Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

Spring 2004

HOWL 80

The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association

ANTI TERRIER WORK CAMPAIGN | 40 YEARS OLD: THE HSA HISTORY II | DEFRA BADGER KILLING UPDATE | 'DESPERATION DAY': EMPTY THREATS | GROUP NEWS ROUND UP | VERMIN PATROL CRUELTY CASES



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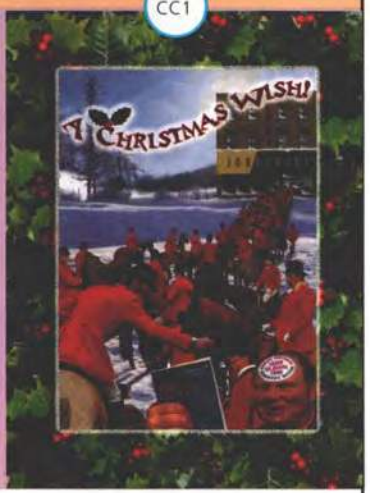
HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION

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WMN	Big red/white Logo on Black + striking backprint!	M/L/XL tight fit	10.00		
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This issue of *Howl* is dedicated to the memory of
Hunt Saboteurs



MIKE HILL & TOM WORBY

Killed

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

YOU WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN

HOWL 80

Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association
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The Hunt Saboteurs Association has been in existence for over 40 years, and is dedicated to saving the lives of hunted animals directly. Hunt saboteurs use non-violent direct action to 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 / donations should go towards the running of the H.S.A and directly helping saboteurs in the field.

Editor	Dan
40th Editor	Dawn
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big taverymuch to	The office crew, & anyone 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 HSA committee.
Nothing printed in *Howl* should be construed as HSA policy unless so stated.
Nothing printed in *Howl* should be taken as encouragement to commit illegal acts. That would be naughty.

EDITORIAL

Welcome to Howl 80... and it's late...

What a year it's so far turned out to be. With the Girton Primate Lab plans demolished (congratulations to everyone at the speac campaign and everyone else involved), the South Cornwall hunt folding (more in *Howl 81* on that) and the terrierman of our local hunt dead of a heart attack. We're on a roll...

So you will find the usual through these pages, including the latest news on the DEFRA badger cull, an update on the situation in the houses of parliament and of course as the end of hunting seems a lifetime away, so does the end of our 40th anniversary. Seriously though, it makes very interesting reading.

This is my first shot at howl editor. So thanks to everybody who sent in material, however good or crap it was and please keep it coming. If you have sent in material or letters and they don't appear in this edition, then its likely they will be included in the next one. Or if it was total crap, then please rest assured that it is now in the safe hands of my dustbin.

And of course I couldn't pass without saying a huge thanks to our old editor bad Penny who has gone on to pastures new. Without her I wouldn't have known where to start on *Howl*. So thanks very much.

Dan
Howl Editor (for now, anyway...)

Ahhhh look at that... finished just in time for Richard and Judy...

HENRY HEAP - OBITUARY

On 21st November 2003 Bolton-based activist Henry Heap passed away, just 54 years old.

Henry trained as a photographer in the 80s and it was during his studies that he first visited animal markets and slaughterhouses for a photographic project on the food industry. His eyes opened to the brutality of what is done to animals and he vowed to use his skills to tear away the curtain of secrecy that hides animal abuse from public view.

Using his great blagging skills, Henry began to turn up at slaughterhouses posing as a photographer from meat trade publications, spending the day on a guided tour and producing images that have turned hundreds of people veggie. Graphic images of cows having their throats slit and skinned animal heads made Henry, in the words of one magazine article, "the most wanted man in the meat industry". His pictures have appeared on leaflets, magazines and campaign posters all over the world. As a vegan and animal liberationist he had to put his own feelings aside. If the phrase 'exposing the suffering of animals behind closed doors' applied to anyone, it was to Henry. He once had two teeth knocked out after photographing a cattle-market worker beating a calf with a stick. Seeing this as simply a hazard of the job, he later commented: "I took the picture and it was worth it. For me it's all par for the course. It's worth it for the animals."

Henry covered most issues of animal abuse through his work - hunting, zoos, circuses, factory farming, as well as covering demos. He was always willing to print photos for activists at any time of day or night, and was an active part of the animal rights scene in the North West until his death.

Henry was a great fan of blues music and was adept at using his blagging skills to get free entry to gigs (and free beer!) by claiming to work for the music press!

Henry will be missed by many people but his work for animal freedom will live on in the images that he took.



Henry won an award for this picture, 'Four Men and a Calf', of a frightened calf at a cattle market.

Cover Story: Hare hunting, coursing & shooting banned in Northern Ireland



As of the 19th January 2004, Beagling, coursing, foot harriers and all other forms of hare hunting and shooting became a criminal offence in Northern Ireland under a new protection order by the Department of the Environment after a serious decline in hares.

In October 2003, Parliamentary under-secretary of state Angela Smith MP refused to issue a permit to the Dunagannon and District Coursing club to net hares for a coursing meet. Soon after, the Department of Environment in Northern Ireland announced there was shortly going to be a public consultation on a proposal to make a temporary special protection order to prevent the killing or taking of any hares in Northern Ireland.

Explaining her reasons for refusing the permit, the Minister said: "The Irish hare is in danger. It is low in number and the Department of Environment has published a species action plan, which has among its objectives the doubling of the Irish hare population by 2010. Although I accept that the dogs are muzzled during coursing, there is evidence that deaths among the coursed hares can arise from causes other than being bitten. Anything that puts the lives and welfare of the Irish hare at risk is inconsistent with the policy objectives of the species action plan."

But in an unexpected decision in December 2003, Angela Smith forced through an order to ban and taking and killing of Irish hares without any consultation, saving many hundreds of hares instantly.

The ban came into effect on the 19th January, and lasts for a year. This ban can be renewed annually.
It criminalises any activity involving the shooting, taking or hunting of hares. This outlaws any form of hare coursing, and prosecutions will be made against any packs or shooters killing hares.

Based on figures up to the 31st December 2003
the ban will affect the following hunting packs;

2 Live hare coursing clubs
Ballymena /Antrim
Dungannon/Tyrone

3 Packs of Beagles
Armagh & Richhill Beagle Club/Armagh
Sunnyland Beagles Hunt Club/Antrim
West Down/Down

18 Packs of Harriers
Ballyreagh/Tyrone
Castleraw & District Hunt Club/Armagh
Derrylin/Fermanagh
Down Farmers Hunt/Down
East Antrim/Antrim
Fermanagh/Fermanagh
Iveagh/Down
Killultagh, Old Rock & Chichester/Antrim
Knocks Harrier Club/Fermanagh
Maguiresbridge Harriers/Fermanagh
Mid Antrim/Antrim
Newry/Down
Newtownbutler/Fermanagh
North Down/Down
Route/Armagh
South Tyrone Hunt Club/Tyrone
Stewardstown/Kilcolpy/Tyrone
Tynan & Armagh/Armagh

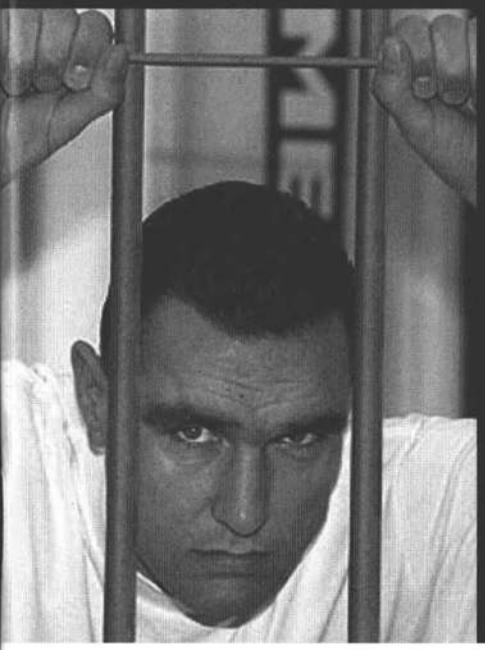
BRITISH DEER SOCIETY SUPPORTING BATESON FINDINGS ON STRESS IN HUNTED DEER?



The British Deer Society has been issuing posters to raise awareness among the public and "visitors to the countryside" of the danger that uncontrolled dogs can pose to deer. The poster claims that "Deer can die from the stress of being chased".

This statement would seem to be supportive of Professor Bateson's findings on the stress caused to deer by staghunting. The result of that research was the banning of deer hunting on National Trust land - which severely reduced the territory available to the Quantock Staghounds. Since Professor Bateson's findings were revealed, the hunting fraternity have tried as hard as possible to discredit it with "peer reviews" of the research and "independent research" which just happened to involve members of the West Country stag hunting fraternity...

VINNIE JONES PLEADS GUILTY TO AIR-RAGE ATTACK



Ex Football star turned actor and hunt supporter Vinnie Jones, has pleaded guilty to air-rage charges.

Jones was sentenced to a total of 80 hours community service, and £300 compensation to a passenger he assaulted on board a flight from London to Tokyo.

The court heard Jones said: "I can get you murdered, I can get the whole crew murdered for £3,000." He also threatened to "eat the face" of a passenger.

He was also fined another £500 for an offence of using threatening words or behaviour towards the cabin crew and was further ordered to pay £300 in costs. A charge of being drunk on board an aircraft was withdrawn by the prosecution.

Since the offence, Hertfordshire Police has revoked Jones' licence to own any firearm.

BADGER PIE ANYONE?

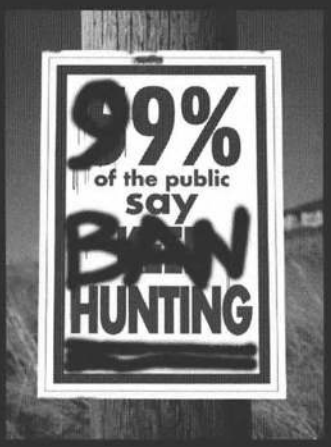
The Countryman's Weekly recently carried detailed information on how to prepare and cook badgers, claiming it as an old West Country delicacy.

Whilst the writer, "Nimrod", was careful to refer to road kill as the source of meat, it is irresponsible for a magazine to promote the eating of a protected and much persecuted species such as badger. It is no big secret that some elements of the bloodsports community extend their activities to setting dogs on badgers or using terriers to dig for them.

Unfortunately, all too often they are not caught or receive light sentencing if prosecuted and found guilty. Given that some of those blood junkies might read magazines such as the Countryman's weekly, the article could be seen by some as providing encouragement to badger persecution, so we were surprised to see them running this piece. But then again...

HUNTS CAMPAIGNERS TO 'FIGHT PROTESTERS'

Anti-hunt protesters in North Wales are waging war on their rivals through a campaign of vandalism and criminal damage.



Around a dozen pro-hunt posters and placards put up close to roadsides have been destroyed or daubed with red paint.

In once case protesters invaded private property near Rhuddlan and damaged a poster. Countryside campaigners say they will not be cowed by the threats and have vowed to continue with their publicity campaign.

Hundreds of red and green posters have gone up in Wales as part of a Countryside Alliance campaign to raise awareness of a possible hunting ban.

A new Alliance poster has been launched featuring huntsman Dai Morris, an ex-miner from the Coed-Ely colliery in Tonyrefail, South Wales.

Captioned, "I've lost one way of life... I don't want to lose another", it follows a poster last month featuring Sarah Hughes, a black huntswoman from west Wales.
Source: Daily Post, 30 September 2003

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sandy Walsh (Emmerdale), Sean Wilson (Coronation Street) and Matthew Booth (Emmerdale), together with Bernard Cribbins, launched the new Code of Good Shooting Practice and the CLA's advisory booklet on Shooting Law at the CLA Game Fair.

Any company promoting, endorsing, participating in, or in any way profiting from cruelty to animals in the name of "sport" risks exposure on *www.bloodybusiness.com*, a new website launched by the League Against Cruel Sports. In addition to providing details of the companies and their "offences", visitors to the site are invited to e-mail the companies named to express their disgust.

A gamekeeper has been found guilty of illegally possessing poison, 11 gin traps and a wild buzzard's egg. Ronald Allison, 66, was the only suspect when a buzzard was poisoned on Balmanno Estate in Perthshire. Although he initially denied the charges, he changed his plea midway through trial but scandalously was only fined £250.

A farmer and cattle dealer has been sentenced to three years imprisonment for having in his possession cattle with ear tags belonging to other animals (violating controls introduced to stop the spread of BSE among other diseases). Kevin Tuite pleaded guilty at Mullingar Circuit Court to four sample charges from a total of 67 charges of having the animals in his possession on May 3rd, 2001. He received three years on each charge, sentences to run concurrently, with leave to appeal refused.

Three graves belonging to the Barclay family – a well-known hunting family and stalwarts of the *Puckeridge FH* – have been wrecked and vandalised according to a local newspaper. Police have said they are not ruling out the involvement of anti-hunt activists, although it is possible that the attack could have been carried out by someone with a grudge against the family.

The North West Hunt Saboteurs Association has announced a boycott of a list of pubs throughout the region that support hunt meets. A number of pubs have already quit from hosting meets. To view the lists, go to: *www.nwhsa.org.uk/*



Master Killed in Hunt Fall
Joint Master of the Hursley Hambledon, David Greenhough, certainly showed would-be hunters the way forward while presenting an "Introduction to Hunting" Day. He fell from his horse, breaking his neck and being killed instantly.
25 October 2003

Joint Master Injured in Fall
Meg Martin, Joint Master of the Granta Harriers, has broken her leg and both her wrists in a fall while out hunting.
Hounds, October 2003

Hound Breeder Hospitalised
Hound breeder Martin Scott fell while riding with the Duke of Beaufort hunt and was hospitalised with a broken collar bone.
Hounds, October 2003

Huntsman Breaks Hip
South Notts Huntsman Gary Williams suffered a broken hip when a horse trod on him at a recent meet.
Hounds, October 2003

Police Investigate Drugs Link In Hunt Ball Death
The Sun, every sab's favourite daily, reported on 20th January "A posh foxhunt ball ended in tragedy when a reveller collapsed and died on the dancefloor.... Nick Cunningham, 32, keeled over at the annual Snowman's Winter Ball. More than 400 members of the Vale of Aylesbury and Garth and South Berks Hunt were at the posh bash... Police say it is not suspicious but are trying to establish if he took drugs"
The Sun, 20th January 2004

Fish Drags Angler To Death
A fisherman was dragged to his death in the Thames by a powerful fish pulling on his line, an inquest has heard. Stanley King got tangled in his line and was pulled into the water at Windsor, Berkshire, after a tug from the 3.5lb barbel.
BBC News, December 2003

ACTIVISTS DAMAGE & DESTROY THOUSANDS OF TRAPS

Anti Badger Cull activists have caused £400,000 worth of damage to Government trials designed to establish the role of badgers in spreading the cattle disease bovine TB.

The trials, which cost £6.5 million a year to administer, have involved the slaughter of more than 5,600 badgers - half of them in the Westcountry. But new figures suggest that those opposed to the trials have been active on a massive scale. In five years more than 15,600 badger traps have been sited, but of these almost 9,000 have been interfered with and a further 1,827 have been stolen.

A spokesman for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs confirmed a total of 7,882 traps had to be repaired or replaced as a result of animal rights activity, at a total cost of £394,000 to the taxpayer.
January 2004

HUNTS DENY BAITING FOXES



Opponents of blood sports have accused hunters of leaving a sheep's corpse to rot in the sun in a desperate bid to attract more foxes.

But local hunt groups vehemently deny the claims after the putrefying carcass was found covered by flies under a sheet of corrugated iron on farmland.

A Nemisis Wildlife Group member, who discovered the body near Puddletown on 30 August, believes it was the work of local huntsmen trying to increase the number of foxes for their sport.

The group linked the find to an artificial fox earth discovered half a mile away and say it undermines arguments by hunters that the sport is aimed at controlling the numbers of the animals and is not for fun. A member of the group said: "We found it with the sheep's head sticking out from under the sheet with bits of flesh hanging off. I would say it is a potential health hazard, particularly as it was covered in flies because it was so hot."

"You are not allowed to leave a carcass out in the open under law. The landowner has got to answer why this was done."

In May, members of Cottesmore Hunt in Lancashire (above) were filmed by IFAW putting fox cubs into an artificial earth.
The Western Gazette, 11 September 2003

HUNT THUG FARMER FINED



A Cheshire farmer who deliberately and persistently ignored foot-and-mouth disease controls has been ordered by a court to pay almost £17,000. Anthony Kirkham was fined £4,500 on each of three charges and also ordered to pay £3,346 costs.

Kirkham (a regular supporter of the *Cheshire foxhounds*) has a string of convictions for assaults against anti-hunt protesters. On 11.3.95 he was found guilty of Violent Disorder following an attack on a sabs minibus in December 1993, he was sentenced to 12 months, suspended on appeal. On 31.7.98 he was convicted of attacking a member of the *League Against Cruel Sports* and robbing him of his camera, he was jailed for 15 months.

