Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

Winter 2005

HOWL 84

The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association

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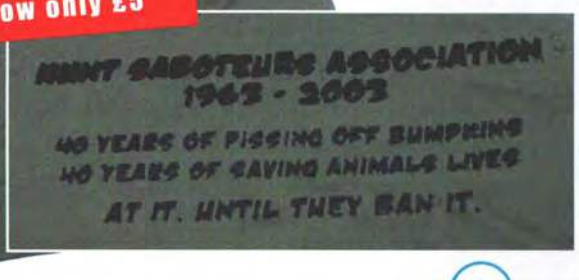
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HOWL 84

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.

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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(S)

Welcome to *HOWL 84*....

The season is now well underway, though for some reason the media seemed to believe it began on the first real Saturday in November. None-the-less our organisation once again gained unpurchasable publicity with coverage on the BBC, Sky and Channel 5 and in numerous broadsheets the following day. The message was clear, the HSA is still full of life and has never been more needed.

Since the end of the previous season most of our predictions as to how this one would go seem to have been correct. Some hunts are openly defiant of the Hunting Act, fewer seem to be towing the line and the majority appear to be bending it back and forward in an attempt to see what they can get away with. Countering this, most sab groups seem to have found their feet in potentially new roles and interesting footage is beginning to be received by our VEO (see page 9 for the introduction of the committee's new boy). Generally, the feeling seems to be the same from group to group, that the Hunting Act is just what we needed, but it needs to be enforced. And of course there are no prizes for guessing this is where the new legislation falters. In an attempt to highlight this it appears as though LACS are mounting a private prosecution against the Exmoor FH, the likelihood of this causing DEFRA and the Home Office some embarrassment is quite high I would have thought and will be most welcome if it helps to galvanize some activity from the authorities.

Shooting, which for a long time now has been holding its breath as it let the world of hunting face the storm, has come under some new criticism. Death rates, factory farming of birds and the sheer waste of the dead animals have all been exposed recently. As an organisation, it is fair to say we have never ignored the issue and as such a more concentrated view of it is in hand (see page 12).

Lastly, for the moment, whether we like it or not it is down to us to see that the Act is made to work. Therefore, it has probably never been more important for us to be out there doing what we do best. Prepared to monitor – ready to sab! Home movies anyone? Ooh!

Mr D.

....and Welcome to *HOWL 84* **again**

Just like I never thought I would live to see the hunt ban, I never thought I would see my local pack carefully training the hounds to trail hunt, or the beagles following a drag..but so far this season, I have seen both, as well as hounds picking up the scent of live quarry, and the hunt staff desperately calling off the pack, without us even having to intervene. I'm aware that this has been from the better behaved (!) packs, and the more thuggish hunts will no doubt be arrogantly ignoring the law - let them, they are playing into our hands. It is that kind of arrogance that has always kept the public against them, and their two fingered approach to the law will be their final undoing. The assaults on sabs/monitors already this season were not unexpected, but the recent huge fine of an Essex hunt master for assaulting sabs, shows that they are not always "above" the law.

To read *Horse and Hound*, you would believe that hunting is now so popular, that supporters/riders have now doubled, yet in the same breath, the diehards have only the prospect of somehow keeping their hunts going until a hunt supporting Prime Minister is elected, left to give them hope - that's one hell of a gamble. Lets keep up the pressure, and we can hammer the final nails in the coffin of live quarry hunting long before that happens.

Grant

STAGHUNTING LOOPHOLE IS ILLEGAL

A bombshell letter could effectively put an end to staghunting in the West. The letter from DEFRA minister Ben Bradshaw, makes it clear that the 'relay' method of hunting, which several hunts have employed since the ban, is itself illegal. This means when the staghunting season resumes in August, hunt masters will have to convert to drag hunting or face prosecution, Mr Bradshaw said. Staghounds have got around the

A Devon member of LACS wrote to Mr Bradshaw for clarification, and demanded a closure in the loophole with an amendment to the Hunting Act. The minister said the law was clear – using two hounds in relay to chase, rather than flush, prey was illegal.

How will Britains mammals finally find protection?



The torturously slow process to protect British wildlife from the tortures of the hunters, stretches far further back into the history books, than the 40 year struggle of the HSA.

All attempts to afford protection to hunted mammals have been consistently thwarted by the pro hunt lobby.

In 1949, two bills were presented to parliament, one to end hunting deer, otters, badgers and hares, the other to end foxhunting. Clement Attlee sidelined the issue by asking John Scott Henderson to look into the already biased situation. The Scott Henderson report stated that no form of hunting, not even badger digging, was cruel enough to warrant abolition. A motion to give wild animals the same protection as captive mammals was abandoned, as it would obviously have had a huge impact on fields sports.

More recent attempts have also failed; the Wild Mammals (protection) Act 1996, aimed to make it a criminal offence to cruelly ill treat a wild mammal. But, because hunting was not exempt, the only way to get the act passed was to make it an offence to mutilate, kick, beat, nail or otherwise impale, stab, burn, stone, crush, drown, drag, or asphyxiate a wild mammal – activities carefully chosen to avoid conflict with hunting interests.

"A motion to give wild animals the same protection as captive mammals was abandoned, as it would obviously have had a huge impact on fields sports."

Later attempts to outlaw badger digging, were only partially successful; The Badgers Act 1973, made it an offence to dig for badgers without the landowners consent, which enabled hunts to continue to dig foxes in badger setts, killing any badgers they found in the process. Badger digging was made illegal in 1981, but enforcing the ban has proved difficult, because the standard defence is that the terrier man was digging for fox.

The Badgers Act 1991 finally protected badgers, but contained a loophole that allowed foxhunts to continue to block badger setts, which has been widely abused.

The Burns enquiry noted that 'another practice that gives rise to concern, is that of stopping up foxes' earths and badger setts, before a foxhunt begins'.

The rest of Europe maintains a closed season for foxes, which covers the breeding period, whereas closer to home during the recent hunting debate, the House of Lords considered the problem of fox cubs orphaned by hunters and decided that the best solution was to allow terriers to kill fox cubs. Proper enforcement of the Hunting Bill, will finally give hunted animals the protection they need after years of pro hunt persecution.

Abbreviated from an article by professor Stephen Harris, BBC Wildlife Magazine, Feb 2005



ALL BIDS TO CHALLENGE THE BAN FAIL

On the 29th July 2005 the High Court rejected the second attempt to challenge the hunting ban on legal grounds. Two senior judges ruled the pro-hunt lobby did not have a case for a judicial review of the ban. Dismissing the challenge, Lord Justice May and Mr Justice Moses ruled the Act had 'a legitimate aim', was 'necessary in a democratic society' and 'satisfies the test of proportionality.' They said: 'We consider that there was sufficient material available to the House of Commons for them to conclude that hunting with dogs is cruel.' In any case, there was 'a reasonable basis' for deciding that 'taken as a whole, hunting foxes with dogs causes more suffering than shooting them.' The judges said there were 'two irreconcilable opposing views' which were both reasonable. A majority of MP's had then decided it was necessary to pass the ban. It was 'reasonably open to the majority of the democratically elected House of Commons to conclude that this measure was necessary in the democratic society which had elected them', added the judges. After the ruling, Countryside Alliance (then) chairman John Jackson said they had been granted leave to appeal.

■ SCOTTISH LEGAL CHALLENGE DISCONTINUED

The Countryside Alliance are to discontinue their legal challenge against the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act. The decision was taken after three senior judges in the court of session in Edinburgh refused the appeal. After discussion within the hunting community it was decided not to take the appeal to the next stage, the privy council in the House of Lords.

In a separate case, the union of country sports workers' motion against the Scottish ministers challenging the same act, was heard during a three day hearing in the Autumn and a ruling is expected early in the new year. This action is specifically against the judgement by Judge Lord Brodie that the new law does not infringe anyone's human rights.

■ NINE LAW LORDS CONFIRM BAN IS LEGAL

Pro-blood sports campaigners have lost their latest bid to overturn the ban on hunting with dogs, after nine Law Lords unanimously ruled it would remain. The Countryside Alliance had argued the legislation used to force the ban through in England and Wales – 1949 Parliament Act – was illegal. But Lord Bingham of Cornhill, head of the panel of Lords, said it was valid. The case, (heard in October), was heard by nine out of the 12 Law Lords, rather than the usual five, because of its constitutional importance. – Sorry Simon but as we keep telling you hunting mammals with packs of dogs is a crime, are you a criminal? – Ed.

SABS VIDEO FOOTAGE LEADS TO ARRESTS



In early June police made a number of public order arrests based on sabs' video clips taken before the ban came into effect. Almost a dozen hunt supporters from across the country have been arrested for alleged offences on the hunting field last season before the Act came into force. According to Knights solicitors there have been three arrests in Sussex, one in Gloucestershire, four in Essex and one in Cambridgeshire. Joint masters and followers are among those arrested, the arrests are for public order offences relating to damage to vehicles and assaulting saboteurs.

One joint master from a south-eastern hunt was called by police to view footage submitted as evidence from an alleged attack in October 2004. The evidence did not result in a prosecution against this joint master, although he did have to foot a legal bill of £700. He claimed that 'the police are petrified of the antis because they know the law inside out.'

DEER CAN BE SHOT OVER THE INTERNET

Deer, sheep and Goats can now be killed over the Internet with just a click of the mouse. Sicko's will be able to see through the sights on their computer screens and use the mouse to guide the rifle onto the target before using the click button to operate the trigger. John Lockwood, the man behind the idea said: 'the system is designed for people who can't hunt the old fashioned way, such as 'the handicapped', those in a country that doesn't allow hunting or armed service overseas. It's a service.' For more information visit *www.live-shot.com* or email *info@live-shot.com*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Charity rejects donation from bird killers
The Institute of Cancer Research has rejected a donation of £30,000 because the money was raised through sponsored bird shoots and they fear that its staff might be targeted by animal rights extremists as a consequence.

