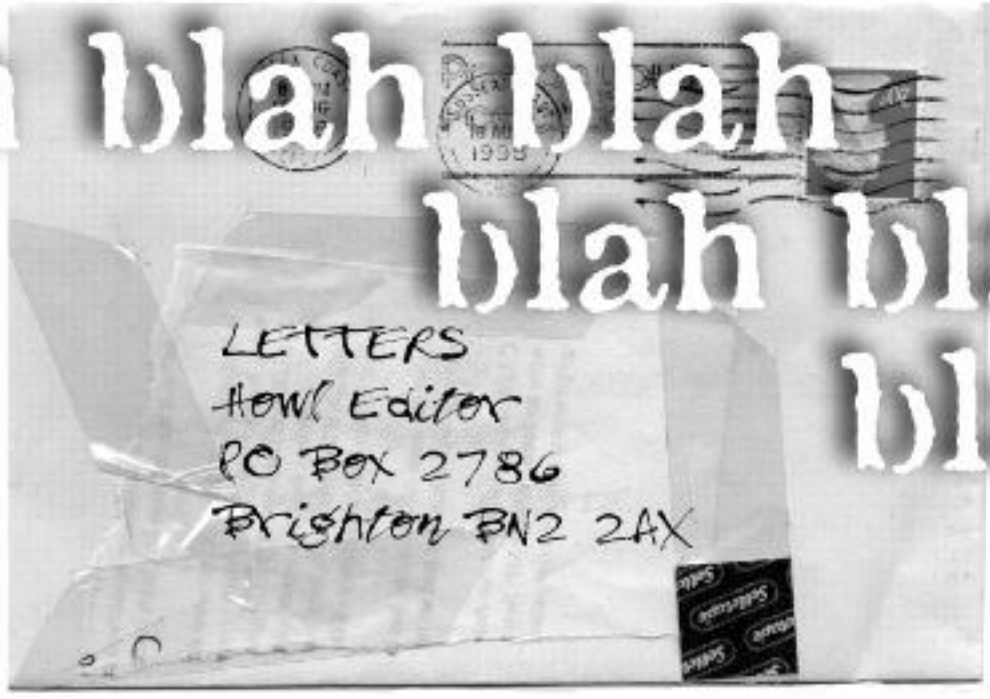
Does Mr Clarke have any of his children or friends shot in the head and fed to their families I wonder?

Queen commemorates Holocaust at shooting party.

Her Majesty the Queen declined an invitation to attend Britain's first Holocaust Memorial Day to go shooting at Sandringham instead!
Jan 2001

We can only assume that the Queen's English is way behind and that words such as 'distasteful' and 'disgraceful' have yet to enter her vocabulary!

blah blah blah blah blah blah



Howl 75
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

BORING BORING BUMPKINS

Dear Sabs

There are 3 of us sitting at the computer at the moment, one farmer, and two gamekeepers. We feel strongly that organisations that are negative and destructive to the countryside such as yourselves threaten our job security and way of life. Control of vermin, especially charlie fox is vital for conservation and welfare of other animals, both wild and reared as well as animals used in agricultural production for the human population including yourselves (unless you are a veggie then you are likely to be undernourished anyway and have limited energy to fight your cause). It would be much appreciated if you keep your opinions to yourselves as they are not welcomed by the people that maintain the very natural balance of the countryside. We make a very good job of maintaining a healthy wildlife population throughout the British Isles and we don't need people like yourselves telling us how to do a job that we are already performing to the utmost of our ability, as our results suggest. Hunting, Lamping, Snaring, Trapping, Shooting of foxes and other members of the vermin population in the UK, has been and always will be vital to the maintenance of today's very healthy wildlife population in the UK.

Yours

Three concerned countrymen.
From:
Harry Williams <Harry.Williams@royagcol.ac.uk>

OVERLY DECORATED CARBUNCLE

Dear Howl

For those of you who are kept awake at night wondering how all those gongs that Prince Charles hangs to his military regalia were won, Buckingham Palace has written back to me and explained all. On June 4 last year, in honour of the Dunkirk veterans, Prince Charles wore: the Order of New Zealand, Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal, Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee medal, the Order of Canada, and the New Zealand Medal.

What a top guy!

Name and address supplied

LAZY WORKSHY SCROUNGERS

Dear Howl

I came across a report in the Sunday Telegraph, which said that foxhunts that have been suspended because of the foot and mouth crisis will be applying for Government loans to ease their financial problems. How disgraceful if the Labour Government should give these hunters taxpayers' money. I have written to my MP.

Bernadette
Tarporley

TERRY G TELLS IT LIKE IT IS

Dear Howl

Derbyshire is overrun by foxes! These invasive vermin are the supernumerary survivors of the hunt's irresponsible suspension of activities. They block every road and field, and are learning to climb trees to escape the cramped conditions in our countryside. The process is called evolution - our foxhunters should try it!

Where did this vulpine excess come from? They are the "week" and "old" foxes culled so selflessly by hunters with hounds! Meanwhile we await the semantic fireworks when foxhunters, desperate for excuses, begin to protest about distinction between "dogs" and "hounds". If barred from hunting with dogs they will argue that their "hounds" are exempt, "dogs"meaning household pets and other non-hunting canines.

I wish you every success against an adversary, with the wealth, not to mention political, social and judicial 'muscle' to hijack non-related rural matters to its hideous agenda.

A Private Member's Bill vote of 411 to 151 in favour of a ban, among the nation's elected representatives, must never be seen as a reflection of the people's will; "democracy" doesn't work like that! In "Golden Age" Athens, some two and a half millennia ago, "democracy" meant a vote for all - well, almost all - freemen, at any rate, and naturally not women or slaves.

It may be argued that we haven't come far; we can still depend on opposition in the Lords, demonstrating precisely how much significance the "Mother of Parliaments" puts on the people's will.

All the best,

Terry Greenhough
Derbyshire



Tactics Talk

BRIDLEWAYS & FOOTPATHS

How many times when out sabbing have you desperately tried to follow the hunt through a bridleway which has been totally trashed by horses on the hunt?
The number of times I have sunk down in churned up mud nearly two feet deep and moaned about the 'bloody hunt'. Well moan no more!

West Sussex Wildlife Protection Group have started using another tactic against the hunt. Every time we come across a bridleway or fence that have been damaged by the hunt, we photograph it and take a map location. Likewise, if we see the hunt riding on a footpath, we take a photograph and take a map location.

When we get back at the end of the day and are writing our hunt diary, detailing where the hunt went, how many police present, illegally blocked setts etc, we fill out a letter-of-complaint template, which we then send on to the legal department of the Rights of Way Office at the local County Hall.

They must then write a legal warning letter to the hunt telling them they are legally bound to reinstate the bridleways and footpaths. At the end of the day its sometimes the chipping away that brings the hunt people down. At the very least the legal letters will make the hunt angry and the constant barrage of letters to the rights of way office will make them lose patience with the hunt.

WSWP

TO BLOW OR NOT TO BLOW?

Whilst out sabbing the *Blackmore & Spakford Vale FH* recently, the question of when best to call hounds away from the covert arose.

It was early September, and the hunt was holding up woodland and maize coverts tightly. We had arrived at the hunt late, and immediately horned the hounds away from the covertside at a distance of three fields.

When the hunt held up a small wood later on, we had a great view of proceedings, and sabs were eager to let rip with the horn and gismo again. We decided to be patient and watch and wait however. Holding fire and waiting for the right moment to strike can be the difference between life and death.

We decided to start calling the hounds when they started to "speak". The hounds are excited, so easier to summon with a horn. The riders on sentry duty will be distracted from their job, hopefully leaving covertside to fetch hounds or have a go at sabs. Foxes afoot at this time will be running and have opportunity to escape via exit points previously guarded by the riders.

Happily, this wood was blank apart from two roe deer, so we didn't have to do anything. But we tried our theory out an hour later or so, and were rewarded with the entire pack.

Sid McQueen

HUNTSMAN'S BALLS



www.knights-solicitors.co.uk

Just have a look at these buggers. No comment needed.

Paul blows his way to London! Blowing up vehicle tyres comes as second nature to Paul Glover. So does blowing hunting horns - and he's just taken second place in a national contest to prove it. **Paul, 42, manager of the ATS tyre specialists branch in Holsworthy and master of Tetcott Hunt, took the runner-up award** *at a dinner in Bayswater, London, organised by Horse & Hound magazine. He blew three fixed calls with the 10in long horn and two "sudden death" calls that finally separated him from the overall winner. Paul, of Bowling Green Farm, Yarnscombe, near Torrington, won the contest in 1987 and is now second best for the third time in 13 years.*

Near winner in the competition but LOSER in life!

'I think I have been in denial for the last week. Today I should have been attending a joint meet of the Cotswold and the VWH in Cirencester. Instead I found myself sadly brushing off the old black coat, giving my boots a final polish and putting my hunting cap back in its box. The horses are roughed off, their hunting tack soaped and put away, their rugs gone for repair. It suddenly hit me that this would happen if Blair had his way, that one day we would put our hunting kit away and never get it out again, our horses would be unemployed and our winters empty...I hope this F&M outbreak causes others to think the same way and feel that anger as well. We CANNOT let these people win! '

Graham (South Herefordshire Hunt) taken from a foxhunters e-mail list

ttention Ex?Sabs! Attention Ex?Sabs! Attention Ex?Sabs! Attention Ex?Sabs! Attention

Oooh baby... you give me the horn!

Remember the Good old days? That time on the Duke of Bumface F.H.?, the frosty winters morning spent 'wrestling' with 'brown-trousers' security? Or maybe the time the Ytene got sabbed without everyone getting battered? Fell weeks, Welsh weeks, Shires weeks, Shoots weeks, a somewhat foolhardy trip to Ireland.....the list goes on. If you remember the good old days but for whatever 'genuine reason'* you can no longer be active in the field, then why not play your part in

The Great HSA Horn Amnesty!

We desperately need your dusty, neglected hunting horns which can be rehomed to active sabs. No guilt-trips, No blackmailing, No questions asked.
(Earlhams, Paxmans, etc, would be nice but feel free to send in whatever tat you've got!)
The HSA is currently looking for a new horn supplier - If you know of any instrument shop/establishment selling hunting horns then please contact the office

* A genuine reason is probably: Pure laziness, white lightning cider, football, career, or massive banging techno toons with some wicked pills mate.

tention Ex?Sabs! Attention Ex?Sabs! Attention Ex?Sabs! Attention Ex?Sabs! Attention

t shouldn t happe to a vet

Surely Pro-hunt vets haven't 'misled' the Burns inquiry?

Yorkshire vet Jane Hairsine is anti-hunting - so you might be surprised to find her name on a list of veterinary surgeons in the Burns report arguing in favour of the bloodsport.



Mrs Hairsine herself is surprised - and very angry. She and a number of her colleagues have recently discovered that their names were used without their permission on a pro-hunting submission to last year's Government inquiry. They fear that they could lose business as a result of appearing on this public document.

Iain Gillespie, who practises in Galashiels, said: "*When a client told me I was on this list I said, 'You're joking!' I never allowed my name to be used. I never gave permission. It's like being voted on in your absence.*"

The list of 208 "pro-hunt" vets was put together by vets Dr Lewis Thomas and Prof W.R. "Twink" Allen, who are co-authors of the submission to the inquiry. After writing their paper, entitled A Veterinary Opinion On Hunting With Hounds, they say they sent it to a number of "like-minded" colleagues, telling them that their names would be attached to it. But some of these colleagues deny ever seeing the document, let alone agreeing to support it.

Mrs Hairsine, who is from Filey and has not heard of Messrs Thomas and Allen, said: "*I am extremely concerned and extremely angry. I am absolutely dead against hunting. This is disturbing. How do I get my name off this list?*" And there are even vets who support hunting who are still angry that their names were used without permission.

Norman Jackson, who works at Easingwold, near York, said: "*I was alarmed to be told I was on the list. I strongly object to them using my name, although I support hunting. It is the principle. I don't recall seeing this document, I certainly didn't give it my approval.*"

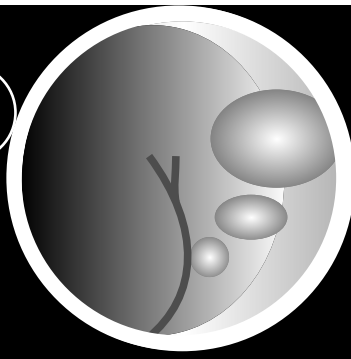
Dr Thomas, of Chieveley, near Newbury, defended his method of drawing up supporters. "*All of these people had been circulated with the document. By their not indicating to the contrary, we can assume that they supported it.*" Although Dr Thomas refused to comment on whether that was a big assumption, Prof Allen said it was "perfectly valid".

