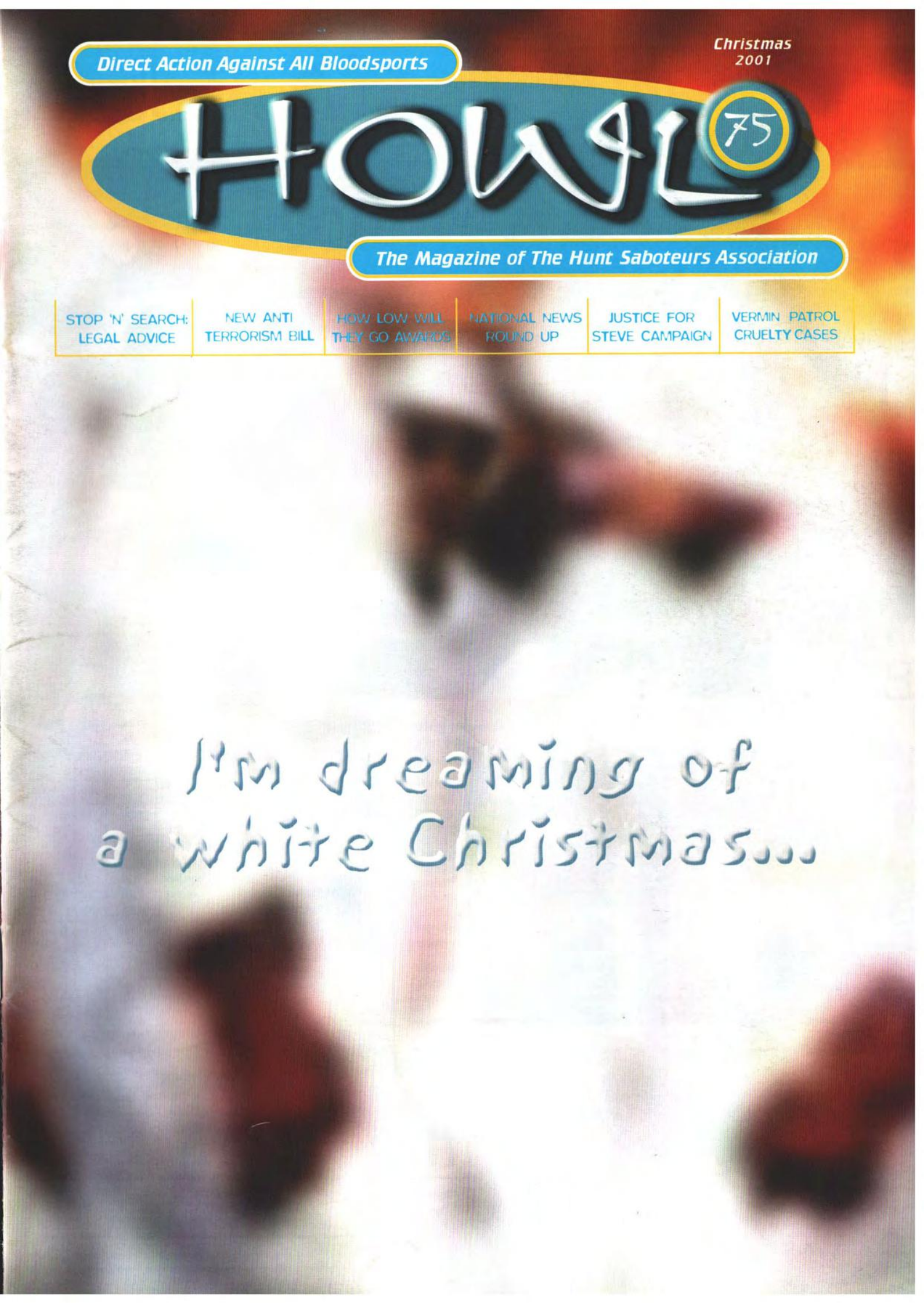
Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

Christmas 2001

HOWL 75

The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association

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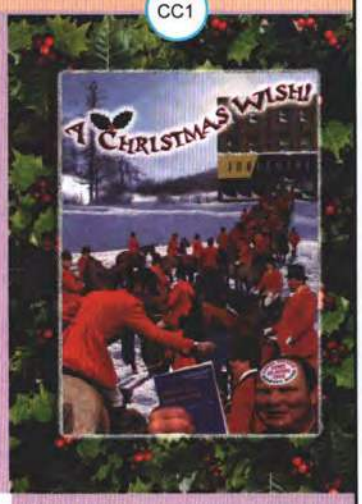






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A new 'Justice' T-shirt, (only £6.50 inc. p&p) & re-vamped Christmas cards - all proceeds go **direct** to the Steve Christmas Legal Fund. (see page 12)





Justice for Animals

Justice for Steve

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M2	'For fox sake' Mug		3.49		
W1	HSA Wallet		2.75		
C2	HSA Car sticker		0.75		
K	HSA Keyring		0.99		
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HOWL 75

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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big taverymuch to: the office crew, & anyone else who we've pilfered stuff off and forgotten to credit.

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

EDITORIAL(S)

Welcome to Howl 75!

If Defra announcements are accurate, by the time you read this, the long holiday granted by the occurrence of foot and mouth will have ended, and hunt saboteurs across the country will find themselves once again getting caked in mud, being chased by the plod, and under threat of violent attacks from huntsmen and their supporters. To compound the danger further, an unresolved hunting bill and the cold turkey that bloodsports enthusiasts must be experiencing after months of not being able to chase animals to exhaustion and then watch them being ripped to shreds, can only serve to increase tensions. As such, I extend a warning to all who protest or take direct action against our country's participation in bloodsports: in case it has escaped anyone's notice, human beings would seem to possess a real talent for taking innocent lives and getting away with it, so look over your shoulder this season, and please, be careful.

And while on this sanctimonious note, I'd like to offer thanks to everyone who's help to produce this damn magazine over the year and, in spite of all that is going on, to wish everyone a good 2002.

Fur Elise

By the time you read this it'll be summer! Joking aside, we'll either be out, or getting ready to go out again after becoming desperately unfit over the last 10 months. The coming 'season' won't be easy and a frosty welcome is on the cards. The Watson Bill in Scotland, the pressure of our own Labour back benchers (Go Banks!!) and the general apathy towards the countryside that now exists as a result of FMD is going to make this minority feel even more of a minority. So take care out there, whilst keeping the pressure up.

Keep your eyes open in March/April for a big benefit gig in a major London Venue for AR causes featuring Conflict amongst many others in memory of Barry Horne.

Matt

BARRY HORNE

Barry Horne died on the November 5th (bonfire night!) 2001 in Worcester Hospital after going without food since October 21st, but hardly anyone knew that he was on this, his last hunger strike for the animals.

There was no distinction between 'Barry the man' and Barry the animal liberation activist. He had a wicked sense of humour, a mischevious smile, an incredible level of energy, dedication and sense of self-sacrifice. He had a kind and gentle heart but also a burning sense of rage towards bully's, be they racist fascists or animal abusers.

During his time as a Northampton sab Barry visited all the local bloodjunkies including the Quorn F.H., the Atherstone, the Fernie, Woodland Pytchley, Grafton and the Bicester F.H. He was usually prepared with a flask of hot tea making him a most popular sab! Barry also sabbed the Stowe School beagles, (where the ridiculous beagling costumes meant the hunt got extra verbal) and the Northamptonshire Minkhounds, where a good mornings sabbing was often followed by swimming at the gravel-pit!

Slammed with an 18 year prison sentence for a multi-million campaign of damage by arson directed against Boots and the vivisection industry - Barry refused to take it lying down and carried on fighting from within prison.

Barry embarked on the hunger strikes after a great deal of deliberation. He revealed himself to be a master tactician. He knew he was up against politicians, vivisectors, greed, dirty money and corruption - He highlighted Labour's broken promises in order to try and break down the institutionalised support that goverments had always given to vivisectors. He ultimately went on to make the most powerful statement of all, he showed that he was prepared to die for his beliefs.



"Animal liberation: Fight for it, battle for it, go to prison for it, win it. Don't waste time talking about it, drinking down the pub for it, eating veggie-burgers for it. Go out there and win it"

Barry Horne
S.A.R.P. Newsletter 1997

Red-Faced, Red-Coated, Red-Handed!

For those of you who have been following the case of the hunt saboteur who tried to rescue an exhausted fox from biting hounds, whilst being kicked and stamped on by the huntsman, here's a resfreshingly accurate account of the court case provided by the Times newspaper.

HUNTSMAN IN COURT FOLLOWING ASSAULT ON SABOTEUR



Hunt saboteur bitten by fox and hounds
by Simon De Bruxelles

A huntsman kicked a hunt saboteur as he held an exhausted fox in his arms to protect it from the hounds, a court was told yesterday.

The saboteur, who was bitten by the fox for his efforts, was eventually forced to let go of the animal and it was killed.

John Hazeltine denies assaulting Sydney Thomas during a meeting of the East Devon hunt at Crammer Barton, near Cullompton, in February. Mr Thomas suffered various injuries in the alleged kicking and punching incident and was bitten by some of the dogs as well as the fox.

Paul Bitmead told Exeter Magistrates, Court that Mr Hazeltine, 32, was employed by the hunt and was responsible for the welfare and operation of the hounds.

He said that hunt saboteurs had used horns and sprays to try to distract the pack from the scent and that tensions were running high when Mr Thomas, a plumber, grabbed hold of the pursued fox. Mr Thomas tried to protect the fox from the baying hounds by crouching down in a hedge as the pack surrounded him.

Mr Bitmead said: *"His head was down and he was bitten."* At this point, Hazeltine entered the picture. They were known to each other. As Mr Thomas crouched down, his head was stamped on and he was punched in the back of the head. He said that Hazeltine was shouting *"get off, and leave it"* and at one point the fox crawled from his grasp.

He then pulled on the defendants legs to prevent any further assault. Mr Thomas was later arrested for aggravated trespass. He told the court that he had suddenly seen half the pack of hounds in full cry with the fox being *"bitten and mauled"*

He said: *"It was tired and on its last legs. The whole pack approached us and I jumped this electric fence because I did not want to see the animal torn apart."*

"I ran up to the hounds and tried to chase them off. I managed to grab the fox and lifted it up. The fox immediately bit me on the hand, through my thumb. It managed to wriggle free, but I grabbed it by the scruff of its neck and lifted it up from the hounds. I crouched down in the hedge and tried to cover up the fox with my body. There were a lot of hounds there and pulling its muzzle and tail.Then I felt blows to the back of my head. I also received some bites from the hounds on my hands."

Mr Hazeltine, of Kentisbeare, Devon, denies assault. The court was told that, in a police interview, he said that he tried to make Mr Thomas release the fox because he feared that he would be savaged by the pack if he held on to it.

Unfortunately, the upshot of this one was a not guilty verdict after, (what is suspected as) some dubious off-line bargaining on the part of the defence.

The huntsman (Hazeltine) was seen on local news afterwards, again claiming that he was only trying to prevent the hunt saboteur from being savaged by the hounds! Of course he was - it's common knowledge after all, that bloodsports enthusiasts have the best interests of hunt saboteurs at the centre of their soft and generous hearts!



HUNT MASTER ON DRINK-DRIVE RAP

Joint Master of the Oakley F.H., Charlotte Wilson-Smith, appeared before Wellingborough magistrates on Monday charged with dangerous driving and driving with excess alcohol.

Ms Wilson-Smith, 38, of Poplars Farm, Wymington, was arrested by Northamptonshire Police near her home on September 22.

The case was adjourned until November 13 when it will be committed to crown court.

"I'm not pissed you know" © Chair-bear

COLLEGE BEAGLERS ON THE SCROUNGE AGAIN

The Royal Agricultural College Beagles may be about to fold because the Cirencester college is going to start charging rent for the kennelman,s cottage. The annual fee for the cottage is said to be around £3000, which amounts to less then £60 per week. In spite of the ridiculously low price for a stone cottage in Gloucestershire however, the hunt cannot afford it, and are desperate for funds to bail them out.

And we thought it was only hunt saboteurs who all live in council accommodation and on state benefits! I'd say it's about time these embarrassing beaglers stopped being a burden to society and get themselves real jobs like the rest of us I hasten to add.

NEW SUPPORT GROUP FOR THE SICK

A subscribers-only publication called Hounds has published the details of a new support group named, wait for it: "Victims of the RSPCA". Apparently, the group was formed specifically to "help individuals who feel they have been wrongly prosecuted or have suffered because of the charity"!

("Suffered" in this instance meaning: unable to bait badgers and foxes, leave dogs and horses to starve to death, and set traps and snares ad libitum and without fear of prosecution - a vicious infringement on the hobbies of most readers of Hounds I suspect!)



For all you victims of that heinous organisation of terror, otherwise known as the RSPCA, the support group helpline number is:

01559 371 031

WILLS SHOOTS HIS LOAD PREMATURELY!

Prince William hit the headlines back in July after he shot dead a protected bird during a gap year trip to Kenya in which he was said to be "conserving wildlife".

Prince William was riding with European farmers known as the 'Kenya Cowboys' when a loud cry echoed across the plains. Their African bush tracker dropped to his knee, pointed, and shouted 'Ndege', meaning "bird".

In an instant the Prince pointed his 12-bore and fired, but even before the bird hit the ground and the applause had died down, it emerged that the Prince had made a mistake and fired prematurely! The bird was a protected ibis and not a game bird as the Prince might have thought.

St James's Palace said: "It was a relatively common bird you know, not an endangered species"!

(Oh well, that's alright then!)

HOW MUCH IS THAT DOGGY IN THE HUNT KENNELS?

A guest on Radio 4's Face the Facts programme, which talked about testing chemical weapons in the 1970s, mentioned a testing incident in the north of Cornwall where an "entire beagle pack" was exposed to mustard gas. Radio 4 Listener July 27 2001

More recently (June 2001), we received word from a student at Bristol University who alleged that the college's science department were using hunting-hounds in their labs.

One can only speculate, if not guess, as to where both facilities got the dogs from!

KARMA POLICE

A teenager shot dead his father after mistaking him for a pig, police in Italy say. The 17-year-old mistook his father, 58, for a pig snuffling about in bushes. The father and son were chasing the animals across their fields with guns. But the son opened fire as he saw "something that looked like an animal lurking behind a bush"
Ananova 8th September 2001
(Hmmm... This might give the hunting community ideas with regards to other ways to kill anti-hunt protesters and get away with it - without using the usual 4x4 as a weapon!)

A deer attacked an Austrian hunter and left him so badly injured he died before he could call for help.
The animal was one of several being kept in a cage and fed by the man so it could be released into the wild and hunted.
Ananova 16th October 2001

A deer hunter is in hospital in the US after accidentally shooting himself when he fell out of a tree. Chris Garcia was perched up a tree while hunting deer but he slipped and fell and the rifle accidentally fired. He is recovering in Providence Holy Cross Medical Centre, California, with wounds to his hands and face.
Ananova 22nd October 2001

Two Papua New Guinea fishermen bled to death after their penises were bitten off by piranha-like river fish.The fish followed the trails of urine in the water and bit off the organs in two seperate attacks in the Sepik River. Speculation surrounding the killer fish suggests they may have been introduced from Brazil in 1994 by the U.N. food & Aricultural Organisation.
Annova 6th July 2001

NEWS IN BRIEF

STELLA McCARTNEY, the fashion designer and vegetarian known for her dislike of bloodsports , has bought a farm in the middle of countryside used by a fox hunt!
11 Nov 2001

Guardian promotes bloodsports:
Whilst the Telegraph promotes bloodsports on account of bombast and tradition, the Guardian, often thought to be its polar opposite, promotes bloodsports from the crest of knee jerk liberalism it seems.
In August, the center-left broad sheet ran a three-page promotion in its travel supplement encouraging tourists to patronise one of the bloodiest of all entertainment rituals, the Corrida, otherwise known as bullfighting.