Commons protesters guilty
Otis Ferry and seven other men were found guilty in May, after invading the main Commons chamber during the hunting bill debate last September. They had attempted a defence that their actions were protected under the Human Rights Act, which protects the right to freedom of expression. They were all given 18 months conditional discharges and ordered to pay £350 in costs.

Liverpool footballer bans the hunt
Djibril Cisse, the Liverpool footballer who acquired a 900-year-old title along with a house, has banned hunting on his estate. Meets for the Cheshire Forest Hunt were on the grounds of his new £2 million property in Frodsham, Cheshire. The Lord of the manor of Frodsham barred it being used by the hunt after pleas by anti-hunting activists.

C.A. still pleading for more money
Hunt supporters are being urged to donate £25 upwards each to help fund legal challenges to the Government ban on hunting. The Council of Hunting Associations and the Countryside Alliance are appealing for funds. The challenges focus on the supposed illegitimacy of the Parliament Act and contravention of the Human Rights Act. The appeal target is a piffling £3 million.

Surf and raise funds for dogs trust
Dogs trust has teamed up with Click Now, using Ask Jeeves! Technology, to bring you an amazing search engine to help you search the web. The Dogs Trust websearch works in exactly the same way as any other popular search engine. The only difference is that, every time you search, Dogs Trust will receive a donation. So the more you search, the more money Dogs Trust receives – at no cost to you! Visit *www.dogstrust.org.uk* for more details.

Government to keep details secret
Recently members of pro-hunting groups approached the Government to release details of meetings held between DEFRA and anti-hunting groups in the run up to the ban. Ministers refused this request, claiming it would affect future policy-making discussions and also act as a deterrent to people volunteering to give evidence or offering opinions during future discussions or meetings.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New Forest Huntsman charged
Retired New Forest Huntsman, Paul Woodhouse has been charged with threatening behaviour against New Forest Animal Protection Group anti-hunt observer, Ron White, on 17th February 2005, and will appear before Lyndhurst magistrate's court on 30th August. Woodhouse had to be restrained by his own colleagues after allegedly using threatening behaviour towards Mr White during the last official day of legal hunting in the New Forest.

Partridges set free
A partridge breeder from Shropshire has been dealt a massive blow after 3000 birds worth up to £75,000 were released into the wild. The red legged partridges were released from their pens in Hadnall, Shrops in mid August. The birds were due to be distributed to shoots across the UK. A police spokesman said, 'although it is not criminal damage or burglary we are appealing for information...'

Hawk board amends its constitution
In a unanimous decision this August the Hawk Board has added the following to its constitution. "The Hawk Board considers that Fox, Deer and Mink are unsuitable quarry for hunting with birds of prey in conjunction with more than two dogs." Note – In Scotland it is illegal to kill Deer by any other means than shooting.

F.C. allows just one hunt on its land
As of the beginning of September the Forestry Commission has granted but one licence to trail hunt on its land. And the winner is the New Forest FH (surprise, surprise-Ed). Theoretically this should mean that no other ex-fox hunt will be allowed to hunt through FC land from now on!

Bad Cop - No doughnut!
There has always been a reason why saboteurs should want to avoid Essex, the violence from the hunts has been bad enough, but the policing has been at times, shall we say, slightly impartial? Well, with a nice new shiny Hunting Act in force, Essex police have reacted by abolishing the post of Wildlife Crime Officer, and asked the office who previously held the position, to go back on the beat!

Christmas comes but once a year?
In the long running saga of Steve Christmas's search for some kind of justice (see main article in *Howl 82*) after being run down while out sabbing a cub hunt in September 2000. He has finally received an award in respect of loss of future earnings, due to his inability to return to work after his horrific assault. Understandably, no specific amount has been mentioned by Steve, however, he is said to be extremely pleased with the final result.

CHANGE TO SHOOTING LICENCES

March 1st saw changes to the general licence permitting the control of certain species of bird in England, with sparrows and starlings removed from the list and Canada geese added. It will be possible to control Canada geese outside the main shooting season but only for preventing disease, or serious damage to crops, livestock, timber and fruit and vegetables. Sport shooting alone is not a reason for control according to the conditions. If challenged, the shooter would have to show that any shooting of Canada geese was carried out in accordance with the terms of the appropriate general licence. The new arrangements change several aspects of the law in relation to pest control and include new conditions such as demonstrating that appropriate non-lethal methods of control, such as scaring, are either ineffective or impracticable. Larsen live cage traps will have to be inspected at least once every 24 hours, and only crow, jackdaw, jay, magpie and rook may be used as decoy birds.

BADGER CULL SABOTAGED IN SOUTH WEST



Activists have released the latest information on the continued resistance to the ludicrously justified DEFRA badger cull recently in Herefordshire, Cornwall and Somerset. In East Herefordshire during the first week of May 600 traps were destroyed and five pheasants, one badger and a jay were given back their freedom. During eight days of trapping in West Cornwall in June four badgers were released before they could be shot and over 250 traps were destroyed. In July the cull moved to Exmoor where over 70 traps were destroyed and apparently the DEFRA trappers were treated to sleepless nights as their vehicle alarms were set off as they slept at the Anchor Inn, in Exebridge. Further updated can be found by visiting *www.badger-killers.co.uk*

HUNT SUPPORTERS DISRUPT STEAM TRAIN

Dozens of supports from the Derwent, Sinnington, Glaisdale and Saltersgate Farmers hunts were out in force before the election, to demonstrate against Lawrie Quinn the anti hunt MP for Whitby and Scarborough, who was attending the reopening of steam to the North Yorkshire Moors Railway between Pickering and Whitby. Huntsmen on three horses rode onto the railway in an attempt to halt the 1.20pm service from Whitby while a member of the Sinnington, lay down on the tracks in front of the train. Upon its arrival at Pickering station Mr Quinn was 'greeted' by 50 plus hunt supporters. He simply said: 'If people want a different MP then the way to go about it is through the ballot box.'



Huntsman Ivan Holmes, of Tylas Farm, Old Byland, Helmsley, admitted aggravated trespass and threatening behaviour. He was given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay costs.

HUNT TREASURER ACCUSED OF THEFT

A woman has been accused of stealing more than £4,500 from a Devon hunt supporters' club while she was its treasurer. Naomi Tamzin Barrett, 41, of Branscombe, Seaton, appeared before Exeter Magistrates' Court in April. She faced three charges of stealing cash totalling £4,626 from the Axe Vale Hunt Supporters' Club. She was also alleged to have stolen £372.97 from the East Devon Hunt Pony Club. Magistrates' said the charges were so serious that they would need to be dealt with by Exeter Crown Court.

NEW TOP COP SOFT ON TOFFS



New boy Chief Constable Colin Port is off to a flying start. His first act on taking office was to announce that Avon and Somerset will not be policing the hunt ban because it would 'undermine their policing style' and they are concerned about their 'relations with local communities'. Quoting extensively from Countryside Alliance Propaganda, Port is putting out the word that the ban is 'unworkable', that the ban only 'confers a power of arrest, not a duty' and that breaches of the ban are 'low level wildlife crimes'. One explanation for Port's attitude might lie in a leaked memo in which his senior officers have admitted that the force 'are not secure as an organisation...police officers are involved in hunts.'

NIIGHTIME LAMPING CATASTROPHE

A teenager who shot schoolboy Alfie Norton in the head in a lamping accident last year has escaped jail. Lee Beauchamp, 19, was given a conditional discharge and £40 costs after admitting trespassing on land with an air weapon after a night-time shooting incident at Whitwood golf course on September 23 2004. The court was told 'a shot was discharged from the air rifle under the control of Lee Beauchamp, from a distance of approximately 15 to 20 metres, which struck Alfie in the centre of his forehead. It passed through his forehead and fragmented as it passed through his brain before lodging in the back of his head.' Alfie Norton was left permanently brain damaged. Beauchamp is said to have told police officers that he never wanted to see that particular weapon, or any other weapon again. At an earlier hearing, Alfie's uncles, John Norton, 61 and Stephen Norton, 35 were both jailed for their part in the crime which left critically ill Alfie bleeding in the back seat of a car for 90 minutes while they searched for his father Gary. Both men admitted trespassing on land with an air weapon and perverting the course of justice. Gary Norton, 45 was given a nine-month suspended sentence for perverting the course of justice.

SHOOTERS IN YET MORE FIREARMS OFFENCES

Two men have been warned they face jail after guns and a dead young deer were found in a pick-up truck in the New Forest in May. The pair were arrested after being stopped by a police anti-poaching patrol, they found two loaded rifles in the rear of the vehicle and the 12-month-old fallow prickett underneath. A search of the home of 33-year-old David Cailes revealed a sawn-off shotgun as well as ammunition. Cailes and Ian Robinson, 43, appeared before Southampton Crown Court where they admitted firearms offences. Speaking to Cailes the judge warned him: 'A custodial sentence is very likely in your case' and to Robinson 'all sentencing options are open in your case.'

WESTMINSTER EIGHT - GUILTY!



The eight men (including Otis Ferry left) who disguised themselves as workmen in order to disrupt parliament last September during the debate over the Hunting Act have been found guilty of public order offences. The Judge said their conduct was disorderly and they had caused alarm. They were sentenced to an 18-month conditional discharge. Still no word has ever been received as to how these men actually gained access to the parliamentary chamber without insider help, as was widely speculated at the time.