According to Prof Allen, of Newmarket, only one of those contacted had written back saying she did not support them: Jane Marr, who works in Scarborough, which neighbours Mrs Hairsine's practice. Miss Marr's name still, however, appears on the list. Her MP Lawrie Quinn thinks there is a "very strong case" for the Ombudsman to be involved. "*It's misrepresentation. This report was commissioned by Parliament and this sort of thing diminishes the validity of the document. It's trying to fiddle the results. The authors are scientific people, but this is not good science and it calls into question their modus operandi as scientists. It's cheating,*" said Mr Quinn, the Labour MP for Scarborough and Whitby.

But Prof Allen said: "*There could be one or two people who shouldn't be on the list, to whom we say 'Oops, sorry', but it is nonsense to say we misled a Government inquiry. One or two names do not materially affect the submission. It is scandalous to suggest otherwise.*"

Robert Matthews

ALLIANCE IN CRISIS?



Our nemesis, the Countryside Alliance has been in the throes of chaos this season.

In April the Alliance's policy director, Nigel Burke, left by "mutual agreement" following an internal 'mole hunt' costing tens of thousands of pounds. The Sunday Times reported that he was a phantom e-mailer called 'Hunter Hunter' that had sent damaging messages to members. Chief Executive Richard Burge & Chairman John Jackson were exposed as negotiating with Tony Blair over the 'Middle Way' option.

IFAW have also claimed that this internal witch hunt did not uncover a mole that they have within the Alliance.

As I reported to the HSA AGM, and subsequently in HOWL, the Alliance forked out £750,000 for their submission to the Burns Inquiry to be prepared by solicitors Allen & Overy. This led to a doubling of their membership fees and all hunts were asked to double caps for the season or donate 20% of their reserves.

And then we had the "postponement" of the Countryside March. The Alliance again lost money or as John Jackson put it, created a "cashflow difficulty", through wasted advertising and pointless badges saying, 'I'll be there on the 18th'. This is despite the fact that all people booked to go on the March paid £1 for the privilege of ringing the "hotline".

So again Johnny no-mates has written 'to ask for help'. suggesting £25. Whilst many of the Alliance's well heeled supporters (think Duke of Westminster, Lord Mancroft, Baroness Mallalieu, Big Ears etc..) may see £25 as small change, it does not bode well for the terrier/lurcher fraternity and hunt staff who constantly whine about how little they earn (You'd think a change of career would be a blessing then!).

Is this another indicator of the split amongst the Alliance? Rumours abound of back door deals to save riding to hounds for the elite whilst sacrificing coursing, terrierwork etc. Could it be that the "ground troops" are being asked to pay for the Alliance to sell them down the river?

Of course, from the animal's point of view, bloodsports is bloodsports, whether carried out by a rich sadist or a poor sadist. So, will the lackeys doff their caps once again, then gladly bend over and be shafted? We shall see!

Nathan, Research Officer

NEWS FROM? IRELAND

Call for Wildlife Crime Investigation unit to be set up

Badger Watch Ireland and the Association of Hunt Saboteurs (Ireland) are calling on the Irish Minister responsible for wildlife, Ms. Sile De Valera, to set up a wildlife crime investigation unit to tackle the increasing level of illegal bloodsports in Ireland.

At Roscrea District Court Co.Tipperary (26/04/01) two people were convicted of badger baiting offences. They faced sentencing at Roscrea court on the 24/05/01 but the case was adjourned to the next sitting of Roscrea district court on the 26th July next.

In light of this case it is evident that the illegal bloodsport of badger baiting is continuing its cruel existence in the Irish countryside.

The establishment of a special wildlife crime unit would represent a major step forward in the fight to end illegal wildlife crime. It should be modelled on the Criminal Assets Bureau (an Irish police unit set that investigates organised criminal gangs) with powers to seize and freeze the assets of those involved in wildlife crime. In addition a register of people convicted of animal abuse should be established as part of the effort to tackle the wider issue of animal cruelty in this country.

Until the government acknowledges the widespread existence of wildlife crime in this country the approach to tackling this issue will be in a piecemeal and limited fashion. There is a serious shortage of wildlife rangers on the ground which is hampering efforts to deal with wildlife crime.
Bernie Barrett of Badger Watch Ireland says: A special investigations unit with input from the wildlife service and the Gardai would show that our Government are serious in adopting zero-tolerance to wildlife crime. In this case only for the bravery of the wildlife ranger with limited backup resources has a conviction being secured for the heinous crime of badger baiting.

John Tierney Campaigns Director AOHS: There is no difference between legal and illegal bloodsports in this country. A huge crossover traffic exists between those who hunt legally and illegally. A special unit dedicated to dealing with wildlife crime would be a positive act. Needles to say a total ban on legal bloodsports would remove the cloak of legality from those who believe themselves to be above the wildlife legislation in this country.

Coursing venue in Ireland gets free makeover

In January of 2001 the Irish ALF put on their gloves and wellies to do a bit of "landscape gardening" at their local coursing field, causing the following day's Open Leinster Final to be cancelled.

Avid fans of Titchmarsh and Dimmock, the team's creative style of land management ensured that the field had to be ploughed thoroughly before it could be used again. So as well as ruining the plans of those who cheer at the spectacle of hares running for their lives and then being ripped to shreds by dogs, the farmers too get pissed off, and hopefully, will think twice before letting fields to coursing clubs in future!

This was the third hit on Irish Coursing that season. The two previous incidents involved the liberation of about 30 hares each time.
Irish ALF

Irish Hunts say they will keep "toffs" out

The Irish MFHA has told British hunters that they will not be allowed to join any of the hunting packs in Ireland if hunting is banned in the UK. Irish hunters fear that their fellow British blood junkies will import the 'elitist' image that hunting has in the UK and make them the targets of hunt protests. While this lack of support among bloodsports enthusiasts remains amusing, I wonder if Irish hunters have lent reflection to the idea that foxhunting itself is a British import, and that Ireland already has its own growing base of hunt protesters?

Waterford Glass breaks with hunt tradition

In February 2000 world famous glass-makers Waterford Crystal, promised anti-hunt campaigners that from thereon it would withdraw its long-standing sponsorship of the Waterford Foxhounds Point to Point. Waterford Crystal has sponsored the event for over 20 years, so this announcement marks an encouraging victory.

Hunt saboteur attacked by hunt gang in Ireland

In January a single hunt protester was allegedly set upon by four members of the Waterford Foxhounds. He was punched to the ground and kicked in the back after he had tried to unblock two large earths that terriermen had packed with sods of clay. According to a witness, one of the attackers, while putting his boot in, shouted at the protester: '*I'll do you,..and I'll get away with it again*'. This is thought to be a direct reference to a previous assault, which the man and his other thug accomplices stood in the dock for but got away with. The fact the hunt thugs defence solicitor rode with the same hunt, and a distinguished pro-hunting judge sat on the bench on the day of trial, it is said might have had something to do with it!

It is also alleged that 3 of the attackers, who for legal reasons cannot be named, were responsible for organising an attack on English sabs some years ago.

Surrey Anti Hunt Campaign ? Targeting Hunt Pubs



The Surrey Anti Hunt Campaign has been targeting the support systems upon which the hunt rely for a venue for hunt meets and to fundraise and socialize, namely hunt pubs.

In April / May of this year all pubs who had appeared on the Old Surrey, Burstow & West Kent F.H. (OSBWK) meet card received a letter from the campaign asking them to state their current position regarding the hunt.
We indicated that we were producing a leaflet naming all pubs that supported the OSBWK and distributing it in the area.

Seven pubs have written back confirming that they will no longer allow the hunt to meet at their establishment, the rest didn't reply (about 11). One exception was the Jolly Farmer at Horne, whose landlord, in an effort to take the heat off himself provided us with more meet details.



The leaflet "Dying for a Pint" (left) can be adapted for any sab group who wants to try this approach. Provide us with the names of your hunt pubs and we will do the artwork for you.

To follow up the letter, we have begun leafleting the hunt pubs. This has been met with a variety of responses, some calling in reinforcements who just arrived and hid in the pub; people in the beer garden were very responsive and we just had a few phone calls on the campaign phone afterwards. We made sure we had photos of us with the banners taken outside the pub and intend to super impose images of hunt scum on the top to wind them up further. They will then be published on the website.

The 'Edenbridge and Oxted Show' is the 26th and 27th August at the Ardenrun Show Ground, Lingfield, Surrey. We will have a presence outside the show ground between 10.00am and 3.00pm both days. The OSBWK hounds will parade at **11.40am on Monday the 27th August**. Please support this demonstration. Food will be available for both days!
If you have completed the 'Edenbridge and Oxted Show' petition enclosed with the previous Howl then please forward it as a matter of urgency to:

Surrey Anti-Hunt Campaign B.M. Box 7099 London WC1 3XX

Tel. 0771 903 1066 email: surreyantihunt@yahoo.com www.sahc.org.uk

Organise YOURSELF

Taking the plunge and starting a new group

It's a common dilemma: you've been sabbing for a while and then you move to a new area where there's no group. So what do you do?

You start your own, of course! This is the route that I took, for better or for worse, and I hope that this article will give a little indication of what's in store for you if you are considering the same thing. It might also give you a few pointers to help you on the way.

Let's face it - things have been difficult for sabs over the last few years, and the number of groups has been declining, especially in the Northwest where until recently there were just five sabs between Manchester and Glasgow. Our strength is in our numbers, and in co-operation between groups. We need to see a renaissance of hunt sabotage, with groups springing up all over the country. You might wonder where you will get your members from, but they are there, waiting for you. There are people in every town, just waiting for the opportunity to become hunt saboteurs. You will find ex sabs who have not been active for a while but want to get back into it. You will find animal rights people who will help. You will find anarchists and environmentalists who want to get involved. Believe it or not, you will find students who believe in more than just getting blind drunk every weekend and buying smart trainers. You will find professional people and working people who've always hated hunting and have just been waiting for the opportunity to do something. Like in Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey, just organise it, and they will come.



The first thing

to point out is that you need to be committed to what you are doing. Think about it long and hard before embarking on this journey. Do you really want to start your own group? Do you really believe in sabbing? Do you have a deep, burning desire to out there in the field, trying to save the lives of more wild animals? If, on every Saturday that you're not active, you're thinking about sabs up and down the country who are out there making a difference, and fuming about all the hunting going on right under your nose, then the answer to this might be yes. Starting a group should be something you are compelled to do rather than choose to do.

Secondly,

do you have the time and the money? Starting a group is not for the faint hearted. It is a long and difficult process that will involve the input of time, effort, expense and above all, persistence. It will not happen overnight. You will run up a large phone bill. You will have to travel to meet people and do things. You will become frustrated at your lack of progress. You will become stressed worrying about how to deal with the hunt, the police and inexperienced sabs. You might become depressed. You might resent losing your Friday nights and becoming a slave to the telephone. You will probably spend a lot of time underneath a van, so mechanical skills and a toolkit are useful. You might have to pay for leaflets, posters and other fundraising materials. You might even have to pay for a van, or at least contribute towards it, until you can raise the money to pay yourself back. You will meet time wasters, people who give you their number and promise to come out and you ring them and ring them but you never see them again. There will be people who just want an easy ride, or who want to see instant results, or who just want something to do on a Saturday.

Thirdly,

do you have the right character for it? Like it or not, people will look to you as a leader. They will expect you to make a decision, often on the spot. They will respect you and even expect you to look after them. You will need to be good at meeting people and talking to strangers. It helps if you are used to public speaking. You might have to deal with the press, be on the radio or even be on television. You will have to be assertive. You will have to argue with the police. And behind you will be people looking to you to tell them what to do. And like it or not, you are at least partly responsible for them.

Still want to do it?