In May of 2001, one of the many deranged gunmen that stalk this Island thought it would be clever to massacre more than 70 birds and arrange their bodies to spell the word 'death'. The kittiwakes were shot as they nested near a beach. A pigeon was used as a full stop.
Mirror, May 24 20OI

English Nature, the Government's wildlife watchdog, is to investigate private shooting estates where it fears that of England's rarest birds is being driven to extinction. The organisation suspects that game keepers are shooting, poisoning and often trampling to death these highly protected birds of prey to stop them killing grouse and disrupting hunts.
Telegraph June 17 2001.

Fox dies after child gang's stoning attack:
A wounded fox cub died after being rescued by the RSPCA from children who attacked it with stones. The cub was found curled up by an electricity sub-station in Barming, Kent. It had also been bitten by a dog having stones hurled at it increased its injuries. Two Maidstone school children who witnessed the attack called the RSPCA. The animal was taken to an RSPCA centre, but its injuries were too severe and it died a few days later.
KM May 18 2001

Woman faces jail after dog unable to perform jury service:
An elderly US woman who registered her dog to vote as a joke could face prison after her pet was unable to perform jury service.
Ananova 7 June 2001

COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE SPEND £3M DEFENDING BLOOD SPORT (IN ONE YEAR!)

The Countryside Alliance's claim that it promotes a broad range of rural interests has been exposed for the nonsense that it is by a leaked internal document showing that it spends millions of pounds defending bloodsports and only a fraction of that sum on other countryside campaigns.

More than £1.2m was allocated for Countryside Alliance campaigns on bloodsports. A separate sum, almost £1.5m, allocated for political lobbying and public relations, was used entirely for campaigning designed to prevent a hunting ban being passed by Parliament.

Countryside Alliance leaders have repeatedly denied they are a "front" for the bloodsports lobby and say that they represent a wide range of concerns of rural people.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare (Ifaw) said the figures proved the alliance was not the "green welly brigade" but the "red coats" lobby.

Meanwhile a generous £236,800 from a budget of £7m, was allocated for the development of policy on issues such as post offices and transport despite claims that these were key agenda items!

Just in case any of you have forgotten the "wide range of concerns" on the CA's agenda, here's a reminder: foxhunting, deer hunting, beagling, coursing, mink hunting, terrier work, baiting, and so on.

THE SCOTTISH VOTE

In July 2001 the Scottish Parliament Rural Affairs Committee produced a report that reached a ground breaking conclusion: hunting with dogs is cruel and causes unnecessary suffering! (Well I never.)

Two months down the line, on September 19, a decisive majority of 84-34 MSPs voted in favour of a ban on hunting with dogs under Mike Watson's Protection of Wild Mammals Bill.

The Bill then went into its second stage, undergoing line-by-line scrutiny by the committee. It is said that although amendments can be made to the Bill at the level of detail, the basic principles cannot be changed. The basic principles of the Bill include the abolition of: fox, hare and mink hunting; hare coursing; and fox baiting i.e. terrier work.

The Second Committee stage continues for several weeks, after which a revised Bill will be submitted to Parliament for the Third Committee stage. The revisions are expected to contain a semantic free kick that will allow terrier work in some form.

More than 40 amendments were made to the Bill by October, and the latest news is that it may not survive the blows it's receiving from the whinging tories. No surprises there then.

GUINESS ANGERED BY BLOODSPORTS PROMOTION

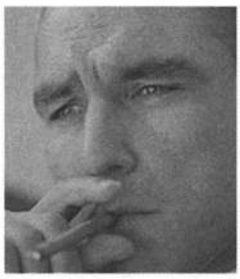
Angry Guiness bosses threatened to sue a bloodsports group after they used "the black stuff" to promote their sordid blood festivals in Ireland. The brewery giant's lawyers insisted that a photograph should be axed from a website for CountrySports Ireland.

The site, which also used pictures of a shamrock and cosy open fires, promotes "sports" such as foxhunting, shooting, ferreting and falconry. But a spokesperson for Guiness said:
"We do not support bloodsports and would not knowingly lend our name to the promotion of them in Ireland."

The Irish Council Against Blood Sports: *"We are delighted with this response".*

A picture of a glass of wine was used instead!

GUY & VINNIE BIG SHOTS WITH THE BIRDS.



Jones: Always ready to suck something



Ritchie: Always ready to suck something

Ex-footballer, gob-almighty, and child actor Vinnie Jones has found himself a new house in Hertfordshire set in 400 acres.

Vinnie's last pad just didn't have the "acreage" to cater for his favourite pastime, he told a popular newspaper.

Once we move inta da new ouse like, I can get on wid da fings I like doing, like shootin and blastin doze damn stupid helpless mother-f**kin stupid, f**kin, f**kin, c**t, sh*t, f**kin feathery arsed c**t birds inta kingdum cum!

Meanwhile, hobby film director and fellow bird blaster Guy Ritchie has upped the ante on his gun-lovin pal and bought an estate with 1,200 acres!

Ashcombe in Dorset, a former home to photographer Cecil Beaton, was said to cost in the region of £9 million.

The price that Ritchie paid however, was said to involve marrying pop-pensioner Madonna!

BLOODSPORTS LOBBY SEND IN THE HEAVIES TO NATIONAL TRUST

Hunters, calling themselves Friends of the National Front - whoops I mean "Trust" (FONT) had another bash at infiltrating the National Trust Council, as part of the ongoing campaign to overturn the Trust's ban on stag hunting on its land.

FONT candidates including Clarissa Dickson-Wright and home-spun philosopher (and he of unfortunate moniker) Roger Scrotum, stood at the Council elections in October.

Anti-hunting groups accused the Friends of the National Trust of deliberate deception after failing to declare their support for hunting in their manifestos, which were circulated to National Trust members.

SHAME OF CAWDOR

August 2001 saw the launch of an animal cruelty probe at a famous Highland estate, after the bodies of 10 foxes were found hanging by the neck from a tree. A protected Golden Eagle was found dead at the same site just weeks before the discovery of the foxes.

The foxes had been left to die a lingering death. The carcass of a calf was found nearby, left as bait for the foxes.

The man who found the tortured remains of the animals said: "*This practice is barbaric. Thankfully I was alone. I would not let my daughters even see the photographs*".

Cawdor Estate, near Nairn, is a favourite haunt for celebrities on photo-shoots for Hello and OK magazine.

Were Vinnie Jones or Guy Ritchie at Cawdor at anytime during the summer by any chance?

NEWS IN BRIEF

Almost 11,000 pheasant chicks were incinerated in their factory farm style coops when 26 propane cylinders exploded at Knoll Farm, Faulkland, Somerset.
Telegraph 10 June 2001

Dear Hunter's 40,000 fiddle:
A gun fanatic whose massive legal bills are being picked up by the taxpayer surprised everyone when the Sunday Mail exposed him as a fraudster! John Beattie claimed that he was unfit to do even the simplest of household chores since an accident at work more than 10 years ago. As it turns out however, the brave adventurer with his own disturbing array of arsenal has spent the past decade stalking deer in the wilds of Scotland.
Daily Mail July 22 2001
(Surely the jurors will appreciate that the tasks of carrying heavy firearms, aiming them at easily spooked creatures, and then carrying their blasted 120 pound bodies back across rough terrain is less haphazard than dusting and washing up?!)

On October 9, a man was sentenced at Nottingham Magistrates Court to 3 months imprisonment for kicking his girlfriend's cat to death. Mr Garrett was said to be unfazed by the sentence as he had previously served 18 months for Gross Indecency with a child and Sexual Assault.
Source: Anonymous

A gunmen shot dead the first pair of ravens to breed in north Gloucestershire leaving their two chicks to starve to death.
Daily Record 22 June 2001

The Countryside Alliance was said to be lukewarm in its support of The Wurzels' remix of I've got a brand New Combine Harvester which was supposed to raise money for farmers hit by foot and mouth. "It does make farmers look like straw-hatted, dungaree-wearing country bumpkins", one its savvy media staff told the Telegraph!
Telegraph 4 August 2001

A Bristol man who rescued a beagle from certain death at the hands of the former Wye College Hunt has been sentenced to 60 hours community service after he admitted handling the dog which had earlier been taken from kennels.
Teletext 26 July 2001



DAFT AS A BRUSH

TOP 10 EXCUSES FOR HUNTING WITH DOGS

(Notice, there's never any mention of the wicked crimes of deer and hares among hunt excuses.)

In descending order we have:

10. "If foxhunting is banned 60,000 dogs will be put to death"! (Tory MSP David Davidson's comments on the Scottish Bill to ban hunting with dogs).
Sums are clearly not Mr Davidson's strong point, whereas bullshit on the other hand is. It turns out there are only only 650 hounds in Scotland anyway!

9. "If fox hunting is banned, tens of thousands of jobs will be lost"! (Tories & Countryside Alliance)
Even if this wasn't merely hysterical nonsense, my response would still go something along the lines of: fantastic!

8. "If foxhunting is banned, the place will be overrun with foxes"! (The village idiot)
Yes, and we've all been victim to this phenomenon over the last year!

7. The fox laughs when he is being chased! (Another village Idiot)
Of course it does!

6. It's a tradition! (bombastic old w**kers)
Yes, and traditions are best observed in history books and museums

5. It's a civil liberty! (Tories, Countryside Alliance, Janet George)
Civil liberties come at the cost of being 'civil'.

4. Foxes have attacked my cows! (A Countryside Alliance supporter who'd eaten one field mushroom too many!)
Foxes also killed off the Woolly Mammoth don't ya know!

3. Fox hunting is the most efficient form of "pest control". (Hunting PR)
In Scotland, foxhunting accounts for between £4-5 million per year, and kills around 500 foxes.
As such, it costs around £10,000 to kill a fox by mounted hunting!

2. The kill is instantaneous via a "quick nip to the back of the neck. (Hunting PR)
Is this nip so quick that it's never actually been seen by any human eye?

1. Foxes don't even know that they are being chased!
One of the assertions put forward by opponents of the Mike Watson bill. So why does the fox run away?, asked one of the committee members?

QUEEN SACKED OVER HUNTING ROW

(NOT OURS UNFORTUNATELY)

The Dutch equivalent of the RSPCA has dismissed Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands (right) as its patron because she allows boar hunting on the royal estates.

The move ends a link between the royal family and the society, which began when it was establish in 1864. The National Animal Protection organisation said: 'The fact that hunting for fun is still allowed on the royal estates, with the members of the house participating, can no longer be reconciled with our goals. The queen should set the right example". Foxhunting is virtually non-existent in the Netherlands.

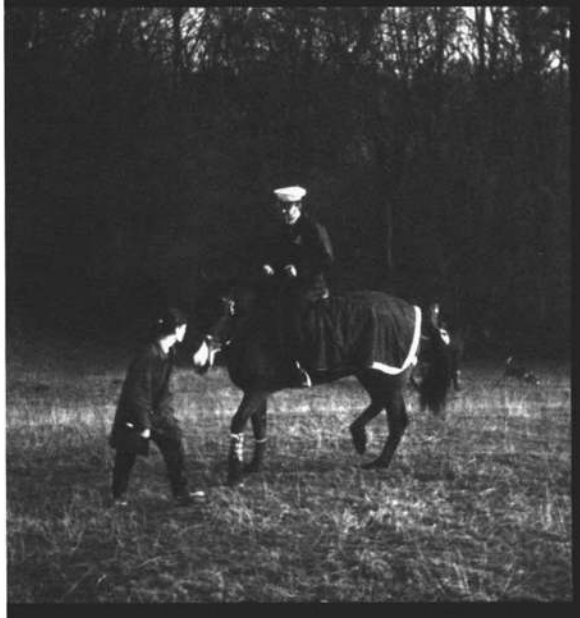
Foxhunting virtually non-existent! Have they got foot and mouth in the Netherlands too, or are they simply a more forward thinking and civilised society?



Royalty: Scum over here, Scum over there.

ASSOCIATION OF HUNT SABOTEURS CALL FOR A JUDICIAL INQUIRY

The Association of Hunt Saboteurs (AOHS) are calling for a judicial inquiry into Tramore Gardai (Co.Waterford) in relation to their handling of investigations of assaults on anti-bloodsports activists.



The AOHS believes that an unhealthy relationship exists between Tramore Gardai and local bloodsports interests. This has led the AOHS to the conclusion that Tramore Gardai display a pro-hunt bias in investigating attacks on anti-bloodsports activists by hunt followers.

For the past number of years numerous assaults and acts of intimidation have taken place on anti-bloodsports activists observing hunt meets in the Waterford area.

Tramore Gardai investigations into these attacks have been conducted in a manner of Garda foot dragging and devoid of impartiality. Anti-bloodsports activists involved in these investigations have formed the impression that the Gardai lean towards protecting hunt followers and facilitating their interests.

John Tierney, Campaigns Director of the AOHS says: "*A judicial inquiry would allay the fears of anti-bloodsports activists who feel that the Tramore Gardai operate in a pro-hunt manner. Presently our supporters do not have confidence in Tramore Gardai. The AOHS believes that hunt followers will become even more violent this hunting season knowing that their supporters within Tramore Gardai will protect them.*"

Despite the hunt sponsored violence the AOHS will be stepping up its anti-hunting campaign during the 2001/02 hunting season.

June 2001 AOHS

WHO NEEDS "MEN IN BLACK" TO SPREAD DISEASES (WHEN MEN IN WELLIES ARE DOING SUCH A GOOD JOB)?

Before July 2001 a popular foot and mouth conspiracy theory, home brewed by friends of the troubled Countryside Alliance, said that it was animal rights activists who were responsible for bringing foot and mouth onto England's green and pleasant pastures.

By the end of July however, several investigations uncovered hard evidence to show that whilst the origins of the disease are still unknown, it was the farmers themselves who were deliberately spreading it!

In a scam that involved buying and selling infected sheep from each other, farmers found they could claim thousands of pounds in taxpayer-funded compensation payouts, much more than they could ever fetch for the animals at market. One Pembrokeshire farmer received a phone call where she was asked if she would like to buy an infected sheep for £2000!

Meanwhile..... The Countryside Alliance, those self styled 'guardians of the countryside', met up with DEFRA in August to push for a resumption of hunting activities despite the continued daily outbreaks of the disease. And although several at risk, and infected, areas fell into the usual shooting areas of Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cumbria, shooters were allowed to start the grouse shooting season on the Glorious 12th, as normal.

ANIMAL WELFARE CAMPAIGNER BEATEN WITH BASEBALL BATS IN HIS OWN HOME.

John Gill, committed anti-snare campaigner from Co Durham was viciously and cowardly attacked by 3 armed 'men' in his own home in September of this year.

He spent a day and night at University Hospital in Durham under observation for head injuries, after receiving stitches to head and leg wounds.



John was beaten severely about the head and body with baseball bats, by 3 men who attempted to break down his front door (one of the men apparently shouted that they were police officers) on the morning of Thursday, 20 September at about 9.30am.

It may be a coincidence that this attack came the day after the parliamentary vote in Scotland to ban hunting with dogs (Protection of Wild Mammals Bill), and after increased threats from defiant pro-hunting supporters who say that they will not obey the law or go down without a fight.

John Gill has upset some very powerful people in his local area with his tireless and direct campaign over the last decade to stop the torture and killing of wild and domestic animals by wire snares.

Local and national campaigners do not hold much hope of the perpetrators of this crime being caught or convicted because as bitter experience has shown, the police only have limitless resources at their disposal when a member of the hunt calls them from their mobile phone and complains of being "verbally assaulted by antis"

In John's case, he specifically requested that several local police officers were not involved in the investigation because of their previous treatment of him.

HUNTSMANS BALLS



"My heart sank when I realised that Lord Neill of Bladen was to read a 70-page document outlining the case against me. As he droned on I could think only of the widows' mites and the proceeds of coffee mornings and jumble sales which were being swallowed up by legal fees for this foolish event."

Richard Meade tells the Telegraph of his greivances after his involvement in an entryism campaign aimed at overturning the RSPCA's opposition to bloodsports led to his expulsion from the society.