More recently Kirkham (and his son Timothy) were charged with assaulting two police officers outside Nantwich Civic Hall in January 2003. The pair were arrested outside the civic hall, which was staging The *Cheshire Foxhounds* Farmers Hunt Ball. Both men were charged with actual bodily harm, resisting or obstructing a constable in the execution of duty, with Daddy Kirkham also charged with threatening behaviour. In Crewe magistrates court both were found guilty of resisting a police officer and sentenced to 200 hours community service. They were both also found guilty of assault and sentenced to 200 hours community service to run consecutively. They were ordered to pay £300 costs and £50 compensation.

CITRONELLA APPROVED BY SHOOTING BRIGADE



For years now, hunters have been claiming that citronella sprays used by sabs could be harmful to hounds' sensitive noses - but of course have never come up with proof. It hasn't stopped various police forces using this as an excuse to carry out wrongful arrests. Now, it appears that the shooting fraternity have shot them in the foot (sorry for the pun). Advertised in bloodsports magazines as "on sale in many gunshops" is the ABS Citronella Spray Anti-Bark System which is "Recommended by leading veterinarians and trainers". The collar mounted system works by releasing a "harmless citronella spray in front of the dogs' nose".
November 2003

SHOOTING AN 'EASY SPORT'



Pheasant shooting has become too easy, according to Britain's biggest field sports organisation, which also claims that the sport is damaging woodland because commercial breeders are flooding the countryside with birds.

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation has issued guidance asking members not to target more than 500 birds a day because shooters are failing to give the birds "a sporting chance".

Jeffrey Olstead, an official at the British Association for Shooting and Conservation, said that the sport was being damaged by an influx of big companies who had introduced new and unacceptable practices.

The association believes that there are more than 20 million pheasants in Britain, double the total of 20 years ago, and shooting is now a £600 million a year businesS. Asked if there was a limit to the number of birds which could be shot, he replied: "It's flexible - it depends how the day goes. Generally 500 isn't a gospel mark." He then quoted a price of £19,790 for 500 birds for a day's shooting.

Madonna and her husband Guy Ritchie, the former footballer Vinnie Jones, and Marco Pierre White, the chef, are among the well known participants.
Source: the Telegraph October 2003

FAT LADY'S NOT SO FAT WALLET



The celebrity cook and so called 'champion of the countryside' Clarissa Dickson Wright has been forced to stand down from the ruling council of the National Trust after being declared bankrupt.

News of her departure was announced on the day before the trusts annual general meeting in Portsmouth. Under trust and charity commission rules, bankrupts are unable to serve as members of a ruling council or act as a trustee.

Miss Dickson Wright, 58, a former star of the *Two Fat Ladies* programme, won her place on the council after proposing that historic food and recipes be introduced on the menus of trust properties. She has been blocked from a place on the body because of her vocal support for hunting.

She said she had owed up to £190,000. "... It was my stupid fault for getting involved and now I've got to pay off my personal guarantee."

This is the third time this fat lady has gone bankrupt, comparing it to loosing her virginity. Nice.
Source: The Times, 15 November 2003



Hunt Woman Airlifted To Hospital
A Miss Mather, from Corbridge, was airlifted to Newcastle General Hospital after falling from her horse at a Tynedale Hunt meeting in October. Her condition was described by doctors as critical but stable, after apparently fracturing her skull, and she was kept in intensive care overnight. Richard Dodd, regional director of the Countryside Alliance, said: "Everyone is praying she makes a good recovery."
October 2003

Man Chokes To Death On Fish
Henry Thomas Buckner, 27, of Middleburg, died after getting a four -inch bream stuck in his throat while on a fishing expedition on the Ocklawaha River. His stepfather and two friends noticed him bleeding from the mouth. but were unable to save him.
December 2003

Shoot Man Dies
A man who was airlifted to hospital after suffering a heart attack while out shooting later died in Oswestry hospital.
8 November 2003

Bugsy's Revenge
A report in the Countrymans Weekly told how two men were injured when shooting rabbits from the tailgate of a Range Rover in a field in Devon when the vehicle hit a deep rut and they were thrown off. One was shot in the shoulder and the other received broken ribs, cuts and bruises. Both men survived. A local rabbit commented: "This goes to show how burrowing into fields is an effective and humane method of culling pest humans. The old and ill are quickly and cleanly dispatched with a snap to the back of the neck, whilst the young and fit escape to hospital"
3 October 2003

Pensioner Dies Swatting Spider
Arthur Oliver, 70, who hated insects, fell to his death in his living room in Sawley, Nottinghamshire, when he tried to swat a spider with a slipper.
December 2003

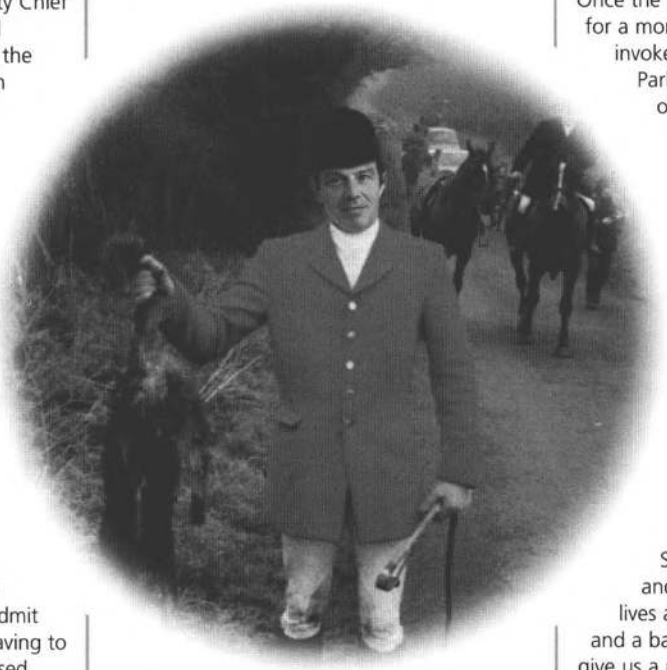
Hunting's last hurrah?

Is a ban on hunting really imminent or just another broken Labour promise?

For the last six or seven years, we have all been waiting for the Labour government to put their money where their mouths are and ban hunting with dogs. Most of us have lost count of the numerous newspaper articles proclaiming that this year's Boxing Day meets will be the last; few have any reason to trust the weasel words of politicians. So, stepping back from the hype and the spin for a moment, is our long wait nearly over? Is a ban really in sight?

Simon Hart, newly appointed Chief Executive of the Countryside Alliance, has declared the next year will be "critical" for the CA, and he's not joking. Leaving aside the possibility of a ban on hunting, the CA appears to be doing its best to disappear up its own well-padded behind. Hart is combining his new role as chief exec with his old job of heading up the Campaign for Hunting, while his Deputy Chief Executive and new head of the Political Department, John Gardiner, is Chair of the Vale of Aylesbury with Garth and South Berks FH. So much for the pretence of a broad-based alliance to represent all country people – the CA has come out in its true colours as a hunting front run by hunters for hunters. So it's not surprising that the CA are blustering about mounting a legal challenge to any ban on (get this) "human rights grounds" and reckon they are prepared to pay tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of pounds in High Court costs to challenge the government should a ban become law. This may prove rather tricky, as according to a report in a December issue of Horse and Hound, the CA are yet again in financial difficulties, to the tune of £1/2 million in the red. They admit to living beyond their means and are having to slash costs by 15% (aaahhhhh!). Proposed cutbacks include sacking five of their headquarters staff, including three of their "media relations managers", and scrapping their in-house magazine Real Countryside – what will insomniacs do now? Noticeably, Hart and his fellow head honchos have escaped the chop, with no sign they are prepared to take pay cuts rather than thin out the lower ranks – a possible further cause for internal divisions and recriminations. Who knows, the CA could well have gone bust or just imploded well before they can mount a legal challenge to any ban? That said, such a challenge is inevitable, if not under the CA banner, then funded by some other front group or wealthy individuals. Thankfully the prospects for the success of any such challenge, are, to coin a phrase, somewhere between slim and sod all, and slim just left town.

Hart can get some things right though – he proved himself wiser than some of his more complacent members (not exactly a tough challenge) when he said recently that "No one should think that the absence of a Hunting Bill in the Queen's Speech indicated anything more than a momentary pause." So, contrary to what much of the pro-hunt media loudly declared, and many of his members hope, the CA's chief exec does not believe that the fact that the Queen's Speech did not mention hunting means they're off the hook. In fact, the Leader of the House of Commons, Peter Hain, has insisted that not every piece of legislation, or every bill the government intends to carry through, is actually in the Queen's Speech.



He said: "There are eight pieces of legislation which are not in the Queen's Speech but which we intend to take forward, either in draft or in actual bills and therefore, whether hunting was or was not in the Queen's Speech is not actually the issue. We have a manifesto commitment on this issue to end cruelty to wild animals. The government has a responsibility to resolve this situation - we intend to resolve it in line with our government policy and our party policy."
Don't hold your breath though – that same manifesto also carried a commitment not to raise university tuition fees and we know what happened to that.

As all too often in the past, the hunters are deluding themselves into thinking they're untouchable. It is widely anticipated in political circles that the government is preparing to introduce a ban on hunting to the House of Commons before Easter.
This will entitle MPs to vote for a full outright ban by Easter, but will delay its introduction to the House of Lords until after the summer. This will stop peers spending so much time attempting to "talk out" a ban on hunting that they also wreck the progress of other bills on the government agenda. Many in the Lords had looked to use the prospect of damage to other items on the government's legislative programme as a weapon with which to threaten the government should they attempt to push through a ban on hunting.

Once the bill has been in the House of Lords for a month, the House of Commons can invoke the provisions of the 1911 Parliament Act, which gives the House of Commons the power to overrule the Lords if they persist in blocking legislation passed by the Commons. If the Parliament Act is invoked, expect much huffing and puffing in the media about "an unprecedented constitutional crisis" (which it wouldn't be, on either count). The key point is that this would clear the way for the bill to be up on the statue books and a ban in place by the time of the next general election (which is expected to be called for about May 2005).

So where does this leave hunt sabs and the HSA? Out in the field, saving lives as always. They say life begins at 40 and a ban on hunting with hounds would give us a new lease of life to focus on other bloodsports. Michael Howard tried to ban us with the Aggravated Trespass clauses in the 1994 Criminal Justice Act but we kept on saving lives. We have faced criminalisation of our legitimate right to protest and faced extreme violence, including the death of 2 sabs. We have faced all this adversity and now we are celebrating the ripe old age of 40, outlasting many of our adversaries (and yes, we'll see you off yet, Howard!). But whatever the situation, if a ban is in force next week, next month, next year or in 10 years, so long as animals are killed and ill-treated in the name of "sport", sabs will be there to stop it. After 40 years the Hunt Saboteurs Association is still going strong, saving lives and we will continue to be here for the next 40 years and beyond should we need to. As the old sab saying goes... "we will be there - will you?"

GOVERNMENT BADGER CULLING TRIAL

SUSPENDED

The government have suspended their widely discredited badger culling experiment, after an interim review proved the culls were not only ineffective at preventing bovine tuberculosis (TB) but seemed to be actually promoting it. The so-called "Randomised Badger Culling Trials" were suspended on November 4th 2003 by the government agency running the trials, the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) – the successor to Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Foods, unaffectionately remembered as the MAFFia.

As regular *Howl* readers will know, the flawed culling trial is designed to test whether badgers cause bovine TB, as claimed by some farmers. As explained in the last edition of *Howl*, 10 separate areas (known as triplets), mainly across the South West, were chosen to conduct the trials. Within each of these 10 areas, three further sub-divisions are each designated as a "Proactive area" (killing as many badgers as possible), a "Reactive area" (killing badgers around farms with bovine TB outbreaks) or a "Survey area" (no killing). The idea was to prove that either a complete cull or selected cull of badgers would in some way halt the spread of bovine TB, despite there being no evidence whatever of any link between the presence of badgers and bovine TB outbreaks, beyond the usual farmer's mutterings in the saloon bar of the Yokel's Arms.

In late autumn, the Independent Scientific Group (sic), appointed to monitor the cull and its "progress", advised ministers that its interim analysis of trial data to date indicated that far from preventing bovine TB, there were actually 27% more cases of bovine TB in the "reactive culling" areas (i.e. those areas where badgers were culled around farms which had cases of bovine TB) compared to those areas where there was no cull. The ISG was unable to explain these figures (maybe it means that badgers have nothing to do with bovine TB?), but DEFRA decided to suspend the reactive cull immediately because of the risk that a further three months of culling would cause additional outbreaks of TB. Meanwhile, DEFRA hit squads have continued trapping and killing badgers in the "proactive" areas of Gloucestershire and West Cornwall.



Clare Whyte of the Coalition of Badger Action Groups said "The suspension of badger killing by DEFRA operatives in the reactive areas doesn't go far enough, we (CBAG) demand a complete cessation of all badger killing forthwith. We are not surprised in the findings of the ISG, some farmers that have been killing badgers illegally over the years have made the TB problem much worse, without the help of DEFRA! Farmers and farmer's unions must stop scapegoating the badger and realise that the TB problem will not go away until they improve their farming practices".

Meanwhile, in their usual perversion of logic, farming groups are now calling for reactive areas to become proactive (total kill) areas and for the culling trials to be extended into Wales and other parts of the country. The results that have now emerged from the reactive culling part of the trial will be published soon in a peer-reviewed scientific journal, having first been "spun" to make it appear as though the problem still lies with the badger. In the wake of foot and mouth, BSE etc, surely it is just too outrageous to suggest that the problem might lie with simple bad farming practice? But of course not, load up the slaughter posses and keep them compensation cheques rolling in.



So after 30 years of slaughtering badgers (at a rough cost of £35,000 of taxpayers' money per dead badger – how many teachers would that have paid for, Tony?) for no better reason than to placate a farming lobby which demands the right to lay waste to wildlife on the merest suspicion that it may interfere with its profits, the government still does not have the courage to tell the farmers to stick their old wives' tales, and stop wasting taxpayers' money and badgers' lives.

To get involved, contact the Coalition of Badger Action Groups, PO Box 129, Plymouth, Devon, PL1 1RY or visit *www.badger-killers.co.uk*

DESPERATION DAY

The formal start of the 2003-04 hunting season, 1st November 2003, saw a dramatic reduction in numbers actually out hunting on what would be the first Saturday of the season. This welcome development was due to yet another dreary pro-hunt publicity stunt called the "Hunting Declaration" in which law-abiding hunting folk pledged to break the law if a hunting ban was introduced.

Sabs, of course are already all too well acquainted with the hunting fraternity's "pick and choose" approach to only abiding by those laws which suit it, as the numerous instances of serious assaults on sabs down the years can testify. However the idea was apparently sufficiently novel to the media for a bored hack looking for copy in the "silly season" to give it space in a report in *The Times* in August. According to the piece, the stunt was being organised by the right-wing philosopher Roger Scruton (please make your own puns!), Steve Hill (a former terrierman with the Heythrop Hunt) and Michael Markham (a former businessman turned farmer). Among those who had already signed were such well-known luminaries as the Duke of Rutland, who owns Belvoir Castle (and the Belvoir hounds), Clarissa Dickson-Wright, alleged "cook" and countryside campaigner, and Simon Williams, the actor who appeared in ITV's Upstairs, Downstairs (yeah, we weren't much the wiser either). As star-studded galaxies go, we've seen better.

The Countryside Alliance duly labelled 1st November "Declaration Day" and announced that most hunts would forego their opening meets in favour of 12 regional "mass meets" across the country where they would be encouraged to pledge their commitment to breaking the law. Fittingly, one of the 12 "hosting packs" was the Old Surrey, Burstow and West Kent FH whose members are no strangers to breaking the law after numerous incidents of assaults on protestors. Sadly, their grand plans for a "march on Tonbridge" were somewhat scuppered after local activists contacted the council to complain. To add insult to injury, the blood junkies were informed they would not be permitted to use Lower Haysden Country Park or other council land for hunting on the day. Ah, bless.

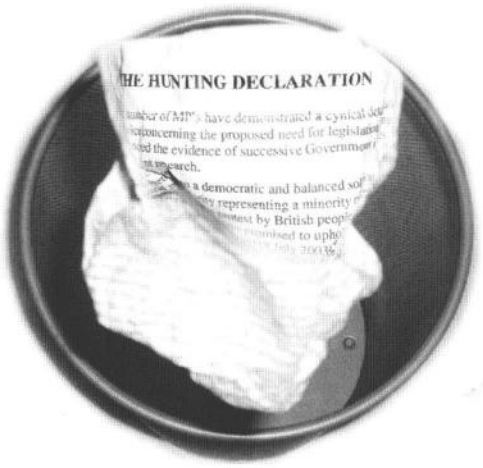
The media reaction was, predictably, mixed. Plenty of local papers and some national media got in touch with the HSA Press Office. The official HSA line was that we were more than happy for them all to stand around in a field together rather than have them be out hunting and killing – hands up who wishes we could have just 12 meets to sab every Saturday? Responding to the so-called "mass disobedience", we pointed out that no matter how many people take part in an activity, that alone doesn't justify it, make it less cruel or mean that it should be allowed to continue. When the ban comes in (and it will, Roger, it will) these people should be prosecuted and we hope they will go to jail for non-payment of fines as that is where animal abusers belong (yes, Roger, we do mean you).

However, the majority of posturing hunters just about brave enough to sign a piece of paper, do not have the bottle to let it come to this. Despite their brave words of defiance now, when push comes to shove they will prove to be just that – empty words. Say what you like about hunt sabs, at least we are prepared to back our words with actions.