HUNTS MANS BALLS



"Since the ban, saboteurs have been as active as ever. The Countryside Alliance estimates that the 'level of hassle' is the same as before the ban."
(Horse and Hound 17 March 2005)

"Saboteurs do not seem to accept or believe that we are acting within the law."
Joint-Master Nick Bamber – Chid, Lec & Cow.
(Horse and Hound magazine 17 March 2005)

"If Otis wore a hoodie instead of a hunting jacket, he'd be in a prison cell."
Janet Street-Porter
(Independent, 29 May 2005)

"For hunting as we know it, these are the worst of times. We've marched for freedom, we've campaigned for freedom, we've protested outside the Commons for it, and some of you took the King's shilling and fought for it, but I'm a cynic and I fear we may be 'interim hunting' not until there's a repeal, but until we accept that there won't be a repeal. I don't believe the next government will be Conservative... I don't believe the Parliament Act challenge will succeed... If the human rights challenge does succeed in Europe we may get compensation, which the incumbent party may not pay, but not a repeal. The Hunting Act is a bad law, forced through by a morally bankrupt government, but, in the absence of a miracle, it's here to stay."
John Bell *(Extract from Vale of Aylesbury Hunt supporters club magazine)*

"I'm not surprised...they were never going to vote themselves out of a job. That's (the ban) what they have wanted all along, so what have they got left to sabotage? There's nothing for them to do. There are loopholes everywhere, like hunting with two dogs and a gun, but we are not doing anything illegal."
Alison Hawes, South West regional director of the CA
(Western Morning News 28/7/05, responding to the HSA voting to continue it's activities where needed).

"In other words, are you on the side of an inbred pestilential vermin, which, when its population is uncontrolled, wreaks serious damage upon the rural landscape – or are you on the side of the foxes?"
Rod Liddle *(Sunday Times, July 2005)*

"Before the ban, it was an accepted practice by the fox hunters to leave a vixen, should she be put to ground...should a vixen be killed, the hunt staff would endeavour to find the cubs and rear them."
M Major *(Letters page, Western Morning News, 25/5/05)*

"Hunting contributes £243.1 million to the rural economy, and provides some 6-8,000 full time jobs." Why can't you all go draghunting instead? "The answer is, we could."
Recent CA leaflet 'Hunting forward not back.'



☹ Further to Howl 82's story of the 13-year-old being shot dead in Devon while out lamping last September, his 49-year-old stepfather (Philip Rowe) was charged in January with his manslaughter, in July he pleaded guilty to the charge of manslaughter by gross negligence at Exeter Crown Court. Rowe will be sentenced on 2nd September 2005.

☹ A teenager was rushed to hospital in November after being crushed by her own horse as it reared and fell back on her. The rider had been hunting with the Derwent Hunt near Scarborough when the accident happened. She was airlifted to hospital and treated for serious chest injuries.

☹ Barrie Heath, 72, a farmer and master of the Worcestershire Hunt died in early February when the tractor he was driving toppled over into a slurry pit. He died almost instantly from multiple injuries after the tractor fell on top of him. Emergency crews rushed to the scene but could not save him, his body was recovered two hours later.

☹ An enraged deer hunter went on a murderous rampage in North Wisconsin, USA, in November, shooting dead five other hunters and wounding three others, apparently in a dispute over a hunting spot, on the opening day of the US deer hunting season.

☹ A first time rider with the Cheshire Forest FH was rushed to hospital in Macclesfield on Saturday 19, February, the first day the hunt went out after the ban. Vinne Faal suffered a broken pelvis when he fell from his horse in the afternoon.

☹ A man who took pot shots at ducks in the harbour at Ballynacargy in Ireland, has come to terms with the fact that his actions mean he won't be allowed to participate in wildlife shooting again. Paul Lonican apparently threw bread into the harbour to entice the ducks and shot them. The judge at his trial ordered Lonican to put together the sum of 1000 Euro to go to the people of Ballynacargy to replace the ducks they have lost, he also ordered the destruction of the firearm.

☹ The former huntsman of the New Forest Buckhounds and kennel-huntsman of the Hursley Hambledon FH, Stan Read died this summer.

☹ Lady Jane Benson, formerly Lady Jane Lowther, joint master of the Ullswater Foxhounds has been banned from driving for 12 months after failing a roadside breath test in the centre of Penrith. The 57-year-old was arrested and taken to the police station where she was asked to complete another breath test. She was unable to give a reading despite two attempts – and a custody sergeant believed it was because she was too drunk. Benson, of Rose Cottage, Askham, was also fined £270 with £58 costs by Eden magistrates after she admitted failing to provide a specimen of breath for analysis in July.

IRISH HUNTERS BECOMING NERVOUS?

Hunting Association of Ireland (HAI) Limited is a new initiative to protect and promote hunting in Ireland. It is the political wing of hunting and has been set up to unite, promote and increase awareness and understanding of hunting. The HAI is the national body which co-ordinates and promotes hunting with hounds. It comprises six constituent and autonomous bodies, which represent and control the six varieties of hunting in Ireland: Harriers, foot Harriers, Foxhunting, Beagling, Minkhunting and the Ward Union Stag hounds.

LET THE IN-FIGHTING BEGIN!

A number of readers have continued to apportion blame on the state of affairs we are in to the Countryside Alliance. Their policy of appeasement by John Jackson was obviously well intentioned, but it has failed and failed badly. It is no wonder the Daily Telegraph is critical, alongside with the Countryside Action Network, of the CA's actions. Surely the time has come for a re-shuffle of power and an acknowledgement from the highest levels of the magnitude of the setback, that previous tactics have been reassessed and that credible and vigorous leadership will henceforth be given... Editorial, Hounds magazine March 2005.

LORD LAUNCHES HUNT COUP

An eighty-year-old aristocrat has been accused of masterminding an extraordinary coup to gain control over an Irish hunt. The Earl of Harrington, a close friend of the Royal Family, has become caught up in a row over the running of the County Limerick Hunt, one of the oldest in Ireland. Lord Harrington, the master of the hunt until he stepped down a decade ago, has been accused of using his influence to oust the hunt committee, made up of local farmers. Friends and family of the Lord flew into Ireland from London and the West Indies to attend a special meeting and a vote of no confidence in the committee. According to sacked committee members, Lord Harrington was angered that the foxhounds no longer had a 'presumed right' over the land – a position that was disputed by the farmers. They claimed that unrestricted access to the land was impractical and agreements based on goodwill should be forged with landowners.

GASSY DUKE THREATENS WILDLIFE



One of Britain's richest landowners plans to boost his family fortune by drilling for gas in an area of outstanding natural beauty in Surrey's protected heathlands. The Duke of Northumberland, worth £300m, has leased land to a British oil company (Star Energy), to build a giant gas platform in a beauty spot that is home to some of Britain's rarest birds and reptiles. The sandy heathland, one of the most unspoilt parts of Surrey, is a site of special scientific interest and natural habitat of the sand lizard, Dartford warbler, the woodlark and the nightjar, as such it is recognised as an ecological haven within the Surrey hills. A leaked confidential report drawn up by Star Energy, shows that up to 40 lorries a day would have to drive through the middle of the heath to get to the gas exploration platform.

ARE YOU HITTING ON MY MATES BIRD?

A hunt master has been cleared of assaulting a saboteur despite striking her with his riding crop. Andrew Cass, 51, of Unthank Lane, Holmesfield and joint master of the High Peak Hunt, in Derbyshire, said he struck out when the sab grabbed his horse's reins. The sab suffered a 6cm wound to her head in the attack. A jury was shown a video of Cass bringing down his crop and striking the sab. Giving evidence Cass conceded that the footage, taken by a fellow sab, made it 'fairly obvious' that he had hit the woman. He said he struck out when he feared they were both at risk from his mount. (So in order to stop someone being injured you hit them with a blunt object, right got it! – Ed).

BADGER TB VACCINE TRIAL LAUNCED

The government is to launch a trial to test whether vaccinating badgers against tuberculosis can prevent the spread of the disease in cattle. DEFRA Minister Ben Bradshaw announced the three-year vaccine field study, the first of its kind, to the Commons in September. The trial, estimated to cost £1.1m a year, will take place next year in an area of high Bovine TB prevalence in south-west England and will assess the protective effect of the vaccine. 'We will be injecting badgers with the vaccine during the study. There are cases where this method of administration may be useful as an alternative to culling,' Mr Bradshaw said. The Veterinary Laboratories Agency will also be carrying out a study to prepare for similar trials in cattle, it was announced.

HUNT MASTER IN GUN COCK UP

Hunt master Dominic Jones has been heavily fined and surrendered his firearms licence after losing a shotgun while hurrying to the start of a meet. Magistrates heard how Jones, Master of the Tiverton Staghounds, was called out by two local farmers to fetch fallen stock in April this year. Jones took three guns with him, including a .410 short-barrelled, small-bore shotgun. Hurrying back to the start of the meet that day, he locked the two other weapons back in the gun cabinet at the kennels, but forgot he had taken out the shotgun earlier. When he was called out again the next day to collect more stock, he noticed the gun was missing and reported the matter to the police. The shotgun is still missing. As well as surrendering his gun licence, magistrates fined Jones £500 and ordered him to pay £55 in court costs.