You might be saying to yourself, yeah I can do all that! If so, read on. Those are all the bad parts. There are also good parts. Don't let the time wasters get you down. You will meet some very nice people and make friends. You will meet people with commitment who will help you and even inspire you. You will feel a sense of achievement. If you do things well and you persist, you will succeed. And of course, you will save foxes and hares and deer, or whatever it is. I'm not saying that I've done things well, or that I have the right character, or that I've succeeded yet, but these are things that I have learnt.

practical advice?

First off,

you need to join the HSA. This is really essential, because you will need their help. Get in touch with them and register yourself as the contact for your area. You will receive HOWL and, as contact, you will receive the group mailout. It has to be said, it's very difficult if you're on your own. Not only difficult, but also daunting. If you have one, or preferably two, people who want to help right from the start, it's a lot easier and you already have the nucleus of a group. If they are experienced, so much the better. You may already have a friend or know someone who's interested. Alternatively, the HSA may be able to put you in touch with members in your area who wish to become active, experienced sabs in your area, or people who have enquired about a local group. Speak or write to the contacts officer and the new groups officer about this. The contacts officer should get in touch with you when people from your area enquire about becoming active, resulting in a slow but steady trickle of the names and telephone numbers of potential members. You should also get in touch with your nearest sab groups and liaise with them. They will be able to give you support when you're starting out and you're numbers are low, by lending you a few sabs or by turning up as a group to help you. They may also know sabs in your area, and even just a bit of moral support on the telephone from speaking to people of a like mind goes a long way.

What else do you need?

What you need to start a sab group are the three Ms: members, money, mobility. You should be active in all three areas at once, but personally, I think the priority is mobility - a van. The reason for this is that if you get people who are interested, it's simply no good to say, '*Yeah, I'm trying to set up a group, but we're not going out because we haven't got a van so give me a ring in six months' time*' You'll lose those people. If you can just get four people together, and you can borrow four or five from another group, you can find a relatively friendly hunt, or a beagle pack say, which tend to be less trouble, and you can start sabbing if you have a van.

Of course, to get a van you need money. The options for raising the money are limited. You can, and should, do stalls, but it will take a long time that way. You can ask the HSA for some money. They may give you some, but their funds are limited and you are unlikely to get enough to buy a van. You can ask for donations from friends, family and anybody sympathetic who you know. Then there's you, and it's quite likely you will have to fork out some serious money of your own, at least in the short term. However, if you can scrape together £1500 in this way, you can buy and insure a van. And get a minibus, not a panel van, and a diesel if you can afford it. And you can't go wrong with a Transit. But be very wary when buying a van. Always take someone with you who knows a bit about vans, or you will get ripped off. In my experience, when buying a van, bodywork is probably the most important thing, as long as the engine starts easily and it sounds OK. Check body work very carefully. Look under wheel arches, under sills (i.e. underneath the sides of the van), under the floor, the bottoms of the doors, around the windows, around door hinges, under the bonnet, etc. If there are any holes that have rusted through, walk away, because there are bound to be many more.

The ideal time to start the whole process is in spring. You then have time to get leaflets, posters and petitions together, and do a few stalls and make a bit of money before hunting starts again. Stalls are also an excellent way to meet new members. And you will meet them. So, you need to be prepared for this and you need to be positive. Print off a few leaflets on a word processor advertising your group and hand them out on the stall to interested people. Don't use your home address or phone number, however. A nearby sab group may have a PO box number you can use, or you can always use the national HSA PO box number and website address (as long as you're a member and registered as a contact!). If you can set up an email account which doesn't have your name in the address, then put that on the leaflet. Tell people there is a new local group and you will soon be active. If you really think the person is genuine and keen, you might decide to write your home number on the leaflet. This may be a source not just of sabs, but also of information and money.

> ***Like in Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey, just organise it, and they will come.***



As a result of this advertising, you will occasionally get anonymous donations or pieces of information on local hunts. However, if people ask about sabbing, it's very important to get their phone number as well, because you can hand out leaflets all you like, but nine times out of ten, those people will not get in touch. If you do get some phone numbers, ring those people up from time to time and tell them what's happening. Don't lose touch.

We've dealt with money and mobility, but what about members? Apart from stalls, there are several other things you can do. If you know about such things, or have a friend who does, set up a website. You can also get your group mentioned on the national HSA website. Alternatively, the more traditional methods include:

Contact the local animal rights group. This includes AR groups at universities and colleges. Go to their meetings, make yourself known. You will probably want to become involved in their campaigns anyway. Give a small presentation about sabbing and ask people to come and see you afterwards. Go to animal rights demos and "mingle". Tell people about your group. Put notices up in sympathetic shops, e.g. independent health food shops. You could try a mailout to HSA members in your area. If you put something simple together on a word processor, the HSA will, if you hassle them a bit, mail it out to anyone you ask them to, but for legal reasons they are not able to give you the names and addresses of all members in your area. Also I suggest writing items to go in Group News in HOWL.

So now you've got money, mobility and members, and it's the start of the hunting season. What else do you need? The HSA can give you more help if you contact the research officer and ask him to send you photocopies of Bailey's Hunting Directory with details of local hunts. Horse & Hound also do, every year, a Hunt Directory which lists all the hunts in Britain. Find out as much information about local hunts as possible, from anyone who knows (i.e. nearby groups, ex-sabs, files held on hunts by the HSA, etc), especially with regards to their levels of violence. The tactics officer and legal officer are available to do talks which will boost your skills and will be excellent for new people. Go to the HSA annual general meeting and meet other sabs and find out what other help the HSA can give you. Also, of course, look in Horse & Hound for hunt appointments (meets).

On a practical level,

you will need horns, whips, sprays,

gismos, maps, etc. Horns and gismos are (or may be) available from the HSA. It's a good idea to have a good supply of maps in the van so that you're not caught out in an area for which you have no map. Two copies of each map are generally necessary so that one can stay in the van, and one go into the field. If the maps are laminated with adhesive clear plastic, they will last ten times as long. Whips can be easily and cheaply made from materials bought at any DIY shop (i.e. string, rope, broom handles, cable ties, etc.). If you have the money, a video camera is very useful. Last, but by no means least, you should consider communications. Nowadays, most people seem to have a mobile phone, which can be invaluable. However, the traditional CB radio is also a good (and very cheap) method of staying in touch. Electronics shops such Tandy will sell hand-held and vehicle-mounted CB radios. However, don't get bogged down in making sure you have all the equipment before you do anything. The most important thing is to get people in the field and start sabbing.


© WSWPG

For the first few weeks, especially if your numbers are low, you will probably wish to join with another group and help them, even if it means travelling. This is a good chance for new sabs to learn the ropes. Talk to new people as much as you can and explain to them what is happening, and what they can do. Make sure that everyone knows the bare essentials, both legally and tactically. I expect most people remember their own introductory "van talk". It normally goes something like, "*if you see a fox, don't point at it, if a fox comes straight towards you, get down on the ground*" etc. You may also want some experienced people from another group to join you on your first time out locally. However, there will come a time when you turn up at a local hunt as an independent group for the first time. Be cautious. Use all your experience to assess the situation. Judge the mood of the hunt and its support, and that of the police. You need to get into the field quickly. The longer you hang about on the road, the more time you have to get nervous and for the police and the hunt to intimidate you. If you get into action quickly, then you take the initiative. However, be aware that hunts that have not been sabbed for a long time may not take kindly to it, and sometimes discretion is the better part of valour. If the situation looks like kicking off, and the mood is ugly, it might be best to retreat. You will want to choose a "soft" target for the first time, i.e. a hunt that is not too violent, and where people won't be arrested on sight.

My final piece of advice is...,

just do it! You will have justifiable fears and worries, but nothing is achieved by sitting on your butt eating tofu. In my own case, after over a year of hard work, planning and van repairs, on our first time out independently on a local hunt, things went very well. The hunt put up a hare which ran straight past us, and despite most people being new, as I looked round I saw sabs frantically spraying the line of the hare, and the hounds disappearing into a mist of citronella. Then I knew it was all worth it. Needless to say, the hare got away.

A brief word from our recently appointed New Groups officer

GET ACTIVE!

Let's not get lazy; while talk of a ban on hunting is still talk, we need action! It doesn't need spelling out; obviously more sabs and more groups means that more hunts are targeted more often and more effectively.

Its sometimes surprising how little the public actually know about hunting and hunt saboteurs. It is likely that there are plenty of folk out there who would be up for getting involved if they knew more. Others may be aware of our existence, but just need a prompt or a boot up the backside to get motivated. What we need to do is get these people interested by distributing information to the wider population.

JUST SOME IDEAS:

If you think you could set up a group in an area where there isn't one get in touch with the HSA, who can help by giving talks, supplying leaflets and building links between new sabs and sab groups.
Do stalls at gigs/festivals/raves etc. Try other events too (countryside rallies! Ed), it is important to access all types of people, not just those into music).
Please let the HSA know if there any events coming up where it would be good to do a stall.

Use the media to generate interest. Coverage on TV, radio and articles in papers can really help publicise our campaigns and rally support. Once again imagination could help reach all parts of society. Publications such as The Big Issue and 'fanzines' have written about us positively in the past.

Street collections are a good way of encouraging people to get active. Give the HSA a shout if you need help making leaflets for a local group or if you need photos/images for boards and banners. Word of mouth is another way that people get to hear about sabbing. Make the most of this (but remain cautious if you are not sure about the "dodgy geezer" in the pub asking you questions about sabbing) Don't be too cautious mind otherwise you'll end up sabbing on your own!

Linking up with your local animal rights group can be a right result too. Also folk involved in environmental/reclaim the streets/anti fascist action and other activists are worth approaching.
Let the HSA know if you have any ideas on how to get the troops out there in the field!

Cheers
Rob
New Groups

CLUB DRAW
N WINNERS N

As part of our fundraising activities, the HSA operates a 'Club Draw.' If you'd like to take part fill in the leaflet which should be included in your issue of Howl. If the slip is missing, just write to the HSA office and request an entry form.

July 2000
1. S.Armstrong
2. F.Inkley
3. T.Cullen

August 2000
1. B.Dickinson
2. M.Wishart
3. B.Robbins

September 2000
1. K.Pound
2. T.Cullen
3. M.Mead

October 2000
1. P.Fenn
2. R.Baker
3. D.Wetton

November 2000
1. B.Dickinson
2. G.Clouder
3. J.Roberts

December 2000
1. Devine
2. Shirst Styles
3. P Franklin

January 2001
1. H Heady
2. J Payne
3. J Hibert

February 2001
1. S Fenner
2. H Chave
3. A Laird

March 2001
1. Clarke
2. Thurley
3. Hamilton

April 2001
1. T Harrison
2. F Inkley
3. B. Robbins

May 2001
1. Mrs. E. Miles
2. Heady
3. Green

STAYING OUT FOR THE SUMMER

The following is an account of Chiltern sabs' adventures in the wonderful world of stalls - what they did and how they did it. It's a sad fact that many sab groups do not spend enough time on the streets, talking to people, explaining what we do and why, and dispelling the media formed opinion of sabs as all balaclava-wearing, baseball bat wielding nutters. Here's a bit of motivation for you all....

Public relations should be a priority for our movement if we are to expand and grow, and the stall is second to none when it comes to this. It can also be an excellent way of raising funds - though not always, and certainly this does not need to be a priority. Personally I find that talking to passers by about sabbing/animal rights at a stall is worth far more than most accounts about us that appear in the press. Another great thing about doing stalls is that you get in either for free or very cheap to a variety of events!!

With our group, we figured that as we intended to go to a lot of the summer festivals anyway, we may as well do a stall too. Having access to a transit van, an awning and plenty of tarp, it wasn't much of a problem getting the physical structure together. We bought a few cheap wallpaper-pasting tables from B & Q, bought banner and flag making material (essential for a visual presence) and set about compiling a stock of eye-catching leaflets & posters. We also decided to vary the literature to include information on other AR related causes, Reclaim the Streets events and other eco-related issues. This was done to make our stall more accessible to more people and because as a group we felt that hunting and hunt sabbing is just part of a bigger picture of desirable social change, therefore it would be ghettoising to limit ourselves to one single issue.