Rounding up on the media front, the prize for slack journalism (in the face, as always of fierce competition) goes to a BBC hack who phoned at exactly 10am asking if we would be at the Beaufort. When told that we wouldn't, she asked where sabs would be, then got stroppy because "with all due respect I was told you would be here". The mind boggles at the arrogance and incompetence of a journo who doesn't think to bother to check with the HSA or local sabs until one hour before the meet then berates us because she has blithely accepted the crap she has been fed by the hunt, instead of taking the trouble to make one simple phone call a few days in advance. Heaven forbid what would happen if this wannabe Paxman was required to actually do some research for a story. Doubtless, she'd be ringing government ministers berating them for not informing her when they were planning on lying to Parliament or having a go at minor celebs for not supplying explicit photos of themselves in compromising positions!

" whatever legislation Parliament passes will be enforced by the police. Those who are currently proposing Civil Disobedience need to fully understand that we will take action."

Alastair McWhirter, the ACPO spokesman on rural policing and Chief Constable of Suffolk Police



The Countryside Alliance demonstrated its usual "difficulty" with numbers on the day. The Independent claimed 5,000 were at the Newbury event, yet Teletext reported 3,000. In the Alliance's own communications dated 6 November they claimed that "37,000 signed the Declaration and the number is rising rapidly", yet five paragraphs later claimed that "over 43,000 signed the Declaration." Anyone analysing the Alliance's interpretation of numbers for its demonstrations and "opinion polls" will not be surprised by the creativity of their statistics. Surely a group of people with such an obvious difficulty with numbers should be a serious target for current government campaigns on basic numeracy, if only to ensure they are capable of filing accurate accounts and tax returns?

Meanwhile, the rats were busily deserting the ship before it had even set sail, much less had a chance to begin sinking. Leading from the front, neither the CA's Chairman, John Jackson, nor its President, Baroness Mallelieu, signed the declaration. This is hardly surprising as Jackson is chairman of a powerful City law firm, Mishcon de Reya, while Mallelieu is a barrister and QC, and would face being disbarred if convicted of defying the law. Even more damaging for the "Desperados", the Duke of Westminster – CA Vice President – refused to hold a "Desperation Day" event on his land in Cheshire. A spokeswoman for the Duke was quoted as saying: "The Duke does feel very strongly about the countryside and is concerned about the continuing economic viability. But personally he would not break the law and would not want to condone breaking the law."

At the end of the day the hunting declaration is already a flop - even Alastair McWhirter, the ACPO spokesman on rural policing and Chief Constable of Suffolk Police, told a rural conference, in front of the Duke of Edinburgh, that "whatever legislation Parliament passes will be enforced by the police. Those who are currently proposing Civil Disobedience need to fully understand that we will take action." This from the man who caused a storm in the national media by doubting whether the law could be enforced (see last *Howl*- the full speech is available at www.league.uk.com/mcwhirter/) If McWhirter, who previously doubted a ban could be enforced, now so easily dismisses any attempt at mass civil disobedience, then even the police now recognise what we have always known – hunters are just simple bullies, full of bluster without the bottle to back it up.

If those brave hunting folk are already bottling it before the Hunting Bill has even become law, what chance is there that all those brave "desperados" will stand solid when it comes to the crunch? Most of these gutless wonders will replicate the empty rhetoric of the Alliance's leaders once they actually face the harsh realities of fines or imprisonment and a criminal record. You might find prison is a lonely place, Roger. Pass the soap.

HUNTSMANSBALLS



"I put up 15-and-a-half couple of hounds – that is to say 31 – and we had a very successful day's sport. We didn't catch a fox."
Alan Hill, Huntsman for the Vale of Aylesbury, redefines the whole concept of "successful" (or admits that hunting has nothing to do with fox control!). *30 December 2003*

"The number of hunt supporters turning up at the big events is growing. In fact the majority of people probably do not care about hunting."
Graham Worsley, Joint Master of the Old Surrey and Burstow, demonstrates his usual strong grasp of logic. *2 January 2004*

"We picked up traces of four or five but the scent was very weak. A couple of riders came off. It's been a good day out."
Master of the Badsworth Peter Turland, proving just how much he needs to get out more. *Guardian, 27 December 2003*

"Whatever the sab rules say, techniques depend on frightening and bewildering hounds, and luring them with halloas and horn calls, generally delivered from roads or even railways."
Ytene MFH Robert Tucker in a letter to a Dorset paper. Of course, it would be entirely wrong to suggest that a huntsman would ever do such a thing.

"I doubt whether hounds put down by a kennel huntsman suffer"
Old Rhyming Slang himself, Robert Tucker, Ytene MFH, again. Who hasn't been reading the rules now, eh?

"It's clear that in the House of Commons, opinion is lagging behind opinion in the country which has shifted significantly in favour of hunting"
Pro-hunt MP Peter Luff (Mid-Worcestershire), demonstrates the triumph of blind hope over reality, in a letter to a constituent.

"As far as rural issues are concerned, it's all take and no give and we are in danger of death by legislation."
David Maclean MP for Penrith. *News & Star, 7 October 2003.*

"I've heard of some terrible stories of how lurchers and Greyhounds have been killed or injured, or run too much by an inexperienced owner and collapsed and died".
Condemned from their own mouths: Peter Gates proving the lie that bloodsports enthusiasts actually care about their animals. *Countryman's Weekly, 12 Sept 2003*

"With all this increased activity [during the start of the season] we do tend to see more injuries to gundogs. We typically see lots of cuts that need stitching, ripped claws and some eye injuries."
A local vet writing in the *Dorset Evening Echo* provides more evidence of how much animals used in bloodsports are also victims. *Howl* readers might wonder how many more animals are not even taken to the vet but are left to suffer injuries because the cost is too much?

"Thousands of police officers who took an oath to serve Queen and country; uphold the laws of our land; protect the weak and vulnerable and dedicate their lives to society, were manipulated by callous politicians....Well, next year because of the politicians, their masters may once again order them out into the lanes and meadows of Devon to enforce the unenforceable."
Heavyweight social commentator, Noel "Mr Blobby" Edmonds, indulges in that peculiar hypocrisy of the hunt scum that mass arrests and heavy policing in the countryside is fine when it is to stop sabs blowing hunting horns and using sprays to save lives, but is suddenly an outrageous waste of resources if the hunt are to be the focus of the attention. *Horse and Hound, 13 November 2003*

"... the Prime Minister must now know that any attempt to ban hunting will lead to rioting in the countryside."
Regular *Countryman's Weekly* columnist *Nimrod* is gagging to take on the coppers *5 December 2003*

"This is definitely not the time to be replicating dogs of the type once used in barbaric medieval hunts" as opposed to non-barbaric modern hunts?
Col David Hancock in *Countryman's Weekly 5 December 2003*

The National Anti Terrier-Work Campaign



All sabs are familiar with terriermen, those knuckle-dragging low-lifes found on the fringes of every hunt, and brought in to do the dirty work, whether it be digging out an unfortunate fox or laying into unfortunate sabs. However, sadly this can be just the tip of the iceberg – a lot of terrierwork (or "earth dog work") takes place well away from the hunting field, and free from even that limited scrutiny, one can only imagine how much more brutal things can get. With a possible ban on hunting with hounds on the horizon, we have to face the possibility that terrier work may become an even more common occurrence and may even spiral out of all control when hunting is finally banned.

So what is earth dog work?

Dogs which are put to work underground are called earth dogs, as opposed to dogs which hunt above ground which are known as running dogs. The dogs used for underground work are generally small dogs that can get through a network of tunnels (otherwise known as tubes), usually the terrier breeds (hence the more common name, terrierwork). These dogs are put into the entrance of a fox earth or rabbit warren (or badger sett!) to locate the quarry underground and then mark its position by baying (barking), or more often these days, by use of a radio locator collar, while also keeping the poor animal trapped in place. Once the dog has marked the quarry's location, the waiting terriermen will dig down to the trapped animal and then "dispatch" the fox, badger, rabbit or whatever.

How do they kill the animal?

A significant number of animals dug out are ripped apart underground, although dogs which "stand off" from the quarry so the terrierman can "dispatch" it are highly prized. Of those that survive to be dealt with by the waiting terriermen, only a very small amount are dispatched by a bullet, while most are usually battered to death with a shovel or a heavy stick or even thrown to waiting dogs alive as a "reward". Often, the animals' corpses will be taken home as trophies for the dogs to play with.

So who are these people?

Apart from the obvious answer – i.e. that they are sick, cruel, sadistic perverts, terriermen range from registered "pest controllers", your local hunt terrierman, or just the local lad up the road, who happens to have lots of different dogs and a garden full of kennels.

Do the animals suffer underground?

As with many forms of hunting, the animals used in terrierwork often suffer nearly as much as the animals they are used to kill. Obviously, a fox or badger cornered underground by a dog baying to mark its position will fight to escape or drive off the intruder. A dog that has been entered underground will suffer cuts and bites on its face as it tries to drag its quarry out of the tube to bring it up above ground and will commonly lose teeth or part of a lip, suffer rips to its nose, and also possibly eye injuries. The same can be said for the fox, badger or rabbit.

If the dog is severely injured, many terriermen are reluctant to seek proper treatment from a vet, either because of the expense or fear of being reported, and instead attempt to treat the injuries themselves, without the benefit of either anaesthetic or medical knowledge. In many cases, this inept treatment can exacerbate the injuries; often this results in bad facial scarring, one of the biggest give-away clues as to what they are up to.



Why do they do it?

Many terriermen genuinely enjoy seeing the dogs working, but there is also the undeniable kicks they get from having the power of life and death over a helpless animal. This can give those who may lack any great worth in their ordinary lives a feeling of greater importance – compensating in a sick way for their usual insignificance. Many also enjoy the physical work of digging, and in fact there are competitions held yearly at hunt events with terriermen competing to dig the deepest in 10 minutes.

When does earthwork take place?

Most terriermen tend to go out early in the morning before dog walkers or other prying eyes are around; and when the foxes or badgers are returning from their night's rounds. They also take advantage of the lighter summer evenings and full moons, so as to avoid attracting attention by using torches. Bank holidays are also popular times for terrierwork as the boys then have more time for their "sport" to take place.



How would you recognise these people?

Obviously, when terriermen are about their dirty business, they will have their dogs with them; often these will, as already described, be smallish terriers, but they may also have lurcher-type dogs if they intend to course (chase) the animal after it has been dug out. They would usually have spades with them, but these may not always be visible if, for example, they are using the smaller fold-up type spades or have them stashed in a bag or tarpaulin.

The big give-away is generally in the condition of their dogs; do they have scarring around the face and nose? Are they aggressive and/or unusually excitable in behaviour? Do any of the dogs have misshapen jaws or teeth missing? These may be "tell tale" signs of injuries sustained in terrierwork.



What should you do if you come across terriermen?

If you do spot terriermen about their grisly business, confronting them may well be dangerous – as many sabs can testify, they are often very violent and usually operate in gangs. So, in this piece we will assume you are on your own and focus on gathering evidence. Some points to note include:
How many and what types of dogs did they have with them? i.e. rough size, colours, markings, body and head shape and if possible what breeds were they. Also take a note of any scarring to the dog's face and body – this can not only help identify them but may also provide evidence that the dog has been used in terrierwork, fighting or baiting.
Take a note of any vehicles used – make, model, colour, rough age and/or condition and ideally the number plate.
Where were they heading when spotted – in which direction on a compass or map? Note any prominent landmarks and/or wildlife habitats nearby.
Physical description of the terriermen themselves - what were they wearing and what did they look like (age, build, hair colour etc)?

Where possible, try to give yourself a few minutes to memorise these details then write them down as soon as possible. You may feel you need to leave the immediate area before writing the details down. If you believe that the gang are either about to carry out terrierwork or are returning from an expedition, get to a safe place and call the police and tell them that you suspect you have seen a gang of diggers and baiters and that protected animals could be at risk. Offer to stay where you are until the police arrive (or wait for them at a safe place) and always take down the police incident number. When you arrive home, tell your local badger protection group what you witnessed or phone the National Federation of Badger Groups in London.

Laws protecting wild animals

Although wildlife is shamefully under-protected in UK law, there are laws relating to wild animals and it is worth remembering them (not least if you are trying to persuade a sceptical copper to take action) as much terrierwork is carried out illegally, even if it is only poaching. Some wild animals and birds are protected to various degrees by a number of Acts, in particular by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, in so far as legislation provides their preservation and restricts the methods that may be used to kill or take them.

Until 1996, wild animals were not protected by legislation from acts of cruelty unless they were held captive (as in badger baiting). However the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996 introduced offences relating to the cruel treatment of wild mammals in certain circumstances. This is the Act that may cover cruelty to animals underground.

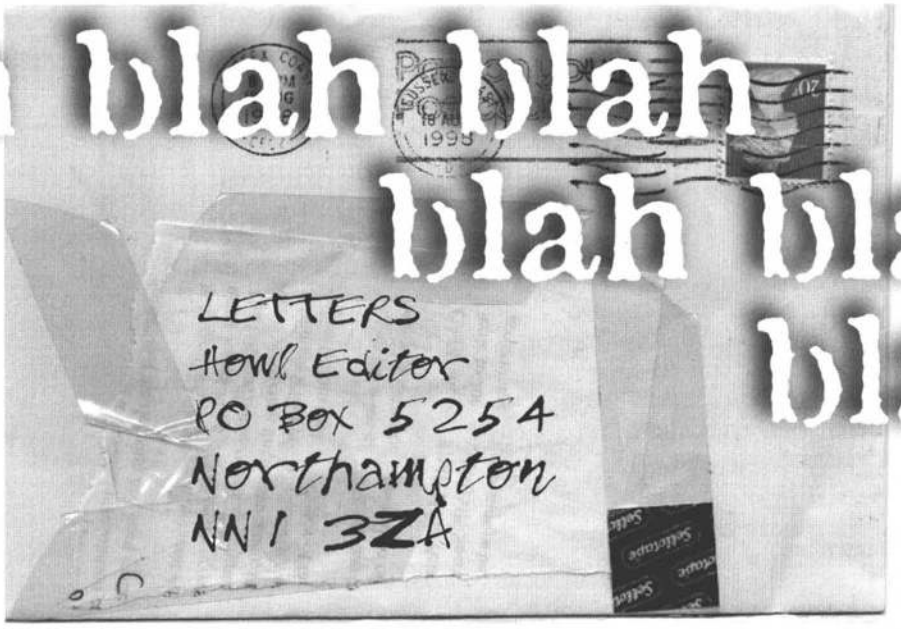
The Protection of Animals Act 1911 cover various forms of cruelty, but the list of animals protected by the act is strictly confined to those defined as being domestic or captive. This is the act that would cover cruelty to dogs. Finally, the Protection of Badger Act 1992 protects the badger and its sett.

How can you help stop this cruelty? There is a campaign specifically against underground terrier work. To get involved with this campaign, and for more information on petitions and further factsheets and images, contact: The National Anti-Terrier Work Campaign, PO Box 3058, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN16 3LG.



Sabs occupy a fox earth while *Southdown & Eridge FH* terriermen moan to a lone PC.

blah blah blah blah blah blah



Howl **81**
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

DEFRA BADGER TRAP ADVICE

Dear Editor

Having read your article on the badger culling trials in *Howl 79*, I wanted to inform readers about tactics others have used against this 'scientific' cull.

I unfortunately live in a Defra trapping area. Every six months or so, brand new shiny traps, some which I am informed cost over £150, appear and are placed outside a local badger sett I keep a watchful eye on.

Whilst I would not condone any illegal activity, people should be aware that it is simple and easy to damage or remove these traps. I often return to my sett to find either bent or cut up traps, obviously done by activists. Closing the trap doors to stop any badger or indeed any other unsuspecting animal from entering is also very effective.

Defra must get increasingly annoyed with continual disruption, and the cost must be a horrific amount!

May I take this opportunity to congratulate the Hunt Saboteurs Association for all their hard work over the past 40 years, and providing such a great read in HOWL.

Rose Thorpe, Devon

[Anyone wanting further info can contact the Coalition of Badger Action Groups (CBAG), PO Box 129, Plymouth, Devon, PL1 1RY or at www.badger-killers.co.uk – Editor.]

SOME QUAILTY BROWN-NOSING

Dear Editor

We would just like to thank the generosity of the HSA committee for giving us funding of £500 towards a vehicle, after three of ours have become damaged and vandalised by the various local hunts. We really couldn't have been able to carry on without you!

Cornwall Hunt Sabs
Erm, well, ... Cornwall, of course...

NO JUSTICE

Dear Editor

I read with interest the "huntsman walks free" article in *Howl 79* about the story of Simon and Jaine Wilds' attempts to gain justice after their attack at the hands of Jonathan Broise.

They were denied this justice largely due to the attitude of the judge in the case. Judge Anthony Thorpe was presiding over this case, had the poor Wilds' known a little of his history they may have been cushioned from the worst of the disappointment he was responsible for.

Allowing Broise off for his violent (alleged) assault is as of nothing when you remember it was he that was also responsible for allowing Martin Maynard to walk free after he attempted to kill Steve Christmas (allegedly) in September 2000. As long as sabbing needs to exist it appears there will always be one recurrent factor for us to deal with - no justice!