ORDER TO SHUT KENNELS

A North East man has been ordered to remove kennels he erected to house fox hounds. David Cowie, of Wolsingham, County Durham, built the kennels for the animals shortly AFTER the ban was imposed in February. But at a meeting of Wear District Council's development control committee, he was ordered to take them down following complaints from neighbours. "We had complaints from local residents about the noise and smell," said David Townsend, chief council planner at Wear Valley DC. Mr Cowie reacted angrily to the decision at the meeting and had to be restrained by his partner as the decision was announced.





New position on HSA Committee

VIDEO EVIDENCE OFFICER

The HSA committee are proud to announce the approval of a new committee position in light of current changing circumstances. The committee feels that being able to provide active sabs with a central and dedicated resource centre for the collating and documenting of video-graphic evidence is now an essential part of our business.

In short, the position will allow individuals and groups a base from which evidence gathered material can be held, compiled, copied and dispatched quickly. With a single officer required to access materials we will have a much stronger opportunity to meet press enquiry deadlines and provide comprehensive evidence exhibits for court cases when the need should arise.

In the words of the new VEO himself:

"My job is to collate and organise relevant footage received from groups around the country, and work with the Web and Press Officers to ensure we have footage ready to publish on the site and give to the press/police as needed. Footage sent in by groups to the BM address can then be forwarded to myself to be logged and backed up. Tapes can then be returned to groups within a week or two. Further more, the role of the VEO can be used to evaluate the video capabilities of groups around the country, and to run video workshops to ensure sabs get high quality footage that makes for good evidence".

As the membership will now be aware the position has been filled and the VEO awaits your offerings. As these should be sent through in the normal way, via the BM box, it is advisable that original copies of material should not be sent. Should circumstances later arise where the original is needed, the VEO will contact the group directly to arrange the best way for this to be done.

Old pre-ban footage can also be submitted for archive purposes, however, the main responsibility of the position is to concentrate on post-ban evidence material.

blah blah blah blah blah blah blah



Howl 85
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 to:
howleditor@huntsabs.org.uk

SCUM VS SCUM - BRING IT ON!

Dear Sir or Madam

Although I strongly oppose your organisations activities I felt compelled to let you know of my growing contempt for the rising numbers of huntsman attempting to expose loopholes in the Hunting Act legislation.

I believed then, as I still do, that the rural way of life is under attack from a misguided minority, preferring grand political gestures to a sustainable, living countryside.

As a falconer and occasional shooter, I marched shoulder-to-shoulder with the hunting fraternity on several of the Countryside Alliance demonstrations in central London. This would not have been the case had I known the path that many huntsman would subsequently choose to follow.

The recent purchase and use of birds of prey by fox-hunts has forced me to re-assess where my loyalties truly lie. Very few birds of prey are capable of taking a live fox anyway, but add a scenario involving horses and humans, and these people are not only acting illegally but also very irresponsibly.

I am astonished at the arrogance and level of disrespect those responsible have shown towards falconers, and the sport generally. As if common-sense were not enough, The Hawk Board recently issued the following statement:

'The Hawk Board and falconry clubs throughout the UK are fundamentally opposed to the use of birds of prey in conjunction with packs of hounds. Falconers and those involved in hunting should note that the Governing bodies of both sports strongly advise against this practice as it could lead to both sports being bought into disrepute and have significant welfare risks' (see www.hawkboard.org.uk)

How ironic too, that the 'you don't understand our sport and way of life' tag (previously reserved for organisations such as yours), is now wholly applicable to the fox-hunting lobby.

Yours faithfully

James Parkinson
By Email - Address supplied

BUMPKINS HAVE SAB DATABASE??

Dear Editor

When we were out last week to oversee the antics of the Pychley FH at Guilsborough in Northamptonshire where we should not have been recognised at all, we were almost immediately spotted and harassed for the rest of the morning by a bunch of most unpleasant characters. So how did they know us? I have a theory that all their diligent filming of us filming them (how daft can you get we thought) has paid off, in that all the hunts in this area now have mug shots of us, and certainly the sabs, to which they refer and are able to identify us and thus rustle up the heavies.

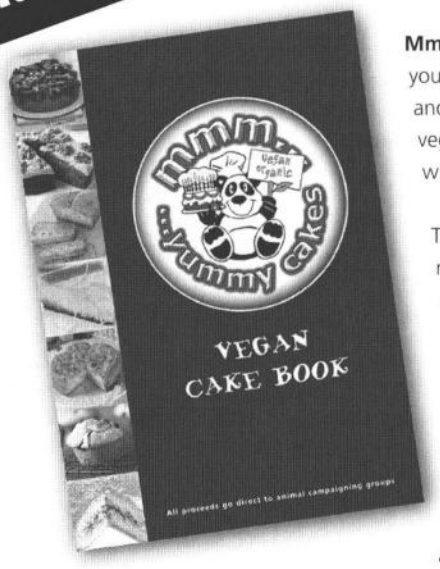
If you don't already know, please be careful, watch your backs – they are dangerous. It would seem that, whereas before they had the law on their side officially (unofficially I think they still have) and were thus 'entitled' to remove us from the scene, now they feel that they have nothing more to lose and are determined to get their enemies no matter what.

And the police? Pardon? Oh, them, too busy in most cases to come out and happy for us to supply the evidence of illegal hunting and harassment, if we can. In other words, as you were folks, better things for cops to do, don't you know.

So, wonderful sabs, get out there and get the bastards if you can, but do be careful, one sab is worth a whole mobful of hunters and heavies. If I weren't in my late seventies I'd be a sab, but I have to content myself with camera and a not inconsiderable amount of verbal, at times!

Love to all,
BB
Name and Address supplied

ideal gift!



Mmm...yummy cakes bring you 19 tasty cake, pudding and muffin recipes - all vegan and some gluten & wheat-free.

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HSA Club Draw

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

MARCH
1st P. Fenn
2nd J. Roberts
3rd B. Frazer

APRIL
1st F. Ford
2nd P. Fenn
3rd M. Door

MAY
1st D. Wood
2nd R. Davidge
3rd P. Fenn

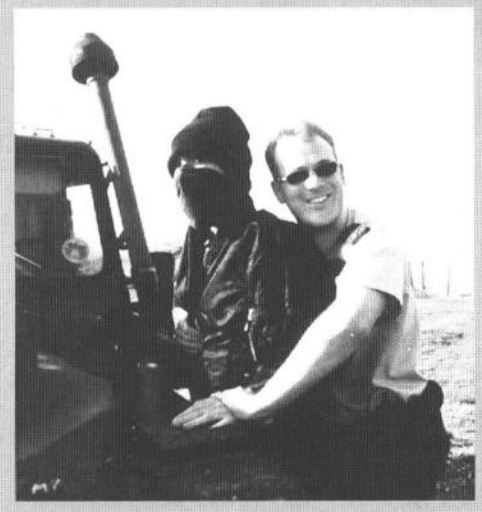
JUNE
1st S. McGregor
2nd M. Whitehead
3rd D. Thurley

JULY
1st Anon
2nd P. Fenn
3rd C & E. Fletcher

AUGUST
1st I. Fisher
2nd. M. Door
3rd. S. Adamsom

CAPTION COMPETITION

Back by popular demand (and due to so many photos of bumpkins/plod looking mad)



There's an HSA mug up for grabs for the winner of the best caption.

Entries to:
HSA, HSA BM, London, WC1N 3XX.

HOWL 83 CAPTION COMPETITION WINNER



Huntsman Henry couldn't understand why his masonic handsignal didn't prevent him from getting a beating

An HSA mug is on it's way to this issues lucky winner - A. Heritage of Bridgewater, Somerset
Congratulations and happy slurping!

Targeting Shooters



Many readers have been asking how much attention the HSA will place upon shooting, now that the long awaited hunt ban is finally on the statute books.

Below, one long time reader gives us an over view of shooting in general and promotes the suggestion that shooting should become the new foxhunting for hunt saboteurs.

Most shoots are managed by gamekeepers, their job is to provide as many game birds as possible, organise beat lines and gun sittings to show good birds on a shoot day, and kill as much 'vermin' as possible. Although they will vigorously deny it in public, to a gamekeeper nearly everything that moves and is not game is vermin.

There may be numerous shoots in your area, each with its own gamekeeper and under keepers. Each of these keepers will kill more than your local hunt could have done, the list of animals is both long and sad – fox, stoat, weasel, rat, grey squirrel, mink jay, jackdaw, crow, magpie, rook and even birds of prey. If you go and inspect a known shooting area and find a wood with a pheasant release pen you may also find a gibbet line strung between two trees, this is how the keeper displays all the victims he has killed.



Shooting also involves the scattering of large amounts of lead pellets all over the countryside. Millions of cartridges are sold every year and emptied into the environment that shooters claim to conserve. The RSPB and the Wildfowl Trust have reported numerous deaths due to ingestion of shotgun pellets, involving swans, geese and other wildfowl. Apart from the shot, try counting the amount of spent cartridges next time you go walking in the countryside. Couple all this with the general activities of gamekeepers and you start to develop a grim picture of shooting in this country.

Conservation to the shooting fraternity is selective conservation, the only animals that benefit from the sort of conservation that shooters bleat on about to defend their blood sport are game animals; which are by-and-large non-indigenous to this country anyway. It is true that shooters plant covers and encourage undergrowth, for their own purposes. Unfortunately, people can be fooled by this and think that the habitat is being maintained for the good of all species.

> **"...unless you happen to be a game species, shooting does nothing for you; apart from shoot, dig, gas, trap, poison and snare you out of existence."**

However, the truth is that unless you happen to be a game species, shooting does nothing for you; apart from shoot, dig, gas, trap, poison and snare you out of existence.