Did Mr Meade's heart sink to the same depths, we wonder, when he saw that the Countryside Alliance, who claim to represent a wide range of rural concerns i.e. employment, public services, education etc, spent £3 million defending bloodsports in the last financial year, and only a few measly grand promoting the more pressing rural concerns?

"...and as I write this I actually have a greater-spotted woodpecker hanging from my nuts."

Pro hunt One Man & His Gob star Robin Page, proving his concern for animal welfare.

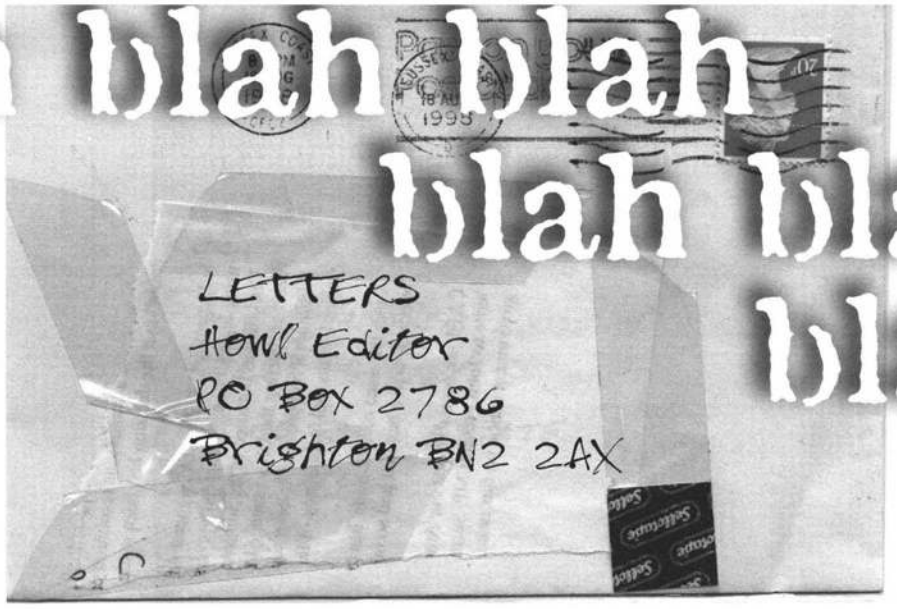
Horse & Hound 2/8/01,

"Most fishermen are obsessed with conservation. If it wasn't for campaigns by anglers, our rivers and lakes would become too polluted for most fish ."

Alice Thomson, Telegraph Columnist 10 August 2001

Meanwhile, the same newspaper - albeit a week or two later - carried the headline: 'Lead poisening could wipe out the Royal swans'. The report went on to describe how various swan populations in Britain face extinction within two years because of fishermen using lead weights!

blah blah blah blah blah blah blah



Howl 76
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

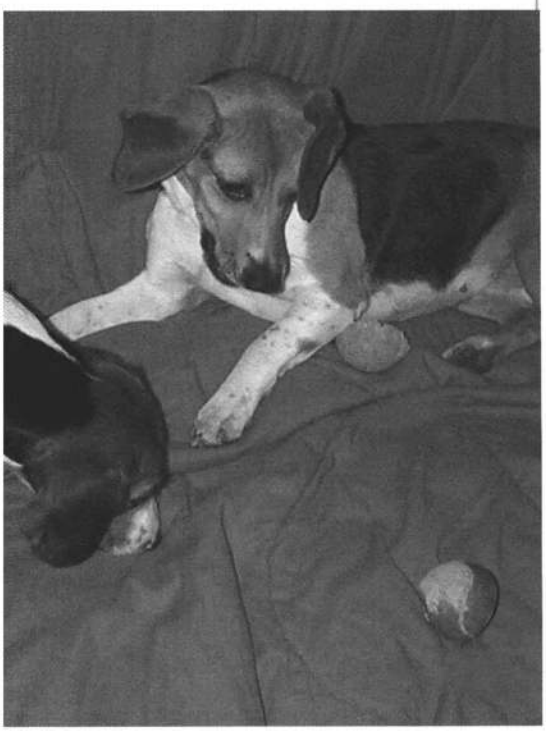
A BALANCED MEMBER OF SOCIETY

Dear Editor

I thought you might like to see the enclosed cutting, showing Sexton, the only beagle that was unfortunately returned to the former Wye College Hunt, after the whole pack was rescued by the Animal Liberation Front in January.

The locals hunt saboteurs describe the present pack as "crap"!. Next year only the third year pupils at the college will have belonged to the original Wye College, now part of Imperial College London. The first and second years will be selected by Imperial College and will take what will probably be tougher scientific courses. It could be that the end of the hunting group is in sight.

Howl Reader
Kent



Sextons mates: Two 'unreturned' Wye College Beagles playing happily in their new home.

INSANE BUMPKIN-CLOWN 1

Don't let the eccentric punctuation and grammar put you off the very good points this person has to make:

To the Editor

It is not cruel to hunt the fox. Labour M.P's against hunting have no knowledge of country life. The cruelty of the fox is shocking, take a look at the enclosed pictured, this caused great distress to the children, the pen was secured but the crafty fox digs down underneath it.

Brought up on a farm I have witnessed the cruelty of the fox, the cries from the fowls and sheep, stealing lambs as they are born.

Labout M.P's should talk to the farmers and gain some knowledge of country life. If you stop hunting this will cause great unemployment, are you then going to compensate people?

Politicians should not waste time destroying our way of life, there are much more serious matters to deal with, crime is appalling we are not safe to walk alone, robbed and attacked in our homes, bring back the birch and canning in schools, teachers are no longer happy, too many immigrants on social welfare, they have no paid insurance or taxes, that comes from the hard working, small businesses who can not survive and are having to close down.

Farmers hunt. Children hunt. Miners hunt. It is not just the wealthy.

Name & Address withheld

(Picture)

So this is how foxes are causing unempolyment; they are doing our jobs for us. They are killing chickens before chicken farmers get the chance to. Just think, this lot could have ended up being transported hundreds of miles in cramped conditions to end up in the frozen departement of Sainsbury's - if it weren't for that nasty fox!

Incidentally, what is it that is so evil about the deer and hares hunted with dogs?

INSANE BUMPKIN-CLOWN 2

Well I have read your piece on the situation of shooting in the UK as U perseive it to be. I can tell you that it is not I do not agree with any thing that you say in here. Mass murder is definatly not the correst word. Pigeon shooting is done for the farmers benifit, because of the time and effort that they and I put into getting a substantial harvest at the end of the year, is ruined by the humble pigeon. They come down in hundreds and sometimes thousends to devestate all the major COP crops in the UK.

Pheasant shooting: If it wasent for the gamekeepers there wouldnt be any pheasants in the UK now they would have been eradicated in the 1600's ok I do understand that that was by shooting but if we didn't shoot them now there would be none for the people to see and for u lot to moan about!

Vermin control: Try going out and buying the most beautiful and expensive chickens that you can find show them to alll your friends say how pretty they are and wait till old charlie has them then see what you think about the lovely fox! Ok the red fox is a magestic creature of the Octoberbritish countryside, but it doeas reak havock amoung farm livestock,a dn other animals. They take lambs, by the hundreds and chickens also. Foxes dont just kill one chicken for example they kill every bloody on that they can find and maybe eat the head of one! really nice animal isin't it? pretty but voracious.

Shooting is a sport which has been practised in the uk for hundreds of years not to mention the rest of the world. I would like it to be respected by people not banned because it will ruin millions of people lives in the UK, but if you people do succeed i hope that u get rogered by
all us country loving folk.

What about clay shooting is that mean and are u gonna ban that too. What about fishing, those poor fish they hardly feel pain, and they have hardly any memory.

The ban on handguns by the way really stopped the number of killings didn't it.

Yours sincerly

David Peake
Gamekeeper & farmer
Essex

LADIES & GENTLEMEN.....

....IN THE MAD CORNER, THE UNDISPUTED,

HEAVY-WEIGHT, INSANE BUMPKIN-CLOWN OF

THE WORLD.....J.E.WELLLLLLLLLLLIINNNGGGGSSSS!

J. E. WELLINGS (Mrs.)
1, Tilsworth Road
Stanbridge
Leighton Buzzard
Bedfordshire
LU7 9HT

Tel: 01525 210788

Dear SCUM

I am sick and tired of rubbish like you and that disgusting propaganda that the likes of you churn out in order to turn and manipulate the minds of the ignorant and vunerable with your bile and hatred for us proud BRITISH country folk, like generations of my family. At the college where I teach I find I have to devote an increasing amount of time putting impressionable students right as we seem to have been deluged by your leaflets and pamphlets, but they are the lucky ones, having caring adults around to put them right.

You rabble are obviously just a bunch of trotskyists who want to achieve your objective of destablising the country by other means. I am proud of my beliefs, and that I support free-market capitalism by investing and using the products of firms like Shell and Proctor & Gamble, and I don't sculk around in masks in the dark like you bunch of degenerates, because I believe in what is right, and PROGRESS. Furthermore, I wholeheartedly support animal research and when you get CANCER so will you, because all of you are nothing but HYDOCRITES. Where were your demonstrations when all those sheep and cattle were being burnt and peoples lives were being ruined? NOWHERE. Thats because you hate good proud traditional country folk and want us destroyed along with our old and traditional ways and community, and this is due to nothing more than spite and envy of all things good and noble.

I could cry when I see the effects of your work on young girls and boys. Tell me, if meat is murder, then why do you all look sick and ailing? We know the answer, its lack of MEAT. We must ask ourselves why you get so emotional about animals and cannot have relations with other humans. I think it is because your type can only make an emotional (or any other type) of attachment with an animal. One can only speculate how far it goes, so degenerate are animal activists. I vow to continue to fight your poison - we will win. We have GOD and RIGHT on our side.

My family are good, solid country folk, proud of our Heritage, proud of our ways of husbandry and management, proud to be ENGLISH. We will continue to shoot and course and will FIGHT to the death for our rights, along with our compatriots in the CA. And I vow that I will do all I can to engender my students with true countryside values and their NOBLE and thereputic ways. We are the ones who really are caring about animals and we will triumph over you left-wing PERVERTS and CRUSH you.

J. E. Wellings

JOYCE ELIZABETH WELLINGS



.."Just a bunch of Trotskyists who want to destabilise the country by other means??!!"

international news

moscow mayor bans bullfighting

The Mayor of Moscow banned two consecutive days of bullfighting that were due to take place in Russia's capital city on September 8 and 9, 2001. Though the bulls would not have been killed during the events in the Portuguese-style bullfights, spokesman for the Mayor, Sergei Tsoi said: "*The show of violence is intolerable in any form. Moreover, Mayor Yury Luzhkov believes that bullfights run against Russian traditions*".

The head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Alexy II, who earlier protested against the planned bullfights, expressed satisfaction with Luzhkov's decision.
Source: *Mapt-Movimento anti-Touradas de Portugal 27.08.2001*

geese maimed to use as decoys

Hunters in Austria are cutting off the wings of domestic geese so that they can use the maimed birds as decoys to lure wild birds to the ground where they are then shot. Austrian wildlife groups blame Italians, who they say flock to southern Austria for the wild goose hunting season each August. The practice is banned under Austrian and European laws, but it remains widespread as people who witness it don't go to the police for fear of revenge attacks from hunters.
Source: *Telegraph 12 August 2001*

nowhere to hide

Protesters in Victoria, Australia made themselves useful this summer by destroying hunting-hides used for duck shoots.
June 2001

norwegian minister wants to make seal hunts a tourist attraction

A Norwegian Government Minister is calling for the country's seal hunts to be marketed as a tourist attraction. Fisheries Minister Svein Ludvigsen says it could be promoted to visitors as an "*exclusive experience*". Animal welfare campaigners say glorifying seal hunting as a form of entertainment could put tourists off.
Mr Ludvigsen says selling seal hunting as a tourist attraction would be no different to offering moose hunting licences. He adds: "*We need to hunt more seals. This could be a big hit.*"
Source: *Ananova 5 November 2001*

japan defies iwc rules on whaling

In defiance of a resolution passed by the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in London in July, the Japanese whaling fleet begun its controversial hunt of Dall's porpoises on 1st November 2001.

Around 18,000 Dall's porpoises are killed each year in hand harpoon hunts in Japanese coastal waters. This figure doesn't account for the untold numbers of calves that perish after thousands of lactating mothers are killed.

Japanese officials say that because the cull takes place in Japanese territorial waters, it is outside IWC jurisdiction, and that the IWC's writ only covers great whales and had no place remarking on small cetaceans!
Report by Environmental News Network 1 Nov 2001

What do we want for Christmas?



Most readers of Howl, and indeed almost anyone involved in animal rights issues will know the name Steve Christmas. An update on the case follows, together with details of our new campaign: Justice for Steve Christmas, and a brief re-cap on past events...

September 2000

Early morning in the West Sussex countryside, and the Old Surrey, Burstow and West Kent Foxhounds are out looking for fox cubs to hunt. Fox hunting is a cruel and barbaric practice in itself, but cub hunting is so abhorrent that even the hunters themselves try to keep quiet about it. Hunt saboteurs,however, know all about this sordid practice, and on this occasion were present at the hunt to get in-between the hunters and their quarry.

Steve Christmas was one of only four hunt saboteurs in attendance that morning, using non-violent direct action in order to save the lives of our hunted wildlife. But instead he almost lost his own life; after he was purposefully driven at and run over - off-road - by an alleged hunt supporter, leaving him with a crushed pelvis, broken ribs and serious internal bleeding. His injuries were so serious that he was air-lifted to hospital were he spent four weeks in intensive care. In total Steve suffered 5 broken ribs, serious internal bleeding, a pelvis broken in 2 places which required a metal plate fitting and had 3 foot of bowel removed. Whilst in hospital he caught MRSA, a hospital super bug which itself nearly killed him, and he also suffered Adult Respiratory Syndrome where the lungs go into shock and stop working. In short he is still recovering from his injuries today. The concern of the hunt at the time was duly expressed by a spokesperson who stated "*It was nothing to do with us. We were two and a half miles away when it happened.*"(Surrey Mirror, 07/09/00, front page) The police charged the driver of the vehicle, **Martin Maynard**, withGrievous Bodily Harm (with Intent),and so the countdown to a trial date began.

September 2001

Almost a year to the day that Steve was almost killed and news comes through that the alleged driver of the vehicle which ran Steve over will not proceed to trial on the GBH charge. And whilst Martin Maynard (the driver of the vehicle which hit Steve) walks away from what could easily have been the death of a third hunt saboteur, an amazing 18 anti-hunt protestors still remain on charges relating to broken windows at the hunt kennels. The Hunt Saboteurs Association believes that both the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and the Police have been nothing but cowardly and deceitful on this matter - cowardly as they have effectively used a pathetic excuse as a means of letting someone, who we allege to be an attempted murderer, get away without punishment, and deceitful as they have let the many supporters of Steve foolishly hope for justice from the system.

The Justice for Steve Christmas Campaign

Legal advice is currently being sought on the ways forward from here, and the CPS, the police and perhaps most importantly the Old Surrey, Burstow and West Kent Foxhounds themselves should be aware that this is certainly not the end - indeed it is just the beginning of our fight to get justice for Steve Christmas. Several legal avenues are currently being investigated by Steve's legal team, and he knows that

where the legal system has so far failed him, his supporters will not. It may be possible to argue that Steve's rights under the European Convention of Human Rights have been violated, as it is believed that both the CPS and the police failed to consult Steve about the case throughout proceedings.

Possible avenues being explored here include Article 2 of the Convention, the right to life, which could be argued to include a right to know that the state will prosecute those responsible for attacking Steve; as well as Article 3, the right not to suffer inhuman treatment and Article 8, the right to respect for private life. Other articles may be relevant, such as the rights of expression, assembly and not to be discriminated against for political views. Steve's dedicated, legal team continue to work on the case and, along with his friends and supporters, they will endeavour to do their utmost to get justice for him.