D (croydon sabs).

DISAPPOINTED, SOMERSET

Dear Editor

I love *Howl*, thanks so much for creating it. However, I just wanted to say that I was really disappointed in your comment in 'Huntsman's Balls' (*Howl 79*) about dogs being confused with the women's vigil. Do we really need to perpetuate damaging shit like saying women are dogs...even if we don't agree with what the women in question believe in? Anyway, well done for all you do.

Thanks

Poppy Palin
Somerset

[(The former) Editor replies - Hmm, now I didn't write that myself but it did make me laugh. And I'm a woman. Go figure. My dog however was a bit annoyed when I showed her a photo of some of the women on the vigil in question...]

AT LAST, A POO STORY

Dear Editor

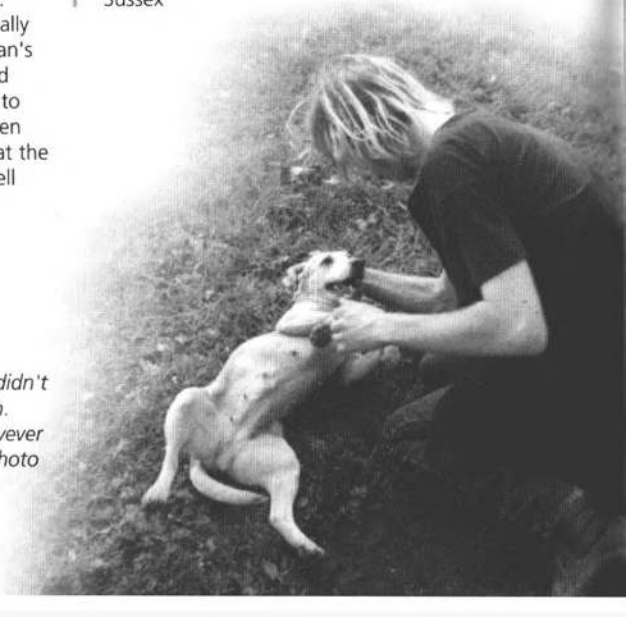
I recently videoed hunt hounds fouling a grassed area outside a public house. I offered the huntsman a bag to remove this, and he ignored me. I spoke to a police sergeant (Hunt Liaison Officer) at the scene. He told me there was only an offence if the bylaws prevented this.

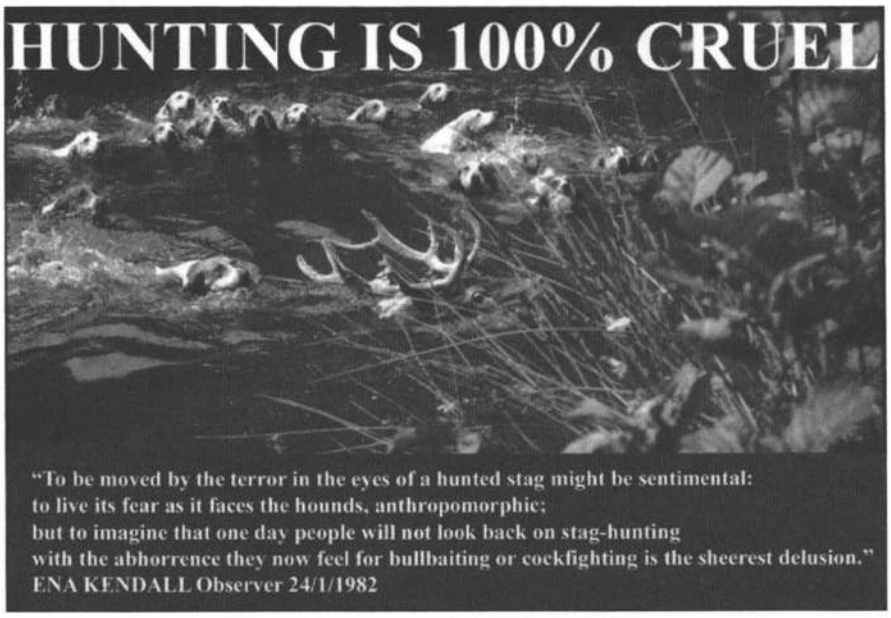
Subsequently I wrote to the Environmental Health Department of my local authority and showed them the video. They explained that a prima facie offence had occurred under the "Dogs (fouling of land) Act, 1996". However, when they visited the site several days later it had been cleared.

Having looked at the Act, it is clear that dog faeces has to be removed from "any area where the public has access" (parks, village greens, etc.) and also along road verges where the public are "subject to a speed limit of 40 miles per hour or less."

Video evidence and promptly giving a copy to the Environmental Health Dept. of the District Council is the best course of action. However, I have also informed my local "Hunt Liaison Officer" as well.

Simon Wild
Sussex





Animal Cruelty Investigation Group (ACIG) Postcards

Blank on reverse for your message to Tony Bliar, your local MP, the Queen - whoever.

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NATIONAL DEMO

World Day for Animals in Laboratories

Saturday April 24th

Save the Newchurch Guinea Pigs



World day for laboratory animals is a key day in our objectives to close down David Hall and Partners and campaign against the uselessness and ruthlessness of animal experiments. PLEASE think hard over the forthcoming weeks about **what you can do** to help those imprisoned guinea pigs and raise awareness about David Hall and Partners and the disgraceful vivisection industry. For any ideas or information contact SNGP.

Demonstation from 12noon at Darley Oaks Farm, Staffordshire



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VEGGIES
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Make sure it reflects your views by contributing to it.

Letters, articles, photos/video stills, cartoons and Group News are always needed.

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

howl.editor@virgin.net



Hunt Havoc

... HOUNDS RUN AMOK IN ANIMAL SANCTUARY

An animal lover spoke of her "terror" during a three-hour ordeal as a group of foxhounds ran amok in her animal sanctuary. Caroline Cannon claimed no one from the South and West Wiltshire Hunt was anywhere to be seen as up to nine dogs chased and terrorised her fragile and elderly animals.

The master of the hunt then claimed one of its horses was attacked with a broom handle when huntsmen eventually came looking for their wandering hounds. The incident happened at Mrs Cannon's remote *Rainbow Animal Sanctuary*, outside the village of Semley, near Shaftesbury, on the Wiltshire-Dorset border. Mrs Cannon, who has more than 200 animals at the sanctuary which she has run for 11 years, said she contacted the police but received no help at all.
October 2003

AGAIN... HOUNDS INVADE GARDEN AN CAUSE DAMAGE

A Shropshire woman is up in arms after she watched helplessly as her garden was invaded by a pack of foxhounds, which scattered her cats and damaged her plants.

Julie Stealey, from Edgerley, near Kinnerley, Oswestry, was sweeping up leaves in her garden yesterday afternoon when a fox flashed past her, quickly followed by a pack of baying hounds.

"I was terrified and my cats just scattered and disappeared. These dogs were huge and over everything, making holes in the hedge and fence to get into the garden and get after the fox. They were totally out of control with not a huntsman in sight. It was only after the hounds had continued on their way into her next door neighbour's garden and through his flock of free range chickens, that a huntsman did appear."
She added "He was blowing his horn and when I asked him what he thought he was doing letting his dogs run through my garden, he just said he would be in touch tomorrow and rode off."
Source: Shropshire Star, 19 November 2003

AND AGAIN... HUNT INVADES McCARTNEY MEMORIAL WOOD

Sir Paul McCartney has accused the Quantock Staghounds of allowing its hounds to trample his late wife's memorial.
The ex-Beatle bought picturesque St John's Wood, on the Quantocks in Somerset, 10 years ago in a direct attempt to stop local stag hunts.

The Quantock Staghounds are now facing legal action over the claim, after the *League Against Cruel Sports* sanctuary said video footage filmed yesterday morning clearly showed staghounds running on both the League-owned land, and the wood belonging to Sir Paul. The incident happened as the hunt chased a hind near the village of Upton, high up in the Quantocks.

The hunt went close to the LACS owned sanctuary, and hounds entered 'Linda's Wood' after the hind, which was planted just a few weeks after the death of Sir Paul's first wife Linda. After consultation with solicitors, LACS and Sir Paul are expected to take legal action.
December 2003

AND AGAIN... HOUNDS KILL PET CAT



A Somerset mother and her children watched in horror as a local hunt rampaged into their garden, killing the family pet cat.

Mother Jenny Kervell told yesterday how she and her two young daughters watched on in terror as their beloved pet cat was torn apart by foxhounds. The traumatised family were helpless to act as the eight-strong pack rushed into the garden and ripped Holly the cat to pieces.

Mrs Kervell, 30, said: "It was horrific. The girls were glued to the spot in terror. Days after it happened Aliesha said to me 'I keep seeing it Mummy, and I don't want to see it any more'."

Holly came to her violent end when West Somerset Vale Hunt foxhounds burst into Jenny's rural garden in Combwich near Bridgwater. Mrs Kervell was preparing lunch for Aliesha and Isabelle when she noticed the dogs in her one-acre garden. Master of the West Somerset Vale hunt Stephen Corrick said: "All we can say is that we are very, very sorry that such an incident could have happened. We do take steps to make sure things like this don't happen.

The hunt has offered to pay any vet bills or pay for a new cat.
24 December 2003



**'There have been many incidents. Too many to name here.
But some day, when we have won, someone will write a book telling of all that has happened'
Ian Pedlar, 1965.**

Howl 80 sees the second part of what will come to be known as the damn fine HSA 40th anniversary. TLOTR has nothing on the HSA, and I'm not afraid of upsetting hobbits when I say that. This issue continues the history of the HSA with a reprint of an article which appeared in Howl 41 back in Spring 1989, written by Ralph Cook, and which takes us from the 1960's to the start of the 1990's.

The remainder of this issue is filled with the words of hunt saboteurs, who recount their best days out, comedy moments, fun with cops (yes, it's possible!) and perhaps most importantly why they started going sabbing in the first place.

So read on and hopefully enjoy. If you have anything to add to our coverage of the 40th anniversary of the HSA please do get in touch via the usual channels (see front of mag for full details). After all, the organisation is nothing without the people who go out and sab, nor without those who do all they can to support them. Together we do make a very real difference. As I've said on probably more than one press release in my time – 'At the end of the day, there's always the HSA!'

Cheers

Dawn – 40th Anniversary Ed

Another anniversary...

I knew it was a big anniversary (just got the wrong one) - the 25th if I can add up correctly!

The East Midlands HSA was formed on 20 May 1977. The first grouse shoot that was "sabbed" was in August 1978. I don't believe any shooting activities were disrupted prior to this date.

The day was a huge success, with shooting abandoned for the day. The moors were the ones above Glossop. The look on the faces of the beaters and the guns was a sight to behold. Having never had their activities "sabbed" before, they just couldn't understand what was going on as a 100 or so sabs march between the beaters and the guns sing "All Things Bright and Beautiful". It was a great day.

The following year, I moved a motion at the HSA's AGM in Bristol, to amend the constitution to formally commit the HSA to opposition to shooting.

Chris Williamson

For Mike and Tom

This celebration of the Hunt Saboteurs Association 40th season is dedicated to Mike Hill and Tom Worby, two hunt sabs who went out to simply save the lives of hunted animals and who never came back. For those that continue the fight, you will never be forgotten.

The History

of the Hunt Saboteurs Association (Part II)

A Quarter Century of Sabbing

***Howl 79* featured a reprint of Steve Poole's article 'From Protest to Resistance', which chartered the formation of the HSA from 1963 to the late 1960's. Another article bringing the history up to date appeared in *Howl 41* (Spring 1989). The article, written by Ralph Cook, HSA Secretary at the time, looked at the development of the HSA since 1965 and looked forward to the 1990's. It is reprinted below in an abridged version.**

With the dissolution of the Brixham HQ in late 1964 other groups became increasingly isolated. The lack of central co-ordination led to the formation of splinter groups like 'Direct Action Against Bloodsports' and 'Campaign for the Relief of Wildlife' (CROW). The HSA might well have fizzled out if it were not for Dave Wetton who took up the leading role, at first unofficially, in early 1966. Dave began producing newsletters and placing adverts in 'Private Eye'. New people responded to these in areas where there were no local contacts so he encouraged them to get groups going in their own areas.

Dave and Caroline, his wife, provided the focal point which allowed the HSA to consolidate and grow in its fragile early years. The central organisation of the HSA developed slowly over the next decade in response to the need for autonomous groups to share information, discuss tactics and allocate limited funds. Lack of money was the main reason for the slow evolution of a HSA structure; another was the desire of activists to concentrate on their own groups' activities rather than spend time and money building a strong central base.
Throughout the decade of youth militancy (1965 – 1975), hunt sabotage was maintained week in and week out despite increasing violence from hunt supporters and police harassment. By 1970 the numbers of 'hits' per season averaged around 200. Meanwhile attitudes towards Ecology and the Environment were changing and with the publication of 'Animal Liberation' by philosopher Peter Singer in 1970 the militant animal protection movement discovered a strong philosophical foundation for their concern for animals.



A bi-annual newsletter began in 1971 and in July of the same year the HSA had its first recorded General Meeting with an attendance of 25. At this meeting the core of our present Constitution (according to legend initially written on the back of a cigarette packet), was approved.
In 1972 Jill Tweedie wrote a long sympathetic article on the HSA in *The Guardian*, membership doubled to over 800 and the HSA was able to report that it had 17 active groups and 58 'potential' groups of two or more people.


HOWL

Scent of Victory

NO OTTER, BUT PLENTY OF MINK

Partial Victory

In late 1973 the HSA published the first issue of *Howl* (Hounds Off Our Wildlife), in newspaper format with Dave McCalden as Editor. Earlier that year the HSA undertook one of its most successful campaigns: the sabotage of the annual common seal 'cull' in the Wash. Saboteur groups co-ordinated by Northampton sab, Rourke Garfield, stood between the seals and the hunters rifles and attempted to sink their boats. After two weeks of excellent press coverage and overwhelming support from the general public the sabs found that they had scored a partial victory as the hunters were 47 seals short of their target of 380.

The following year, just a few days before the hunt was due to begin the Home Secretary, Roy Jenkins, announced that hunting licenses would not be issued that year. No reasons were given but the HSA believed that public support for its actions the year before played a large part in the decision.

In the same year a group of West Country saboteurs calling themselves S.O.S ('Save Our Stags'), carried out a concerted campaign of sabotage against the three West Country Stag Hunts. S.O.S. continued operations into the early 1980's with great success in generating sympathetic media interest.

By the end of 1974 the HSA has a membership of 300, five hundred down on the 1972 figure. Well-known members included authoress Monica Hutchings and astronomist Patrick Moore.

Propaganda Coup

In 1975 the HSA scored a propaganda coup by hiring a helicopter for a day to buzz the Waterloo Cup hare-coursing meet at Altcar, Merseyside. Press interest was intense. Sabs on the ground invaded the coursing fields. Meanwhile sabs occupied the British Field Sports Society [*Ed's note – now the Countryside Alliance*] offices in London to mark the event. The owners of the building were afterwards reported to be considering the termination of the BFSS's lease since they were lowering the tone of the St James office block!

In 1975 the HSA was featured in a BBC 'Open Door' programme. The show, screened on 22nd November, was a huge success. Dave Wetton found 400 letters in the PO Box on the next Tuesday and 500 the next day. The repeat of the programme a week later brought an even larger mailbag. Membership exploded to over 2,000 and new groups were started up and down the country. By May 1976, the HSA had for the first time a healthy surplus bank balance of £3,632. In 1977 it had almost 3,000 members. In one jump the HSA had become a force to be reckoned with.

The HSA's 1978 AGM was an important one. The major issue was the proposed expulsion from the HSA of Dave McCalden for his membership of the National Front. Many members felt McCalden's fascist inclinations were bringing the HSA into disrepute. Others argued that no member should be expelled except in the grounds of their views on bloodsports. The dispute was splitting the HSA apart, but the motion, that no NF member should be allowed to serve on the HSA Committee was passed and McCalden walked out. The result demonstrated that animal liberationists were also concerned about human rights.

The defeat of the Labour Government in May 1979 was regarded by many anti-bloodsports campaigners as a severe blow to the movement since it had declared the intention to implement Britain's first anti-hunt legislation but the apolitical HSA was not bowed.



As if to reinforce this the HSA AGM of that year took the battle in a new direction by adopting the RSPCA's 'Declaration of Animal Rights' as its guiding principle. The HSA thus became the world's first animal rights organisation. Later, in August, Chris Williamson, the HSA Press Officer announced on *Radio Derby* that the HSA was planning to disrupt grouse shooting on a Derbyshire Moor. He was issued with a summons to appear at Buxton Magistrates' Court on a charge of 'behaviour liable to lead to a breach of the peace.' Bound over in the sum of £100 to be of good behaviour for six months he did not attend the opening day of the event but 90 other sabs did. The HSA has sabotaged at least one day's grouse shooting every year since then with the most ambitious action being the sabotage of three separate shoots in northern England and Scotland on August 12 1988.

In October 1979 sabs turned out in force to sabotage the annual Orkney seal cull. For two weeks, despite atrocious weather conditions, lack of resources and repeated arrests the sabs placed themselves in the line of fire and saved many lives. The partial failure of the campaign was largely due to the withdrawal of the Greenpeace ship 'Rainbow Warrior' after the Government, bowing to outraged public opinion, reduced the quota of seals to be killed from 5,000 to 2,000. The episode demonstrated the difference between an 'animal rights' organisation and a ' conservationist' pressure group.