Arranging a stall holding at a festival/gig/event is usually pretty straightforward. For Glastonbury we booked the stall six months in advance, and had to pay a total of £200 in stall fees. This may seem a lot but we raised enough money at the event to cover all costs and make a bit of a profit. Again it's worth emphasising that making money is not the be all and end all of doing a stall. Most people only hear of us when we are supposed to have caused trouble somewhere - it's up to us to inform Joe Public of the truth behind the media scare stories and put any violence that does occur in its proper context.

We also attended the Jay Day festival in Brockwell Park, South London and the Exodus 'Free the Spirit' festival outside Luton. Both were arranged with a single phone call and cost next to nothing. Some of these local events do charge £15/£20 but for many charitable groups they are free. Most are worth doing. We came across a guy at the Jay Day Fest who had simply laid out a picnic blanket, put stacks of AR material on it and sat around in the glorious sunshine, talking to anyone who stopped for a chat or more information. This bypasses the need to officially arrange a stall (or pay any fees) and can be just as effective as our approach.

When it comes to getting contacts of festival/gig organisers the Internet is your best friend. Websites like Schnews, Urban 75 and the various Freedom Information Networks (FIN's) like Guillfin are usually choc a bloc with the latest on forthcoming stall worthy events. The magazine Festival Eye - available at festis. and radical bookshops, is another excellent source.

On a more long term level, it's worth checking out any ongoing venues/events that may allow you to set up on a regular basis. A drum and bass collective in our area now host our stall at their monthly raves. We're even given a mention on their flyers as we've become part of their event, having attended all their raves with our stall over the last 12 months. Similarly with our local student union gigs, which attract a regular crowd every week. This allows us to reinforce our message over a period of time and become familiar faces on the scene.

Finally doing a stall should be enjoyable. There's nothing more off-putting than a half hearted stall managed by bored looking people. Take it in turns to staff it, give everyone time to enjoy the gig or festival, make sure the stall is colourful and attractive - visually and intellectually. And when you've had enough for the day be sure to try and blag your way in to any post gig parties! After all, you're as much part of an event as the bands and the dodgy toilets. Plus it gives us the opportunity to convince the "rockstar" elite of the worthiness of our cause.

Festival ReviewS

Glastonbury	Not on this year but returning next year. Very busy stall. Great for meeting people and catching up with current & old sabs and even recruiting a few more.
Jay Day Festival	Brockwell Park, South London. Not a great fundraiser but good feedback from the crowd.
Exodus 'Free the Spirit Festival'	Not a great reaction although when we did we had very poor location. Need to get better position and better set up
Across the Decades Punk Festival	(Nath's idea of heaven - Ed), Milton Keynes 'the Sanctuary'. We got in free, we made money and had a very sympathetic crowd.

One thing we have learnt from all this is the location of your stall is very important and the type of event you attend will influence the reaction you get.

Anyone got any questions or comments send an email to **activist2K@hotmail.com.**



SCOTLAND

By the time the snow had cleared from Xmas/New Year it was 6th January which saw **Clydeside** back at the *Lanarkshire & Renfrewshire F.H. (L & R)*. For once there was a not bad turn out of supporters for this pathetic little hunt although the complete lack of Boxing Day and New Years hunts probably accounted for nearly all of them. The day started with Hunt liaison and the police telling everyone in the van which land they could and could not go on to and about the intricate workings of aggravated trespass. The hunt had never had a liaison before so sabs took this to mean that they want to make a good impression on all their guests – i.e. keep us out of the way. Yeah, right. LIKELY!

The Police were with the van from the off and it was impossible to get sabs in to the field and with the lovely lady Sergeant trying to get everyone's details all the time this was looking more and more like a roadside sabbing day. When the van did manage to get away from the Police, sabs managed to call most of the pack away straight from under the nose of the huntsman. Alasdair Campbell (MFH) was not impressed with the whole "sabs having the hounds" situation so galloped half a mile to have a word with the law. By the time he'd finished shouting and by the time Terry Wing (huntsman) had got the pack back together they'd lost half an hour's hunting. RESULT!!

The next Saturday proved to be a far different type of day with the *L&R* back to their usual embarrassing turnouts, no hunt liaison and the cops sat in their vehicles dreaming of doughnuts (Don't we all? – Ed). With sabs pulling hounds a couple of times the hunt decided to stay on the move for the couple of hours they were out which resulted in little hunting done.

The following Saturday with no advert in Dog & Donkey, the huntsman was seen in his pick up in Houston - the village where the kennels are! This happened a couple of weeks later when a regular hunt supporter was queried by sabs as to why the hunt were not out even though it was a reasonable day. The reply was that the forecast was no good and because if it got bad some of the field and supporters packed up then there was not really anyone left. LOSERS!

With the outbreak of feet and gob the *L&R* missed the last few weeks of their season resulting in more lost income. Long may it continue.

NORTH WEST

The start of the season saw **Lancaster** sabs with low numbers and a van off the road courtesy of the trashing it got from the Quorn Stewards at the end of last season (allegedly!). The group therefore joined with **Bolton** and **Manchester** sabs attending the *Holcombe Harriers* and *Cheshire Forest* hunts, and the very successful (for sabs anyway) *National Doughnuts Day* which saw no kills and an early finish.

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of two of the group (and some help from **East Northants** – cheers guys!) the van was back on the road and through its MOT for the New Year after months of hard work. In the recycled limousine the *Royal Rock Beagles* were sabbed with **Manchester** and **Bolton** despite a massive Police presence. The group also attended the Mike Hill Memorial visit to the *Cheshire Foxhounds*. **Lancaster** have also been active with the *Vale of Lune harriers*, which had not been sabbed for five years.

A new group that is now able to act independently but still in need of more members – if anyone knows lapsed or prospective sabs in the area please get in touch.

In what turned out to be a very short second half of the season the usual crew of **Manchester, Bolton, Preston and Lancaster** were joined by a revived **Liverpool** group for a doubling of efforts against the *Cheshire Forest*. Thanks to more sabs mid-week sabbing started and the huntsman Matthew Puffer was certainly not impressed by our increased attendance level.

Even the *Cheshire Foxhounds* got a couple of visits, with the most noteworthy coming on the Mike Hill action day which saw around 100 sabs descend on Cheshire as a mark of respect for a lost colleague. Thanks to all groups who made the effort to attend - we couldn't have done it without you. *The Cheshire Beagles*, the hunt who Mike was sabotaging when he was killed, were also duly sabbed on this day and were sent scurrying back to their vehicles for a quick exit once they realised that they were on to a loser...

Other events worthy of mention was the good press coverage received for our hunt ball demo at the *Cheshire Forest*, who we condemned for going ahead with it despite the obvious Foot and Mouth risks of many countryside dwellers meeting up at the height of the crisis. On the legal side six hunt sabs were awarded damages after a Judge ruled that the Cheshire Constabulary was wrong to continue to detain the saboteurs after the hunt had packed up, as no grounds for a breach of the peace existed at that stage. Shame that it took 7 years for the case to get to court, but it's always worth pursuing as it was cases like this that forced the cops to cease their policy of mass arrests back in the early 1990's.

SOUTH

The New Year, or what lasted of it, saw **Southampton** sabs in action with favourites the *Garth & South Berks* and the *Hampshire Hunt*. One day resulted in the *Hampshire Hunt* being sabbed in addition to two shoots who were foolish enough to venture out when sabs were in the area. The resulting police attention was nothing short of overkill and we suspect that a couple of off duty constables were among the second shooting party. UNBIASED – MY ARSE!

Chiddingfold huntsman Jonathan Broise is far too busy attacking disabled people to notice Chichester sabs calling his pack away.




© Probably Southampton sabs


© Probably Southampton sabs

Eton Posh boys look on in disgust as one of their number attempts some filthy, proletarian 'spanner-work'

A visit to the *Cattistock* in Dorset started with hounds streaming across a valley to sabs and saw no kills, albeit with wet feet and one sab treated to his own personal riot wagon following him round.

A day with the *Shrivenham Beagles* saw our "lady's car" blocking in their hound van making escape impossible. After a few drinks (sabs) and a lot of fraught discussions (hunt) they decided to chance a bit of hare hunting. Within two minutes we took the pack off them, and for most of the day the pack was in three different sections. The fact that they never killed in country so highly populated with hares is testament to the quality as well as quantity of sabs present from **Southampton**, **Reading**, **West London**, **Bath and Pewsey Vale**.

A visit was made to the *Cheshire Foxhounds* for the 10th Anniversary of Mike Hill's murder joining groups from around the country.

The last Saturday before Foot and Mouth took hold of the nation was spent with the *Surrey Union* in the company of **Reading** and the usual **Surrey sabs**. The *Union* packed up early with hardly any time spent drawing coverts. We then hoofed it over to the *Old Surrey & Burstow* to swell the numbers already there. A sab on the scene told us that the 4 car loads of sabs had been enough to tip the scales and the hunt packed up shortly after our arrival.
The summer will see mink hunters under surveillance (subject to FMD) and dents being bashed out of the new land rover with a large lump hammer with a pink paint job also on the cards. TASTEFUL!

West London continued their association with *Garth & South Berks*, *Surrey Union* and the *Hampshire hunts* visiting these usually in the company of the highly efficient, motivated and organised **Reading** sabs (relatively speaking). An encounter with the latter hunt saw one of our group arrested by some of the most over zealous policing that had been witnessed in a while (there were van loads of the fuckers!) and the court case is still pending. A couple of our group joined **Reading** in making the long trek up to Cheshire for the Mike Hill day - nice to see such a good turnout. Then nothing much exciting until FMD left us with time on our hands – which some of used constructively lending our support to other AR causes and which some of us squandered in the playing of football. I mean really is that the best use of your time??

Take a leaf out of **North London's** book. Their trusty and long serving yellow minibus died at the end of last season so they are currently vigorously fundraising for new transport. On the streets of Angel by day, and in dodgy techno clubs by night, and by working for the Workers Beer Company at various festivals this summer they hope to be equipped for the start of next season FMD permitting.

The New Year saw the *Garth and South Berkshire* abandon hunting on Saturdays. **Reading** sabs gave up their jobs, took part time contracts used up their annual leave or phoned in sick to make sure that Big Nose and his mates realised that they weren't going to shake us off that easily. As a result almost all the midweek outings by the *Garth* had a sab presence and many had a sizeable turnout.

Saturdays were spent in the presence of **West London** and **Southampton** sabs. Time was found to pay the *Hampshire Hunt* and the *Shrivenham Beagles*.

The *Eton College Beagles* were also hit and made the wiser move of packing up and going home as soon as sabs arrived. There was much hilarity at the expense of the hunt when the hound van suffered a flat tire on the way back to the kennels and it took the cream of society at least an hour and a half to change it!

The group also made the trip up north to mark the 10th anniversary of Mike Hill's death. There was a trip to the *Surrey Union* followed by a very brief visit to the *Old Surrey, Burstow and West Kent* before the season came to an early and uncermonious end.

The **Hastings** massive spent the latter part of the season concentrating their efforts against the *Old Surrey, Burstow, blah blah FH* with an away day to Cheshire for the 10th Anniversary of Mike HIlls death. Sadly the death of fellow sab Gary Woodland cast a huge shadow over the seasons successes.

MIDLANDS

Northants sabs were at the *Grafton* at Helmdon in early January. The hunt led sabs quite a dance but didn't catch anything. In the end just to wind us up they blew a kill. SADDOES!

On 13th of Jan, the group sabbed the *Fernie*. One of the hounds was spotted limping home and sabs asked if we could take the dog, to save him from getting a bullet. No prizes for guessing the answer – at least there were no foxes killed, though. The following week saw the group out in the freezing cold looking for the *Oakley*. They didn't hunt, as we found out from checking the kennels. However, as we were leaving the hunt attacked a couple of sabs and smashed a video camera. It seems likely they were a bit shy about the content of the tape - having found their butchery room, we videoed a couple of dead hounds, one of them skinned and ready to be fed to his colleagues.

On the 27th several hours were spent chasing the *Grafton* about the countryside and lively discussion even managed to persuade some terrier men to give up a dig, though they were distinctly unfriendly at first. February the 2nd, and the group went north to join up with others for Mike Hill day. A good turnout, and no kills on our hunt. The *Cottesmore*'s turn on February 10th when sabs were joined by groups from **Notts** and **Leicester** groups. A good start saw hounds taken away from the huntsman. He complained that sabs were drawing them to some (fictional) road, then curiously allowed them to run riot next to the A47. Hypocrisy? Surely not. On 17th of February *Stowe Beagles* chose not to go out when our group arrived - Apparently as they weren't hunting on Saturdays anymore - so a quick move on to the *Vale of Aylesbury* saw sabs find the hunt just as the **Chiltern** sabs lost them. With **Chiltern** sabs having saved a fox earlier, this was the last straw and the hunt gave up at 2.45!