Types of shoot

The type of shoot depends on the species being shot, terrain and financial backing, let us first concentrate on the most 'sporting' variety – driven shoots.

Driven pheasant shoots are perhaps the largest and best known, pheasant poults (young birds) are bought or reared and released into pens in woodland. After a while they will be given a degree of freedom, though encouraged back to the pen area by the abundance of food, many keepers will even feed by hand as they walk their beat. The season runs from the 1st October to 1st February, several days shooting will be organised by the shoot owner, club or syndicate, depending on the amount of poults released.

The day's shooting is bought or by invitation, it can be extremely expensive with payments for the actual day plus the cost of every brace of birds the shooter wishes to keep. A days shooting will consist of a number of drives which means that beaters, friends or hired hands will beat out the game to flush them out of cover and over the heads of the waiting guns, to be shot. Many shooters are bad shots, which results in thousands of wounded birds, which are either retrieved by dogs or die in agony. A few hundred birds can easily be shot during one day, if a particular syndicate has 10 shooting days per season it can easily account for over 2000 birds, not to mention all the additional animals classed as vermin. It can only be estimated how many pheasants are reared and shot each year for sport, but the total will be many millions.

Partridge shooting is not found on the same scale as it used to be due to the birds decline as a result of its food chain being destroyed by modern agricultural practices i.e. use of chemicals. As a result it is not unusual to find mixed pheasant and partridge shooting, the only difference being partridge tend to lie up in fields, hedgerows and root crops. Their season runs from 1st September to 1st February, although they are generally not shot until October.

Grouse shooting has been written about many times previously in this magazine. The grouse is a low flying moorland bird, living in areas such as Wales, Scotland and Northern England. Gamekeepers keep moorland as the perfect environment for artificially high levels of grouse to thrive on, so that they can be beaten over the heads of guns in strategically sited butts to be shot in large numbers. Yet again, there is persecution of predator species and the moorland is rotationally burnt to encourage new heather growth, which the grouse eat,

thus preventing re-growth of natural flora. The owners of grouse moors dislike people walking across their land and formed the Moorlands Association in the North of England to fight against the campaign for free access on unenclosed land such as moors and heath. They have claimed that free access is a danger to wildlife on the moors! Grouse shooting is big money with wealthy, powerful people involved, it is also carried out on large areas of so called private land. However, if properly planned, it is one of the most vulnerable to sabotage. The season runs from 12th August to 10th December, although the first two to three months are the most important.



Other birds that can be 'shown' as part of a days driven shooting are wild birds such as woodcock and snipe, the woodcock is classed as an exciting bird as it is so difficult to hit due to its erratic flight pattern. A prestigious honour in the shooting world is to become a member of the Woodcock Club, this has to be witnessed and involves the shooting of two consecutive woodcocks with a 'left and right' without the gun leaving the shoulder. How many birds get wounded in the attempt of cause can only be guessed at.

Driven shooting may also involve fox, hare and duck, ducks can be 'shown' on a shoot which has ponds/wetlands on its area. Hares used to be driven and shot as they supposedly eat too much pasture grass, crops or heather, it is not so common nowadays. Fox driving, however, is rampant, notably in Wales and in Scotland since the ban on traditional hunting was passed, hounds are used to flush foxes out of woods or across rides to waiting guns, the resultant massacre sometimes includes the odd hound. We await to see how much part this form of shooting will replace hunting in the forth coming season, doubtless many English foxhunts will turn to this form of 'sport' to replace the more familiar drawing and holding up of coverts.

Rough shooting

As well as driven shooting there is walk-up or rough shooting. Any number of guns walk along until they put something up and shoot it – usually anything that moves. Larger groups may separate and take it in turns to beat for each other, dogs may be used to point and flush animals as well as retrieve those that have been shot. This form of shooting is as widespread as driven shooting but probably accounts for less kills. Many people will rent or lease rough shooting over large areas although keepering tends not to be so intensive as it will often form part of the day's shooting. Animals not already mentioned that will fall victim to rough shooting will most commonly include grey squirrel, rabbit and wood pigeon.

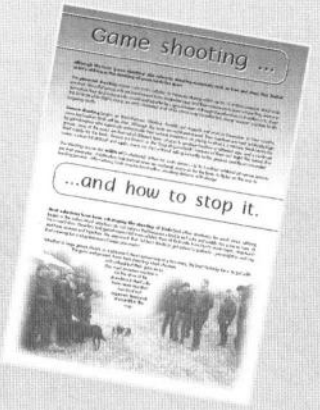
Wildfowling

Wildfowling accounts for many bird's lives on inland and coastal waters, wild geese and duck may be shot from September to February. The shooter will lie in wait either at dawn or dusk and wait for fowl to return or leave their feeding grounds, called flighting. The effects of lead shot have already been mentioned but wildfowling is an extremely vulnerable blood sport to sabotage, although, it is generally conducted in small numbers and is therefore difficult to locate.

When the game and fowl seasons have ended, shooters often turn there attention to 'vermin', of which the afore mentioned wood pigeon is most popular. More pigeons than pheasants are shot each year due to the lack of a close season, the poor pigeon is



If you have any information about shooting or the activity of gamekeepers, or if you would like copies of our leaflet on how to sabotage game shooting then please contact the office



'fair game' all year round. As with deer shooting, it takes place from hides, which are constructed from bales of hay or professionally built and then camouflaged with netting and foliage. Decoys are placed to attract birds down and are either manufactured from wood or plastic, or can even be dead birds propped up on sticks. Roosting takes place before and at dusk, this is often favoured as the best time to lure the pigeons down and to their deaths. See the news item on changes to the general licence regarding the shooting of pigeon, crow and rook, which took effect from 1st March this year.

Deer

Red, fallow, roe and silka deer may all be shot but with varied close seasons applying for each depending on gender. Deer tend to be shot by solitary shooters using tree stands or purpose built hunting towers, the purpose being to grant the shooter elevation, partly to avoid detection by the deer through scent and partly (one would hope) to avoid the danger of high velocity bullets travelling on well beyond their intended target. Again, dusk and dawn are the favoured times for these executions and the towers/stands will almost always be located along a break or clear cut strip through the wood, all part of the conservation programme of course. Salt blocks mounted on sticks can sometimes be seen along the edge of these breaks to encourage the deer to venture out of the woodland.

Whatever form shooting takes, the arguments for its continuation are always the same, either a perverted distortion of real conservation or a wholly untrue need for pest control. As with their friends the foxhunters every argument they use belies the fact that they enjoy what they do and they don't care what long-term effects it might cause, to them it will never be an option to allow nature to find its balance.

The HSA exists to challenge all blood sports and now might be just the time to start brushing up on those shooting tactics. Contact the committee's tactics officer if your group would like a refresher talk.

watch it!

"Its not the police we've got to watch, it's the antis with their video cameras".
Graham Bridgeman, Chairman, Eggesford hunt

Post Hunting ban, this may be the most important quote from the hunters we will get at the moment...with the massive upsurge in violence towards saboteurs, before, and after the 19th, (even at hunts not known for strong arm tactics), it's plain that we have upset the hunters more than we could ever dream of. The bravado shown by the CA, could lead the uninformed to believe that hunting is still continuing with very little in the way of change, but its not, end of story. The massive climb down by the hunters, with shows of mass defiance swapped for trail hunting post 19th, shows that either, they have given up in some quarters, and realize that quite simply, a hunt cannot continue, if staff are proved to be involved in illegal hunting, or they don't believe the law will be enforced, or, are simply displaying their usual arrogance. As time goes on, just like some hunts always resort to violence, whereas others will pack up when sabs arrive, we need to continue to study the hunts nationally, with the hope that the more extreme hunts will self destruct, and the others will start to toe the line.

So, whilst active sabotage will always be most important to the H.S.A as an organization, tactically, this will be dealt with elsewhere. This article details only with evidence gathering/monitoring, something that could take place ALONGSIDE active sabotage, or instead of, or not at all...., but always remember, monitoring hunts with a video camera has produced footage of the real face of hunting that has consistently kept the public opposed to it, leading to the eventual ban. Once you introduce a live quarry into the hunter's activities, any reasonable person will be disgusted. It will be interesting how many friends were won, when coursing footage was recently shown on the news of the last Waterloo Cup! So, whether footage eventually leads to a prosecution or not, its always valuable, and of course, its up to YOU and your group where your priorities will lie, come the next season....

Upfront Monitoring

Whether sabs choose to monitor hunts covertly, or openly, largely depends on how well their members are known to the hunts obviously, some sabs appearance could be a giveaway! So, if sabs choose to just turn up as normal, it is now vital that as many members are carrying video camera/stills cameras, and obviously, trained in their use (this could be the subject of a future article, if more technically minded sabs than me would like to get involved!). A strong working knowledge of the Hunting Act is an important first requirement, for sabs to read and digest, at least before next season – in fact, the most important sections should be at hand in a sab van, as much for sabs to keep checking, and as much for "less informed" officers.



Video footage, preferably digital, needs to be provided, on good quality tapes, if there is any hope of the police/CPS, taking it in any way seriously. As has already been mentioned in some sabbing circles, it is important that video evidence can be proved to have been shot on the DAY IN QUESTION, to stop hunts from claiming it is pre ban footage. A simple way to do this is to film a newspaper on the day, at the start of the footage. Also, don't even consider blanking, or taping over any of the footage provided to the police, this could lead to the defense that the footage has been "altered/tampered with", and can be ruled as inadmissible. Also, the police will ALWAYS need the original to act, by all means, present them with a copy if you want, if you want to view the evidence first, but always keep the original safe. Also, long sections of unbroken footage are most valuable, short bursts, even if you believe it shows an offence, will just lead to the hunts claiming that you are filming selectively. So be prepared to film as much of the day as possible, (obviously, decent camera batteries are essential),with as much detail of the hunt members present (speak their names over the footage, if you know them, or film their vehicle licence plates), any terrier men present, with detail of terriers, digging equipment, and vehicle registrations, along with the faces of known, regular hunt supporters (and don't forget to keep an eye on badger setts).