How YOU can help

You can help support the Justice for Steve Christmas campaign in several ways - please do at least one item on our 'Christmas wish list' (or 'New Years resolution list' - we are nothing if not flexible!), and if you can please do them all!

- Write to the Director of Public Prosecutions demanding to know why the case against Martin Maynard was dropped.

  Director of Public Prosecutions
  CPS Head Quarters
  50 Ludgate Hill
  London
  EC4M 7EX
  Tel: 0207 796 8000
  e-mail: inquiries@cps.gov.uk

- Support the Justice for Steve Christmas Legal Fund with a donation. Legal actions do not come cheap and every donation makes a difference. Please make cheques/PO's payable to the **HSA** and Mark them for the 'Steve Christmas Legal Fund', c/o HSA at the new address in the front of the magazine.

- Write to your local paper about the case, using our 'What do we want for Christmas? - Justice!', slogan, highlighting the failure of the justice system in such a serious case.

- Join (or arrange!) a demonstration at a meet of your local hunt. Don't forget to make a banner about the Steve Christmas campaign and invite your local paper!

- Support the campaign by buying the T-shirt and Christmas Cards. All proceeds go direct to the legal fund (see inside front cover)

Please do all you can to support and publicise this campaign - after all, Steve was only trying to save lives when he almost lost his own.

SNARING

INDISCRIMINATE AND CRUEL

by West Sussex Wildlife Protection Group

What are snares?

Snares are wire nooses placed in areas where foxes are expected to cross. Often snares are placed around a pheasant pen.

Why are snares set, and by whom?

Snares are set to catch foxes which might prey on young pheasants when they are released into the wild to be shot. Normally the snares are set by gamekeepers.

Do other animals get caught in snares?

ALL animals can get caught in the snares. The West Sussex Wildlife Protection Group (WSWPG) say that for every three animals caught in a snare, two will be foxes, and one a badger or another species of animal. The WSWPG has even witnessed cases where deer, cats and dogs have been caught in snares.

Do all animals die in snares?

The snare is designed to hold the animal until the gamekeeper comes along to kill it. If a badger has been caught in a snare, it could drag the snare pole and die of strangulation, or it could escape the snare with horrific injuries. One badger found by the WSWPG had two holes in his windpipe in addition to being half-scalped by trying to release the snare from his throat.

What is the law regarding snares?

Under the *1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act* it is illegal to:

- set any self-locking snare
- set in position any snare calculated to cause bodily injury to any wild animal included in Schedule 6. (Badgers are included in Schedule 6)
- leave snares uninspected for longer than 24 hours (must be checked at least once a day)

Under the *Deer Act 1991*, it is also illegal to:

- set a snare calculated to cause bodily injury to any deer coming into contact with it.

Sometimes snares are attached to small poles or logs. These can be dragged great distances and therefore the snare cannot be inspected. This constitutes an offence.

What can you do to help?

Write to the West Sussex Wildlife Protection Group for more information and petitions

Write informative letters to the locals papers

Write to your local MP

West Sussex Wildlife Protection Group
PO Box 3058
Little Hampton
West Sussex
BN16 3LG



Right: A small selection of the 46 legal snares found on one single shooting estate in one day.

© S.Powell

Lakeland

by Positive Rob



No one can deny the beauty of the Lake District. There are one or two things however, according to our author, that continue to pose a threat to the outstanding natural beauty of the region.

Climbing the Lakeland fells is probably one of my favourite pastimes. In spite of the breathtaking mountain views however, I cannot ignore some of the other less appealing sights.

On the west coast of Cumbria, Sellafield belches radioactive waste into the air and water, and the RAF insist on flying jets at dangerously low levels. Whilst these anger me however, it is the hunting that really gets my blood boiling.

I do not wish to trivialise the issue of Sellafield, which incidentally is the biggest employer in an area where there is otherwise little work. There is a popular theory which says that businesses are dissuaded from moving to west Cumbria for fear that Sellafield would lose its work force. After all, who would want to risk their health working at a nuclear power plant if they had a choice?

The same argument doesn't apply to hunting unfortunately. Those who take part in it, don't do it to put food on the table or because they have no other choice. On the contrary, they do it out of choice, a freedom which they aggressively defend, yet one that should have been retracted more than a hundred years ago, along with erstwhile freedoms to bait bulls and bears, stage cockfights, beat women or abuse children.

Despised and generally frowned upon elsewhere in the country, hunting in Cumbria seems accepted and almost welcomed. It would be true to say that hunting is more popular in some areas than others, but in Cumbria, the popularity - if not indifference to it - can be disturbing.

The most famous hunt in Cumbria is the Blencathra, taking its name from a rugged fell to the east of Keswick. It is on the slopes of this hill that the kennels are situated, near the village of Threlkeld. Like the other fell packs the hunt go out on foot and consider themselves apart or different, from mounted foxhunts. Their hounds are "hardier" they say, this of course being inverted praise for themselves meaning that they are "hardier" (than your average tough guy who chases small furry animals!). They hunt different areas week by week rather than always returning to the kennels, staying at farms and guest houses, and having socials in the evenings. Often the huntsman will stand on high ground and cast his pack wide across the countryside. Followers will watch from other viewpoints and keep in touch with each other using CBs.

In fact the Blencathra is so good, they actually named it twice! Its other name is the John Peel Hunt, named after some legendary goon who set the standards for hunting foxes over long distances and hardy terrain. (Nothing to do with the earthy voiced radio DJ I hasten to add, whose cheery banter always puts a smile on my face). John Peel hunted the same area, and his grave is located somewhere in the region. The fact that the huntsman's name is Barry Toddhunter, "todd" being another name for fox, adds further to the Disney appeal that the Blencathra strikes within the bloodsports community. (The only other huntsman as I recall whose name was as ridiculous as the activity was Jeremy Harrierpack. He, however, was the last of the Harrierpack clan after he died in a freak bob sleigh accident in the 60s).

The Blencathra is used for exemplary purposes by the bloodsporting set, to support otherwise fragile pro-hunting arguments. When it is said that "hunting appeals to all classes", even the "working" sort, the hunters will point you in the direction of the Blencathra, where it is possible to follow the "chase" without the accoutrements that normally set the field and followers apart, the most apparent of these being a horse. True you don't need a horse at the Blencathra, but one look at the supporters suggests they are not short of brass or even remotely "working class". With all due respect, there aren't many who might fall into the "working class" category who own the latest model in Landrover Dicovery and/or sport tweeds.

Another hot favourite among the pro-hunt lobby's defending statements is that the hunt is invoked by local farmers to do the "lambing call" in order to get rid of troublesome foxes at a sensitive time in their livestock calender. Using this excuse, the hunt becomes not a social activity, but an essential service to the rural community. Like all excuses for hunting however, the idea that the Blencathra

exists to help farmers is just nonsense and only stands the test of those who don't know any better. The Blencathra may indeed operate the "lambing call", but some joker in a red coat with two hairy slugs on either side of his face ain't going to control a fox population. It is an unpalatable truth for the hunting lobby to swallow, but the fact remains that hunting kills only a tiny and insignificant percentage of any fox population. Besides, farming during 2001 has been so chaotic and dependent on subsidies, that foxes can't, in all seriousness, be considered a threat to farmers - not at a time when compensation for dead lambs comes higher than the market price for live ones.

Finally, when pro-hunt campaigners swear blind at how popular hunting is and how much support there is for it, sure enough, out come the snaps of the Blencathra, with Barry Toddhunter the huntsman and his "buggery grip" side burns, stood on a rocky outcrop, surrounded by "obedient" hounds and hunt followers. This is nothing more than a snapshot however. While the Blencathra might have more than their fair share of supporters, many of the locals complain to themselves about the behaviour of the hunt and supporters, in particular their lack of respect for property and failure to observe boundaries. Regular readers of Howl will be familiar with the accounts of chaos caused by mounted foxhunts, but it is even harder to keep control of a pack on foot. The hounds often break up into smaller groups, running riot after other wild animals and straying onto roads, railways and land where they are not welcome. Barry can often be seen collecting his hounds in a van miles away from the meet, and hours after the hunt is over, or even the next day. With or without horses, it appears that hunters are arrogant and obnoxious right across the board, and will stop at nothing in their bloody pursuit of victims.

Although the Blencathra was a target for protest in the 80s and 90s, with Fell Week being a legendary event, unfortunately there are no active saboteurs opposing them now. Keswick police might be described as 'dodgy', by the more polite, whereas others swear that it was the Keswick Constabulary that policed the anti-capitalist demonstrations in Genoa earlier in the year! This combined with the inhospitable terrain and the number of supporters compared with elsewhere, makes the job of sabotaging the hunt difficult. (Respect to the Cumbria sabs for doing their bit, as it certainly isn't easy, and the day I went up there was probably the most depressing day out I can remember.)

Many local folk would rather the hunt et-al weren't there, but feel powerless or too intimidated to act. It's almost impossible to get a pint in the Keswick area without having to look at pictures of the hunt obscuring the paint work. I once went for a swift half after a walk and was pleased to see no hunting souvenirs disgracing the walls, but later found out that the pub was a regular hunt meet! Even the the local paper **The Keswick Reminder** advertises meets of the Blencathra and the Cumbria beagles. Other local papers go so far as to include reports on the days hunting!

More recently a fixture list for the 2001-2002 landed on my lap (thank-you very much whoever that was), and I must say, it made interesting reading. Whilst I knew pubs in the Lakes allowed the hunt to meet on their premises or encouraged followers to buy warm, flat pints of Jennings from them, I couldn,t believe that shops, including local supermarkets, advertised in amongst the hunt dates.

Below are details of local businesses who advertise in the hunt fixtures list or support hunts in other ways.

I love the Lake District, but the unabashed promotion of hunting that goes on there frustrates me. It is annoying that I cannot go to the shops without being greeted by obscene hunting paraphernalia and I cannot by a loaf of bread or a pint without contributing to hunting.

I wanted to inform Howl readers that this hunt exists and whilst we are winning the battle against hunts in some areas, Cumbria remains a bloodsport haven.

This season however foot and mouth appears to be sabbing the Blencathra better than an army of sabs. It is rumoured that they might not have a season at all.

Being a positive person, I must finally say that climbing Helvellyn on a clear frosty day is fantastic and no goonboy with a pack of hounds will ruin that. I dream of a day when there is no hunting and seeing Barry Toddhunter have to change his name to Barry Bogcleaner!

Check out the Lakeland Peddlar in Keswick for a top nosh-up washed down with organic booze. I'll cry if that café is featured in the fixture list 2002/2003!

Pure Nostalgia: 1993 Fell Week in Cumbria
© WSWPG



- **The Lakes food store** - the main supermarket located where the buses stop.
- **Rathbones** (which sell boots and waterproofs), 36 Main Stand 13, Market Square, Keswick.
- **Keswick & Penrith Pet Shop**, 23 Main Street Keswick - 8 Angel Lane Penrith.
- **Flield & Stream**, 79 Main Street Keswick (no surprise as they sell all sorts of sickening videos and toys for animal killing boys).
- **Pheasant Inn**, Crosthwaite Road, Keswick - also sport a vast array of 'Wilk', hunting cartoons. These "hilarious" pictures depict members of the hunt in cartoon style, with the hounds and the fox all playing together with smiley faces!
- **James Stephenson**, photographic gallery on St James Street Keswick, must be getting some form of payment in kind from Barry, as nearly all the photos in his shop feature Baz and his hounds. This shop shamelessly gives wall space to hunting sentimentality and gives tourists a misleading impression of bloodsports, whilst withholding atrocities such as digging-out and cub-hunting.

(For further details of pubs / hotels that advertise in hunt fixtures lists please contact the HSA office)



'How Low Will they Go Awards'



2001

First prize for our HOW LOW 2001 awards goes to a feisty old dame; otherwise know as Janet George, bitter ex-press officer for the Countryside Alliance turned absolute ruler of that big idea www.hounds.org.

Ms George found that she couldn't wait even a few days after September 11 to grab the opportunity to garner publicity for her impoverished little website by equating the terrorist attack in New York with the actions of hunt saboteurs and other animal rights campaigners in the UK and abroad.

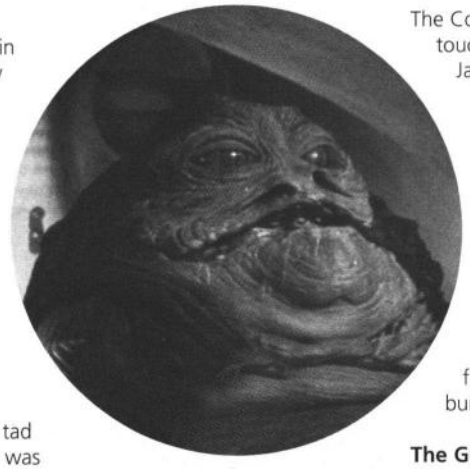
"The horrors in America were of unprecedented scale and horror. But the scale is the only fundamental difference between Tuesday's atrocities and the regular behaviour of animal rights, extremists in this country and abroad," she said. Her definition of "animal rights extremists" included anti-bloodsports campaigners, whom she referred to later on in the diatribe.

While there is little the pro-bloodsports lobby can do to surprise those who've experienced their behaviour firsthand, this comment, it has been unanimously agreed, sinks to an all time low. Not only was it is wholly inappropriate and deeply offensive to compare the actions of hunt saboteurs using non-violent direct action against hunts, to that of those who took the lives of several thousand people in the September 11 attacks, but it also represents a sublime example of the very twisted world of Ms.Janet George.

Certainly innocent lives have also been lost in the fight to stop bloodsports, but perversely for George's argument, it is the lives of hunt saboteurs - along with the lives of countless wild animals - that have been lost, and not those of any bloodsports enthusiasts. In addition, many hunt saboteurs have narrowly escaped death only to be left with permanent and/or life-shortening injuries resulting directly from attacks by individuals in the bloodsports' community.

The Guardian newspaper picked-up on Janet's unwise comments and they too awarded her with a prize. They were also a tad surprised to see that their write-up of Janet was followed up with a riposte from The Countryside Alliance - of all slime organisms - demanding a firm distance be made between themselves and their erstwhile press officer.

What follows is the exchange between the Guardian and the Countryside Alliance, followed by more unpublished ranting from Ms. George



Janet George:
More harmful to bloodsports than every sab in the country combined!

The Guardian 20/9/01

Today's award for most shameless exploitation of the terror attacks goes to Janet George, a big noise in the Countryside Alliance. "*The horrors in America were of unprecedented scale,*" she states on her website, hounds.co.uk. "*But the scale is the only fundamental difference between Tuesday's atrocities and the regular behaviour of animal 'rights' extremists in this country.*" "Well," she sighs when my colleague Emmett Borcik rings to say her site seems to have been sabotaged, "who have I upset with that one?" We've no time for that, Janet, but a porcelain Princess Diana tribute plate is on its way.

Finally, it would be wrong to conclude without saluting the Hunt Saboteurs Association, who were so disgusted by this opportunism that they put out a press release. Well done, the pair of you.

The Guardian 25/9/01

The Countryside Alliance's Adrian Yalland is in touch about last week's item in which a Mrs Janet George was described as a "big noise" in the movement (Janet used her website to compare the US terror attacks with "the regular behaviour of animal rights extremists"). He is at pains to point out that although Janet used to be the CA's press officer, she is now just one of their most vociferous members. There is no room to include the full transcript of our hypnotically dull debate on what constitutes a "big noise", but we reserve it for use as a transmission filler should we be forced to repair to a bunker at any point.

The Guardian 2/10/01

Today's debate with Countryside Alliance press officer Adrian Yalland centres on the distinction between a correction and a press release. When CA member Janet George used her website www.hounds.org to compare the US terror attacks with "the regular behaviour of animal rights extremists", Adrian was upset that we had described her as a "big noise" in the movement.