The limited gene-pool of the *Surrey Union F.H* produces another fine specimen. Male or female?!! Answers on a postcard to the usual address

FMD & HUNTING

By Nathan
HSA Research Officer

This issue of HOWL does not contain quite so much Group News as it would normally due to the fact that the hunting season was cut short in mid February with the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease across the UK. With this in mind we thought it would be rude to let FMD pass without comment!

I shall leave general comment on the disease and culls to the editors (gotta leave 'em something to write about) and try to keep this article confined to how the work that the HSA exists to support was affected.

Thanks go to Paul T (NWHSA) and Mike Huskisson (Animal Welfare Information Service) for the provision of background information. To receive e-mail updates from AWIS e-mail them at mike@acigawis.freeserve.co.uk

1967 was when Foot and Mouth last hit the country on this scale. Having been identified in Oswestry, Shropshire on October 25th of that year, it took 5 months for the outbreak to clear with million animals slaughtered. It has been widely acknowledged that hunting played a major role in spreading the disease and contributed to the scale of that outbreak until it was suspended. Indeed, the AWIS maintain the following:

"*As a vector for the spread of disease there is little to beat hunting. The meets are often at farms. The horseboxes are parked in and around the farm buildings. The hounds and followers tramp all over the farm. They have their meet. Rampage over the nearby fields, in and amongst the stock. They torment and probably kill some wildlife, for fun. Then they return to the meet, pack up, and disperse to various locations all over the hunt country and beyond. Then a few days later they meet up at another farm on the other side of the hunt country and repeat the performance. This is an excellent way of spreading any disease, let alone one as infectious as foot-and-mouth. No wonder they are keen to get in quick and woo our ever gullible media into believing that it was the Government, animal rights fanatics, indeed anyone but themselves who spread this disease*!"

I couldn't have put it better myself!

The first signs of the current outbreak were spotted when pigs were found with symptoms at Cheale Meats abattoir, Little Warley, Essex. Newspapers and other media ran stories about fears of a new epidemic while a five mile exclusion zone was placed around the abattoir and a ban on moving animals within it.

On that same day, Wednesday 21st February an ACIG monitor observed the Essex Farmers & Union hunt arriving in their horseboxes at "the Bell" pub, Woodham Ferrers at 10.30am. This is less than 15 miles as the crow flies, or hounds run, from the site of the outbreak. They hunted but packed up earlier than usual - it is believed because one farm made an exclusion zone as a precaution. As an indication as to how others were behaving that day, just two miles down the road the Marsh Farm Country Park at South Woodham Ferrers was "closed until further notice as a precautionary measure, even though there had been no signs of the disease there"(report in East Anglian Daily Times, February 22nd.)The meet on the Wednesday was less than 8 miles from a subsequent outbreak at Canewdon.

It seems that even the hunters themselves realised the role hunting has to play in spreading disease, and in an uncharacteristic display of responsibility, (knowing the world was watching and a good deal of bad publicity would ensue if they proceeded otherwise) made an announcement on Friday February 23rd to say that hunting would be suspended until March 2nd. Anyone found in contravention to the order made under Foot and Mouth regulations could be fined £5,000. It transpired that the suspension was to last until the 2000-1 season was well and truly over.

There is speculation as to whether or not cubbing will get under way in July/August and whether there will be any mink-hunting season at all this summer. Only time will tell, and there are many factors to be taken into consideration such as animal movement bans. However, rest assured that as soon as any restrictions are lifted the blood junkies will be out getting a long overdue fix. There have been indications that mink hunters will in fact ignore bans and go ahead any way in the latter half of the summer. Let's face it, they are the hardcore who cannot go even a couple of months without destroying wildlife and their habitat. They are known to be so secretive that they often trespass rather than bothering to ask permission, so they may ignore the farming community who the fox, hare and deer killers are so eager to keep on side. There are countless examples of terriermen (who are the major subscribers to mink hunting) breaking other laws such as interfering with badger setts, so vigilance is required.

Despite initial claims to the contrary, The Waterloo Cup did not take place in the end. Hares across the North West – and East Anglia where it is rumoured they are "netted" to be transported to Altcar for the event – breathed a sign of relief, as did sabs who had planned to attend the event. Other coursing events were unable to take place due to restrictions.

A lot of "game" shooting had ceased, with the end of the pheasant shooting season on January 31st. However, it is quite common for sabs to report successful actions in the spring against "rough" shooting – shooting anything that moves in a field, often regardless of whether or not it is legal – or "walk up" shooting of birds such as pigeons or crows. This all had to stop as cretinous old fools were not allowed to drive from one farm to another and march around fields re-enacting the Battle of the Somme against an imaginary German army that consists of small birds without guns who surprisingly enough never seem to win.

The "Livelihood & Liberty March" was also postponed as the prospect of having unwashed people from different farms meeting up with their masters in the City posed too great a risk in terms of spreading the virus to unaffected areas. That didn't stop a few clowns from wearing their badges proclaiming "I'll be there March 18" in big bold letters.

Very few hunts had got round to holding their point-to-point this season, more than two thirds scheduled for after the outbreak. Some of those scheduled before had also been postponed due to flooding

and other weather conditions. Why is this important? The point to point increasingly provides the majority of operating income for hunting. The Cotley Harriers in Devon pride themselves on not charging farmers to hunt as half their income comes from the hunt ball and half from the point-to-point. The Surrey Union were hard hit, Mark Sprake admitted to the Sunday Telegraph, as £25,000 had been lost from fundraising such as their point to point and another £10,000 from being unable to collect fallen stock or nor being able to collect subscriptions. Hang on a minute Mr Sprake, I thought that collecting fallen stock was a service to the farming community? Isn't that what the Alliance always tell us? Sounds like a rather lucrative "service"!!!!

On Monday 26th February Newsnight interviewer Kirsty Wark told England and Wales chief vet Jim Scudamore that the programme had it on "good authority" the epidemic was the result of sabotage. So who were these saboteurs?

With no one wanting to take responsibility for an industry long on its knees, conspiracy theories abounded as to where this latest blow came from. One theory went so far as to suggest that the outbreak was the result of a bio-terrorism campaign waged by animal rights activists! Who knows where the origins of this rumour lie, but it wouldn't be surprising to be told that MAFF was at the bottom of it, following all the excellent work carried out by animal rights activists in disrupting its attempted badger culls – which were also called off due to FMD. It might on the other hand have sprung from that first flush of easy political scapegoats, which also included "Chinese restaurants" and that "foreign sandwich"!

To be fair, other conspiracy theories pointed to elements within the Countryside Alliance, who, it suggested, might have planned the outbreak in order to draw attention away from the imminent Hunting Bill and to enable Parliamentarians (William Hague for one) to ask that this "assault on the countryside" be put off until after the outbreak. The image of the countryside plunged into chaos and economic crisis is certainly one that was used to the advantage of the pro-hunt lobby, and the timing was almost too convenient.

What we do know is that hunt staff have blatantly disregarded regulations brought in to curb the spread of animal diseases in the past.

MAFF released the following information in its UK BSE Bulletin Issue 4 - Legal Action:

Kidderminster Magistrates Court, 11 November 2000, Messrs James (a huntsman) and Mallard (a joint master of hounds) each pleaded guilty to two charges brought by Hereford and Worcester County Council of inadequate separation and staining of Specified Bovine Material (SBM) contrary to the SBM Order. Mr James was fined £500 on each charge and ordered to pay £2,000 costs (total £3000). Mr Mallard was fined £1,000 on each charge with £5,000 costs (total £7000). James is the huntsman of the Albrighton Woodland (and has been since 92), and Mallard was a Master 1994-9.

And, according to MAFF June 2000:

At West Somerset magistrates on 12/5/00 Mr Anthony Richard Wright, a huntsman of Exmoor Foxhounds pleaded guilty to an offence under the Specified Risk Material Order 1997 of feeding to hounds parts of a bovine carcass which contained SRM. Wright, who has been cautioned for a similar offence in September 1997, was fined £500 and ordered to pay £567 costs.

Is it any wonder MAFF weren't too keen on using hunt staff?

One of the Exmoor Foxhounds Joint Masters is Ronnie Wallace. As a Joint Master he is ultimately responsible for ensuring that hunt staff behave in a proper fashion. He is also President of the MFHA and a patron of the Countryside Alliance. The rot goes all the way to the top.

"Other conspiracy theories pointed to elements within the Countryside Alliance, who, it suggested, might have planned the outbreak in order to draw attention away from the imminent Hunting Bill"

Meanwhile we have yet to hear the outcome or indeed full extent of uncorroborated reports suggesting that farmers have been involved in recklessly spreading the disease – even after the restrictions were brought in. Saturday March 3rd for instance, the Daily Mail reported that four farmers appeared in court on Monday March 5th, charged with moving livestock despite the nationwide ban on doing so. One farmer from Cumbria and three from Herefordshire could face fines of up to £5,000. In the week leading up to this there were television news reports of how police in Wales were having to mount special patrols to try and stop farmers moving livestock, despite the ban!

With culling taking place across the country, those involved in providing a caring environment for animals became concerned that their charges too would become victims of the slaughterman's bullet/bolt The **National Animal Sanctuary Alliance** was quickly formed. Despite the unrelenting crocodile tears shed by "honest farming folk" on the TV, "their" animals were due to be slaughtered at some point in their short lives anyway. What these deaths meant to farmers was compensation for this loss. Interestingly MAFF cannot force their way onto a farm unless there was a case of FMD on the farm or, the landowner consented. What animal sanctuaries needed was enough people to safeguard a site that came under threat of culling. The HSA established a link with the sanctuary alliance so that if a cull was threatened the nearest sab group could assist. Unfortunately there were incidents that slipped through the net, the most prominent example probably being the five pet sheep that were tragically killed by MAFF in spite of the owner's desperate efforts to make a safe haven for them inside her own living room.

Foot and Mouth had a horrendous affect on all aspects of the rural economy, even those not involved in the abuse of animals for fun or food. The area that suffered greatest financial losses was tourism. As a result the Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme, was expanded by the Government to help tourism, shops and other businesses access loans from banks and building societies.

So, did the hunting fraternity and those other "Guardians of the Countryside" dig deep to match the government's funds? Did they F***!!! The Sunday Telegraph ran a story on 15 April revealing how hunters planned to apply for loans. Mark Sprake, the Joint Master of the Surrey Union Hunt and South East representative of the Masters of Fox Hounds Association, told them: "Although I'm sure we were the last thing on the Government's mind when it devised the scheme, the criteria the DTI has set out suit hunts because many do not have assets but lease their premises instead. The foot and mouth crisis is pushing hunts to the brink. It will be a strange irony if we get a Government-backed loan and they then go ahead and try to ban us - if they do they will have to pay off 85 per cent of the loan."

So, rather than cut down their hunting next season by one day per week, and free up funds to assist, for instance, a hotel in Cumbria with 40 staff, the hunters have showed their true attitude to the countryside again – as long as we can hunt, the countryside can suffer.



out + about

Reading, West London, Southampton, Bath & Pewsey Vale sabs

V

The (mighty)
Shrivenham Beagles

Words & Pictures by Sidney McQu

Reading, West London, Southampton, Bath & Pewsey Vale Sabs run amok in Wiltshir







Far left: : **How the f**k do these adorable little fellas ever manage to kill anything?!**

Left: **The Shrivenham zombie flesh-eaters begin stumbling after their missing pack.**

Above: **Sabs employ the simple yet effective tactic of distracting the huntsman - If he's talking to YOU he ain't in control of his beagles!**

On 27 January 2001, the Shrivenham Beagles met in the village of Baydon. Also in attendance were sabs from Southampton, Reading, West London, Bath and Pewsey Vale.

The first the beaglers knew of the existence of sabs in the area was the arrival of a strategically parked car in the pub car parkbehind a supporter's car which in turn was behind the hound van. This ensured that the beaglers could not use the traditional Wiltshire Police tactic of letting the hunt drive away while holding sabs up.