Don't be afraid of asking hunt supporters questions on film, as we know, some of these people seem to take great pleasure in bragging of their cruelties, and this could look bad, if used as evidence against a particular hunt. Get to know the key things to look out for-supporters holloaing, hounds in cry after leaving an artificial scent without hunt staff rating them, more than two hounds being used to "flush," point riders around coverts (especially in cub hunting months), basically, most things sabs are used to seeing, during normal hunting practices-whether "holding up" of a wood will be interpreted as hunting or not, is still a grey area, and the hunts activities during the upcoming traditional "cubbing" months, will be vital to watch. But most importantly, hunters have to be shown to have INTENDED to illegally hunt, as they have repeatedly stated, they will try to hide behind the excuse of the hounds "accidentally" hunting or killing quarry-any footage of them encouraging the hounds to hunt, needs to be recorded, and the footage stored safely-this footage belongs to the person who shot it, and it is they who would be required to present it in court as evidence (old style videos are as useful as ever, as non digital footage is difficult to interfere with...but, whether a police force would ever want to work with footage from a sab group, rather than say, a League group, remains to be seen...hopefully, all police forces should have their policy on huntng up on their websites by now.) Even if incidents caught on film are deemed to be not strong enough to be used in evidence in court, a dossier of incidents could be sent to central insurance companies, that way forcing up premiums, if insurers deem the risks to be greater. Public liability covers all employees of the hunt as well as all the riders. footage of illegal hunting, could also be sent to landowners hosting hunt meets, they too are open to prosecution, if they host meets where illegal acts are deemed to be taking place.

Covert Monitoring

If you have members, or supporters who can visit hunts, without being recognized as an anti, this will obviously be of great use, but I think we can no doubt leave that more to the League. But, it may be useful to turn up at smaller hunts-in other words, why not pop along to a hunt that hasn't seen antis for a while? Who knows what you may stumble across. It does of course remain to be seen what kind of meet cards will be floating around now, or their availability, no doubt, a lot of detective work is ahead of us. Whereas, some land had sporting rights across it, meaning anti hunt landowners had no power to remove hunts from their land, this will no longer be the case with trail/draghunting. And of course, a lot of governmental/council owned land, will have now automatically banned hunting. So, it will be interesting to see how the hunts will adapt to their new positions, as obviously, any hunting taking part on land without permission from the landowner, is a criminal offence.

The Hunting Handbook

The Hunting handbook has been usefully produced by the CA, and is available from the CA website. It is an important document, that untangles the Hunting act, and set out what is legally allowed, and what isn't, until the pigs take to the sky, and the "temporary" ban is repealed! It should be read by sabs as soon as possible, and a copy should be kept in the sab van alongside the act itself. Under the new act, it is LEGAL to "trail" hunt (it is worth noting, that a trail will obviously only be laid where the hunt is allowed to go, and where it is safe to follow, so obviously, hounds near a road, railway, running through crops etc should be recorded, as it is unlikely this is legal hunting), exercise hounds, use 2 dogs to flush a quarry to guns (already taken up by many hunts), rabbit/rat hunting, hunting hares which have already been shot by their mates in the BASC, yep, the mind boggles!, or flushing to birds of prey (an unlikely option, but should make sabbing interesting!). An initial point made, is that it is likely that most attention will be given to prosecuting the huntsman/masters, or owners/controllers of the hounds. Mass arrests of riders just aint going to happen except in our dreams! So as with normal hunting, these are the people needing our undivided attention-you take the huntsman/whip out of a hunt, you aint got a hunt any more! So look for suspicious signs - a huntsman "casting" (dispersing) a pack of hounds through a wide area, a pack of hounds ahead of the riders giving tongue (howling/barking), and not being called off any possible animal scents by the huntsman/whip.

All animals previously hunted, could be subject to "flushing", but not hunted i.e. chased after leaving the covert (undergrowth/woodland), and shot as soon as possible, without ever using more than 2 hounds on one quarry. Terrier work can only now be used in the protection of game, again, with written permission from the landowner, and only one dog may be used to flush to a gun. Also, check for evidence that the fox/terrier have fought underground (i.e. wounds on the animals), this would now also be a criminal offence. Mink hunters may claim to be hunting rats along riverbanks, but this should be viewed with suspicion, as mink and rats do not share the same territories. Beaglers could try to hunt rabbits, but this will obviously be difficult, as a rabbit will not provide a long chase, and will simply go to ground. Coursing hares is of course now totally illegal. Also, those choosing to flush hares or deer must have a game licence. Using dogs in game shooting is even more complex, and should probably be returned to in more detail, but is covered in good detail in the handbook.

" It's not the police we've got to watch, it's the antis with their video cameras". Graham Bridgeman, Chairman, Eggesford hunt.

As I have stated before, this article is outlining what sabs should look out for, AS WELL AS sabbing, not instead of. A successful prosecution of a key hunt member could lead to a hunts collapse, and other hunts thinking twice about how they conduct themselves, but any prosecutions could set legal precedents, so any cases need to be strong.

For more info contact

HUNT WATCH
PO BOX 3089
NORWICH
NORFOLK
NR3 2YP
07952 550 054 *www.huntwatch.info*

HUNT CRIME WATCH (LACS)
0845 330 8486 *www.huntcrimewatch.com*

Evidence Gathering
– A few key points to remember

What the evidence needs to prove

To be considered valid enough, evidence must cover:

- Who
- What
- When and
- Where
- (Although we have our own opinions as to the "Why", the law is not interested in that part!)

You have to be able to prove each of these points for it to stand up to the tests of the CPS and then, if it gets to court, the rigours of the defence trying to argue the case has not been proved.

WHO?

Can you prove who carried out the alleged offence?

A positive I.D. of the offender is important. Get clear views of them and consider any ways of confirming their identity e.g. vehicle licence plates, conversations with other hunters using their name. Having copies of published photos of huntspeople in the hunting press and in local press at puppy shows, hound shows or even your local gymkhana can prove to be damning in confirming who the person is.

We are often familiar with huntspeople we see on a regular basis and can identify them at a distance but this is not proof enough. For example, just because a particular person *usually* wears a red coat, carries a white whip and rides a grey horse, it is not necessarily proof that they were doing so that day. You may be able to recognise people by the way they hold themselves, their body shape etc but that is not a positive identification. In the same way police EG teams do, you may consider gathering footage of people's faces and their clothing at the meet or, alternatively, immediately after an incident. We wouldn't want them claiming an alibi, would we?

WHAT?

Can you prove that the person is carrying out an offence? It must be clear that there is an offence, which means you need to be clear what constitutes an offence and what doesn't.

"A person commits an offence if he hunts a wild mammal with a dog, unless his hunting is exempt". (Note: There is also a separate section dealing with hare coursing).

So we need to be sure that the evidence clearly shows non-exempt hunting of a wild mammal with a dog.

Recent information that the HSA has received indicates that it is also important to show that ➲

➲ the huntsman (or other person) is clearly in control of, and therefore responsible for, the hounds. Now, although we know that there is plenty of evidence from the hunting side that they have always claimed that they are in control of their hounds even if said hounds are up to half a mile away, the CPS do not have our in-depth knowledge. They could choose not to proceed for fear that the case will fail. Everyone involved with enforcement of this Act is concerned that the first case should be watertight, as that will probably dictate the reaction from the hunting community – and also the CPS. The first few cases will give us clear guidelines of the sort of activity we need to capture to bring a case. We will of course put such information out to local groups and in *Howl*.

WHEN?

Make sure your video camera has the date/time tag function switched on. Make sure that the date and time is correct! Further corroboration that the filming took place on the day in question and wasn't filmed prior to the ban could include filming a newspaper in the morning before you begin monitoring. It may even be wise to carry the front page of a paper folded up in your pocket so you can pull it out and film it immediately after any illegal hunting is filmed to avoiid any suspect continuity allegations.

WHERE?

Are there any landmarks that you can pan round to include on the footage immediately after the event? Even the position of roads or hills could be useful. Do you know the approximate location – name of covert or grid reference? Do you know which direction you are filming towards? You can state these facts and the camera will pick them up. If you are uncertain, say nothing or state the nearest village. When you work out where you were afterwards, remember how you worked that out and be prepared to explain that process. If you have access to a GPS device, this could confirm a precise location of where you were filming the incident from, and therefore where it took place. Filming the screen of the GPS immediately after the event provides the necessary information.

Whose evidence is it?

The evidence belongs to the person who gathers it. Not the person whose camera was used, the person who paid for the tapes, the person who charged up the batteries or the person who reviews it at the end of the day, but the person who did the filming. This person would be required to participate in any future court case. If you are not happy with that prospect, pass the camcorder to someone who is!

Validity of evidence

Continuity. It would be best if filming is unbroken and constant, this will help to prove that the footage has not been edited.



If someone else takes over filming (relay monitoring!), make sure you state the change of operators and the time at which it takes place.

Constant footage could be problematic for anyone having to defend themselves from attack – or saying something inflammatory on camera. It may also require a number of tapes to be used each day. However, tapes with nothing on worth keeping can, of course, be reused. Having a fairly modern camera with decent battery life will be important. Reviewing footage of each day could become a whole new pastime of its own!