New Youth Culture

In 1980 Dave Wetton, after 15 years involvement in the running of the HSA finally retired as HSA Chairperson. By this time the HSA mailing list was around 4,000 of which over 3,000 were paid up members at £3 per head. Income in the early 1980'' stood at between £10,000 and £15,000 a year.

In the early 1980's, as the unemployment figures began to rise the HSA experienced a gradual increase in the level of local group activity. The combination of unemployment and a new youth culture which urged active protest encouraged a remarkable explosion of activity and allowed the luxury of mid-week sabbing. In 1986 hunt saboteur groups were out on as many as 1,000 occasions and as many as 800 people sabbed hunts each Saturday of the season.

In 1983 the HSA received its first legacy, £12,000 and a small house. The house was sold and all the money distributed to local groups. A great opportunity to use some of the windfall to improve the HSA was lost: soon after the HSA found itself in dire financial straits.



Bitter Dispute

The following year the HSA became embroiled in a bitter dispute with the League Against Cruel Sports (LACS). At its 1983 AGM the decision to employ direct action against angling was made. Following its mandate the HSA Committee published an article outlining the case against angling and advice on how to sabotage it in *Howl*. LACS, fearing that their relationship with the Labour Party would be severely damaged by any assault on angling, asked the HSA Committee to withdraw the articles from *Howl*.

The HSA Committee politely declined. The League publicly disassociated itself from the HSA. Its Executive Director, Richard Course *[Ed's note – Course later went on to join the pro-hunt side]*, described the HSA as a 'bunch of lunatics'. The HSA Committee, armed with an AGM mandate and angered by the interference in HSA internal affairs instigated by Mr Course unanimously endorsed an explanation and defence of its position in the subsequent *Howl*. The matter appeared to be at an end.

LACS, however, seemed determined to seek revenge: it adopted a policy of non-co-operation with the HSA; cut its annual goodwill donation of £1,000 to HSA funds; deleted all reference to 'hunt saboteurs' from its magazines, and attacked the HSA at public meetings and in the press. On some occasions LACS would not even appear on televised debates unless certain HSA representatives were excluded from the programme.

This uneasy relationship continued until Richard Course resigned as the LACS Executive Director in 1988. The HSA greeted his resignation with a sigh of relief. Relations between the two organisations have warmed since then and hopefully will continue to do so. The HSA, however, has learned to stand on its own since 1984, and peaceful co-existance and a little co-operation between the two organisations may be all that is now required.

In 1984 the HSA launched a mini-campaign against Thorpe Park, a leisure complex in Surrey, which sold visitors the opportunity to catch trout in a small, overcrowded pond for just £1. Sabs attending the Park to see for themselves stopped the fishing. The police were called, five arrests made but no charges brought because the Thorpe Park Management did not want any publicity. To ensure that they got it, two blockades of the Park's public entrance were organised. Arrests were made at both blockades. Later, a night time visit by the Animal Liberation Front released trout worth thousands of pounds from an enclosure in the park's vast lake. Several months later Thorpe Park closed down its fishing facility. The HSA had won.

In the same year the HSA donated £1,000 to Sea Shepherd (a direct action marine mammal protection group), enabling them to purchase the island of Little Greenholm in the Orkneys: the island had seen many confrontations between Sea Shepherd and HSA activists on the one hand, and seal hunters and the police on the other.

Worst Year

1985 was the worst year of the HSA's history. Whilst sabbing activity was steadily increasing (the number of active groups stood at just under 100), press sympathy was suddenly lost. It had become fashionable to attack 'animal lib fanatics' and to sensationalise every little incident in the media.

Worse by far violence against sabs suddenly increased. The HSA was forced to abandon the sabotage of hare-coursing events where violence was at its worse after Manchester sab Eddy Coulston was nearly killed at the Waterloo Cup. For many this was an unacceptable retreat. ➲





In 1985 the lack of commitment to the vital administration needs of the organisation amongst many of the activists and Committee members reached an almost disastrous peak. The HSA started the year with some 3,000 members and a profitable salesgoods department but by mid-1985, membership was less than 1,000 and the salesgoods department was losing thousands of pounds. Some Committee Members saw HSA administration as an unnecessary burden far removed from direct action.

Rebuilding

The first signs of improvement were seen with the distribution of posts on the new Committee in 1986. This Committee managed to turn the Association's fortunes around by taking a few calculated risks. Membership soon overtook its 1984 figure and continues to rise. The revenue brought in was ploughed into the salesgoods department and turned loss into substantial profit.

Better management and the encouragement of stability have prepared the HSA for the 1990's. By 1987 the HSA was once more in a position to assist financially needy groups. Subsidising campaigns against hunting festivals, grouse shooting and fishing has also been important and has attracted massive and mostly sympathetic media coverage and of course saved lives.

By 1988 the HSA had nearly 140 active local groups across the country. Some owned their own vehicles and around 25% managed to go out mid-week as well as on Saturdays.

Next Howl – the third and final article brings the history of the HSA up to date, covering the 1990's to present day. Can't wait! (Well you'll bloody have to – this is the HSA after all – and God Bless it!!!)



Sabs s

(Scary, but true)

Cops! Rozzers! The Filth! Pigs! Her

'Last season at the Atherstone hunt the local police had a real attitude problem, and were threatening to arrest us for breach of the peace. Everyone was talking and arguing at once which wasn't getting us anywhere and as we had a recently graduated law student with us I thought it was a good idea to shout "Quiet let the lawyer speak!" The police honestly looked worried for a nanosecond until the "lawyer" shouted at the lead copper "You're a f***ing waste of space"!
We left shortly afterwards... (although the hunt had packed up by this time anyway).'







"August 1992 - We'd had quite a successful morning at the Portman FH, seeing plenty of cubs escape, but the hunt were not a happy bunch. We ended up on the outskirts of Sturminster Newton, Dorset where we got chased around the scaffolding of a building site in a comedy style. Eventually one of the Portman's thugs managed to nick a hunting horn from a sab. Half an hour, as the day drew to a close, the cops arrived and started all the usual 'What's your details' and 'You're trespassing' lark to which we gave the standard (pre-CJA) responses. Then, the sab who had his horn nicked, tried to lodge a complaint about the theft. This rural copper was very quick thinking and responded that theft was about an intention to permanently deprive someone of items, and he was certain that the hunting horn in question would be handed in at Blandford police station and thus the incident didn't constitute theft. Our equally quick thinking sab spotted the coppers wristwatch poking out from under his shirt sleeve and, quick as a flash, started undoing the strap. He almost had it off when the cop noticed, and the sab said 'C'mon, I'm only borrowing it. I don't intend to keep it permanently'. Miraculously, the copper was too gobsmacked to nick him..."

peak!

Following on from the more historical accounts of sabbing in the early days which appeared in the last issue, here we present , for your entertainment and delight, a selection of more recent tales from the muddy and sodden world of the hunt saboteur....

Majestys Finest! Blue Suited Troops of Capitalism! (Etc,etc

"This happened a couple of weeks after the IRA bombed Canary Wharf, a few years ago. The Brighton group went out to sab the Eridge, but on discovering they were not going out that day, made a few phones calls and decided to go and meet up with other groups in West Sussex. As they were leaving the Downs, a lone cop in a patrol car happened to pull out behind them, so naturally assuming they were going to be followed to the hunt, everyone in the back of the van promptly masked up. As soon as the copper saw them do this he got straight on his radio, obviously to tell his chums that sabs were heading their way.

A few miles down the road, the sab van slowed up at a little roundabout just under the A23 and suddenly found themselves totally boxed in as four unmarked police cars, two or three patrol cars and a riot van appeared out of nowhere from every exit onto the roundabout. A very bemused Brighton group, (totalling about 6 people that day) were ordered out of the van, lined up, unmasked and filmed, whilst other cops carried out a brief search of the van. At this point the sabs suddenly realised that they had been mistaken for members of the IRA and so started talking in Irish accents. When it became obvious to the cops that they had made total tits of themselves, having only 'captured' a crusty bunch of saboteurs, they all left very quickly, and were so embarrassed by the whole episode they didn't even leave one car to follow the sabs on to the Hunt!"

'A Northants police officer had an interestingly scientific way of testing our sprays to see if they were acid - he sprayed his hand with them. After we pointed out that this might be not be such a good idea he sprayed the bodywork of the van with them instead. They were, of course, harmless citronella and water, as always.'





'A few years back, Cornish Sabs were out on the moors, going about their usual Saturday business. Sprays spraying, Gizmos sounding and horns blowing were just a few of the regulars. Sabs marched to the top of a field, where hounds were on to a fox. After a good 10 minutes, sabs had once again managed to have full control of the Four Burrows hunting Pack. Lovely.

But what was to happen next was to secure and maintain the pro-hunting argument that saboteurs are violent. Yes, our saboteur was arrested for 'luring hounds by means of chocolate biscuits'. A few weeks later, and another south west sab was arrested on animal cruelty charges for blowing a hunting horn - apparently this can cause deafness in hounds don't you know?!!

Unsurprisingly, neither cases were brought to the courts. As one Somerset Police office told us – We here have another name for Devon and Cornwall Constabulary - Daytime and Casual...'



Sabs spea

(Scary, but true)

Best Days! Best Days! Best Days! Best Days! Best Days!

"Some of my best days sabbing were spent during various 'Fell Weeks'. These weeks of sabbing occurred at the end of the main hunting season and gave sabs from all over the country a chance to get together and sab the various fell packs who hunt in Cumbria. Don't get me wrong they were hard work up every morning around six, breakfast then the long walk up onto the top of the fells by eight, as hunts start at nine in Cumbria.

Thanks to a good understanding of how fell packs work sabs more often than not managed to ruin their days 'sport'. Believe me it's a great feeling standing on the top of one fell blowing your hunting horn and watch as the whole pack come over to you from the fell across the valley and there was nothing the huntsman or followers could do but watch and curse over their CB radios.

What do you do with a pack of 30 foxhounds? Simple - put them on leads and take for a long walk across the fells. Then by mid-afternoon walk them back to the huntsman and followers who by this time you could count on one hand. Once everybody was safely off the fells, this gave sabs time to visit the local gift shops, tea rooms etc...my arse! It was off to the pub all afternoon only stopping to go back for the evening communal meal. Then it was either a party on site or off the local off licence or pub again. The following day it was a different hunt, another days sport ruined, oh how the Cumbrian hunts hated 'Fell week'..."

'I South Dorset FH - Dorset 1995. It was absolutely pissing down. We got into an argument with the landowner over the route a footpath took. Ytene MH whip Julian Cooper tried to push a sab under a horse and ended up slipping on his arse and hitting the deck himself (there were photos in Howl of this incident.) His stick went for a little journey over a hedge. 1-0. So we carried on. The landowner galloped off to get some help. Next thing we know, they are lining up ready to charge us. They didn't realise that we had all just watched Braveheart and there were loads of 8 foot long plastic drainage pipes lying around in the field. So they gallop towards us and we just lift the pipes up so they can't possibly get close to us. 2-0. The day didn't have any out of the ordinary sabbing but was comical. Less than funny was the fact that on the way home, the windscreen wiper flew off our van, which had been left unattended for half the day. 2-1. After recovering it and fixing it we managed to get home OK, but a few days later one of the wheels flew off the van cos the wheel nuts had been loosened...Final score 2-2 but no foxes killed.'





"Hampshire Hunt 2000. We're up with the hunt. A bit of disruption but nothing major. The huntsman took the piss out of my horn-blowing saying his hounds wouldn't listen to it. They were drawing among some scrub on the side of a hill and the hounds started speaking and headed down the hill. A sab said to me 'Which way should we go?' and I said 'Wait until we know which direction the fox has gone and which direction the hounds have gone'. She ignored me and went running off after the hounds. - A couple of us waited. I spotted



that the pack had split and ran straight down the hill and over a barbed wire fence. Then I started doubling the horn to hunt on the hounds that had gone the wrong way. One of my companions said "There aren't any here". I was about to give up and gave a couple more toots on the horn when a hound appeared, and another, and another until we had about 6 coming from the direction that the mainpack had gone, plus a couple coming from the opposite direction.

So I carried on blowing and we kept running and using horn calls....over three sets of fences until we reached a minor road. We stopped there and called the other sabs. It turns out the cops had arrived and were in the mood for nicking any sabs they could get their hands on. We decided to stay off the road and waited in a field next to it.

We could hear the huntsman about a mile away, using a gathering call to find the hounds that we had. Every now and then we gave a little toot and "our" hounds would be content. I spoke to one of the other sabs again on the mobile and we found out that the huntsman was desperately trying to gather the hounds he thought he had lost. Of course the other sabs knew that really we had them. We just sat around for half an hour or so, knowing that the huntsman wouldn't resume hunting until he had the rest of his pack back.

News came through that the hunt were packing up, in order to look for their lost hounds. Around this time there was an arrest for aggravated trespass - despite the fact that there was no activity taking place to be disrupted where the main body of the hunt were...We decided it was time to lose our hounds. Unfortunately they had other ideas.

Eventually we managed to get them to run back towards the meet, whilst we made our way back seperately via public land to avoid getting nicked. When we got back it transpired that we had managed to make the hunt pack up at 1 p.m. A wicked day's sabbing in only a couple of hours!

And the moral of the story - keep your headwhen you're out sabbing, and if they take the piss out of your horn/voice calls you'll get the last laugh..

It was a cubbing meet in Dorset in the mid 1990's We got a phone call from someone who told us the hunt was cubbing out the back of her garden. Within half an hour about 4 of us were there. We caught up with the hunt drawing a small covert that they regularly use. Every time the huntsman put his hounds in I used the gathering horn call and voice to call them back out. At the time I was able to mimic that particular huntsman's voice fairly well. I actually stood next to him, which totally confused the hounds. They were thinking 'He just put us in and now he wants us out again'. It didn't take too long for them to head back to the farm and pack up. The whip would usually try and whip sabs and had in the past chased me round my car and down an A road full of traffic trying to whip me. Yet on this occasion he rode up used my name and said 'Well done!'. To top it all off I was travelling back home as pillion on my mate's motorbike and spotted one of the support Julian Cooper - a whip with the Ystere M/H - cycling home. The temptation was too much so we slowed as we neared him and flipped his flat cap off his head when we drew level, and then burnt off down the road









Sabs spea

(Scary, but true)

Why we sab... Why we sab... Why we sab... Why we sab...

'I was already into Animal Liberation and had been active against other forms of cruelty such as circuses, vivisection and the meat trade, but hunting was hidden away. This is despite having hunt meets within a couple of miles of my house and at beauty spots I went to as a kid! After I joined the HSA and read HOWL I wanted to do more. I couldn't afford to travel too far, so when enough people in our area were up for it, and people with cars, we started using those or hiring vans. Never looked back since...'

I was an inactive supporter of a few animal rights organisations prior to going to Uni and the HSA was one of these. As soon as I got to Uni I heard that there was a local sab group and managed to get in touch with them. My first day out (in stone-wash denim jeans and jacket - nobody told me!!!) was the first anniversary of Mike Hill's death. We met up with what seemed to be hundreds and hundreds of sabs at a services on the M6, and I was amazed at the organisation and dedication of all those present and at how everyone knew they were there for Mike. The huge number of sabs meant that all hunting in Cheshire was quickly shut down that day, and the very first hunt I sabbed was the notorious Sir Watkin Williams-Wynns, complete with rabid motorcycle boys. I finished the day knackered and filthy, but educated and with a firm belief that hunt sabotage was a serious way of making a difference to the hunted animal, there and then. Probably the best thing I've ever done and I aim to continue to do it for as long as necessary.

'Being a sab often frustrates the hell out of me, what with cop hassle, vehicle worries, group politics and of course the very fact that we can't save every fox, hare etc etc that we set out to. However, being a sab often makes me smile and often it's through one of those things that sticks with you and pops back into your head when you're innocently walking your dog down the street. And then passers by think you're a mad smiling-to-yourself fool.... A couple of examples? A recent arrest on the Surrey Union sticks firmly in my mind.

My arresting officer was a complete arse, and made a point of handcuffing me, stating that he feared for his own safety... I was loaded into a police carrier with the 7 other sabs who had been arrested that day, 5 of whom had not been subjected to handcuffs at all. As soon as I had sat down I asked the officer if he could remove the cuffs, as they were completely unnecessary. No sooner had I finished than another sab in the police cage at the back piped up 'Don't take them off! She's dangerous! For the sake of us all!' Needless to say the cop needed no further encouragement to say no. Bastard sabs.

Another mad-smiling incident related to a text message I received from a fellow sab who was arrested on the same day. She had been to a pre-trial review and had managed to get her hands on some police video tapes. The text message said 'I have a video with you in handcuffs!'. Now you don't get a message like that everyday without worrying about the blackmail note that will follow...'







K!