After the best part of an hour whispering to each other in the car park, the beaglers made a decision to traverse the fields in search of hares to torment. Only two minutes passed before the entire pack was called and taken for a run. The hapless hare hunters did not give up though - even if it meant putting some of their pack on leads!

The area hunted consisted of a high hare population, popping up all over the place, and all on the alert following the arrival of the Wilts police helicopter.

Hunting on tactics were used to run hounds past the scent when they were on the back of their quarry, and when drawing the open fields they were called onto tracks less likely to harbour their prey.

It wasn't too long before the pack was split once and then shortly split again. The result was a desperate whipper-in asking 2 sabs to take his hounds back to the hound van as he had less control than they did. There was then a good one hour wait for the rest of the pack and sabs to be gathered from their positions dispersed across the Wiltshire downs.

There were a lot of sabs present plus lots of hares. Not a single hare was killed or sab arrested.

Result!



Beaglers watch on in horror as *'the great unwashed'* aka *'sabs'* descend upon them.



Beagles begin to peel off left, right and centre to the calls of sabs.



"Oh sod it! - Let's just go home"



"*Thousands of giant bonfires across Britain will light up the countryside and the night sky on March 12 in a blaze of symbolic publicity for March 18, on which the Countryside Alliance promises to deliver one of the biggest demonstrations this country has ever witnessed*", they boasted - from any broadsheet and bulletin happy to promote the grandiose threats of the feudal lobby group.

As the day of the march drew nearer, I found myself passing time in rush-hour queues, idly willing the elements to form a strategic alliance of their own in preparation for the 18th, when - as my Tempest/Mary Poppins style fantasy went - we would see an all-singing-all-dancing thunder storm across London: torrential rain, thunder, fork-lightening, gale force winds - the whole apocalyptic waterworks! And like Faust, I would have paid dearly (abstaining from Nigella Lawson recipes and wearing thumb-screws in bed for a further hundred years for instance!) just to become part of 'that power which eternally wills evil yet eternally works good', and, in this first petty instance, throw one hell of a dampener on the day that the whinging rabbles of the Countryside Alliance would stomp through the streets of Westminster baying for the liberty to lynch wild mammals with dogs for entertainment.

But someone else was "willing" much harder than I was, and for much farther reaching forms of crowd control it would seem. And what soothsayer I ask, conjured up from the Old Testament, the works of Shakespeare or Brighton Pier even, could have predicted, that in a single coup the great goddess of irony might have been so strategically cruel or exacting as she was on this occasion?

On March 12, the giant bonfires were burning alright, albeit not in the name of the Alliance's "Liberty and Livelihood" but, in the name of contagion, carelessness, and possibly the last nail in the coffin of Britain's livestock industry as we know it. Foot and Mouth Disease had declared its return after an absence of more than 30 years, and the flames from the giant bonfires -100 times the size of those planned by the Alliance - lept into the already blackened skies from silhouette mounds made up of the stiffened limbs, heads and snouts of tens of thousands - and eventually millions - of slaughtered farm animals.

Meanwhile, the people of Britain turned to Biblical wisdom and decided that one plague was enough to deal with, leaving the "*Barbour*-ian hordes" to postpone their assault on our rural skylines and capital city, and await their turn! Besides, the Alliance had cried wolf too many times and now the countryside really had something to moan about.

And moan they did, as the beacons of 'lost livelihood' shall we say, continued to blaze throughout the month of March. Not only was the rally cancelled - forcing the Countryside Alliance into debt and political oblivion - but rural Britain was now subject to strict quarantine regulations, with no one allowed to leave infected farms, and no one - except the odd postman and MAFF death squads - permitted to enter. And with the exception of Milton Keynes, all other areas of outstanding natural beauty were cordoned off, causing a massive blow to an arguably innocent tourism industry. The Americans stayed away in droves: They didn't want to set foot on our green and pleasant land or our pavements of gold - with or without a condom - for fear of catching the blisters themselves. Our European neighbours - much closer to home, and some already in receipt of the unpopular virus from our exports, - were naturally even more paranoid. One Irish minister went on to hail Britain as 'the leper of Europe'.

The best upshot to all this however - for anti-bloodsports campaigners at least - was the fact that all wildlife killing activity, - save the more furtive and knee-jerk kind carried out by game-keepers - whether labelled sport, vermin control or MAFF experiments, came to sudden and resounding halt. The event and impact of the epidemic went far beyond anyone's wildest dreams, and for the first few weeks of the outbreak, how I laughed - quite shamelessly in fact!

Clearly though, the absence of killing anything for more than a week was as much cold-turkey as many a hunt servant could bear, and soon we saw many of them grabbing for those "Halloween" boiler suits and jumping the queue of professionals signing up to take part in MAFF's monumental killing programme. Hence, the rumours and reports describing horrific breaches in animal welfare regulations - including stamping on lambs' heads and drowning those that took too long to die after being peppered by bullet rounds etc - came as no great shock really.

"the giant bonfires were burning alright, albeit not in the name of the Alliance's "Liberty and Livelihood" but, in the name of contagion, carelessness, and possibly the last nail in the coffin of Britain's livestock industry as we know it."

Right from the start, industry conspiracy theorists were quick to point the finger of blame for the disease away from themselves and in the direction of easy political targets such as Chinese restaurants, a foreign sandwich, animal rights activists and the Government. And with the help of the media and a few carefully choreographed snaps of farmers cuddling"doomed" baby lambs, for a while the livestock industry launched the biggest revenue-seeking crock-of-shit since the last "reality TV" series and boy/girl band formation (which was probably quite recently , such is the volume and turnover of crass-culture nowadays). And while one or two unwitting Joe Publics might haven fallen for the "Old McDonald"yarn and thrown yet more of their personal income into the coffers set-up for our new "third-world" citizens, the farmers themselves were catching on fast to the fact that 'a dead sheep on a pyre' was worth more than 'a live sheep at market' under MAFF's initial flat-rate compensation scheme. Before any of us knew it, there was all sorts of scamming going on under the auspices of our guardians of the countryside, the full extent of which, an official inquiry - or time - will reveal.

Meanwhile, as well as being accused of starting the outbreak, animal concern groups were blasted by critics from the livestock industry and the media for being "too quiet" and not protesting against the killing of "millions of healthy animals". The extent of the hypocrisy defied all belief and comprehension: where was the sense in protesting against the killing of "millions of healthy animals", when millions of the same healthy animals are already killed everyday in this country regardless? Why should anyone - not entirely stupid, or without a money-motivated agenda, feel compelled to remonstrate against the death of an animal by either captive-bolt pistol, multiple bullet wounds, or drowning, in favour of having them transported thousands of miles overseas without food or water, being kicked and electro-shocked by impatient and desensitised market and slaughterhouse workers, and finally, being restrained by a chain or rope while being slit from throat to arse with or without prior stunning? (At the risk of offending those who are confused by the purpose of analogies, I'd say that that was a bit like asking someone to choose between the finer points of Dauchau and Belson!)

Rightwing libertarian journalists and the livestock industry couldn't give a monkey's-uncle in the White House about the killing of "innocent animals" (as indeed they don't for those that are quite obviously guilty!). They were merely banking on the idea that those who extend compassion to animals are in fact entirely stupid, soft in the head "bunny huggers" - a term often used in the Telegraph - and could be netted by the thousand to bring drama and political effect to their ongoing row with the Government, simply by using a baby lamb as live-bait! The anger that followed when this didn't appear to be the case, was merely misdirected disappointment and an expression of their own bubble bursting, forcing them to consider the possibility that the "bunny hugger" has no real social incarnation or agent, and is in fact a term of their own creation, designed to trivialise and denigrate anyone who shows compassion to the beings that society so ruthlessly exploits.

Apart from the fact that foot and month is not a fatal illness or that it should matter at all to human beings - who aren't generally susceptible, by far the greatest tragedy of Version 2001, was the hysteria, hypocrisy and hocus-pocus generated by the media, combined with the knowledge that this won't be the last livestock catastrophe to heavily tax the country, or generation of lives that we slaughter by the millions.

Legal News

£4000 PAY OUT BY CHESHIRE COPS

Eight hunt saboteurs were awarded damages by Manchester Crown Court against the Cheshire Constabulary following a judgement that the police had subjected the eight to unlawful imprisonment. The ruling related to a case brought against the Cheshire Police by the saboteurs following a mass arrest of 28 people at Haughton Moss, near Nantwich, Cheshire during the 1993/94 hunting season. His Honour Judge Baker presiding ruled that although the initial arrests had been lawful, the saboteurs were not released when it was clear that the hunt had finished, and as such from this time their continued detention was deemed to be unlawful. Damages totalling over £4,000 were awarded to the hunt saboteurs.

The incident occurred on the 11th December 1993 when around 80 saboteurs attempted to sabotage the Cheshire Fox Hounds, who were due to meet at the Nags Head Public House at Haughton Moss. Several hunt saboteurs vehicles were prevented from attending the hunt meet as the police effected a road block en-route and arrested the saboteurs present in order to 'Prevent a Breach of the Peace'. Those arrested where taken to Crewe Police Station and held for approximately 5 hours before being released without charge.

NWHSA 28 March 2001

NOTICEBOARD

Can anyone who knows **Andre Castro** get in touch with the HSA office. Many thanks

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

SAB FRIENDLY SOLICITORS

The HSA Legal Officer is still busy compiling a list of firms as used and approved by you dodgy geezas who just can't seem to stay out of trouble. (Or run fast enough!)

Nominations to the usual address marked 'Legal Officer'

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

DAVE BLENKINSOP
EM7899
HMP Lewes
1 Brighton Road
Lewes
East Sussex BN7 1EA
Remanded on charges of GBH with intent & conspiracy to cause GBH (in connection with assault on HLS director Brian Cass)

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

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

VERMIN PATROL

CRUELTY CASES IN THE COURTS

bloodsport
VERMIN

At West Somerset magistrates on 12/5/00 **Anthony Richard Wright,** a huntsman of *Exmoor Foxhounds* pleaded guilty to an offence under the Specified Risk Material Order 1997 of feeding to hounds parts of a bovine carcass which contained SRM. Wright, who has been cautioned for a similar offence in September 1997, was fined £500 and ordered to pay £567 costs.

On 11/11/00 at Kidderminster magistrates Messrs **James** (a huntsman) and **Mallard** (a joint master of hounds) each pleaded guilty to two charges brought by Hereford and Worcester County Council of inadequate separation and staining of SBM contrary to the SBM Order. Mr James was fined £500 on each charge and ordered to pay £2,000 costs(total £3000). Mallard was fined £1,000 on each charge with £5,000 costs (total £7000).

Keith Lynch (44) of Dumbreeze Lodge, Knowsley Park, Merseyside was banned from driving for 18 months after pleading guilty to driving with excess alcohol. Lynch is a gamekeeper on a shooting estate in Knowsley owned by Lord Derby. On 31/1/01 as well as the ban South Sefton magistrates fined him £300 and ordered to pay costs of £50. He know faces the prospect of legal proceeding to revoke his firearms licence.

On 19/2/01 South Lakeland magistrates fined **Calvin O'Hara** of Hartwood Road, Southport a total of £220 with £75 costs after he illegally introduced live fish to Windermere which could have harmed the lake's resident fish population. O'Hara also pleaded guilty to fishing with more rods than he was permitted to, and to taking undersized fish from the Leeds-Liverpool Canal, which were later used as bait in South Lakeland Magistrates' Court heard how Mr O'Hara introduced live fish to Windermere without the prior consent. The fish could have been carriers of disease and were also apotential threat to the ecological balance of the Lake.

On 5/4/01 **Javid Iqbal** (46) of St Benedict's Road, Small Heath, Birmingham admitted keeping premises for the purpose of cockfighting. Birmingham magistrates sentenced him to three months in prison. He was also banned from keeping any animal for 10 years.

A workman has been jailed for three months after shooting a cat with an air rifle. Shooting enthusiast **Mark William Gray** (25) from Peverell, Plymouth took aim as the cat sat on the front step of his home. At Plymouth magistrates on 7/3/01 Gray pleaded guilty to causing criminal damage to a cat and also carrying a firearm in a public place.