Quality of Evidence

Make sure whoever is using the camera knows what they are doing. An out of focus shot, or one that provides only a quick glimpse of the alleged offence before panning out to a view of the sky or the camera person's feet running through a field will be no use. You have one chance. Make it matter. Stay calm.
Some would advise avoiding commentary wherever possible. If it is not clear that hunting is taking place, your commentary stating that it is does not make the evidence any better. If it is clear that hunting is taking place, your commentary could interfere with parts of the sound track that may prove vital – such as a huntsman's calls that show he is in control of the pack and encouraging them.

Care of Evidence

Any evidence must be preserved and a log kept of what happens to it, e.g. storing it in a locked box and if it is taken out to be copied or viewed again, this must be written down with the time and date this occurred.

Care of Evidence part 2

Never hand over original footage. Provide the police/CPS (or media) with copies and make a record of the fact for every copy made. We wouldn't want the original of the footage getting "lost" would we?

Sab or monitor?

It would seem unlikely from what we have heard that the police will accept evidence of illegal hunting from groups that have sabbed or trespassed on the day. Aside from any dislike that some police officers have of hunt saboteurs, the obvious reason is that the hunt could claim we caused the offence!!

It is possible that groups may have to make a serious decision on the day about whether they are sabs or monitors, which is an extremely difficult choice. If the police refuse to take action under the new law, it could also develop into a tactical choice.

It will also be extremely difficult in most cases to gather evidence without trespassing at some point as most hunts have access to areas of privately owned land, which are frequently short on footpaths. A recent case brought by RSPCA against a gamekeeper for damaging eggs from birds of prey was thrown out on the grounds that the evidence was gathered by trespassing. This seems ridiculous – the subtext being that if you own enough land you can do whatever you like and the law can do nothing to stop you. We are sure this point will be challenged at some time and feel we should be positive. It is not normally a problem for undercover work against badger baiters and dog fighters!

Other uses for evidence

Incidents caught on film could be sent to the central insurance companies association. Premiums could be forced up if insurers deem the risks to be greater. The hunt's public liability covers all employees of the hunt and all the riders will have to maintain their own personal cover.

Sending copies of illegal hunting to landowners on whose land it took place could potentially close down certain meets once they are reminded that they too could face prosecution.

If a hunt has trespassed – even if the activity was "lawful" trail hunting or flushing to guns - it may prove useful to disgruntled landowners.

Hunting Act 2004 ...hands up who's read it?

At the time of writing this article the long awaited Hunting Act had just come into force. We had seen the massive show of defiance on February 19th and waited to see what would come next. By the time you read this article the situation should be a lot clearer. There has been a great deal of talk from the hunting lobby including threats to blatantly ignore the legislation to continuing to hunt within the law but to have a few 'accidents'. The purpose of this article is to attempt to explain the Hunting Act - what is legal and what is not.

The main body of the Hunting Act is beautifully simple. Part 1 of the act sets out the offences:

Part 1

1 Hunting wild mammals with dogs
A person commits an offence if he hunts a wild mammal with a dog, unless his hunting is exempt.

So there you have it. It really couldn't be any simpler. There are further offences of allowing a dog to be used for hunting and land owners run the risk of prosecution if they allow an illegal hunt to take place on their land. Hare coursing has its own section.

5 Hare coursing

(1) A person commits an offence if he -

(a) participates in a hare coursing event,
(b) attends a hare coursing event,
(c) knowingly facilitates a hare coursing event, or
(d) permits land which belongs to him to be used for the purposes of a hare coursing event.

(2) Each of the following persons commits an offence if a dog participates in a hare coursing event -

(a) any person who enters the dog for the event,
(b) any person who permits the dog to be entered, and
(c) any person who controls or handles the dog in the course of or for the purposes of the event.

(3) A hare coursing event is a competition in which dogs are, by the use of live hares, assessed as to skill in hunting hares.

Again, this is all nice and simple. Given that hare coursing events such as the Waterloo cup are, by their nature, static, it would appear to be difficult to see a way around the legislation.

The Exemptions
There are a number of exemptions to the act. It is these exemptions that hunts will be relying on to be able to continue some form of hunting. The exemptions can be found in Schedule 1 of the act. Each of these exemptions has a number of conditions attached. Some of the important conditions are discussed below.

Stalking and flushing out
It is permissible to use two dogs to stalk or flush a wild mammal from cover to waiting guns as long as certain conditions are met.

The first condition is that it is undertaken for the purpose of preventing or reducing damage caused by the mammal to, for example, livestock or game birds.

The second condition is that it takes place on land owned by the person doing the stalking or flushing out or the permission of the landowner has been given.

The third condition is that no more than two dogs are used.

The fourth condition is that it does not involve the use of a dog below ground (this is dealt with separately).

The fifth condition is that reasonable steps are taken to ensure that the mammal is shot as soon as possible by "a competent person".



A number of hunts have stated that they will turn to this form of hunting. However, it is not simply the case that by using only two hounds to flush foxes to guns they will not be breaking the law – all the other conditions must also be met.

Use of dogs below ground to protect birds for shooting
The use of a dog below ground (i.e. terrier work) has a similarly strict list of conditions.

The first condition is that terrier work is carried out to prevent or reduce serious damage to game birds or wild birds which are kept for the purpose of their being shot.

The second condition is that the person has written evidence that he owns the land or has the landowner's permission. This evidence must be produced to a constable on request.

The third condition is that only one dog may be used.

The fourth condition includes the requirement that as soon as being found the hunted animal must be flushed out from below ground and shot.

Bizarrely then, terrier work is only a lawful form of hunting if it is to protect birds that are going to be shot for fun.

Rats and Rabbits
The hunting of rats and rabbits is exempt providing it takes place on land owned by the hunter or with the permission of the landowner.

Retrieval of Hares
Dogs can be used to hunt hares which have been shot, again providing the land is owned by the hunter or with the landowner's permission. There is no limit on the number of dogs which may be used for this purpose. This may well be a loophole that beagle packs will attempt to exploit.

Falconry
It is permissible to use dogs to flush an animal from cover if it is to be hunted by a bird of prey. We know a number of hunts are attempting to exploit this loophole - watch this space.

Recapture of wild mammal
It is permissible to use dogs to recapture a wild mammal providing a number of conditions are met. Most importantly that the mammal was not released for the purpose of hunting or permitted to escape.

➲



Rescue of wild mammal
It is permitted to use no more that two dogs to hunt a mammal if it is reasonably believed to be injured and the hunting takes place to relive the suffering.

Research and observation
Hunting with two dogs is permitted for the purpose of observation or study. One of the conditions of this exemption is that the dogs are kept under sufficiently close control to ensure that they do not injure the wild mammal.
Simple innit... hunting is now illegal except when one of the exemptions applies. It is nonsense to suggest, as the pro-hunting press has, that this Act is unworkable – it is extremely straightforward.

Defence
I was expecting to write an article at some point solely on the defence tactics that hunters were using if they were caught in the act. This article may have to wait for a while. At the time of writing no hunts have openly invited arrest – contrary to all the hot air. If they choose to flout the law the only defence in the act is as follows:

4. It is a defence for a person charged with an offence under Section 1 in respect of hunting to show that he reasonably believed that the hunting was exempt.

An interesting choice of words. Even if the Crown Prosecution Service managed to persuade a magistrate that a person has engaged in illegal hunting it would be a defence for the defendant to demonstrate that he *reasonably believed* that the type of hunting was exempt under the act. There is no requirement for the defence to show that the hunting actually was exempt.

It's probably not wise to hold your breath and wait for convictions under this act. Even if there are any it punishable by a fine. It is not an imprisonable offence and, as things are at present, is not even a recordable offence.

Search and seizure
Section 8 of the act provides the police with new powers of search and seizure in relation to hunting. If a constable reasonably suspects that a person is committing or has committed an offence under the Act and that evidence of the offence may be found a search may be carried out. The search may be of a person, animal, vehicle or (bizarrely) a thing.

Section 9 of the Act allows a court, after conviction, to order the seizure of vehicles or animals which have been used in the commission of an offence or were in the possession of a person at the time of arrest.

There it is then... a nice simple law, with too many exemptions for my liking. Nevertheless it remains easy to understand and, with a modicum of effort from the cops, easy to enforce. Terms used by the pro hunt lobby to describe the law usually include "badly drafted" and "unworkable". The Hunting Act is neither.



What does remain to be seen is whether any prosecutions are forthcoming. We have no reason to expect favours from the police and no reason to believe that they are going to put any effort into enforcing the ban. Turning up at the meet with a video camera, chatting to the masters and buggering off again will not be enough. For anyone to be prosecuted the evidence will need to be clear and conclusive. It is extremely unlikely that anyone would be charged in the absence of high quality video evidence. To get the sort of evidence required will take a commitment that the cops are likely to be unwilling to make.

As with any law that affects us it is worth spending the time reading and understanding it for yourself. Also well worth a look is the "Hunting Handbook" released by the Countryside Alliance on Boxing Day 2004. This includes sections on how to hunt legally, legal terrier work, and use of dogs in the shooting of game. It also includes sections on what powers the police have and how to deal with being arrested – some of it could have been lifted from any one of a number of previous legal articles in *Howl*. It includes advice on how hunts should deal with hunt saboteurs and how to stay on good terms with landowners. There is also a section on insurance – this clearly states that a hunt would not be insured if it were intentionally carrying out an illegal activity. The hunt could, therefore, face serious claims for damages if, for example, they caused a road accident. Given the number of near misses (and direct hits) we see on the roads and railways each season involving hunts this must be a serious consideration.