In fact she is simply its former press officer and a vociferous member, a clarification we were pleased to make. Now Adrian is cross that she has been associated with the CA at all, and wants another correction. The suggestion that the Alliance terminate her membership if her views are so time-consumingly at odds with its own appals him. "Name any organisation," he snorts, "that would go round striking people off for voicing views." The Conservative party? "That's ridiculous," says Adrian. "With respect, nothing you have said is factually inaccurate. But you have to understand that 20,000 people are dead." Quite so.

Here's what Janet George's stream of consciousness said next:

"I missed the snide little article in The Guardian Diary on 20 September, which criticised me for commenting that the terrorism that devastated America and the rest of the civilised world so recently differed from animal rights terrorism only in scale. The article was the result of a hunt saboteurs' press release rant ran rant rant.....

.....rant rant rant The Guardian shared the hunt saboteurs' umbrage - no great surprise there! But the Countryside Alliance was just as miffed (probably more by the Guardian's description of me as "a big noise in the Countryside Alliance" than by what I said.) Its complaint just gave the Diary an excuse for a good snipe at the Alliance rant rant rant.....

.....rant rant rant The Alliance has steadfastly refused to provide a link to this site from its own, so I was surprised to find in last week's Grass e-Route (which tends to sit in my in-box until I need a soporific read) that www.hounds.org.uk had received a mention rant rant rant.....

.....rant rant rant put aside for the moment the total lack of respect for its membership shown by the Alliance in its description of me as "merely a member" - after all, where would the Alliance be with NO 'mere members'. The CA does not mention why it thought the comment unwise - was it because the hunt sabs didn't like it, or because The Guardian didn't like it, or because part of the comment referred to my American correspondent's disgust at Tony Blair? rant rant rant.....

www. Hounds.org

It pains me to know that human beings can get this lonely!

Hunters make fraudulent claims

Back in January, a regional hunt saboteur group received the following message after somebody visited their website. This joker received the HOW LOW runner's up prize

Here's the notice verbatim:

This is to inform you that I am a Fraudulent Claims Investigator with Southampton DSS. I am also a hunt follower. I do hope that none of you are claiming Unemployment Benifit or Jobseekers Allowance whilst out "Sabbing" as this would mean that you are not available for work and would result in the immediate withdrawal of fraudulently claimed benefits.

I have already stopped the claims of two benefit frauds at the Boxing day meet of the New Forest Fox Hounds and look forward to their hearings at Southampton Magistrates Court, early next month.

Please do not send reply emails, as we do have the technology to "trace" the return paths of threatening/abusive communications.

Tally-Ho,
Charlie!

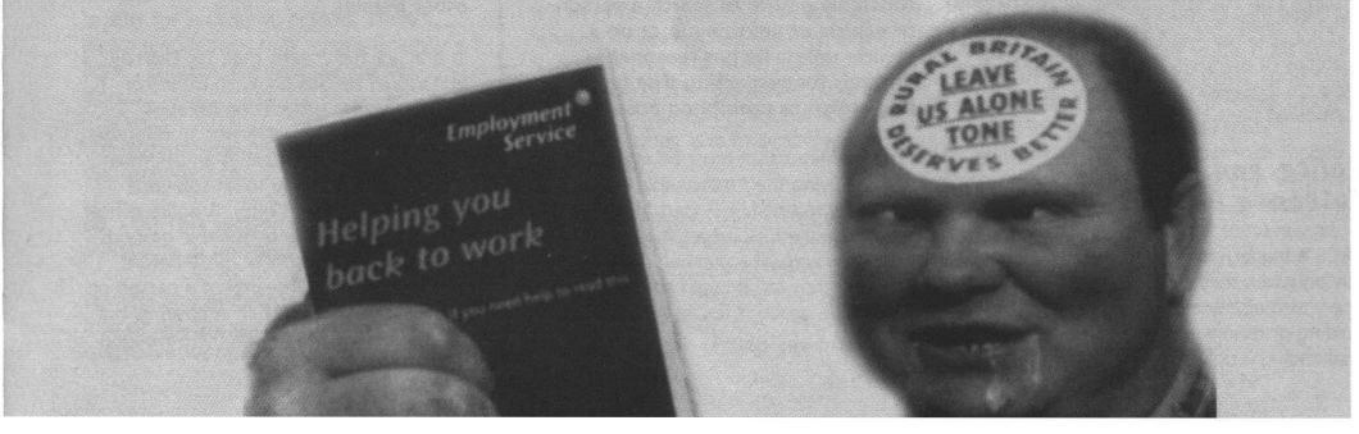
Anyway, we thought that we'd pass this on to the DSS just to let them know that one of their employees is a practising illiterate and giving the Civil Service a bad name. We received a reply from the Area Director's Aide whose letter we shall praphrase for the sake of brevity.

Dear Sir,

*The person who wrote this email - CharlieFoxman@aol.com - can't spell, has no knowledge of Benefits Agency terms, policies or procedures, and is clearly a w**ker and a retard!*

Yours faithfully,

Area Director's Aide





Can they do that? - searches

There seems to be a difference of approach by sabs around the country in response to searches by the Ole Bill. Whilst it is not the role of the HSA to lay down rules as to how to deal with the police, it has to be in everyone's best interest to be familiar with the law and to be clear about what the plod legally have the powers to do.

A very wise ex-legal officer said that the police often behave like "*the bully in a school playground*". What he meant was that the more they think they can get away with pushing someone around or intimidating someone, the more they will try it on. Often the only way to stop the nonsense is to stand up to them in a calm and confident manner. To do this you have to be clear about what the police can legally do and what they can't. You also need the confidence in yourself to stand your ground when required.

It also has to be said that there are vast differences of approach by the police to searches, making it difficult to write a definitive article on the subject, but here goes...

Legislation

The two pieces of legislation relating to searches of persons and vehicles are dealt with in the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) and the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (CJPOA). Searches of premises are covered by separate legislation and will not be considered here.

Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984

PACE is the legislation the cops usually rely on when they carry out a search. The vast majority of the public (law abiding or otherwise) would not dream of challenging a police officer on the street who announced that they were going to be searched. It is generally accepted by the public that the police have the power to carry out stop and searches almost at random. This is not the case and the PACE legislation is very specific and sets down exact conditions that must be met before a search can legally be carried out. The rules governing the behaviour of police officers in a town centre are exactly the same as the rules governing the behaviour of police officers on hunt duty.

The legislation states that:

1. - (2) a constable may search, any person or vehicle;
anything which is in or on a vehicle;
for stolen or prohibited articles;
and may detain a person or vehicle for the purpose of such a search.

This power is very clearly qualified in the next section of the Act:

- (3) This section does not give a constable power to search a person or vehicle or anything in or on a vehicle unless he has reasonable grounds for suspecting that he will find stolen or prohibited articles.

The conditions that must be met for an officer having the "*reasonable grounds*" necessary to satisfy this part of the Act are not defined. However, it is established that the colour of a person's skin or the way that they are dressed are not reasonable grounds for a search.

In reality whether or not a copper has reasonable grounds to carry out a search may well be the subject of a debate. If you are being threatened with a search you should always ask for an explanation.

The prohibited article referred to in the Act may be:

an offensive weapon;

or an article made or adapted for use in the course of an offence or intended for use in the course of an offence of burglary or theft.

The meaning of an offensive weapon is defined in sub-section 9 of the Act:

- (9) In this Part of this Act "offensive weapon" means any article - made or adapted for use for causing injury to persons;
or,
intended by the person having it with him for such a use by him or by some other person.

In practice this means that, for example, a gun would be classed as an offensive weapon under sub-section (9)(a). A baseball bat, however, is not an offensive weapon per se. It becomes an offensive weapon if you intend to hit someone with it (sub-section (9)(b)). A police officer would need to have reasonable grounds to believe that was its purpose before carrying out a legal search of a person or vehicle for a baseball bat. A baseball bat may be considered an offensive weapon

under sub-section (9)(a) if it has been adapted for use as a weapon - for example by having a six-inch nail driven through it. These are, of course, just examples. It is not the intention to suggest that hunt supporters deserve to be hit with baseball bats - especially if they have a six-inch nail driven through them.

In the past the cops have argued that whips are offensive weapons and have carried out searches and made arrests for their possession. There have been a variety of responses by magistrates where these cases have made it to court but our position is that whips carried by hunt saboteurs are neither made nor adapted to cause injury.

Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (CJPOA)

This piece of legislation is famous for bringing us the Aggravated Trespass laws (Sections 68 and 69). It also, under very specific circumstances (defined in Section 60), gives the police to make unlimited random stop and searches of people and vehicles. It is something that you should encounter rarely but given the huge increase in power it affords the police you need to be aware of its implications.

Section 60 appears to be more suited to the policing of events such as football matches rather than hunts. It provides the plod with the powers to carry out searches for offensive weapons where violence is anticipated. There are conditions in that it has to be authorised in advance, the area covered by the powers must be specified and it is limited to a period not exceeding 24 hours.

60. - (1) Where a police officer of or above the rank of superintendent reasonably believes that:

incidents involving serious violence may take place in any locality in his area, and
it is expedient to do so to prevent their occurrence, he may give an authorisation that the powers to stop and search persons and vehicles conferred by this section shall be exercisable at any place within that locality for a period not exceeding twenty four hours.

The direction must be made in writing and the locality must be defined. A few years ago a magistrate in Dorset took a very dim view of the superintendent who designated the whole of Dorset as the locality for Section 60 powers. There is also a requirement that serious violence is feared and not, for example, merely disorder.

The extra powers provided are set out in sub-sections 4 and 5.

60. - (4) This section confers on any constable in uniform power-

to stop any pedestrian and search him or anything carried by him for offensive weapons or dangerous instruments;
to stop any vehicle and search the vehicle, its driver and any passenger for offensive weapons or dangerous instruments.

60. - (5) A constable may, in the exercise of these powers, stop any person or vehicle and make any search he thinks fit whether or not he has any grounds for suspecting that the person or vehicle is carrying weapons or articles of that kind.

Conclusion

If you are being threatened with a search the police should tell you the legislation they are relying on. If they donít then you should ask. Remember, in the vast majority of cases it will be PACE - only in the very specific circumstances outlined above can the police use the CJPOA powers.

You may be faced with confusing situations and aggressive and intimidating policing. You will often need to think quickly and clearly. Have the police physically got hold of you? Are they within grabbing distance? If not it may be wise to leave (quickly)!

If you are in a position where you have to stand your ground against the police you will need to be clear that you are not refusing to be searched. You are refusing to be searched until you have an explanation of the reasonable grounds for the search required by PACE (If a CJPOA Section 60 order is in force this will not be relevant).

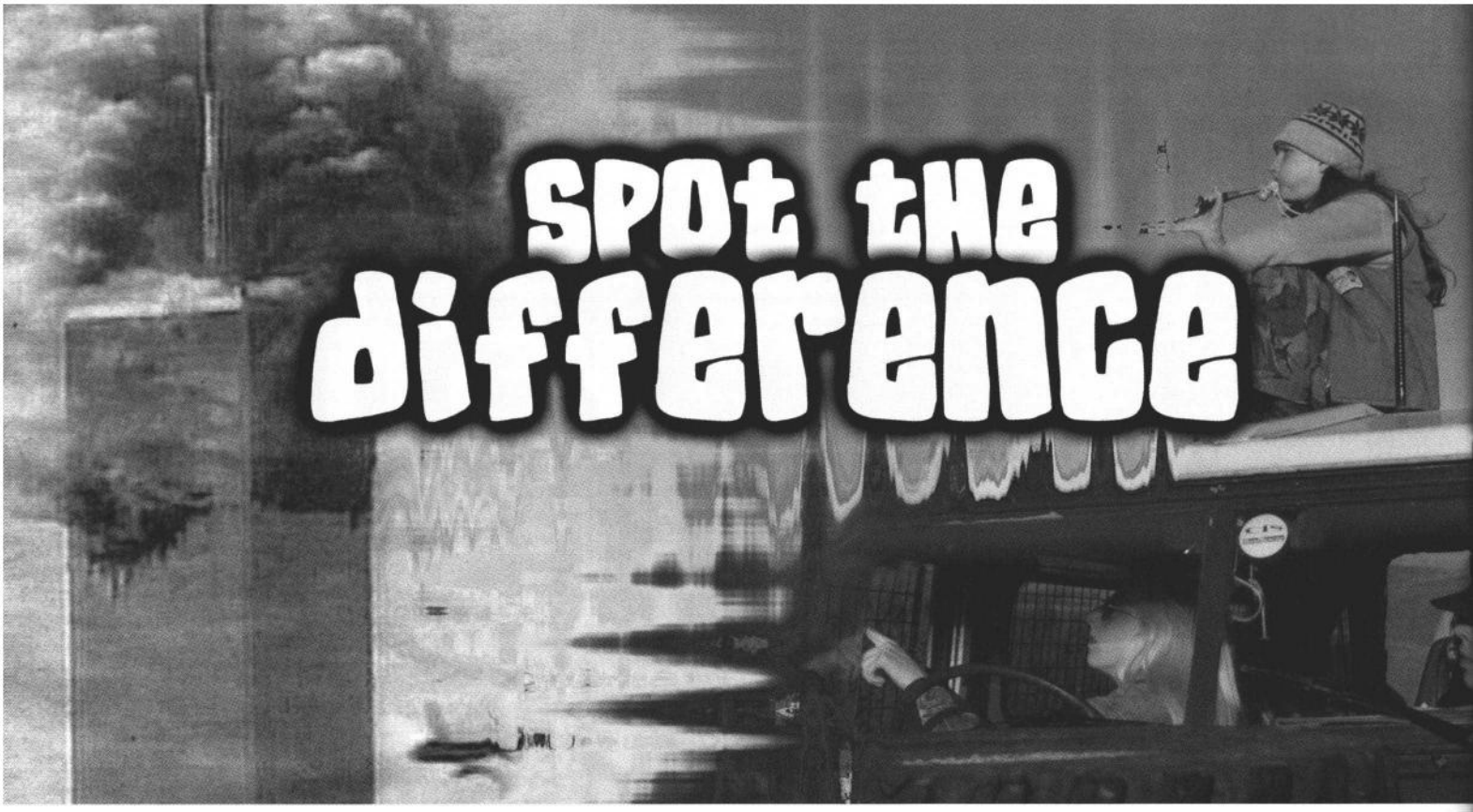
Finally you have to make your own mind up how far you intend to push things - it may be worth discussing this as a group beforehand. You may find yourself being arrested (albeit illegally) for refusing to be searched. This will remove you from the action for the day but you may find that by challenging the police in a calm and confident manner they will be less likely to try and carry out unlawful searches in the future.

Every situation is different and you will need to use your judgement. In my experience on the occasion I was stopped and threatened with *'a serious kicking'* by two coppers, as I made my way home alone late at night through a deserted industrial estate in Bermondsey, I voiced my objections to a search a lot less forcefully than I would do during the average hunting day. You need to be continually assessing each situation as it occurs.

Under normal circumstances, the presence of a police force whilst under threat of violent, and occasionally fatal, attacks would come as a welcome feature to most people. It is an unfortunate fact and indictment on our justice system however, that when it comes to hunting, many police officers and often entire constabularies, will work in collusion with the hunt and serve as their personal security forces for the day, protecting the hunts interests and efforts to kill animals. And whilst there is the occasional friendly and reasonable bobby, these remain an endangered species, and the only type we're unlucky enough to encounter is the type that tip their hats to the hunt at the end of a day's work for them, come out in their riot vans full if a member of the hunt makes a bogus and clearly unfounded complaint from their mobile phone, or even to arrest people who have been brutally attacked and injured by members of the hunt. For these reason, we urge hunt saboteurs to acquaint themselves with the following legal advice before they venture into the bloodsports arena.