. Why we sab... Why we sab... Why we sab... Why we sa



I started sabbing when I was a student in the early 90s. I was contemplating joining the territorial army when a friend told me about sabbing: 'It's all about running around in woods saving foxes'. For a couple of seasons, life as a sab was easy- I stopped eating meat, practiced the voice calls and learned that, if a policeman were to demand that you stop so that he could 'have a chat' you didn't actually have to stop and talk to him or her. Moreover, I learned that if someone told you that you couldn't climb a fence or enter a field it merely meant the person didn't WANT you to climb that fence or enter that field.

Then Tom Worby got killed, Essex police, obviously well trained in conflict avoidance, smashed a landrover at Stagden Cross and I was attacked on a hunt for the first time. A female rider on the Vale of Aylesbury hit me in the face with her riding crop and when I told the police officers (Thames Valley) present they suggested I go to the nearest police station to make a complaint. The honeymoon period was definitely over. Since the 1990's I think sabbing skills have improved and groups have become much more efficient and organised. There's nothing more satisfying than seeing a pack split and the huntsman spending the day getting his hounds back. Nothing more encouraging than seeing my friends stopping and diverting the pack right in front of the hunt, the terrier men and the police- making me realise that fear is my worst enemy and join them, thinking about the terrified animal, running for its life, and not the possible consequences of my actions- assault, arrest, detention.

So being a sab taught me to stand up and do something- nothing as grand perhaps as standing in front of a tank or planting a bomb in Hitler's bunker- but nonetheless something: to resist the growing apathy of the world and to stand up for myself and others, people, animals, the environment.

I have seen the individual hare, fox, deer, mink and birds I have saved on many occasions. Ive home knowing that I made a big difference to that animal - the difference between life and death. It's also about knowing that if I hadn't have been there, they may not have got away. Every sab out in the field makes a difference, not just those of us who master horn calls. There is also something in my make up which makes me a stubborn bastard. Having the crap kicked out of me won't stop me. Being nicked won't stop me. Having special laws introduced specifically to target what I do won't stop me. Even coming very close to prison after an incident at a hunt will not stop me. All these things strengthen my resolve and make me more determined. The hunted animal is up against the odds and their life is at stake. Putting my liberty and life on the line gives me some kind of empathy with them. This is why I can't give up!





Sabs spea

(Scary, but true)

Sabbing Comedy...Sabbing Comedy...Sabbing Comedy..

'1January 1997. New Forest Beagles kennels. We went to the Wilton on a Wednesday, but they were frozen off, so we thought we'd stake out the New Forest Beagles. We waited in a van with a car round the corner in case they gave us the slip. 30 minutes later the cops turn up. We are given an ultimatum to leave or be arrested. A couple of people clamber out of the van and make their way to the car to avoid arrest. The cops look happy. Then the rest of us stay put.

We are then told that the van is under arrest. At this point a sab with a video comes over to record what is going on. The cop tells him he is under arrest. Then he asks 'Is that thing recording?'. The sab says 'I've got the right to continue recording when I'm under arrest.' The copper responds 'You've got no rights once you're under arrest.' Oops! There he goes speaking his thoughts out loud again. After a lot of arsing about we end up at Lyndhurst nick. After half an hour of waiting in the freezing cold with the van door open we are taken in. We aren't booked in, just chucked in a holding cell - 6 of us! After a short while we have our details taken as we are released, along with comments such as 'Next time, don't dress as a terrorist'.

So if you see someone in a bomber jacket, combat trousers and tartan scarf, watch out, it could be Bin Laden!

The incident is made even more amusing by the fact that after an incident at a hunt I ended up doing Community Service for a public order offence. When I go for the first meeting with the Probation Service I mention that the incident was at the hunt. It transpired that the Probation Officer was an ex-copper and was the custody sergeant on that day.



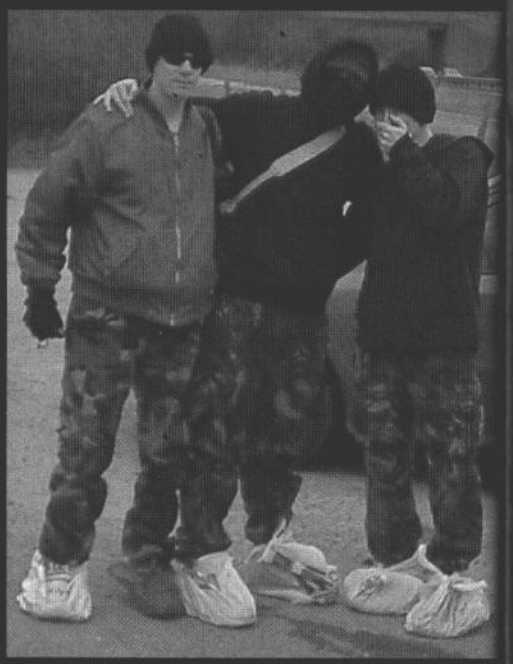
"The Cheshire Police have always had a special place in my heart, but my last arrest whilst sabbing with Manchester sabs was a cracker. It was a cubbing meet in October, and there was a heavy police presence. Despite this sabs had managed to get up with the hunt, and as I was driving the van I was parked up watching the men and women in black charge across the flat fields.

At one point a fox was put up and looked to be thinking about heading in my direction. Accordingly I got out of the van with whip in hand and waited, as did another sab who had a spray at the ready, and she began spraying the road. A copper with the police van parked further up the road took exception to this and quickly came over, telling the sab to stop as she was 'littering' and would be arrested! Now I've heard some coppers tales in my time, but found this one to be in a whole new category of fantasy. I walked up to the copper and told him I'd never heard anything as ridiculous. He replied that I was to mind my own business or be arrested. So I asked him for his collar number, which he refused. I then walked back to the van, got my camera out, asked him to smile and took his picture (right) ...and was promptly arrested, and later charged at the station with Sec 5 of the PoA (later dropped prior to trial). It seems that the officer felt harassed, alarmed or distressed by my taking his picture. Ah, bless.

Apart from this ridiculous arrest, a couple of other amazing things happened that day. Firstly, the sab van, which I was driving and was arrested holding the keys to, was left untouched by hunt supporters despite being parked on a lonely country lane for several hours.

Secondly, the Inspector in charge of policing the hunt that day was the same Inspector who had effected my very first arrest several years earlier. He caught up with me waiting for a lift outside the station once being bailed after refusing a caution. He asked me what the outcome was, and after I told him smiled and said 'Yes, I remember you weren't for accepting a caution back in 1994'. So there you have it, coppers do have a special place in their hearts for us too!"







Sabbing Comedy...Sabbing Comedy...Sabbing Comedy..

"This incident took place on a foxhunt sometime in the early/mid 1990's. The details of which hunt and the rest of the day's events have become obscured in the mists of time.... A group of 4 or 5 sabs were trudging across a ploughed field in pursuit of the hunt. We were heading towards a small farm cottage with an immaculate fenced garden. The hunt had disappeared from our view the other side of the house. As we approached a very large chap in country clobber appeared from the house and looked very menacing. We continued on our way and, as we got closer, we could see that he had a rifle in his hands, which was pointing in our direction. He was by this time joined by his wife and children who were also large and menacing.

An anxious whispered conversation was in progress by now. "What do we do?.... Just keep going..... Don't let him see that you are scared...." Etc Suddenly with a foghorn like voice the big man bellowed "Oi..... are you hunt saboteurs?" There was more hurried frantic whispering from us until the bravest amongst us squeaked "Yeah....." this was about to be followed with "so what?" when the big man spoke again: "Good – come through my garden. The bastards have gone that way!" "



Come on people! You must have a wee reminiscence to share with other sabs out there! Think the comedy arrests mentioned here just aren't side splitting enough? Then tell us about yours! Think our best day out pales in comparison to the one that blew you away? Then get the bugger down and get it submitted! Howl 81 will carry the last section of the 40th anniversary specials, so no messing about now please. Short and sweet is the key, but then again if I'm desperate I'll probably print any old tat... ;-)

Dawn

Many, many thanks to the contributors to this section - Iris, Nath, Dawn, PT, Taff, Mrs T, Big D, Roger, Sam, Bore of the Year 2003, Bore of the Year 2004 (TBC), Dan, Holly, Anon, Buggery Grips. (Some names have been changed to protect the not-so-innocent...)

Hunt Myths...Hunt Myths...Hunt Myths...Hunt Myths...

Hunt myth #31589 (recycled on a regular basis and with slight amendments)

Cattistock FH rider about 12 years old, 1992

'You all get paid by the Kremlin don't you'. Bear in mind this was after the Berlin Wall had been removed and fear of Russian communism in this country had all but disappeared...except in the hunting field!



Hunt myth #25678

Cattistock FH, Buckland Rivers, Dorset 1993

We were pre spraying a corner of standing crops left for the hunt to draw and got accosted by a farmer who claimed that last time we had been there our sprays had given his cows mastitis!



AS PART OF ITS FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES THE HSA OPERATES A CLUB DRAW

In the last 5 years thousands of people have taken part, with £1000s doshed out in prize money.

The idea behind it is simple. Those who wish to enter pay a stake of just £2.00 a month (you can have as many stakes as you like - the more you have, the better chance you have of winning!)

Half of the total stake money for each month goes directly to the HSA to fund our work

The remaining half is divided up as follows:

1st Prize Winner - 50% 2nd Prize Winner - 30% 3rd Prize Winner - 20%

The draw itself takes place on the last working day of each month, with prize winners being notified by post (along with their cheque!) All results are printed in *Howl*.

All you have to do is complete the application form below and enclose the total stake money for 3, 6 or 12 months as required.

Name.....Address.....

.....

.....Postcode.....

Number of stakes required (£2 per stake).....Number of months required (3, 6 or12).....

TOTAL COST (stakes x number of months)..... ☐ I enclose a cheque/PO made payable to HSA

RECENT LUCKY WINNERS.....IT COULD BE YOU!

August 2003	September 2003	October 2003	November 2003	December 2003	January 2004
1st R Booker	1st C Baker	1st J Underhill	1st S Rishman	1st A Thompson	1st E Burnett
2nd P Stabler	2nd H Franics	2nd G King	2nd P Hargreaves	2nd L Walters	2nd J Turner
3rd F Whittaker	3rd E Baigent	3rd D Thomas	3rd C Priestley	3rd C Riley	3rd M Stephens



The Vegan Prisoner Support Group

Why you need to let us know before you land on "Go To Jail"

The Vegan Prisoner Support Group (VPSG) does exactly what is says on the tin – provides support for vegans who find themselves in prison or police custody for an extended period of time. They can do a lot to make your time inside considerably more bearable (as many satisfied "customers" can testify) but the sooner you let them know you are at risk of a custodial sentence, the better they will be able to get to work on your behalf. It can take some time to sort out getting supplies together, getting through all the bureaucracy etc. so if you are due in court on a charge that could lead to a custodial sentence, the sooner you let the VPSG know, if the worst happens (and we hope it won't) the earlier in your sentence they will be able to get your vegan provisions sorted.

We know that when people have been nicked and are waiting for that looming trial date, you have a head full of worries, and contacting the VSPG may be the last thing on your mind, but if the worst comes to the worst (and we hope you won't need us) we can take at least one worry off your mind.

So what can VPSG do for you?

Once we know what court you will be appearing in, our first step will be to contact the court to confirm what courier company transports people from court to prison, which will make it easier to establish what prison you have been taken to if convicted. Once we have managed to obtain this information we can go on to find out what prison you are likely to be taken to. At this stage we will try to assess what vegan provisions are in place at the prison and start putting together a supply of any essential items that may not be ordinarily available at the prison e.g. shampoo, soap, toothpaste.

The VPSG has a good working relationship with many prison kitchens, so in some cases will only need to make a call to make them aware that a vegan may be on the way and refresh their minds, if needed, on the do's and don'ts. In other cases, more input and guidance may be needed. Either way, the VPSG can do a lot to ensure you will have food available you can eat. Without preparation in advance and without outside help, it can take a while to sort out and in your first few days inside the last thing you need is to be struggling to even get fed.

On the day of the hearing, the VPSG will always try to ensure a volunteer is available on the phones all day, ready to start acting for you if the outcome should go against you. The volunteer can then immediately make contact with the courier service to get confirmation as to where you have been taken, then call the prison to ensure that a vegan meal, and where possible toiletries, will be waiting on arrival.

Should the prison in question not have vegan washing products available, the VPSG will arrange to have a pack sent in. This can be a lengthy process as all sorts of clearances and permissions must be obtained in order to get the go-ahead, so again this emphasises the importance of letting us know about your situation early. When the VPSG knows you may be facing custody ahead of trial and have been able to carry out prior research, we are often able to get the needed clearance in advance and in some cases can send in a toiletries pack "just in case" even before your trial has concluded.

The VPSG also provides support for the rights of vegans whilst they are detained at a police station – again, the sooner we know you are being held, the sooner we can start to help.

For more information, check the VPSG website on *www.vpsg.org* or contact us via: PO Box 194, Enfield EN1 4YL. Tel. *020 8292 8325*

Hunt Sab Peak Challenge

If you're looking for a challenge this summer and want to help raise funds for the HSA, then get a team ready for the 3 Peak Challenge! Simply, climb the three highest mountains in the UK - Ben Nevis, Scarfell and Snowdon, all in just 24 hours!

For more information
info@readinghuntsabs.org.uk

GROUP NEWS

South

The **East Kent** group have had much success with their new van out on the road, along with new sabs. Cubbing meets have been sabbed, sometimes with only 3 in a car – proof that only a small number can make a difference, as hounds have been taken off foxes and dig-outs abandoned. One terrier boy even fled for his life at the sight of sabs! (to be fair, they're a funny-looking lot in East Kent). Low-level policing has saved much hassle and the group have even given talks to a local school.

Southampton sabs kicked off the season with an abortive trip to the *Cattistock hunt* but have since found out that although a hunt was planned on that day, kennel cough forced them to put cubbing back over 2 weeks. Still, if they had been out, we'd have sabbed 'em and if there's no kills, then it's good news...

The group managed a few highly successful days at the *Chiddingfold* with the locals - and with a few extra groups on the odd occasion. *The Hampshire Hunt* were also paid visits and judging by the way Hampshire cops have been reacting they must have been slipping a few coins to the Police Benevolent Fund. Nothing new there then...



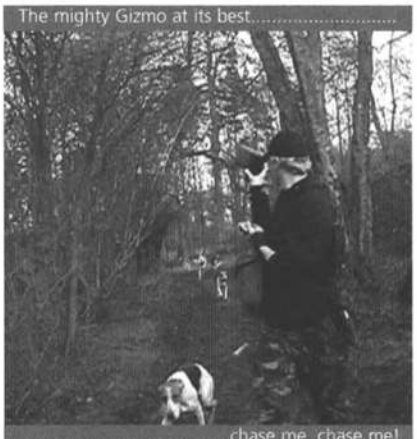
"You, young man...have made me sweat profusely"

One memorable day saw *the Vale of Aylesbury FH* fail to turn up for their meet, so sabs decided to call in on the chaps at the *Eton College Beagles*. As soon as sabs caught up with the hunt, a massive hare bolted from under their noses, but with a line of whips at the ready the hunt failed to put hounds on the line. After a few tootles of the horn and a blast of the gizmo it was a case of "game over" and hounds were kept safely out of harm's way in a field until it was too late to hunt any more.

A mass hit on the *Surrey Union FH* found the Southampton Land Rover full, along with a solitary sab from **Swindon** who has had vast experience with this particular hunt. In addition to the usual two mounted police riding with the hunt there were three police vehicles and a communications centre set up nearby. Sabs split into two groups and soon lost the police before taking the pack away from under the huntsman's nose to the east of the meet. Hounds came into cry a few times, but sabs were on hand to call them off. The day ended at 3.30pm after continual rain, bad scenting conditions and reluctant police afraid of making their shoes muddy.

The first half of the 2003-04 season has whizzed by for **Reading** sabs. With a weekend and midweek crew they've hit 10 different hunts so far this season, concentrating on *the Vale of Aylesbury, Garth and South Berks* and *the Hampshire Hunt*. **Reading** started the season on the *grouse moors for the 12th*. Along with some friends (in the loosest sense of the word) **Reading** sabs stopped the shooting in the morning and packed them up in the afternoon. Result! Men dressed like Rupert the Bear (erm, that's what it says here – Ed.) attempted to push the "unwashed" off the moor, but that was never going to happen.

On a visit to the *Eton College Beagles*, the new gizmo was tried out, and proved to be a fantastic piece of craftsmanship. The teacher in charge nearly had a cardiac arrest but alas calmed down. So far, the *Vine and Craven* have had just the one visit, but a quick bit of horn and gizmo action and the hounds were soon in more than capable hands – i.e. not the huntsman's. So he went home.



The mighty Gizmo at its best.....



.....chase me, chase me!

Southeast

Sabs around the Sussex area with thinning or greying hair may remember the **Worthing** group of 15/20 years ago. Times change, and with sabs moving on and/or deciding they have "done their bit", the group was no more. Many ex-**Worthing** sabs either joined the **Brighton** group or started their own groups such as the **West Sussex Wildlife Protection group (WSWP)**. But the legacy lives on and now the **Worthing** group, although small, is back and building itself in numbers.