Four men were convicted at Nottingham magistrates on 29/1/01 of staging and taking part in illegal dog fights following an undercover operation involving the RSPCA. **Kenneth Langan** (32) from Portslade in Sussex, **Anthony Mullen (**43) from Northfield, Birmingham, **Jeremy Brown** (46) from Chesterfield in Derbyshire and **Ryan Nuttall** (29) from Mansfield near Nottingham pleaded guilty to various charges including causing dogs to fight, using premises for dog fighting and causing dogs to suffer. On 26/2/01 at Mansfield magistrates Langan, who admitted four charges of causing unnecessary suffering and failing to provide veterinary care was jailed for four months. Mullen, who admitted three charges including causing dogs to fight, was given three months in jail. Brown, who pleaded guilty to just one charge of providing premises to be used for dog-fighting, was jailed for four months. Nuttall, who admitted nine similar offences was also sentenced to four months in prison. Two other men were fined last October at Mansfield magistrates for attending illegal dogfights arranged by the group.

A gamekeeper admitted a firearms offence near the scene of the Dunblane primary school massacre. Police found 20 live bullets lying unguarded in **William Kirk**'s cottage in the town, Stirling Sheriff Court were told on 16/3/01. The prosecution said Kirk did not have a firearms certificate to cover the ammunition. His defence said Kirk had formerly possessed a .270 rifle, but had surrendered his certificate upon selling the weapon. Mistakenly, he held on to the ammunition. He said Kirk had already paid dearly for his error by losing his job and tied cottage. Sheriff Wylie Robertson fined him £250, saying he took into account Kirk's reduced circumstances and the fact that the prosecution had accepted his not guilty pleas to three further charges.

bird/egg
VERMIN

Hundreds of wild finches destined for Malta were seized in Kent during a raid by RSPCA inspectors on a disused petshop in October 1998. The birds were fitted with false leg-rings and were due to be flown out of the country from Gatwick airport in a deal worth thousands of pounds. Bird dealer **Roger Attard** (26) planned to make £60 a bird selling them in Malta but the RSPCA released them back to the wild at a secret location in Surrey. Attard returned to Malta before be could face charges and now runs a gun shop.

A number of wild birds were found in a child's bedroom during a search a house in Tipton by RSPCA inspectors. One of the birds, a wild goldfinch, had injured its beak and wings by flying at the bars of its cage. Bird breeder **Alan Newell** (34) from Tipton1 West Midlands also had several decoy cages and bird trapping equipment hidden in a holdall. In May 2000 Newell pleaded guilty to five offences and was fined £250 and ordered to pay £450 costs.

58 birds were removed from a house in West Bromwich during an RSPCA raid. Bird breeder **Trevor Launchbury** had been keeping goldfinches, bullfinches and reed buntings in a shed in his garden where he falsified leg-rings to make them look as if they were legally bred in captivity. Two of the birds were suffering from damage to their legs and bodies. In August 2000 Launchbury pleaded guilty to 18 charges including to two counts of causing unnecessary suffering and possession of wild birds. He was banned from owning birds for life, ordered to pay £300 and given a two-year conditional discharge.

A hawfinch discovered during a raid at an aviary in Kent had gone blind and was so severely emaciated it was only given days to live. A total of 14 finches were seized from cages at **Bernard Nicholas**' farmhouse in Sittingbourne, Kent during a search by RSPCA inspectors. They also found numerous traps and cages used for capturing and storing wild birds. Bird dealer Nicholas was convicted in December 2000 of cruelty to two birds and of possessing two wild birds He was fined £1000.

On 29/1/01 a West Midlands man was sentenced for cruelly terrifying six birds in a violent outburst during a joint investigation by the RSPCA and West Midlands police. **David Stone** (41) from Walsall pleaded guilty before magistrates at Aldridge to three charges and was sentenced to 60 days community service, disqualified from owning birds for six months and ordered to pay £350 in costs. During the operation in November 1999 Stone smashed up his aviary and police were forced to remove and arrest him. He was later convicted of affray.

equine
VERMIN

On 26/1/01 **Denise Richmond** (25) was banned from keeping animals for 20 years after her horse was left starving in a field. Richmond admitted causing unnecessary suffering by neglect to a mare called Kaiser which was found in a field by RSPCA officers. Officers discovered the starving horse was so badly neglected that her ribs were sticking out of her stomach. Richmond of Marine Cottages, Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, Northumberland was fined £250 by magistrates at south east Northumberland.

assorted
VERMIN

On 24/1/01 **Qantas** pleaded guilty to four charges of animal cruelty after the deaths of 68 deer the airline was flying to Thailand. The airline was charged after the deaths of 68 deer out of a shipment of 114 of the animals being sent to Bangkok for breeding. Animal welfare officials said the deer were unable to stand in the crates they were being transported in. Qantas made the plea without accepting liability on the part of the airline, said Peter Frampton, a senior airline official. The airline was not responsible for loading the animals into the crates.

A South Devon wildlife park gunman with the job of shooting escaped dangerous animals, twice tried to shoot a horse from just nine feet – and missed both times Totnes magistrates heard on 21/2/01. **Derick Hext** (49) of New Park Road, Lee Mill, who worked for the Dartmoor Wildlife Park at Sparkwell, was trying to put down the old horse using a .375 rifle while the animal was tied to a tree stump in a South Devon field. Each time Hext fired and missed the terrified horse broke free and ran around the field. Eventually Hext gave up and the horse had to be put down by the local hunt (not a pack of dogs) using a humane killer. Hext should never have been using the rifle in the first place because his firearms certificate included a condition that it should only be used in an emergency linked to captive animals at the wildlife park. Hext was fined £150 and ordered to pay £50 costs after he admitted failing to comply with the firearms certificate condition.

A haulage company and a specialist pig breeder were fined £500 each for falsifying MAFF documents and breaking animal transport regulations. **JSR Healthbred Pigs and Chris Waite Hauliers**, a specialist animal haulage company, both based in Driffield, East Yorkshire, claimed that pigs being transported from Wiltshire to Hamburg, Germany, had been rested for 24 hours in Holland, as required by law, Leeds magistrates were told on 8/3/01. The livestock company and haulier supplied false journey plans and declarations to MAFF, claiming the animals had been properly rested. But the RSPCA's special operations unit, which was trailing the consignment as part of an investigation into live animal transport, found that the journey in Europe failed to include the 24 hours rest. JSR admitted failing to comply with a journey plan and providing false information. The haulage company admitted providing false information.

A Dutch airline has been fined for not looking after 440 Siberian squirrels it put through a chopping machine. The animals were being imported from China via Greece but were stopped at Schipol airport when customs discovered vital documents were missing. They couldn't be returned to Greece because the papers weren't available, and China didn't want them either. The Dutch Ministry of Agriculture ordered the squirrels be killed. **KLM** was taken to court in Haarlem on 21/3/01. Although the court accepted the squirrels had to be killed, it fined the airline 35,000 guilders, around £10,000, for not taking proper care of the animals or transporting them in the right way.

A female lawyer has been charged with murder after her dog mauled her next-door neighbour to death. **Marjorie Knoller** (45) and her husband **Robert Noel** (59) have been charged with involuntary manslaughter and keeping a mischievous dog that killed a human being. The animals have been linked to a dog-fighting ring run out of Pelican Bay State Prison by inmates **Paul Schneider** and **Dale Bretches**. Knoller and Noel were caring for two Presa Canario-mastiffs when the dogs attacked their neighbour. Schneider and Bretches are serving life sentences without parole: Schneider for robbery and attempted murder, and Bretches for murder and assault with a deadly weapon while behind bars. Both belong to the *Aryan Brotherhood*, a white supremacist prison gang.

A man has been fined £130 after being convicted of shooting a protected wild bird with an air rifle. **Kevin Morris** (35) of Lonsdales Close, Belle Isle denied intentionally killing a Great Crested Grebe on Barton Broad near Norwich and using an air weapon in a navigation area. On 29/3/01 Norwich magistrates heard that Morris, who was found guilty in his absence after pleading not guilty by letter, was spotted firing from a cruiser on the Norfolk Broads. When questioned, Morris told a Broads Authority river inspector that he had been firing at a paper bag. Morris was also ordered to pay£120 costs.

On 30/3/01 A Florida DJ was charged with animal cruelty after a wild boar was castrated and killed in a radio station car park while he was on air. WXTB FM in Tampa received hundreds of complaints after the slaughter, which took place as part of a "roadkill" barbecue promotion. Presenter **Todd Bubba the Love Sponge Clem** and three others are accused of cruelty and face up to five years in prison. Also charged are producer **Brent Hartley**, audience volunteer **Daniel Brooks**, who allegedly held down the boar, and **Paul Kauterburg** - the hunter accused of taking the animal to the car park. The radio station broadcast squeals of a pig while the slaughter took place. Station bosses say they were pre-recorded animal noises and not the actual event.

A veterinary surgeon, called to a paddock near Shepton Mallet's Charlton Inn, found a sick lamb with the skin and wool around a wound covered with maggots, urine and faeces, at Wells Town Hall Mendip magistrates were told on 25/1/01. **Martin Swift** (26) of Commercial Road, Shepton Mallet, admitted a charge of causing unnecessary suffering to an animal and the magistrates fined him £400 and ordered him to pay costs of £307.

A farmer has been banned from the business for life after inflicting horrific cruelty on his starving animals. **Jimmy Douglas** (60) of Balmoral Court, Dunblane, but who used to own Upper Drumbane Farm, near Callander, Perthshire allowed injured and lice-infested cattle to rot away in muddy pits. There were so many bones and rotting carcasses scattered around his farm, welfare inspectors branded it an 'animal Belsen.' Douglas failed to improve animal welfare despite three warnings. He flouted anti-BSE regulations, placing the whole Scottish farming industry at risk. At Stirling Sheriff court on 16/3/01 Douglas was banned from farming for life and fined almost £6,000. A neighbour who kept a pony at the farm, told how she 'kidnapped' the badly injured horse in the middle of the night. she said: "*I was so terrified it would die from an infected leg wound, I kidnapped it and met the vet at the dead of night. He treated it by the light of his car headlamps. Jimmy just wouldn't deal with vets. One cow was so sick and desperate to get water it fell and couldn't get back up. It was stuck in the same spot for days on end until it died. Rats came and ate parts of the decomposing body while the rest of the herd walked around it.*"

domestic
VERMIN

A man who took in a stray cat has been banned from keeping animals for 10 years. **George Lewis** (48) of Melrose Grove, Jarrow, admitted cruelty to a female cat when he appeared before South Tyneside magistrates on 16/2/01. Lewis was also fined £100 at the hearing. The cat couldn't eat and it had salivated so much there were sores on its tongue.

A Selby mother has been banned from

keeping animals for five years after she admitted causing unnecessary suffering to her two pet rabbits. One of the animals was found dead and infested with maggots, Selby magistrates heard on 10/1/01. They found a dead rabbit with part of its body eaten away by maggots, lying next to a live rabbit, in a fly-ridden hutch at the back of the house. **Lisa Barr** (27) who now lives in temporary council accommodation, pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering. She also admitted two charges of abandoning an animal. Magistrates banned her from keeping , and ordered to pay £218 towards boarding and vet fees and prosecution costs. Magistrates ordered that the surviving rabbit should be kept by the RSPCA until a proper home could be found.

A former racing greyhound was starved to half its body weight in just three months by its new owner Plymouth magistrates heard on 16/1/01. Almost every bone in the body of the greyhound could be seen protruding through her skin when the RSPCA rescued her from where she had been left in a house. The dog's owner **Samantha Ward** (26) who is now known as **Miss C Lewis** who is now living in a women's refuge in Kent, pleaded guilty by letter to the court to causing unnecessary suffering to an animal. She was banned from keeping or owning any animal for five years and fined £75. The good news is that the dog now has a loving new home with a member of Greyhound Rescue in the Exeter area.

A father and son were banned from keeping dogs for 10 years on 19/1/01 after one of their pets was cleaned with bleach and found half-dead with a stick wedged between its teeth. The men's six dogs were found in an "appalling" condition in what the RSPCA described as one of the worst cruelty cases they had seen. Five of the animals had to be destroyed. As well as the ban on keeping dogs, **William Mobey** (51) and his son, **Jack** (18) from Guildford, Surrey, were given community service orders. The case was brought after inspectors swooped on a caravan site after a tip-off, Guildford magistrates were told. The dogs were found infested with fleas and so severely neglected that their skin was bleeding. The worst of the six - a four-year-old lurcher – lived in a damp lorry trailer which was swamped with urine and faeces. The animal had been treated with bleach. It was almost completely bald, a piece of twine was tied tightly round its neck and its head was so swollen it seemed out of proportion to the rest of its body. Just touching it was enough to make it bleed. On closer examination, a vet discovered a four-inch piece of wood wedged between its lower teeth.