"Many police officers and often entire constabularies, will work in collusion with the hunt and serve as their personal security forces for the day."



spot the difference

Here we go again.
Less than a year after the last terrorism act was first used we are faced with another – this time potentially more serious. The attacks in Washington and New York on September 11th have provided the government with a popular wave of support to 'crack down on terrorism'.
The Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Bill is, at the time of writing, currently before parliament. The Home Secretary has made clear his intentions to force this legislation onto the statute books by Christmas. By the time you are reading this it may well have become law.
However, this Bill was in danger of facing a rocky road through both Houses of Parliament

One of the main focuses of the Bill is the provision to detain terrorist suspects without a trial – this will only apply to foreign nationals (or asylum seekers?). A person can be detained not because of what they have done but because of what the security services believe they may do. There is an appeal process but this will not be subject to the usual provisions of British justice such as the assumption of innocence or the onus on the prosecution to prove the case beyond reasonable doubt. By way of appeasement the government has included offences against religious hatred. It is galling that less than a year from finally agreeing to the Human Rights Act 1988 the government is copping out of one of the fundamental principles. Article 6 of the Human Rights Act enshrines the right to a fair trial. Britain is the only country to be introducing such measures – even the U.S.A. has not felt the need.

It is obvious to anyone that has bothered to pay attention that this Bill goes much further than addressing the specific threats to national security that it purports to. Liberty has described the Bill as being used to smuggle in other measures, which have nothing to do with September 11th – they are absolutely right. This Bill was still making its way through Parliament as this article was being written. As a result some of the section numbers may change from those quoted – they shouldn't be far off though.

disclosure of information

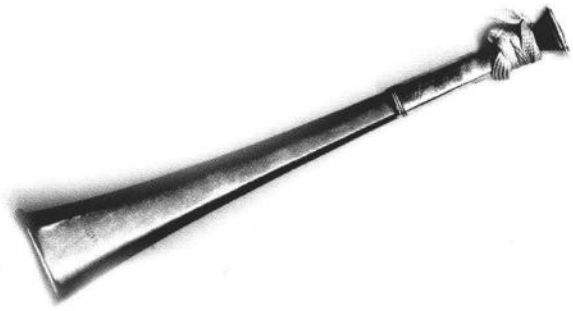
Although not related to sabbing this section should be of concern.

Section 80 – Prohibition of disclosures in relation to nuclear security

(1) A person is guilty of an offence if he discloses any information or thing the disclosure of which might prejudice the security of any nuclear site or of any nuclear material-
(a) with the intention of prejudicing that security; or
(b) being reckless as to whether the disclosure might prejudice that security.

Greenpeace and other environmental groups have expressed concern that this will prohibit them from, for example, publicising routes taken by trains carrying nuclear waste through residential areas. We can only wait and see whether the government chose to use the new power for that purpose. Stifling adverse publicity regarding potentially dangerous movements of nuclear waste is something the government would like to achieve but this is not what the government is claiming this legislation will achieve – time will tell.





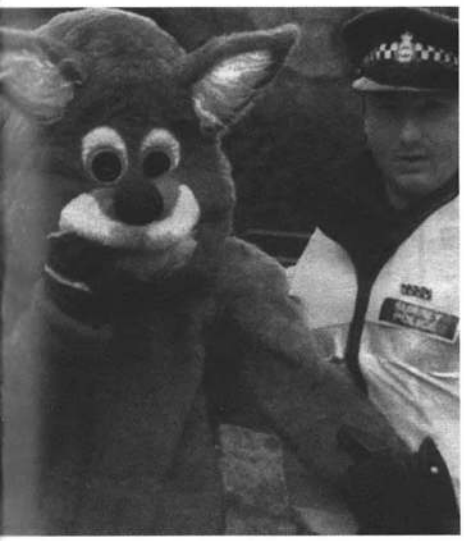
disguises

The bill contains additional powers for the police to require the removal of disguises. The fear of revenge attacks has led to some sabs concealing their identity – not difficult to see who this new power will be aimed at. An amendment to Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 already gives the police powers in this area when an officer of the rank of Superintendent or above fears serious violence may occur. A new amendment to the 1994 Act proposed by this bill adds to these powers. Use of the new powers can be authorised by an Inspector and the risk of serious violence is not a prerequisite.

Section 94 – Powers to require the removal of disguises: Great Britain

This section creates amendment 60AA to the 1994 Act, which includes...

(3) If a police officer of or above the rank of inspector reasonably believes-
(a) that activities may take place in



any locality in his police area that are likely (if they take place) to involve the commission of offences, and
(b) it is expedient, in order to prevent or control the activities, to give an authorisation under this subsection, he may give an authorisation that the powers conferred by this section shall be exercisable at any place within that locality for a specified period not exceeding twenty-four hours.

The powers in question are:

(2) This subsection confers power on any constable in uniform-
(a) to require any person to remove any item which the constable reasonably believes that person is wearing wholly or mainly to conceal his identity;
(b) to seize any item which the constable reasonably believes any person intends to wear wholly or mainly for that purpose.

photographs

The powers of the police to take photographs of suspects detained at police stations are to be increased:

Section 92 - Photographing of suspects etc.: England and Wales

This section creates the amendment 64A to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984

(1) A person who is detained at a police station may be photographed-
(a) with the appropriate consent; or
(b) if the appropriate consent is withheld or it is not practicable to obtain it, without it.

(2) A person proposing to take a photograph of any person under this section-
(a) may, for the purpose of doing so, require the removal of any item or substance worn on or over the whole or any part of the head or face of the person to be photographed; and
(b) if the requirement is not complied with, may remove the item or substance himself.

What this section is going to mean in practice is unclear (at least to me it is). At present there is nothing stopping the police from taking your photograph at a police station without your consent. However, they do not have the power to make you comply. If you chose not to sit in the chair in front of the camera the police do not have the power to force you – although they will often try it on. Equally, if you look the other way or pull your scarf over your nose when the custody sergeant appears with a Polaroid camera there is not a lot the plod can do about it.
What will change is that the police will now be able to remove your scarf or hat before they take the photo. What is not clear is whether, or not, the police have the power to use force to make you face the camera – I'm sure it won't be long before we find out!

other stuff

There are plenty of other sections of this Bill that make alarming reading. Along with the sections above many other areas are worthy of attention. There are sections in the Bill dealing with retention of communications data, disclosure of information held by local authorities to the police and the use of MOD police in civilian roles. All these areas give cause for concern but they cannot be examined fully in an article of this length.

publicity

Thanks to groups such as Liberty and Statewatch the new powers proposed by the Bill that have nothing to do with terrorism have been highlighted. The government's attempts to portray anyone opposing the Bill as being a supporter of terrorism have, fortunately, not completely stifled the criticism. Despite the Home Secretary's condemnation of those opposing his Bill as being "airy-fairy" there has been a respectable amount of debate and criticism in the less reactionary sections of the media. Many column inches have been given over to highlighting sections of the Bill, which are not concerned with preventing terrorist attacks but with stifling free speech and clamping down on troublesome demonstrators. Writing in the Guardian on 21st November John Wadham, director of Liberty, describes the Bill as being used to smuggle in measures that have nothing to do with terrorism. He also expresses concern that those groups who are supposedly protected by the laws against religious hatred may well find the law being used against them:

"There are already laws which could be better used to protect all of our communities. Given the discrimination that exists in the police and criminal justice system it is more likely that Muslims will be prosecuted than those who vilify them. What we need is stronger anti-discrimination laws that will prevent anyone being sacked or harassed on the grounds of religion alone. People should keep the freedom to criticise other's ideas, even their religious ideas."

➲



The Observer on 2nd December made the point bluntly that the government has capitalised on the events of September 11th to rush legislation through Parliament that erodes our civil liberties:

"If stating the obvious truth that the executive is now out of control is tasteless how about this?
The government should rescind the orders to the SAS to shoot Osama bin Laden. He is its good friend and ally, who is worth far more alive than dead.
Without his covering fire, the state would never get away with taking so many liberties."

The Joint Committee on Human Rights, a cross party committee of Lords and M.P.s, produced a lengthy and critical report. The report raises concerns in many areas of the Bill. It mentions the removal of face coverings and suggests that this needs to be considered very carefully on human rights grounds. The report also raises concerns regarding the power to use force to remove face coverings of those detained in police stations with no consideration of the seriousness of the offence. The report is critical of the Bill being used to extend the powers of the police in areas unconnected to terrorism:

"We are concerned about such provisions relating to the powers of the police being hurried through Parliament as part of a Bill which purports to be aimed primarily at taking emergency measures in respect of terrorism."
Joint Committee on Human Rights – Second Report: paragraph 61

At the time of writing this Bill was being debated in the House of Lords. The amendments being proposed and up for debate included the requirement that the powers regarding the taking of photographs and the removal of disguises should apply only in connection with terrorist offences. There was also an amendment to reduce the maximum penalty for failing to remove a disguise from a month inside to a fine. Hmm, maybe the Lords aren't such a bad bunch after all...

Information for this article was blagged from:

Liberty
21 Tabard Street
London
SE1 4LA
Tel: 020 7403 3888
www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk

Statewatch – A non-profit-making group comprised of lawyers, academics, journalists, researchers and community activists. It has a network of contributors from 12 countries. Statewatch has an excellent website including a searchable database.

Statewatch
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N16 0EW
Tel: 020 8802 1882
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SUPPORT ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS

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

NEIL BARTLETT
FW7083
HMP Lewes
1 Brighton Road
East Sussex
BN7 1EA
Remanded in connection with hoax bomb-threats to various instituitions of animal abuse.

DAVE BLENKINSOP
EM7899
HMP Bullingdon
PO Box 50
Bicester
Oxon OX25 1WD
Serving 3 years for GBH on HLS director Brian Cass, 18 months for burglary of 600 Newchurch guinea pigs & remanded on explosives charges

HEATHER AVERY
TE1591
HMP Highpoint
Stradis Hall
Newmarket
Suffolk
CB8 9YG
Serving 12 months for inciting others to cause a public nuisance

NATASHA DALLEMAGNE
TE1592
HMP Highpoint
Stradis Hall
Newmarket
Suffolk
CB8 9YG
Serving 12 months for inciting others to cause a public nuisance

GREG AVERY
FF9142
HMP The Weare
Rotheram Road
Castletown
Portland
Dorset
DT5 1PZ
Serving 12 months for inciting others to cause a public nuisance

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.

The best way to support AR prisoners is by sending a donation to the A.L.F. Supporters Group who will provide financial help for them.

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

Why is Sabbing important?

To understand the importance of hunt sabotage or 'sabbing' - lets look back to the beginning and ask why did people start sabbing hunts?

In the early 1960s there were many people opposed to bloodsports, but they knew that a ban on hunting was many years away. (although they probably didn't realise just how far in the future). Some of these people decided that there was no point waiting for parliament to act when they as individuals could do something immediately, and so began the hunt saboteurs movement which soon became the Hunt Saboteurs Association.

The early sabs had to begin from nothing - they tried different approaches and over the years they developed a range of highly effective tactics and strategies that could save the lives of hunted animals. These tactics continue to be developed and refined even today and as a result thousands of animals have been saved over the last 40 years.

So there is the easy answer to the initial question - sabbing is important because it saves lives. Anti vivisectionists cannot walk into the labs and physically prevent the torture of animals on a day to day basis - but hunt sabs can intervene in the killing fields and save foxes, hares, deer, mink, fish and birds. The equation is simple, more sabs equals more lives saved.

But that is just the immediate level, ok sabs can save lives on the day, but consistent sabbing can have many more and greater results.

The next most obvious effect is that over time the more a hunt is sabbed, the less efficient it becomes.
The number of kills falls and even when sabs are not present it is difficult for hunts to catch and kill animals.
Leading on from this, as the efficiency of the hunt declines, internal divisions start to arise - people blame each other for the failure of the hunt. Riders are less likely to support a hunt they perceive as a shambles and importantly pressure mounts on the huntsman which decreases his effectiveness. It is not unknown for huntsmen to be sacked as they can not handle the pressure applied by sabs. At the *Albrighton Foxhounds* in Staffordshire, consistent sabbing over 20 years led to the sacking of several huntsmen and a downward spiral which resulted in the hunt becoming a laughing stock barely able to control their hounds let alone kill anything.

Finally sabbing has a financial effect on the hunt. At the end of the day, riders follow a hunt for enjoyment. If they do not enjoy it then they are unlikely to continue supporting the hunt both physically and financially.

The presence of sabs on a hunt reduces the enjoyment of the riders: firstly it means kills are less likely, secondly it means that the huntsman may spend a lot of time evading sabs - which usually means he also evades the riders, thirdly it means there are also likely to be police, journalists etc. present - this turns an enjoyable ride into a stressful circus and reduces the enjoyment of the riders. Over time hunts that are consistently sabbed start to lose their fringe followers and then more core supporters and so on - this is not enough to close a healthy hunt in itself, but it is a good start.



Photo: NWHSA

Photo: Sid McQueen



On a wider level, sabbing has also helped keep the issue of hunting in the spotlight, it has inspired many people to take direct action both against hunts and other issues (eg. many of the early road protesters began as sabs) and with no clear commitment to ban hunting from this slippery self serving government, it is just as relevant today as it was all those years ago.

So to recap, sabbing is important because it saves lives on the day, it saves lives in the long run by reducing the effectiveness of the hunt, it reduces the enjoyment of the hunters, it keeps the issue in peoples minds and it affects the hunt financially.

- I think these are enough reasons to go sabbing, don't you?



HOLDING YOUR NERVE

- SABS VS PLOD

Just a quick tale of encouragement (hopefully) for any other sabs who find themselves on the end of a pathetic section 5 charge and are dithering whether to take a bindover and avoid the hassle. Dont!

After years of giving out advice to sabs that we have to fight injustice when it is visited upon us, I had to put it into practice earlier this year when I ran headlong into a set up at a hunt..

Early in the day when we were busy taking the hounds for a walk right under the noses of the police, unbeknown to me, I was the subject of a discussion by a group of policemen and women as to my 'problem', with the hunt in question and how I was going to 'get it', that day. I do the same hunt every other Saturday and whenever I can get off work in the week, and this apparently causes some offence to the local police. I know what they said, because while they were blabbing on about me, a sab was sat in the undergrowth less than 15 feet from them. Unfortunately I didn't find that out until later.

During the day, there were the usual chummy discussions between the hunt and the police as they set up situations to delay and create difficulties for us, but we were having none of it and had the hunt on the run all day.

Late in the day, the hunt got away from us, and got onto the scent of a fox around some boggy land near the meet. In my attempts to cut between the hounds andthe fox, I ended up chest deep in an icy pond. Not good, and when I did get out of it, I was fairly forthcoming about how cold it was to the 2 other sabs who were there. Unfortunately, also present was a small humourless cop in charge of 3 or 4 school kid-cops in luminous yellow jackets kicking their heels.

As the ubiquitous section 5 warning came (even thoughI wasn't speaking to the cops and there was no-one else around) we were joined by another 2 groups of plod making them 14 to our 3. In the ensuing wind up,the police answered in kind anything the other sabs said, until I opened my mouth again to wonder why they were behaving like this. I'm sure you can fill in the blanks. Cue an arrest for section 5 (and possession of an offensive whip thrown in).

In a scenario that will be familiar to many sabs,after a couple of hours in a bare cell, the interview went without comment, and the police didn't really have anything on me, but true to type, I was charged with section 5 and bailed to appear the following week. The offensive weapon charge wasn't ever seriously considered, and even the custody sergeant took the piss out of the arresting officer.

There then started the drawn out process of court appearances, adjournments and general f**king around because of the CPS's inefficiency and lack of real faith that this was ever going to court. At the first appearance, a week after the arrest (a pre-trial hearing (PTH) no magistrates, just a clerk and the CPS - they offered a bind over if I'd accept a caution and that would be the end of it. It was initially tempting, knowing how these things drag on, but then that's how they get people to submit, so I couldn't do it. My refusal on the grounds that I hadn't done anything wrong and wasn't going to admit to something just to make things easier seemed to amaze them, but it was to be the start of a long round of cat and mouse between me, my solicitors, the police and the CPS.