A sab investigates a suspicious looking pipe

Joining the **Brighton** group on nearly all this season's cubbing meets, **Worthing** have been enjoying sabbing (wait for it) the *Old Surrey Burstow & West Kent,* the nearer to home *Southdown and Eridge, Crawley and Horsham* and, of course, the *Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray.*

Both the **Brighton** and **Worthing** groups manage midweek outings and when possible help boost numbers with **WSWP**, but numbers are not always important when sabbing a hunt. As last season, two sabs kept up with the *Crawley & Horsham* when they visited our doorstep, the Ammering Park Estate, and sabs claimed success on both days. Although 2 police cars, 1 riot van and 6 coppers was a little OTT, it means we must be doing something right!

Throwing the net wider, the group joined up with **Croydon** and **Hastings** sabs to tackle the *West Street and Tickham FH* and were delighted to split the pack as soon as they arrived. This proved to be something of a pattern for the rest of the day and the hunt spent most of their time trying to gather the hounds back.

A few days later, one of the **Brighton** group sustained a few cuts and bumps when the *Southdown and Eridge* hosted a midweek joint meet in "Bumpkin Alley". On a brighter note, sabs present were delighted to report seeing three foxes escape. The Boxing Day and New Year's Day hunts went very well for sabs and foxes, sadly not so for red-coated buffoons, resulting in effective sabbing and not so effective hunting.

Croydon's 2003-04 season began with cubbing in early September. By late September, they had discovered (and started sabbing) evening meets of the *Old Surrey and Burstow,* much to the hunt's annoyance. At one such meet, Bycroft went berserk at the sight of sabs (ooh, that must have made a change, then) and missed a fox breaking cover, so instead decided to hunt a deer for a while!

Old Surrey & Burstow FH Huntsman Mark Bycroft appears to be in a somewhat agitated state...



One of their supporters was then arrested for drink driving to round off another kill-free day. This was followed by two outstanding mornings with the *Ashford Valley*, in which some text book sabbing saw us taking the pack from under the huntsman's nose at every draw he attempted.



Sabs disrupt a meet of the *Avon Vale FH*

Wanna come sabbing?
or
Start your own group?

Contact the HSA

We'll be happy to put you in touch with your nearest local group and/or arrange an informal tactics talk.

We can also supply you with free posters and leaflets, as well as providing limited financial support to new groups.

Get in touch -
You know it makes sense!

During the next two weeks, we were scoring doubles with both morning and evening meets, including packing up the *Wye College Beagles* within 45 minutes despite them putting up a hare.

November saw another couple of trips to the *Ashford Valley*, as well as a visit to the Weald meet of the *Old Surrey and Burstow* where sabs successfully stopped a digout. The *Bolebrook Beagles* were also visited and didn't put up a hare all day.

December began with a short sharp shock for the *West Street Tickham*. This pack are in disarray at the best of times, but on this day they didn't stand a chance. A combination of gizmo and horn pulled the hounds every time, sometimes from two fields away! By Boxing Day, Bycroft was back in the saddle at the *Old Surrey and Burstow* after six weeks out due to a broken ankle (aah, bless). He was up to his usual "excellent" standard, taking hounds straight through a field of sheep and killing one as they caused a stampede. Maybe he's practising one of the CA's master strategies if foxhunting gets banned – the Old Surrey and Burstow SheepHounds. Ta to **Hastings**, **Maidstone** and **Brighton** sabs for their tactical support.

North and East London sabs have been pretty active so far this season, mainly sabbing the *Puckeridge Hunt* in Hertfordshire, but have also teamed up with mates in **Basildon** and **Essex** and **Suffolk** Sabs for the occasional visit to the *Essex Union FH.* Up to now, the group have been borrowing wheels but have just managed to get their own minibus on the road. Boxing Day antics involved a visit to the *Puckeridge hunt* where sabs more than made their presence felt. At the moment the group is looking for a gizmo, so if anyone can help please contact *saboteur666@hotmail.com*



A red coat captured on video as he uses his whip handle to smash the windscreen of Sheffield sabs van

Midlands

The newly formed **Worcester** and **Birmingham** group kicked off the season tagging along with other local groups for new people to be shown the ropes, and the group used experience gained on a visit to the grouse moors to pack up a local shoot. The group's "big day" finally came on Boxing Day, where they went it alone against the *Worcestershire FH's* "traditional" meet in Droitwich. *The Worcestershire* had two special guests that day in the form of the infamous Sarah "Now you hate me now you don't" Bell, and the West Mercia Police helicopter. Neither made much impression and the day went very well for the fledgling group, with sabs calling off hounds from two chases.

The group went out with the *Cotswold FH* on New Year's Day, and picked up a few of the **Cirencester** group on their way which helped no end as they knew the area like the backs of their hands. Two badger setts were found illegally blocked – a situation which was quickly sorted out! The hunt had three chases, all ending with no kills. *The Cotswold's* huntsman started out quite jovial at the prospect of being sabbed, cracking jokes about how ineffective sabs were. His smile quickly faded once the whole pack was taken away from under his nose - and he looked more like crying as it happened again and again and again...



Sabs tailing the huntsman at the Hampshire FH

The *Vale of the White Horse* were also given a long overdue visit in the new year and thanks to the gizmo and some judicious horn blowing, sabs were able to take the hounds from right underneath the huntsman's nose. The hunt temporarily blocked in the vehicle while they rang the police. Gloucestershire Constabulary must have had the Rapid Response team out that day – they are still waiting for them to turn up! (Things move a lot slower in Gloucestershire, boy. Coming out yere with your big city ways...).

A "ta very much" has to go to the old **York** sab group who have donated their old equipment to us, including hunting horns, whips, a gizmo and 60 quid.



Sabs form a brief alliance with a huntsman in order to help free his horse from deep mud

Special thanks are due to one woman in particular who travelled all the way down from the North to give us a hand on New Year's Day so she could go out sabbing.

The **Northants** group have found Leicestershire police seem to have decided they can invent whatever powers suit them. Earlier this season, they used a hunt supporter to arrest sabs in the field - this very same man was on police bail at the time for allegedly breaking a sab's leg! They then confiscated a video camera in the field, but failed to subsequently book it in – a serious breach of the procedures intended to prevent bent coppers from destroying evidence or simply pinching stuff that takes their fancy. Not content with this, they proceeded to accuse sabs of causing a female rider to fall off her horse the week before, when sabs had



A Plymouth sab using gizmo to good effect

actually stopped to help her! Fortunately, this ridiculous allegation was later dropped but sabs are sure this will not be the last ludicrous charge they come up with.

The group helped **Derby** and **Wolves** sabs out during the first half of the season and then proceeded to the **Chilterns**; always a pleasure! When the *Pytchley* didn't show one week, sabs headed up to the *Atherstone FH* who packed soon after sabs turned up. Boxing Day saw a visit to the *Oakley FH*, where sabs managed to stop a dig-out at the start of the day. New Year's Day saw Cambridge police help sabs out by buzzing the *Fitzwilliam FH* with a helicopter, scaring off any foxes for miles around in the process!

South West

Pewsey Vale sabs have been focusing on the Wiltshire hunts, including the *Vine and Craven* and *Avon Vale*, with thanks to the **Reading** group for lending a hand now and then. On Boxing Day, the *Avon Vale* bussed in their own thugs, as the local police were apparently not doing the job to the low standards demanded by huntsman Jonathan Seed. They attacked two sabs, punching a female sab in the face, in front of the North Wilts MP James Gray who appeared to ride off smirking. The thugs have continued their presence into the New Year. Despite this, with some help from the police(!!) in protecting them from the heavies, they have managed to continue to sab successfully.



A West London sabs occupies an earth to prevent a dig-out.

Cornwall group started the season with successful pre-sabbing of cubhunt meets against the increasingly violent *North Cornwall Hunt*. Actual sabbing of cubbing meets was difficult, after violence last season, but pre-sabbing proved just as effective. Other hunts visited throughout the county have included the *Four Burrow* and the *East Cornwall*.

The *South Devon hunt* is still being sabbed after 40 years by the **South Devon Animal Rights group**.



West London sabs stop a shoot in its tracks

It seems the *South Devon* have really had enough of being sabbed every Saturday, so for a few weekends they resorted to the cunning tactic of, erm, staying in at the kennels. Great logic, lads, - "these damn antis are trying to stop us from hunting every time we go out, so we'll not go out hunting. That'll fox 'em".

Instead sabs went off to the *Dartmoor hunt* who have been picking up support from exiles from the ever-failing *South Devon*. The group's effectiveness in targeting this particular hunt over the last several years is demonstrated by the way they are forced to replace their hunt master every couple of seasons; one only lasted half a season! The hunt has now stopped advertising their meets to try and get rid of the sabs... they might have shaken off some of their more fairweather supporters this way, but not sabs who still manage to find out where they are and turn up!



The mighty Gizmo at its best.....again

Northwest

Since the start of the season in September, sabs from **Manchester**, **Bolton** and **Liverpool** have been sabbing the *Holcombe Hunt*. Sabs have been in attendance at the hunt every weekend, meaning their kill rate is down to single figures.

On Boxing Day there were two major anti-hunt demonstrations in the area, one at the *Holcombe Hunt* and the other at the *Cheshire Forest Hunt* - both were very well attended and attracted a lot of local press coverage.

Also on Boxing Day, sabs from the **NWHSA** attended a meet of the *Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and*



West Londons' Muffin Liberation Front carry out another daring daylight raid

Staffordshire Beagles near Alton Towers, sadly the hunt killed a hare and took great delight in showing off their trophy (a hare's leg) to all the support who missed the kill. As an extra Christmas present for sabs and local wildlife, thanks to bad weather over Christmas and the New Year the *Holcombe Hunt* did not go out hunting once, which was nice.

The *Holcombe's* first meet of 2004 was on the moors near Rochdale. Late in the afternoon hounds got onto the scent of a deer, but fortunately sabs were on the spot straightaway and managed to split the pack all over the moors, thus allowing the deer enough time to escape.

The **NWHSA's** new 'Dying for a pint?' campaign is asking the general public in Lancashire and Cheshire to boycott pubs which host meets for hunts or provide venues for social or fundraising events. This campaign was launched on November 1st to coincide with the start of the hunting season and so far sabs have had a lot of support from the public – many have contacted **NWHSA** to say they will no longer drink in the pubs named (in some cases, even their local) while the hunt is still welcome. There are nearly 50 pubs listed and so far two have banned the hunt. Obviously, we have marked their return to civilised society by taking their names off the boycott list and look forward to the others following suit. (A big thanks to Surrey Anti-Hunt Campaign for the idea and campaign images).



Hampshire cops call in their infamous finger-pointing support group to help maximise some already over-zealous policing

VERMIN PATROL

CRUELTY CASES IN THE COURTS

badger
VERMIN



On 25/9/03 **Edward `Danny' Phillips** (58) of Broadstone Terrace, Catbrook, near Tintern - a terrier man with the *Curre and Llangybi Foxhounds* appeared before Abergavenny magistrates. Phillips denies a charge of wilfully interfering with a badger sett by digging it up. A hunt saboteur told magistrates he and two others had been following the hunt for about four hours when the fox went to ground in a field. He said they watched the scene from about 100 metres away. He said that initially there were hounds marking the site where the fox was, then they were replaced by terrier man Phillips and a few others on quad bikes with spades. They got off the quad bikes, briefly examined or looked at where the fox had gone to ground, and then proceeded to dig around that area. He watched for about 45 minutes before leaving, then telephoned the police and the local badger group. On 26/9/03 the case was thrown out of court - after a debate about the animals' toilet habits. The deputy district judge ruled there was no case to answer as it could not be proved it was occupied by badgers.

bloodsports
VERMIN

Two Cleveland poachers resorted to "barbaric" means to illegally snare spawning salmon. **John Richard Spaven** and **Darren Smitheringale**, both of Thames Road, Skelton, near Saltburn, admitted using a spear to catch fish after officers discovered the weapon in the boot of their car. Both were fined £150 and each were ordered to pay £150 costs. The court heard how Spaven admitted using the home-made spear, which had been fashioned from a broom handle and three welded barbs, and Smitheringale said he had used the lamp to help catch fish.

Robert Powton (35) of Darlington Road, West Auckland and **Daniel Matthew Robinson** (37) of Ashcroft Gardens, Bishop Auckland, were seen carrying a lamp and a gaff, a large hook on the end of a pole. Enviroment Agency officers found a bag containing a net and two sea trout, one of the trout was still entangled in the net, the other was seen to have gaff marks in it's side. The fish were examined and found to have been spawning, or about to spawn. Robinson and Powton were each sentenced to 130 hours community service and fined £100 with £100 costs by Bishop Auckland magistrates on 25/6/03.

Two men from west Cumbria were fined £500 each after being caught poaching salmon. **John Anthony Taylor** (43) of 20 Queens Crescent, Frizington and **Derek Andrew Bulman** (22) of 15 Arlecdon Road, Frizington, both pleaded guilty to two offences when they appeared at Whitehaven magistrates on 25/7/03. As well as being fined, the men were ordered to pay £125 costs each to the Environment Agency, which brought the prosecution.

A former pub licensee from North Wales has been banned from keeping animals for five years after he starved a dog and a rabbit to death. On 29/8/03 Flintshire magistrates heard that how **Richard Jones** who now lives on Cannon Drive in Bagillt, claimed in court he was an animal lover, admitted two charges of causing unnecessary suffering to the rabbit and a lurcher-type dog found in outbuildings at the rear of the Swan Inn at Rhewl near Mostyn. In addition to the five-year animal ban, he was ordered to carry out 150 hours of unpaid work under a community punishment order.

On 2/9/03 a gang of hare coursers caught poaching in Norfolk were fined a total of £2050. King's Lynn magistrates also confiscated a car belonging to one of the five men. **Leonard Gaskin** (46) **Steven Gaskin** (29) and **Charley Gaskin** (18) all from Coventry, had denied trespassing in pursuit of game and using any dog for the purpose of killing or taking any game. **Nelson Smith** (42) and a 17-year-old, both from Cleeve Prior, Worcestershire, also denied both charges. The group drove along private tracks in two cars and had six lurcher-type dogs with them. When police questioned the men, they found Steven Gaskin had blood on his hands and over his trousers. "He said all the dogs were his, he was training one of them and he had been coursing. Nelson Smith, who had sold his car since the incident, was fined £1000. Leonard Gaskin was fined £600, Charley Gaskin £300 and the 17-year-old £150. Each was ordered to pay £30 costs.

A gamekeeper was fined £250 for illegally possessing poison, 11 gin traps and a wild buzzard's egg. **Ronald Allison** (66) was the only suspect when a buzzard was poisoned on Balmanno Estate in Perthshire. At Perth Sheriff Court on 13/11/03, Allison denied the charges against him but changed his plea midway through a trial. The buzzard had been killed with the banned pesticide Carbofuran. The court heard that there was no legitimate reason for a gamekeeper to have any Carbofuran. Allison pleaded guilty to three charges. Others, relating to the killing of a crow and a buzzard and the poisoning of protected birds with Carbofuran were dropped by the Crown.

eggs/birds
VERMIN

A Teenager deliberately drove at a flock of ducks crossing the road and then turned around to hit them again, killing four. **Luke Carpenter** (19) of Orchard Rise, Middle Street, Rimpton, was seen deliberately killing the Indian Runner ducks as he drove through Wincanton. His car hit the birds with such force that two were thrown three metres down the road but what happened next horrified an onlooking driver. He saw the car drive around a roundabout and "quite deliberately" run over the ducks, two of which were still alive. When he reached the scene two ducks were dead and a third died in his hands. He was forced to put the fourth duck, which was pouring with blood, out of its misery with a wheel brace. At Yeovil magistrates Carpenter admitted causing unnecessary suffering to two ducks. And was given 160 hours community punishment.

equine
VERMIN

Allan Clynch (56) of Portland Street, Blackburn broke a court order banning him from keeping horses after he starved one so badly it had to be put down has escaped being sent to jail. Clynch formerly of Barnmeadow Lane, Great Harwood, left Hyndburn magistrates on 2/7/03 with a 12 month probation order that will extend an order given for the previous ban by six months. Clynch was also told he had to pay £10 a fortnight towards costs, totaling £3,365 for all legal proceedings. The court was told how he already had a three-year ban from May 2002.

On 15/9/03 **Gemma Brookfield** (26) was banned from owning horses and ponies after admitting slashing horses with a Stanley knife at her children's riding school on Mill Farm, Hillesley, Gloucestershire. She asked Stroud magistrates to take into consideration three other attacks.

assorted VERMIN

The owner of Basildon Zoo (now closed to public) **Yolande Surcouf** was convicted under Dangerous Wild Animals Act on 24/7/03 for selling a lioness to undercover BBC reporters. They paid her £1,500 cash and were able to drive off with lion in back of their van. She commented to the reporter "I don't care if you chop her up into lion steaks." She was fined £750 plus £500 costs.

Fears over animal-rights activists prompted a Caterham stockbroker to move her car after a night's drinking, a court has heard. **Sharni Clark** (26) wanted to get the Ford Ka inside the family's security gates in Tupwood Lane when she was caught. The banker ignored a policeman's warning not to drive just minutes beforehand, Redhill magistrates heard on 21/8/02. The court heard the family home had been targeted by animal-rights activists. The trader's father was finance director of a large drugs company that tested on animals. A breathalyser test showed Clark was more than twice over the legal limit. Clark was fined £500, ordered to pay £60 costs and banned from driving in the UK for 18 months.

domestic VERMIN



A puppy survived by drinking drips from a leaking shower and eating mouldy pizza after its owner abandoned it for a month. The good news is that the pup has been re-homed with a nurse and is now fit and healthy. At Macclesfield magistrates on 18/7/03 **Christopher Taylor** (26) of Thornway, Bramhall, was sentenced to a one year community rehabilitation order and ordered to carry out 60 hours community service after pleading guilty to causing unnecessary suffering and abandoning the dog. He was also banned from keeping animals for ten years and ordered to pay £1,220 costs, including £950 in vet and boarding fees.