A woman whose family once owned a pet shop was fined £150 for starving two pet guinea pigs to death. **Denise Warner** (29) of Coronation Avenue, Keynsham pleaded guilty at Bath magistrates on 7/2/01 to two charges of causing unnecessary suffering to her pet guinea pigs. Warner was fined £75 for each charge, ordered to pay an additional £50 costs and £50 to the RSPCA.

A pet shop owner who runs an animals roadshow in schools kept creatures in "dirty" and "cramped" conditions. **Frederick Roberts** (58) of Hempshill Hall, Bulwell, has been banned from selling animals at his shop, Fish Specialists in Mansfield Road, Daybrook. He pleaded guilty to keeping a pet shop without a licence. Roberts was also prosecuted in November 2000 for keeping two dangerous wild animals without a licence. Roberts was given an 18-month conditional discharge and £75 costs.

A starving pet dog suffered an agonising death after it tried to eat stones and its own faeces in a desperate attempt to stay alive. The dog's owners, **Yvonne** (44) and **Trevor Cole** (47) - both of Strathmore Crescent, Benwell were banned for life for keeping animals after they were found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to three dogs by Newcastle magistrates. Mrs Cole who had denied the charges, told the court the dogs belonged to her three children but she was responsible for feeding them. On 24/1/01 magistrates fined the Coles £250 and made an order transferring ownership of the dogs to the RSPCA.

William Joseph Fitzgibbon (39) of Parkinson Road, Walton admitted causing unnecessary suffering to an animal by failing to provide proper care and attention. On 1/2/01 Liverpool magistrates heard how Fitzgibbon owned a bull mastif in an emaciated state. He was given three months probation, banned from keeping any animals for three years and ordered to pay costs of £150.

Cruel John Donnelly almost starved his pet dog to death - then told RSPCA investigators: "*I treat him like I would my son.*" The four-year-old dog was found emaciated, unable to walk and had overgrown nails. He was so thin he had a deep ulcer on his back caused by his bones pushing against the skin. **John Donnelly** (32) of Cranesville, Beacon Lough, Gateshead, is now banned from keeping animals for life. Donnelly was living in Hyde Park, Gateshead, when he owned the dog. Donnelly admitted causing cruelty to an animal. He was given a one year conditional discharge with £667 costs and banned from keeping animals for life by Gateshead magistrates on 1/3/01.

A man who starved his pet Japanese dogs to just half their normal weight has been banned from keeping animals for seven years. **Mohammed Makki** (23) of Romsley Drive, Daubhill, neglected his dogs for two months, Bolton magistrates were told on 23/3/01. The court heard both dogs were found in a makeshift back garden pen with their ribs, spine and leg bones visible. The court heard how both dogs were undernourished and they had been subjected to unnecessary suffering for two months. Makki denied two counts of causing unnecessary suffering to animals after appearing before Bolton magistrates then changed his plea to guilty. Magistrates confiscated both dogs from Makki who was banned from keeping any animal for seven years, fined £100 and ordered to pay £200 costs.

A Gloucestershire pensioner shot dead one of his neighbours' cats because he believed it was scaring the birds from his garden. **Philip Pratt** (76) of Gloucester Street, Winchcombe became convinced the cats were wrecking the wildlife habitat he had created in his back garden. Pratt escaped jail but was ordered to pay a total of £1,140 after he admitted causing suffering to an animal at Cheltenham magistrates on 15/3/01. When Pratt spotted one of the cats in a tree he shot her through the eye. The 22-month-old black and white cat died in agony from her injuries a day later. After being shot the cat had managed to find her way home and was taken to a vet with a pellet hole in her head, haemorrhaging, broken claws and breathing problems but died later. When Pratt was arrested a day later, he admitted shooting at the cat to kill it. Police found an air rifle and ammunition at his home. Pratt was fined £1,000 with £110 compensation and £40 costs.

A teacher who stamped on and killed a neighbour's eight-week-old kitten has been jailed for six weeks. **Jeremy Hunter** (45) however, has walked free because half of his sentence was suspended and he has already served the time while in custody. Hunter denied killing the kitten near his home in Milton Keynes, Bucks, but was found guilty of cruelly ill-treating the animal at a trial last year. Hunter, who offered home tuition in the Eaglestone area of the town, was spotted stamping on the kitten by a passing motorist. When Hunter was due to be sentenced for the offence in June 2000 he failed to appear and a warrant was issued for his arrest. He was eventually picked up at a flat in the seaside town of Margate, Kent and remanded in custody until his sentencing at Milton Keynes magistrates on 16/3/01. He was also given seven days in prison for absconding but the sentence runs concurrently.

A heroin addict who kicked his girlfriend's dog to death because it was being disobedient has been jailed for five months. **Mark Timmins** (26) formerly of Bagley Road, Stourbridge, West Midlands stamped on the dog's head, smashing its skull, before dumping its body in a river, Wolverhampton Crown Court were told on 29/3/01. Timmins had just been released on licence from a four-year jail term imposed at Exeter Crown Court in January 1997 for causing death by dangerous driving. The judge sentenced Timmins to three months' jail for animal cruelty and ordered him to serve two months of his previous sentence consecutively. The judge also disqualified him from keeping an animal for five years. Timmins was convicted of killing the seven-year-old dog by Dudley magistrates in his absence and was committed to the higher court for sentence.

On 30/3/01 a New York state prison officer has been charged with throwing five kittens into a rubbish crusher after finding them in a cell. **Sergeant Ronald Hunlock** denies animal cruelty. Officials said he found the box of kittens in a cell at Sing Sing Correctional Facility in Ossining, New York. Hunlock is alleged to have told an inmate to drop the kittens into a rubbish crusher. He is said to have refused.

Department of Correctional Services

officials said Hunlock then threw them in and turned the machine on, killing the kittens. The prison officer, who has worked at Sing Sing for five years, has been suspended from his job without pay. Hunlock's bail has been set at £17,500 and he was sent to a Westchester County jail. The charge carries a maximum penalty of two years in prison. His next court appearance is set for 3/4/01 in Ossining Village Court.

A pensioner who kept animals on a Devon small-holding in conditions said to have been "an insult to humanity" could face jail. The case against **Maurice Young** (72) has been adjourned for four weeks for a pre-sentence report. Young pleaded guilty on 30/3/01 to 34 charges of cruelty to 62 animals on his small-holding at Shallowford, Hatherleigh. Young who lived in a mobile home on the premises, appeared before magistrates to face the charges relating to goats, calves, bantams, rabbits, ponies, chickens, guinea pigs and dogs. Animals were underweight, in some cases emaciated, and in one area there were 32 skulls of various species of animals including sheep and pigs, and there were also decomposing carcasses of chickens, rabbits and a calf or pony.

On 30/3/01 a man has pleaded guilty to having sex with his family's dog after police found a video in the man's Virginia home. **David L. Lee** (33) pleaded guilty to carnal knowledge of an animal and to possession of cocaine and distributing more than five pounds of marijuana. The tape of Mr Lee and his male beagle, which he apparently made himself, was discovered by police searching for drugs last September. Lee will be sentenced on 6/6/01 and could face a maximum penalty of five years in prison on the animal charge. Officers also found more than 81 ounces of marijuana and 9.55 grams of crack cocaine. A weapons charge against Lee was dropped.



COP with SPRAY : avoid and ignore.

Sab?Speak

As well as a unique sense of dress, a distinct approach to hair care and our penchant for a certain type of vehicle Sabs have their own remarkable coded language. For those of you not entirely au fait with them all here is our handy breakdown:

BOYS – AKA Heavies, Security, etc. i) Big Fat men who can't run very fast but who take great delight in attempting to batter you if you stray within arms reach. ii) Spotty youths who will run *away* very fast, having got nowhere in their attempts to batter you.

Cop – Person in black overalls (or bright yellow coat – physical prowess depending) whose job is to chase sabs round fields rather than stop crime. Generally not drawn from the top 10% of the population (other way round in fact) generally to be avoided and ignored.

COVERT – (pronounced 'cover') – anything larger than a hedge but smaller than a forest where a huntsman thinks he might be able to find an animal to chase and kill.

Crusty – a type of sab that for the most part disappeared in the mid '90's. very useful, but difficult to get them out of bed. Identifiable by dreadlocks and facial piercings.

DRIVERS?MATE – Large spanner required to maintain good vehicular order and prevent window breakage/personal injury when driving unaccompanied on particularly 'fruity' hunts.

Duffle Coat– A strange kind of clothing worn by sabs in the mid 70's. Nearly responsible for drowning one in 1976 while trying to wade through a stream she got sucked down by the weight of water in her coat.

Flares– See Duffle Coat. Tendency to drag through cow pats.

FRIDAY?NITE?SABs – Individuals who routinely promise (usually in the pub) to come out sabbing but fail to materialise until the next alcohol-related social gathering.

Gismo – A speaker connected to a tape recorder and amplifier that plays a tape of hounds in cry. Used to draw hounds. Tape can be substituted for Atari Teenage Riot– used to scare small children.

Horn – A bit of bendy copper that can take hounds away from the hunted animal when blown. The source of lots of double entendres.

Huntsman – red coat, plays the horn (see above), tries to kill foxes.

Landy – Land Rover. Piles of rust that gets Sabs from one place to another. Shitty miles to the gallon but great through flooded roads.

Master – Man or woman who organises and oversees all the chaos a hunt causes.

NAVIGATOR – Sab with worst hangover. May require frequent stops for vommiting. Hopeless directions all day but able to locate post-sab pub with ease.

Producer – A pain in the arse for the driver. Cops way of harassing the one person who isn't doing anything against some stupid law.

Punk Rock – A form of music that inspired many Sabs to become active. Now confined to old gits in the back of the van or spotty youths in the front.

Sherpa – Not as big as a Transit (see below). Just as rusty. More prone to breaking down. More prone to getting stuck in mud than Landy.

SPRAY – Citronella or garlic concoction used to cover hunted animals scent. Particularly stupid cop will invariably confuse with CS gas or acid and attempt to confiscate.

Sixty Eighter– Related to the 1994 Criminal Justice Act. Refers to the heinous crime of 'Aggravated Trespass'.

Sixty Niner– Again related to the 94 Act. Refers to the terrible crime of not leaving land when told to do so by (usually) cops (see above). Also refers to one way to spend your Saturday night (better than a cell).

Transit– Very much last decades fashion though still favoured by many. Prone to rust and breaking down. Now superseded by the landy

Whipper in – Person whose job it is to chase the straggling hounds that run off during the day

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*)

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

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

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

Address .....,.....

.....

..... Postcode .....

Telephone Number.....

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

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

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

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

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

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

HSA PROMOTIONALS





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



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!**



















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There are still some back issues of Howl 70, 71,72 & 73 available.

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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.

Bare Butts!

(We love 'em.)

Just because a bird is not cute and cuddly like a fox, is its life worth less?

We don't think so.

Shooters and gamekeepers kill far more wildlife than all foxhunts, hare hunts, mink hunts, stag hunts and hare coursers put together.

Whether at large grouse shoots or a pheasant shoot comprising of a few sick individuals, hunt saboteurs will get with the guns and prevent them from shooting. Most shooters will unload/put their guns away. The most common reaction is for the drive to be abandoned. We save countless lives (and cost organisers thousands of pounds!) in this way.

Every hunting season for the last thirty-five years, members of the Hunt Saboteurs Association have been saving the lives of game birds and other hunted animals. Our organisation aims to help wild animals directly in the very place where they are hounded and harassed for 'sport' - the hunting field itself!

The Hunt Saboteurs Association works against all sports involving the torture of wildlife - that includes the hunting of foxes, hare, deer and mink, hare coursing, badger baiting, game shooting and angling.

We urge you to to join us - the Hunt Saboteurs Association does more than campaign against bloodsports, it halts them in their tracks.

Please help us to save even more lives.