The case went backwards and forwards between different courts over the next couple of months with an actual trial being set for April. When we got to the day of the trial, just as we were about to start, the police suddenly (4 months on) remembered that there had been an evidence gathering team out during the day, and that maybe they had my behaviour and arrest on video. This threw the CPS, who had also failed to come up with some of the material required by my solicitors, and they asked for an adjournment to review the video.

The CPS seemed pretty embarrassed, and made it known that if the video didn't show anything obviously incriminating, they couldn't see it going anywhere.
After another couple of PTH's (one of which was for me to explain to the court why I hadn't been to a hearing even though I had a letter from them stating I need not attend!), we finally got a date in September when the trial, would happen. Over the summer, time was spent with my solicitor going over my version of events and the defence strategy. We were hoping to use the European Human Rights legislation and my right to free speech (even if the police didn't like what I was saying!), but I suspect all along my solicitor didn't really believe it would get to court. When the video arrived to view, I was a bit nervous as the plod seemed certain my arrest would be on there, and after months of hearing their stories, I was starting to worry that they were right!

The video was hardly a classic - 12 minutes of silent, edited, fuzzy rubbish with about 20 seconds of me (just running around) and bizarrely about a minute of a sab having a slash in some undergrowth. Weird. Still it was a relief that this was their 'evidence', but some concern as to why they were carrying on with the case if this was all they had apart from the parrot statements of the police.

True to form, 3 days before the case was due to be heard, I had a discontinuance letter from the CPS because of there was no realistic prospect ofconvicting me. 9 months of pissing around, a fair bit of stress, 4 days off work and a ridiculous waste of court time.

And what for? Possibly because I had wound the police up, by not being scared of them and rolling over, or maybe just that the short, ginger sergeant that arrested me didn't like me. Whatever it was, it had nothing to do with a criminal offence, but that's what they tried to stick me for.

On the advice of my solicitor, I made an appointment to witness the fingerprints and photographs they had taken after my arrest be destroyed. It was supposed to be with my arresting officer, but in keeping with the rest of the case, he wasn,t ready when I got to the cop shop - in the end he didn,t have the balls to face me and sent a junior cop down to rip them up for me.
They couldn't do that right either as they had no shredder so the both of us sat there ripping up tiny bits of paper! What a joke.

For my part, if my opinion of the police could have got any lower than it has been after many years of having to be around them, it did over the last 9 months.

Thankfully I had support from my long suffering partner, all the other sabs I know, and a brilliant firm of solicitors (Bindman & Partners). I suspect that some sabs thought it was quite funny that I got arrested but it gave me a kick up the arse and the opportunity to practice what we always preach to other sabs - that you have to keep your nerve and fight the law all the way. After all it wasn't designed for our benefit was it?

Soon I hope to move onto phase 2 - a civil action against the police!



WELSH POLICE IN £21,000 PAYOUT

Seven protesters received £21,000 in compensation after being wrongfully arrested at a foxhunt and locked up for 10 hours. The activists were watching events unfold from the safety of their minibus and were just about to tuck into their picnic when they were interrupted by Dyfed Powys police.

The arresting officers said they had been following orders and detained the group to prevent a breach of the peace. However, the group's lawyer Ifitkhar Manzoor said: "*My clients were eating lunch in a minibus when they were arrested and I find it hard to believe that the police saw this as a risk of a breach of the peace.*"

DEVON & CORNWALL POLICE IN £8,000 PAYOUT

Two Devon hunt saboteurs were offered a settlement of £4,000 each by the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary, following their arrest and detention whilst attending a meet of the East Devon Foxhounds in February of this year. The two saboteurs, from a group of six arrested on the day, were present at the hunt meet held at Collumpton, near Exeter on the 3rd February when they were arrested for alleged Aggravated Trespass.

The arrests followed a horrific incident in which one hunt saboteur, who managed to pick up a fox from the jaws of approaching hounds, was attacked by the huntsman and forced to drop the terrified animal. The fox was immediately set upon by hounds and torn to pieces, and the huntsman appeared before Exeter magistrates on a charge of Assault.

It is expected that the remaining four saboteurs from the day will also take action to recover damages for the time they were falsely imprisoned.

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We also desperately need photos/video grabs.

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

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VERMIN PATROL

CRUELTY CASES IN THE COURTS

bloodsport
VERMIN

A fisherman who killed two cormorants for raiding his favourite fishing lake was fined £250 by magistrates on 12/7/01. **Terry Day** (36) from Letchworth, Hertfordshire admitted that he had *"seen red"* when the birds, a protected species, returned to Henlow fishing lakes in Bedfordshire after he had frightened them off. Day shot the two birds dead and was about to shoot a third when an inspector from the RSPB stopped him. He was fined £250 and ordered to pay prosecution costs of £55. He must also forfeit his shotgun. Luton magistrates heard on 12/7/01 that Day dressed in camouflaged clothing had took his shotgun to the lakes, he was a member of Letchworth Angling Club and that he had an arrangement with the owners of Whiteman's Lake to patrol the area for vermin. The inspector called the police and Day admitted that he did not have a licence to kill the birds, but considered them to be vermin.

equine
VERMIN

On 24/10/01 a pony breeder was been banned from keeping horses for five years after admitting cruelty to animals. Former policeman **Graeme Donaldson Philip** (34) who runs a stud farm in Blairadam, near Kelty in Fife was fined £500 and also received 200 hours of community service. Three of his Welsh mountain ponies were found to be either emaciated or painfully thin, through lack of food, water and vet treatment. SSPCA inspectors discovered the situation when they visited Philip's farm. The rotting carcasses of four other ponies were also found in filthy stables at the farm. Philip was fined £500 for failing to dispose of the animal carcasses.

Joanne Eleanor (30) of Red House Farm, on the Moorhouse Estate, near Stockton who admitted failing to provide necessary care for a chestnut mare found in an undernourished and neglected state by an RSCPA officer, has had her 10-year ban on keeping animals halved on appeal by Teesside Crown Court. The former Horsewoman of the Year reduced a horse to just "skin and bone" through neglect. Eleanor pleaded guilty to causing suffering to the horse, which the court heard had put on ten stones since it been cared for by the RSPCA. On 31/8/01 Eleanor was banned from keeping animals for ten years and was also given a two months prison sentence, suspended for a year.

assorted
VERMIN

An award-winning sausage-maker who left a lamb with a broken leg tangled up in brambles for days has been ordered to pay £4,000 by magistrates. Trading standards officers found the lamb with a bone sticking out of its leg on **Alan Dobson**'s land at Suckley. Pus was oozing out of the wound. Investigators also found dead lambs lying in a field almost bare of grass. Dobson, who set up the Parson's Nose Sausage Shop in Bromyard, admitted causing unnecessary suffering to lambs when he appeared before Evesham magistrates on 16/5/01. As well as the dead sheep, others had to be put down. Dobson (50) of Grove Court Farm, Greenhill, near Suckley was fined £1,500 and told to pay £2,763 costs.

The man behind controversial veal trade exports from Coventry airport is facing a drugs smuggling charge. **Christopher Barrett-Jolley** (54) of Hockworthy House, Wellington, Somerset appeared in court on 19/10/01 after a major drugs investigation. The charge follows a seizure by customs officers of half a tonne of cocaine at Southend airport. Customs officers claimed the drugs were thrown from a cargo plane when it landed at the airport. The £32 million haul is the biggest consignment known to have arrived in Britain by air. Barrett-Jolley is one of four men who have been remanded in custody until 25/10/01 by Southend magistrates. He has been charged with smuggling cocaine into the UK. His brother-in-law, **Peter Carine** (49) of Hensall House, Main Street, Hensall, North Yorkshire, has also been charged with drug smuggling. Barrett-Jolley, who used to live in Frankton, near Rugby, was the boss of Phoenix Aviation which ran a veal export business from the airport at Baginton in the mid-1990s. Animal rights campaigners mounted continuous demonstrations and he was forced out of business in July 1995 blaming the firm's demise on the Coventry air disaster in 1994 in which 5 people on board a returning calf flight died when it crashed into Willenhall Woods.



The owner of Southport zoo has been fined £5,000 for keeping a number of endangered birds and animals without a proper licence. **Doug Petrie** (above) admitted the charge when he appeared before North Sefton magistrates on 11/7/01. The court was told he had kept a number of animals without the correct registration or licence. Among the animals involved were ocelots, tawny owls, a scarlet macaw, barn owls, a sea turtle shell, cotton-topped tamarins, tortoises and one Herman's tortoise shell which was on display at the zoo. Petrie, who changed his not guilty plea to one of guilty. The court was told he had applied for such a licence only six days before the zoo was searched by police, the RSPCA and officers from TRAFFIC , part of the Worldwide Fund for Nature. In addition to the fine, Petrie must pay £350 prosecution costs and forfeit the animals and birds listed in the charges.

Police are investigating a complaint made against **John McCririck**, the Channel 4 racing expert, after he allegedly assaulted a female security guard at a racecourse. The security guard called the police after McCririck allegedly tried to "brush her aside" at York races on 23/8/01 when he tried to get into a part of the racecourse for which he did not have an appropriate pass. A spokesman for North Yorkshire police said: "*I can confirm there was an incident at York races. Following a complaint of an assault made at York Racecourse, a 61-year-old man was interviewed and a file will be submitted in due course.*"

On 31/8/01 a former teacher who suffocated a rabbit brought to class by students for a dissection experiment has been found innocent of animal cruelty. Jurors decided that **Godwin Collins Onunwah** did not act maliciously when he placed a rabbit in a plastic bag and waited for the animal to die. Onunwah, who taught seventh grade, was not rehired when his contract expired. "*Since the purpose of euthanising an animal in dissection for a biology class, I didn't think*

any evidence of malice existed, and apparently the jury agreed," Onunwah asked special education students to bring in animals for dissection. One boy bought a black-and-white rabbit from a pet store. Onunwah placed the rabbit in the bag. It was alive at the end of class, so Onunwah put the bag inside a cabinet. The rabbit died that weekend. Charges were filed after complaints from parents and an investigation by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

A magistrate has denied possessing explosives with intent to endanger life. **Jonathan Wilkes** (40) who lives in Royan, France pleaded not guilty to two charges when he appeared at Oxford Crown Court on 14/9/01. Wilkes a computer software engineer and IT consultant, has been charged with two offences under the Explosive Substances Act 1883. The charges relate to the discovery of nine anti-personnel bombs found at Freeland, Oxfordshire, and Syreford, Gloucestershire in last year. Wilkes who serves as a JP on the Oxfordshire circuit, denies the two charges of possessing nitrocellulose and nitroglycerine with intent to endanger life and property. Wilkes was remanded in custody until his trial at Oxford Crown Court which is due to begin on 7/01/02. The trial is expected to last for eight days.

farmer

VERMIN

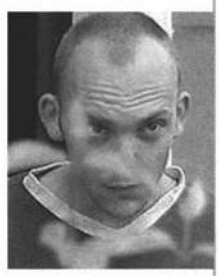
Two men who allowed calves and sheep to starve on their farm have been banned from keeping farm animals for life. Half-brothers **Edmund Pilbeam** (58) of Diplocks Farm, Chalvington, near Polegate and **Andrew Putticks** (47) of Muddles Green, Chiddingly, near Hailsham failed to properly feed or treat livestock. Eastbourne magistrates were told on 14/8/01 how they kept calves in litter several feet deep, left them untreated for worms and allowed them to become emaciated. Sheep were underfed for up to eight weeks, and the ribs and backbones of many of them were visible. Pilbeam and Putticks admitted seven charges of causing unnecessary suffering to animals and one count of failing to dispose of animal by-products properly. The pair were given 240 hours of community punishment and banned from keeping farm animals for life.

Two men have pleaded guilty to causing nearly 100 sheep such cruelty that they starved, became diseased, went blind and died. At Melton Mowbray magistrates on 21/8/01 **David John Carter** (33) of Hartopp Road, Melton Mowbray and **Peter Miller** (56) of Twenty, near Bourne, Lincolnshire, pleaded guilty to a total of 74 cases of cruelty and neglect. Miller, already serving a six-month prison sentence for similar offences committed in Bourne around the same time, was sentenced to a further six months and banned for life from keeping livestock. Carter was released onl bail so that psychiatric reports could be prepared. He will appear for sentencing at Leicester magistrates on 1/10/01. The lambs and ewes were kept on a smallholding owned by Carter at Massfield Farm, Cold Overton. At another site, rented for grazing by Miller, at Braunston Road near Oakham, more neglected sheep were found.

A pig farmer whose animals were among the first to be infected with foot-and-mouth has been charged with six more offences. **Bobby Waugh** (56) who operated from Burnside Farm, Heddon-on-the-Wall, Northumberland, now faces 22 charges relating to the disease. He appeared in court charged under the Animal Health Act 1981 and the Protection of Animals Act 1911. A Northumberland County Council spokeswoman said the farmer faces six other charges under the Animal Health Act and the Trade Descriptions Act. The original 16 charges include five counts of failing to notify officials of foot-and-mouth disease in animals, four charges of causing unnecessary suffering to animals, bringing unprocessed catering waste onto his premises and feeding it to pigs. There are also four charges of failing to dispose of animal by-products and one of failing to record the movement of pigs on the farm. Waugh did not enter any pleas before Tynedale magistrates on 16/8/01. Proceedings against Waugh's 60-year-old brother **Ronald,** who also lives at the family home in Sunderland, have been adjourned indefinitely after a medical report.

domestic

VERMIN



A pedigree shih-tzu was trussed up with dog leads and dumped in a four-foot culvert days before Christmas Oswestry magistrates heard on 9/7/01. The dog had been wrapped in a bin-bag, was found on Boxing Day by a member of the public who heard her cries and alerted the RSPCA. Owners **Jonathan Maxfield** (above) (25) of no fixed abode and his partner **Louise Swannick** (21) of Lime Grove, Oswestry admitted causing the animal unnecessary suffering. Magistrates heard that the dog had been in an "appalling" condition when she was found, she was malnourished and had a festering right eye. The court heard that the dog was given to Maxfield and Swannick by a neighbour who thought she would make a suitable pet for Swannick's daughter. The two accused admitted causing the dog suffering by unreasonably omitting to provide proper care for the animal. The dog lost her right eye but made a full recovery and now has a new home. On 16/8/01 Maxfield was jailed for three months and banned from keeping any animal for life. Swannick was banned from keeping animals for 10 years, ordered to do 120 hours of community service and told to pay £150 costs.

An RSPCA inspector was horrified at the condition of a pet dog she examined at a Crawley home. The black labrador had a serious skin condition, an eye infection, sores on its body and legs and was underweight. Crawley magistrates heard on 10/8/01 the dog was withdrawn, depressed and lethargic. It was taken away to be treated but had to be put down. The owners, **David and Tina Maynard** both 37, of Carman Walk, Broadfield, Crawley, pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering. They claimed the dog's decline was very gradual and they were lulled into accepting its condition. Magistrates ordered reports and adjourned sentencing.

A Suffolk pet owner has been banned from having custody of cats for five years after abandoning a cat and her four kittens at the side of a road. A witness, who saw **Zacheriah Draper** (51) from Ipswich dump the cats, managed to catch the mother and three kittens, but the fourth disappeared. Draper denied abandoning the cats and told the RSPCA they disappeared a week earlier. Ipswich magistrates heard in July how the descriptions given by witnesses matched Draper. They said he took the cats from an old, grey, hatchback car and drove off. The court heard that Draper admitted owning a black cat and three kittens, and said the abandoned cats were his. Magistrates found Draper guilty of abandoning the cats and ordered him to pay £150 costs, plus the full cost of boarding the cats, £452.72 and fined him £150. All cats have been successfully rehomed.

A woman has been paid £4,000 damages after claiming her fiancé tried to poison her pet dog because she doted on the animal more than him. Lynda Greaves (27) from Cheltenham, said **Ian Wallace** (26) was so envious of the affection she lavished on border collie Jack he terrorised the pet. Over three months he allegedly poured chemical in the dog's eyes, slashed his leg with a sharp instrument and fed him poison, Newbury County Court were told on 13/8/01. Kennel manager Greaves only became suspicious when she noticed her dog cowered whenever Wallace was close by and yelped in pain when the two were left alone. The animal lover from Bishop's Cleeve broke off her engagement, moved out of their home in Calne, Wiltshire, and has now been awarded more than £4,000 in damages from her ex-lover.