A Greater Manchester couple has been banned keeping animals for life after pleading guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to their pet dogs. The dogs, belonging to **Keith Percival** (34) and his wife **Nicola** (32) from Abram, Wigan were severely emaciated and had matted, overgrown coats. Both defendants were ordered to pay £500 costs and given a three-year conditional discharge.



The owner of a Cumbrian puppy farm has appeared in court to face cruelty charges after nearly 50 puppies were imported from Northern Ireland. **John Walsh** (52) of Denton Hall, Low Row, near Brampton, was accused of cramming 49 puppies and three kittens into nine plastic containers, causing them unnecessary suffering and distress. Walsh, who advertises as operating licensed breeding kennels from Low Row, denied the charges levelled against him at a court appearance in Stranraer on 29/7/03. Charge one claims that the manner in which the animals were being transported, in nine plastic carry cases, caused them unnecessary suffering, due to lack of adequate space, water and ventilation. A second charge alleges that the animals were found to be in a state of distress, and that nine of them were unwell and should not have been transported. It is further alleged that Walsh did not have the correct documentation necessary for the transportation of the puppies and kittens.

Two men from the West Midlands have been jailed for beating a dog to death. Magistrates heard the Jack Russell terrier's skull had been split open with an axe during the attack which lasted up to 15 minutes. On 31/7/03 **Jonathan Jacobs** (20) of Nursery Road, Bloxwich, Walsall and **Alan Bytheway** (24) of Buxton Close, Little Bloxwich were sentenced to six and four months respectively for killing the dog, which belonged to Bytheway's mother. The court heard Jacobs and Bytheway were both drunk when they attacked the dog. They used an axe, a garden rake, a spade and a clothes pole. Bytheway had admitted the charges and Jacobs was found guilty. As well as being jailed, Jacobs and Bytheway were also banned from keeping animals for 15 years. Outside court, Bytheway's mother, said she was "sickened" by their behaviour and had disowned her son.



Robert Howsam (28) of Banksbottom, Hadfield, near Glossop was found guilty of killing two puppies he hanged from a tree. Howsam left the dogs to choke to death 6ft above the ground after pretending he was taking them for a walk. Then in a bid to cover his tracks, he invented a "fairytale" story about how he had given the dogs away to a man he had come to know while walking the animals. Howsam was convicted of two counts of animal cruelty at Glossop magistrates on 20/8/03. Howsam, who has convictions for assault, burglary and theft, was jailedor six months and disqualified him from keeping any animal for the next five years.

Tammy Jackson (22) of New Street, Milnsbridge was banned from owning animals - apart from dogs - for 20 years after she admitted abandoning two exotic pets. Jackson pleaded guilty to abandoning a royal python and a spiny-tailed lizard without reasonable cause or excuse in circumstances likely to cause unnecessary suffering. On 27/8/03 Huddersfield magistrates fined her £125 for each offence and ordered her to pay £100 towards legal costs, which topped £2,000.



William Seed (70) of Higher Road, Longridge is responsible for a spate of cat killings in Lancashire. Seed told a court he did not believe he had been doing anything wrong after trapping a series of pets, smashing them over the head with a hammer and drowning them. Seed appeared before Blackburn magistrates on 11/9/03 charged with three counts of criminal damage and one of attempted theft. Seed pleaded guilty to all three charges and said that his defence was that he was "stupid." He also pleaded guilty to killing a female black tabby cat. The police searched his property they found traps containing a crow and a magpie and a large empty spring trap. There was also a dustbin half filled with water. Seed admitted that the large trap was used to catch cats in his garden which he then drowned in the bin. In interview he admitted that he had been killing cats for three years. He said he caught the cats using a large spring trap, removed them, hit them heavily over the head with a large hammer, put them in a cloth bag and held them under water. On 1/10/03 Seed was made subject to a community rehabilitation order for six months and ordered to pay £750 compensation and £60 costs

Paul Anthony Hirst (52) of Moor Street, Shaw, pleaded guilty to two charges of causing unnecessary suffering to a dog and a cat in his care. At Oldham magistrates on 16/9/03 Hirst was sentenced to a 12-month probation order and was ordered to pay £250 costs. Both the cat and dog have been in the care of the RSPCA and are now healthy, happy and waiting to be rehomed.

A couple were banned from keeping dogs for ten years after RSPCA officers found an emaciated Border collie at their home. Blackburn magistrates heard on 18/9/03 that the dog been suffering for at least six weeks before he was taken into the care. **Michael Cartmell** (48) and **Roberta Cartmell** (32) of Henthorne Road, Clitheroe, both pleaded guilty to cruelty charges. As well as the ten year ban they were both made subject to a conditional discharge for 12 months and each ordered to pay £400 towards the prosecution costs.

A dog was beaten so savagely with a broom handle that it had to have one eye removed by a vet. **Michael Gaughran** (49) of Woodtown, Drumconrath, County Meath was fined £200 after pleading guilty at Ardee district court on 26/9/03 to cruelty to an animal. The ISPCA was not seeking to have him banned from keeping animals. After the court case an inspector said the dog was psychologically affected and is very nervous. She finds it difficult to trust people and is very defensive.

David Tuckley (25) of Ridgeway Road, Wordsley killed a cat in a brutal attack was jailed for six months and banned from keeping animals for 10 years. Tuckley was convicted by Halesowen magistrates on 4/10/03. **Tuckley** and **Jake Harbourne** (20) of Warwick Road, Wordsley, were jointly charged with causing unnecessary suffering to an animal. Harbourne was also jailed for six months in August after he admitted battering the cat to death with a shovel.

A boy watched in horror as his pet cat was impaled on a garden fork by a neighbour. **John Hyncica** (70) of Calva Road, Seaton stuck the fork through 18-month-old cat after she wandered through his garden. Hyncica, was fined £200 at West Allerdale magistrates on 26/11/03 after being convicted of carrying out the attack. Hyncica had denied the incident but magistrates found him guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to an animal. As well as being fined he was ordered to pay £200 court costs and a £95 vet bill. The good news is that the cat has since recovered.







Two brothers and a teenager who went on an horrific killing spree at an animal sanctuary in Cumbria could serve just five months behind bars. **Michael Faulder** (21) of Fourways, Prospect his brother **David Faulder** (23) of Lawson Street, Aspatria and **Joseph Dixon** (18) were each sentenced to 11 months in custody with six months suspended if they behave well. On 5/12/03 Carlisle Crown Court heard how Michael Faulder had been desperate to buy an air rifle from a friend before visiting the sanctuary at night with his brother and Dixon. The men broke into the isolated sanctuary and went on the rampage smashing guinea pigs against walls and kicking and shooting cats and rabbits. Two cats were held down and doused in petrol before being set alight and as they ran around burning and terrified, the men laughed. In total, 20 animals were killed. All three men admitted aggravated burglary and criminal damage but blamed each other for leading the attack. Michael Faulder admitted cruelty to a horse, his brother admitted cruelty to a grey cat and rabbit and Joseph Dixon admitted cruelty to the same cat. David Faulder said they had gone to the sanctuary to steal a kitten while Michael Faulder said he stayed outside and acted as a look-out and denied setting light to any cats. The trio were also banned from keeping animals for 10 years. Dixon will serve his sentence at a young offenders institution.



HELP SAVE A LIFE AFTER YOUR DEATH

REMEMBER THE HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION IN YOUR WILL

You may think that it is not worth your while making a Will but you may be surprised at how much you are worth, especially if you own your own home. Most people in this country die without making a Will and that means that the government gets more than their fair share. Making a Will need not be complicated or time consuming and it could save your loved ones a lot of unnecessary heartache. If you do not have a Will when you die there is no guarantee that those closest to you will benefit from your wealth and property. In addition, many people like to know that the organisations they support whilst alive will continue to benefit after their death.

The Hunt Saboteurs Association relies entirely on the generosity of its membership to function. As the organisation has no paid staff and minimal running costs more of the money coming in can be put to good use where it counts most – in the hunting field. Leaving a gift to the H.S.A. in your Will helps to ensure that the good work carried out by active hunt saboteurs can continue. If you would like your gift to be used for a particular purpose, please tell us. In the event that the government get around to banning hunting with hounds your gift will still be put to good use – the campaign will continue until no sentient creatures are abused in the name of sport.

A Will is a legally binding document and needs to be prepared properly. The services of a solicitor should be employed. A solicitor is the only person who can give professionally qualified advice. Have a look in Yellow Pages (under 'Solicitors') or call the Law Society on *020 7242 1222*. If you already have a Will you can include a gift to the H.S.A. by adding an amendment (known as a 'codicil') – you will need to consult your solicitor about this.

If you are able to remember the H.S.A. in your Will it would help if you could let us know.

I plan to / have already prepared a Will and have remembered the Hunt Saboteurs Association as follows (please tick as appropriate):

☐ **Residual Legacy** - a percentage of my estate once my family and friends have been provided for.

☐ **Pecuniary Legacy** - a cash gift of £.....

☐ **Specific Gift** - an individual item of value e.g. jewellery.

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Signature..... Date.....



Legal News

Five Suffolk and Essex sabs arrested on suspicion of violent disorder in a series of dawn raids at the end of October 2003 have been released and are currently on unconditional bail.

Two sabs were arrested at the Ashford Valley FH in November 2003. One on suspicion of assault, the other, ridiculously, for cruelty to a horse. Neither has been charged.

A Derby sab has been charged with an offence under the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1992 (no really) for the heinous offence of walking along a footpath near a hunt meet (the swine!). He has entered a Not Guilty plea and is currently awaiting trial. Meanwhile, a Birmingham sab arrested at the same hunt has been charged with Aggravated Trespass and is also awaiting trial.

Hampshire Police Over-Reaction Squad were out in force during a midweek trip to the Vale of Aylesbury with Garth and South Berkshire Hunt by Reading sabs. One sab was arrested and charged with "possession of an article with intent to commit criminal damage" (a citronella spray), "possession of an offensive weapon" (a whip), and Aggravated Trespass. The Crown Prosecution Service obviously did not fancy their chances much on the first two charges (wonder why?) and swiftly dropped them; unfortunately they have decided to proceed with the Aggravated Trespass charge and the sab concerned is awaiting trial on this charge.

A Nottingham sab was arrested in November following allegations of an incident during a Quorn Hunt cubbing meet. The hunt alleged that whilst a dig out was in progress a hunt steward's glasses were broken and he suffered a dislocated rib. The sab is currently awaiting a Crown Court trial for Actual Bodily Harm and Criminal Damage.

A Hastings sab recently won his appeal against a conviction for an offence under Section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986 (remember that?). He had been cracking his whip at the side of a public road. During the appeal hearing, the sergeant who had made the arrest tried to justify it by saying that he had arrested the largest sab present!

An Inspector from Hampshire police got awfully upset with a Basingstoke sab who allegedly told him to f**k off. Feet were stamped, toys were thrown out of prams, and the poor chap got so worked up he arrested her. Fortunately, after unwinding with a nice mug of cocoa back at the nick he calmed down and (several hours later) the sab was released without charge. Perhaps not such a dangerous threat to society after all, then.

A redcoat from the Crawley and Horsham Hunt was arrested in January after allegedly riding a sab down with his horse which trampled him and dragged him more than 100 yards, leading to extensive injuries. The assailant was released on bail and at the time of writing it is not known if charges are to be forthcoming. Don't hold your breath.... more on this in the next *Howl*

SUPPORT ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS

Those imprisoned for 'Animal Rights' Offences need your support. Show them you care by sending letters of support - These are greatly appreciated by most prisoners. **Please remember letters are opened before they reach prisoners so don't write anything stupid in them!**

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.

As well as writing you can help support AR prisoners by sending a donation to the A.L.F. Supporters Group and the Vegan Prisoners Support Group (VPSG) who provide financial help and support for them.

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

VPSG: PO Box 194, Enfield, Middx EN1 4YL, UK. Tel/Fax: *+44 (0)20 82 92 83 25* email: *info@vpsg.org* *www.vpsg.org*

DAVE BLENKINSOP
EM7899
HMP Bullingdon
PO Box 50
Bicester
Oxon OX25 1WD
Serving 10 years: 3 for GBH on HLS director Brian Cass, 18 months for burglary of 600 Newchurch guinea pigs & 5½ years for possessing explosives.

PAUL HOLLIDAY
KA9328
HMP Hull
Hedon Road
Hull HU9 5LS
Serving 18 months in relation to making phone calls to Covance staff, HLS share holders, hunt masters in the North York's area, farmers, agricultural suppliers, shooters etc.

PAUL LE BOUTILLIER
KA9328
HMP Hull
Hedon Road
Hull HU9 5LS
Serving 5 years in relation to making phone calls to Covance staff, HLS share holders, hunt masters in the North York's area, farmers, agricultural suppliers, shooters etc.



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 www.alfsg.org.uk

Animal Contacts Directory
Lists thousands or local and national campaign and rescue groups.
c/o Veggies, 245 Gladstone Street, Nottingham NG7 6HX
www.veggies.org.uk/acd email: acd@veggies.org.uk

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

Arkangel magazine
BM 9240, London, WC1N 3XX
www.arkangelweb.org email: arkangelweb@hotmail.com

Campaign for the Abolition of Angling
publishes Pisces
BM Fish, London, WC1N 3XX 01792 464 176
E-mail: pisces@pisces.demon.co.uk www.pisces.demon.co.uk

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!
A monthly roundup of ecological and other direct action news
c/o 12 London Road, Brighton, BN1 4AJ 07092 039970
www.actionupdate.org.uk mail@actionupdate.org.uk

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

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. 0845 458 4775
email: laa@londonaa.demon.co.uk
www.londonaa.demon.co.uk

National Anti Hunt Campaign
27 Old Gloucester Street, LONDON, WC1N 3XX
Phone: 01442 240246
email: nahc@nahc.freeserve.co.uk

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 564734 www.guineapigs.org.uk

SchNEWS
PO Box 2600, Brighton BN2 2DX
01273 685913 email: schnews@brighton.co.uk Web:
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
6 Boat Lane, EVESHAM, Worcestershire, WR11 4BP
Phone: 0845 458 0630 www.shac.net email: info@shac.net

Surrey Anti-Hunt Campaign
Publishes free newsletter
B.M. Box 7099
London WC1N 3XX
0781 565 8371 email: surreyantihunt@yahoo.com
www.sahc.org.uk

Vegan Prisoners Support Group (VPSG)
PO Box 194, Enfield, Middx EN1 4YL, UK
Tel/Fax: +44 (0)20 82 92 83 25
Emergency arrest line: 07743 536 114
email: info@vpsg.info Visit: www.vpsg.org

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. You don't have to go sabbing to join! We value 'supporting' members just as highly as sabs in the field.
- 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..... Tel.....

email.....

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

Card No. ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

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

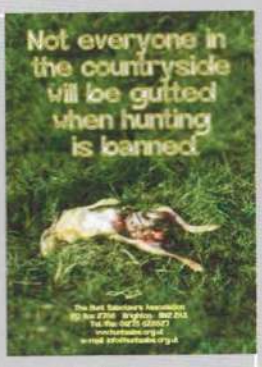
Cheques / PO's should be made payable to "HSA".

Please return to HSA, PO Box 5254, Northampton NN1 3ZA

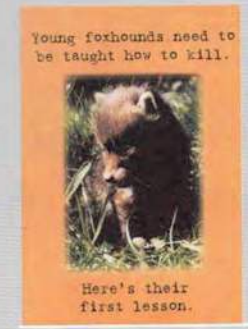
For a standing order form or more information phone Tel. 0845 450 0727

HSA PROMOTIONALS





Full colour, glossy A2 posters. Ideal for stalls, displays, etc
.....**FREE (+p&p +DONATION)**





Full colour, A5
HSA 'Still Legal'
Leaflet. Explains what sabs do and why we're the only viable option for wildlife NOW! Reverse side has salesgoods and membership details. Ideal for stalls and as an insert for 'Animal Rights' publications

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

Full colour, A5 leaflet explaining cubhunting; the side of foxhunting the hunters want to keep quiet. Help 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 200,000 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:
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You can also order more copies of this *Howl* to give to friends etc for the price of £1.50 per copy (+p&p).

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

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



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.

HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SATURDAY 31st JULY 2004

1 pm - 12 midnight

@

CONWAY HALL

25 RED LION SQUARE LONDON WC1R 4RL

NEAREST STATION IS HOLBORN (CENTRAL AND PICCADILLY LINES)

- REPORTS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS
- DISCUSSIONS / DEMONSTRATIONS
- RAFFLE (INCLUDING POSH 'LUSH' STUFF)
- AMUSING VIDEO COMPILATIONS
- MERCHANDISE, LEAFLETS & HOWLS UP FOR GRABS
- DRUNKEN TOMFOOLERY