A terrier is starting a new life while it's former owner must do 100 hours community work. **Samantha Clay** (25) of Norman Street, Cotmanhay was blamed for leaving the dog starving and dirty in her home. Ilkeston magistrates banned Clay from keeping animals for five years on 7/9/01. She must also pay a quarter of the £1,000 costs incurred by the RSPCA in bringing the case against her. Clay failed to attend a trial in July where she was found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering by failing to provide proper care and attention.

➲

On 15/8/01 a woman admitted starving a terrier to death in what an animal pathologist described as the most emaciated animal she seen. **Kathleen Jaffray** (48) of Roworth Road, Middlesbrough pleaded guilty to cruelty to two dogs at Teesside magistrates. Co-defendants **Christine Dawson** (37) and **David Mitchinson** (29) admitted cruelty at an earlier hearing and were banned for life from keeping dogs. The RSPCA brought the prosecution after a dead dog was found in the yard of a house in Teesdale Terrace, Thornaby, Teesside. Another dog was found starving and survived only by drinking rainwater. The three defendants had moved to Middlesbrough and left the animals to fend for themselves, the court heard. The case was adjourned for pre-sentence reports on Jaffrey. She was granted conditional bail until 11/9/01, when all three defendants will be sentenced.

A thug who smashed a puppy's head with a wooden truncheon has been banned from owning animals for life. **Peter Scotter** (40) of Smyrna Place, Hendon, Sunderland battered the 14-week-old Staffordshire bull terrier pup after it fouled the kitchen floor, Sunderland magistrates court heard on 21/8/01. He said he attacked the dog because it had snapped at his three-year-old son, but admitted a charge of cruelty. Scotter is already serving a 21-month sentence for throwing bricks plastered with racist stickers through the window of a Sunderland house used by asylum seekers. At Durham Crown Court in July 2001 he admitted the attack on the house in the Hendon area. Scotter admitted killing the animal after repeatedly hitting it with a truncheon, before punching and kicking it. He told police: "*I killed it, that's good enough isn't it? I hit it because it was snapping at my son's face.*" Scotter currently at HM Prison Durham, was disqualified from owning animals for life and given a four-month jail term to run concurrently with the sentence he is serving.

A Teesside man, who cut off the tails and dewclaws of seven puppies without anesthetic, has been banned for five years from having custody of a dog and ordered to carry out 140 hours community service. **George Hunt** (43) of Hartlepool was ordered to pay legal costs of £550 after he admitted causing unnecessary suffering and illegally docking the puppies. Following a tip-off an RSPCA inspector found Hunt's springer spaniel dog lying in a plastic box in a hut in his back yard, having severe difficulty giving birth. The inspector Palmer rushed her to a vets for a Caesarian section. Owing to the bitch's complicated birth, it was thought all puppies would be stillborn, but seven survived. Three days later they were all returned to Hunt. Inspector Palmer revisited Hunt's house four days later and discovered the puppies had been docked with a pair of scissors and their dewclaws removed. All dogs were immediately taken to a vet for examination before being taken into RSPCA care. The docked tails became infected, but eventually healed after further treatment.

A dog owner let his pet suffer for months with an agonising tumour because he couldn't bear to have her put down, a court has been told on 22/8/01. **Donald Purton** (48) landlord of The Oriental pub in Montpelier Road, Brighton, was convicted of causing unnecessary suffering to his 18-year-old Doberman. Brighton magistrates heard Purton, who did not attend court, had refused to go to the vets because he could not bear to have his dog put down. When an RSPCA inspector visited the pub she found the dog emaciated and suffering from a facial tumour half the size of her head. Sadly, the dog had to be put down. Magistrates ordered Purton to attend a sentencing hearing on 30/8/01.



The son of a former chief of police has lost his appeal after a court ruled he slashed his pet puppy'sthroat. **Gareth Robins** (24) from Heywood Road, Prestwich, formerly from Middleton Road, Chadderton, who described himself as an 'animal lover', had appealed against his conviction for inflicting the horrific injuries, saying the dog could have been hurt on barbed wire. On 4/10/01 at Manchester Crown Court a judge and two magistrates failed to believe him and upheld his convictions on two counts of causing unnecessary suffering to the dog. Sentence was adjourned until November 2001. The mongrel needed 40 stitches to close the gaping wound in its throat, which exposed its jugular vein and windpipe. A vet said the shocking injuries could only have been caused deliberately. Robins, the son of retired chief inspector Gordon Robins, was jailed for two months and banned from keeping animals for 10 years by Oldham magistrates, but he was immediately freed after he lodged an appeal. Chief Insp Robins defended his son in court, but the appeal bench rejected his plea. The court heard that Robins took a scalpel or a knife to the eight-month-old mongrel and sliced open its throat. Then he stabbed and sliced it across the body up to 15 times. He waited two hours before taking the dog for treatment to a vet. Then he said the dog was a stray which he had found wandering in Chadderton. Robins' former wife Shelley told the court that before Ben was hurt in January 2000, five other animals left in his care had met with "bizarre" accidents. Shelley told the court that three kittens and a puppy died while Robins was looking after them. She also said a hamster called Madge was singed after its cage was set alight while Robins was in the house alone with the pet. Robins said the kittens died from cat flu.

A couple from Paddock Wood have been banned from keeping animals for 10 years after admitting causing unnecessary suffering to their pet dog. When an RSPCA officer visited **Christopher** and **Linda Lewis** at their home he found the 16-year-old black mongrel malnourished with bones protruding and infected eyes. The couple appeared before Tunbridge Wells magistrates on 22/8/01 and pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering. They were fined £100 each, ordered to pay £50 costs each and banned from keeping animals for a decade.

A couple whose dog was found starving and tied to a fence have been disqualified from owning a dog for five years. **David Barnard** (35) and **Lisa Stamford** (32) both of Newick Road, Moulsecoomb, Brighton, admitted causing unnecessary suffering to their dog. Brighton magistrates heard on 31/8/01 how an RSPCA inspector found the couple's dog tied to a fence without water or shelter. The German shepherd, which has since been rehomed, was taken to a vet who confirmed that she was emaciated and had suffered muscle wastage. The court ordered the couple to pay £100 each in costs and compensation of £636.37 to the RSPCA. They were disqualified from owning a dog for five years and will have to carry out 60 hours' community service each.

Two of the UK's leading dog breeders, one of them a judge at Crufts, were found guilty of cruelty to a cocker spaniel on 3/9/01. **Roger Stone** (62) and **Lee Cox** (29) who claim to have produced 48 UK champions, were found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to a retired stud dog. They were each given a three-year conditional discharge and ordered to pay a total of £5,000 costs towards the RSPCA prosecution. Cheddar magistrates in Somerset were told that an RSPCA officer found the dog at the pair's show kennel at Kaston Kennels at Mark, Somerset, where they specialise in breeding pedigree poodles. The spaniel had a chronically infected ear that was bleeding, ulcerated and oozing pus, and had bald itchy skin from a lice infestation. Ironically, Cox and Stone are also co-ordinators for South West Poodle Rescue.

On 28/9/01 a farm worker from Flintshire in north Wales has been banned for five years from having custody of any animal after admitting causing unnecessary suffering to two dogs. Following a complaint the RSPCA visited the former Northop home of **Melanie Kidd** (27) and discovered the emaciated dogs confined to a shed at the back of the house. A boxer and a cocker spaniel were found inside and immediately taken for veterinary examination. The boxer was a third underweight and her ribs and hindquarters were easily visible through her skin. The spaniel was also thin with a very matted coat and around half the average weight of a cocker spaniel. Their paws were painful from being scalded by the ammonia on the urine-soaked shed floor. A vet reported that the dogs were emaciated, hungry and dehydrated. They were both infested with fleas and one had alopecia as a result. Kidd now residing at nearby Bryn Coch, in Flint, was also fined £100 and ordered to pay £200 costs. Both dogs were signed over to the RSPCA and they have since been successfully rehomed.

A man who threw meat laced with rat poison into neighbouring gardens after becoming annoyed over barking dogs has been given a one-year conditional discharge. **Frank Bartlett** (59) of 69 Banners Lane, Halesowen, West Midlands, threw the meat into two gardens in Stourdell Road, Colleygate, & Halesowen. Bartlett admitted administering a poisonous substance contrary to the Protection of Animals Act 1911 at a hearing at Halesowen magistrates on 24/9/01. Bartlett, who had complained to the council about the dogs barking, admitted in court he had "*crossed the line from what was acceptable*" by taking matters into his own hands. Magistrates ordered him to pay the RSPCA's £300 court costs.

The owner of a dog that lost a quarter of its body weight and was suffering from a severe internal infection faces a prison sentence. **Terence Hope** (43) of the Royal Hotel, Avonmouth, was found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to his pet Alsatian. Hope who was living at Old Mushroom Farm, Cribbs Causeway, at the time, was told repeatedly to do something about the dog's condition. The dog's condition was so bad that it was put down. Hope, who represented himself, pleaded not guilty to the charge and thought the dog would recover. On 26/9/01 Hope was found guilty and faces prison when magistrates sentence him in October.

Anthony Garratt (26) of Kingsthorpe Road, St Ann's, Nottingham kicked and stamped his girlfriend's pet cat to death after tying it to a bathroom sink. At Nottingham magistrates on 17/9/01 the court was told that Garratt lost his temper with his girlfriend's black and white cat. In an interview the court heard how Garratt put him the cat in the bathroom to sort of teach him a lesson really, but he just wouldn't shut up so I just lost my temper and I kicked him and smacked him and stamped on him". Garratt added: "He was just crying. I kicked him some more and then blood started pouring out everywhere." He said the cat was mewing and hissing in fear but he just "lost control." Garratt, who pleaded guilty to the charge of cruelty to animals, had no legal representation in court. Sentencing has been adjourned until 9/10/01.

Cat owner Michael Rowden has been banned from keeping pets for 10 years after leaving his two cats trapped in his dirty home without food. **Michael Rowden** (29) had abandoned his home in Merlin Crescent, Beacon Heath, Exeter, because of the mess, Exeter magistrates heard on 14/9/01.
An RSPCA inspector found the windows had been sealed and no food or water had been left for the cats. A strong unpleasant smell came from the premises and photographs taken showed it was a foot deep in rubbish, including rotting food and used nappies. He admitted being the owner of the cats and abandoning them without reasonable excuse. Rowden was disqualified from the care, ownership and control of any animal for 10 years.

Nicholas Vickery (33) of Cae Mawr Grove, Caldicot viciously kicked his pet puppy to death after it snarled at his three-year-old son. Vickery beat the small terrier-dachshund cross dog before pinning it to thefloor and repeatedly kicking it, Newport magistrates heard on 10/7/01. Vickery was fined £1,000 and banned from keeping a dog for ten years by magistrates after admitting attacking the puppy at an earlier appearance. The court heard how Vickery pinned the small pet to the floor of the garden shed, struck it with a blunt instrument and kicked it in a momentary loss of control. The dog was buried in the garden next morning but a post-mortem examination showed it had died from trauma to the neck and throat. Since Vickery's first court appearance on 19/6/01 when he pleaded guilty to animal cruelty, he had been subjected to personal threats and hate mail including letters containing razor blades. In addition to the ban and fine, Vickery was ordered to pay vet's fees of £346.45.

A college student took an injured wallaby home and left it to die on his living room floor after it was attacked by one of his dogs in a park. St Helens magistrates heard on 12/9/01. **Robert Pemberton** (19) of Kidstone Close, Sutton pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary harm to the animal. The court heard that Pemberton had gone into the attraction which was closed as a result of the foot-and-mouth crisis in May to have a look around. One of his lurcher dogs, which was not on the lead at the time, grabbed the wallaby by the neck in its compound and it suffered serious multiple injuries. The court was told that the teenager took the animal home and even borrowed a needle and thread off a neighbour to stitch up its wounds himself. Following a tip-off the police broke into the house and found the wallaby lying behind the settee in the same room as two lurcher dogs. Pemberton claimed he was planning to seek veterinary attention for the animal, but the court heard he went out drinking after work instead. The wallaby was later put to sleep by a vet. He also pleaded guilty to criminal damage to a goose and possession of a dead mallard. The two were also found by officers in his back garden chained up and with a stick pushed through their bodies. The mallard had suffered injuries consistent with being bitten by a dog but the goose had been strangled. The case was adjourned until 2/10/01 for pre-sentencing and Pemberton was granted unconditional bail.
A disabled Pyrenean mountain dog had to be put down after it was left to drag itself around its filthy concrete home Leicester magistrates heard on 8/9/01. Lesley Bryan (52) and her daughter, Heather King (21) both of Digby Close, Tilton-on-the-Hill, pleaded guilty to one charge of causing unnecessary suffering by unreasonably omitting to provide a Pyrenean mountain dog with proper and necessary care and attention. The women will be sentenced on 28/9/01.



A GP and bloodsports enthusisast who shot and killed his neighbours cat narrowly avoided a custodial sentence and has been forced to move. **Robert Boulton**, (37) (pictured right) was seen shooting the cat by a neighbour who called the Police. Bloodjunkie Boulton was going to nearby woods to shoot a duck for his dinner, but decided to shoot the pet instead because he disliked cats digging up his garden. Police Officers called to the scene found several other guns inside Boultons house which he had been licensed to use for vermin control.
At Dorchester Crown court on October 29th, Boulton was fined £4000 with £200 costs, and was ordered to pay a pitiful £59.17 in compensation to the cats grieving owner. Since the incident Boulton has voluntarily given up all his guns and licences. He is currently working in a practice in Bournemouth where he hopes to be made a partner.

A disabled Pyrenean mountain dog had to be put down after it was left to drag itself around its filthy concrete home Leicester magistrates heard on 8/9/01. **Lesley Bryan** (52) and her daughter, **Heather King** (21) both of Digby Close, Tilton-on-the-Hill, pleaded guilty to one charge of causing unnecessary suffering by unreasonably omitting to provide a Pyrenean mountain dog with proper and necessary care and attention. The women will be sentenced on 28/9/01.

A serial wild birds' egg collector has become the first person in the country to be jailed under new legislation to protect wildlife. **Barry Sheavils** (41) of Ogle Drive, Blyth was jailed for four months by Northumberland magistrates on 7/9/01. The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, which amended the Wildlife and Countryside Act, allows courts to impose a jail sentence of up to six months. Sheavils (pictured below)had admitted possessing three goshawk eggs, four goosander eggs, and possessing, with intent to commit an offence, a tin with compartments for eggs. Sheavils' home was raided in June 2000, less than a month after he had been convicted of possessing more than 1,200 rare birds eggs, for which he was fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £350 costs. Magistrates said that they would have considered jailing him if they could have done so. But they could not as the offences were committed before January 2001, when the new provisions came into force. In the June raid, officers found Sheavils had a clutch of three rare goshawk eggs and later discovered four goosander eggs and a quantity of the class B drug amphetamine sulphate dumped in a wheelie bin.



USEFUL ADDRESSES

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

A.L.F. Supporters Group
publishes ALFSG Newsletter
BM 1160, 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 WC1N 3XX
0781 565 8371 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) 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 5254, Northampton NN1 3ZA

For a standing order form or more information phone Tel. 0845 450 0727

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!











BACK ISSUES OF HOWL

There are still some back issues of Howl 73 & 74 available.

Single back issues 50p each

Bulk orders:
10 + issues **FREE!** (+p&p)

ORDERING MORE COPIES OF THE LATEST HOWL.

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

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

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





NEW!

Full colour stickers - Help promote the HSA (clearly unsuitable for putting on lamposts, hunt supporters cars, etc as this would be illegal!)

.....**FREE!**

(+p&p+DONATION)



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.



Stop Dreaming...

...Start Sabbing.

HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION

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