We are still in the very early stages. Hunt supporters were pinning their hopes on a Conservative win in the General Election. As a result of the Labour victory, some hunts may fold and some may merge. We must assume that the vast majority will carry on. What they were doing (or pretending to do) during the cubbing season was anyone's guess (see group news). Similarly, we will have to wait and see what happens when the hunts settle down into some sort of routine.

What we must not forget is that these people kill animals for fun – that is not about to change. We must be creative and flexible in our response to the changes that are happening. We will have new challenges as we attempt to establish what each hunt is up to. They may simply be drag hunting or may be flushing foxes to guns or hunting surreptitiously. Our role as hunt saboteurs is to prevent as many deaths as we can – whether that is achieved with a video camera, by traditional sabbing methods or by a new approach entirely remains to be seen.

The Hunting Act 2004 can be found at:
www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk

Or ordered from:
The Stationery Office
PO Box 29
Norwich
NR3 1GN
or via the telephone order line 0870 600 5522
or fax order line 0870 600 5533.

The Countryside Alliance Hunting Handbook can be found at *www.countryside-alliance.org*



(Still) Thugs, wreckers and bullies!

"It is necessary to remember at all times that civil disobedience is an effective strategy only when used to draw attention to a specific injustice, and only when those who break the law do not try to evade their punishment. at every point we must urge full cooperation with the police and the courts. Other forms of illegal behaviour must at all costs be avoided. Our strategy is to show retraint, to respect the police and the general public...."
From the Hunting Declaration.

A list of huntsmen/supporters nicked last season, ...by no means comprehensive, and when you consider that most police officers would rather slit their own throats than nick a redcoat..well, they must have been *baaaad* boys this season !

1) New Forest huntsman (now retired), **Paul Woodhouse** was charged with threatening behaviour against New Forest Animal Protection Group anti hunt observer, Ron White.

2) A 16 year old boy is arrested in connection with the brutal assault on a hunt saboteur by a group of men, after a meet of the East Kent hunt, at Crundale estate, on the 19th February, leaving the saboteur with broken ribs and severe bruising.

3) Two men were arrested after clashing with police at a pro hunt demo at the Molland House hotel in Cardiff. Labours Alan Milburn spoke at the event, which was attended by 250 pro hunt demonstrators, who threw eggs, and tried to rush the hotel, but were driven back by mounted police.



4) Four men were arrested at the final Waterloo Cup hare coursing event in Meryseyside, brought forward in order to avoid being outlawed by the Hunting act. Dozens of coursers were forced back by mounted police as they tried to clash with protesters, throwing missiles which included a dismembered hare, a firecracker, bottles and cans.

5) Farmer and hunter **Ivan Holmes** was given a 12 month conditional discharge , after being found guilty of aggravated trespass and threatening behaviour, after taking part in a protest which attempted to ambush a train carrying lawrie Quinn, an anti foxhunting MP.

6) Eight hunt supporters were convicted on 26/05/05 of violating the Public Order Act Section 5, after invading the House of Commons during a debate on the hunting bill last year (we all know who they were, so let's not give their sad little protest anymore publicity here..)

7) Countryside Alliance Parliament Square demonstration - 8 people were arrested at this demo, after violence flared, and missiles were thrown at police. More have been arrested since, as enquires continue...one, former proffessional huntsman to the *Isle of Wight and Fernie foxhounds*, **Gilles Wheeler**, was originally given 60 days imprisonment, but later cleared, after it was alleged that he threw a lit flare. Another, **Mal Williams**, master of the *South Herefordshire* Hunt, was arrested for allegedly using threatening behaviour towards police

8) Michael Karayan, huntsman of the *Dunston Harriers* in southern Norfolk, was arrested for ABH after a 60 year old woman was allegedlly ridden over by his horse.

9) Two hunt supporters who dumped animal carcasses in the street during the labour party conference, pleaded guilty at Brighton magistrates to breaching the Public Order Act. **Stuart Trousdale**, huntsman of the *Isle of Wight Foxhounds*, and **James Butcher**, horrified local residents by unloading two dead calves and a cow from a pick up truck, near the conference venue

Bumpkins nicked last season...

10) Two hunt "Stewards" for the Avon Vale Hunt, were arrested in january, after attacking saboteurs from Pewsey Vale, and Bath. Both men were arrested for Breach of the Peace.

11) Trevor Adams, huntsman of the *Buccleah Foxhounds*, was arrested after it was claimed that he allowed a pack of hounds to hunt foxes, in breach of the new anti hunting legislation. He was later cleared.

12) A 63 year old man was arrested and cautioned for a public order offence after verbally abusing a hunt saboteur, in the presence of a police officer.

13) A hunt supporter, **David Redvers**, who protested at the House of Commons, pleaded guilty to a firearms offence, after failing to ensure that live ammunition was safely locked away in his home.

14) Police gave a verbal caution to hunt supporters, after eggs were thrown at Chancellor Gordon Brown, during a visit to Leek, on 23/2/05.

15) On 26/2/05, a man was charged with counts of ABH, criminal damage, and possession of a bladed article. The charges followed an incident on 8/1/05, during a meet of the Crawley and Horsham Hunt, when a man is alleged to have thrown a bucket through a saboteurs windscreen, and then assaulted three female protesters with a stick, before smashing the rear window.

16) Douglas Hill, master of the of the *Essex Farmers and Union Foxhunt* was arrested and charged on suspicion of causing ABH and Criminal Damage, following a series of threats and attacks on hunt saboteurs and their vehicles, after another member of the hunt had been previously arrested for hitting a saboteur with a riding crop (see Legal news p28)

17) Police fined two bloodsports protesters who were arrested following an egg throwing incident during a visit by Tony Blair to Northhamptonshire, on 17/04/05. On the same day, **Harriet Sluman**, was also given an £80 on the spot fine, for throwing an egg at John Prescott.

18) Otis Ferry, joint master and huntsman of the South Shropshire Foxhounds, was arrested by police after shouting at Tony Blair as he arrived at an election party, at the National Portrait gallery, on 6/5/05.

19) Hunt supporter **Thomas Haddock** was arrested for Threatening Behaviour, after an incident outside a Labour Party charity dinner on 25/11/04.

20) Paul Larby, whipper in for the *Meynall and South Staffordshire* hunt, was arrested and charged with criminal damage in, following an incident in which the bodywork of a vehicle belonging to a local hunt saboteur was damaged.

21) Andrew Cass, ex Joint Master of the *High Peak* hunt, was arrested after a female saboteur was assaulted at a meet of the hunt, leading to the saboteur needing 5 stitches to a head wound.

HSA AGM 2005

The HSA held its Annual General Meeting at Conway Hall, London on Saturday 23rd July. An unfortunate clash of dates meant that the SPEAK demo was also taking place in Oxford (sorry, we did our very best to avoid other events, but it proved to be impossible in the end!) and so numbers were down on the previous year, but we still had enough to ensure a useful meeting and an 'interesting' evening of karaoke and dancing.

The AGM was opened by the Chair of the HSA, who welcomed all present to the meeting, and reminded us all (lest we forget!) that after over 40 years of sabotaging hunts, we were now operating in a post-ban era – what ever that means/may bring! The opening remarks were followed by a report from the Treasurer, who ran through the Accounts to year-end 31st December 2004.

Following this the Accounts were duly accepted by the meeting. Reports from all the other committee members present followed, who also took any questions from the floor. Committee Officers traditionally step down at the AGM, but no elections were held this year, as the number of people standing for the vacant posts did not warrant this. The Chair did invite anyone who was interested in standing for Committee, or indeed working off-committee, to attend the next Committee meeting, due to be held in September.

Following a short break, the Chair reconvened the meeting with a reminder of those that unfortunately were not with us to witness the first post-ban AGM of the HSA. The names of Mike Hill and Tom Worby are rightly well-known to all hunt sabs, but others, such as Jill Phipps, Sue Smith, Tony Farimuss, Gwen Barter, Gary Woodlands and Bob August are just a few of the other people who dedicated a large part of their lives to the anti-hunt movement – and who we should pay tribute to. Dave Wetton also addressed the meeting at this point to recap on some of people who contributed so much to the fight, but sadly never lived to see the hunt ban come to fruition.

A general discussion on the hunt ban, and what it means/could mean for the future of hunt sabotage was then held, facilitated by both the Legal Officer and a Howl Co-Editor. The Legal Officer's 'official' take on the Hunting Act was handed out to interested parties, and should also appear in this issue of *Howl*.

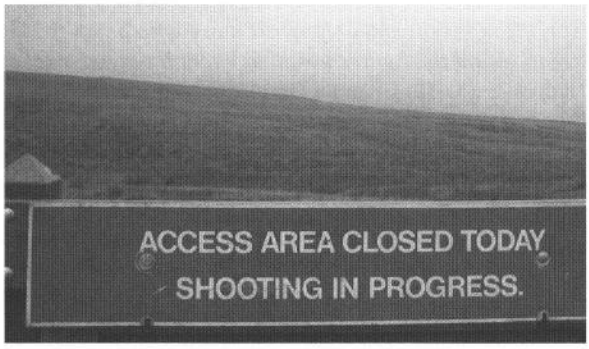
The issue of the HSA's name was then discussed, as the question was asked as to whether it was now time to change this in light of the ban. A lively debate followed, with arguments for both retention and renaming being aired. In light of the recency of the hunt ban, and due to the somewhat unknown situation for the coming season, it was agreed that the name be retained for the present time as to all intents and purposes hunt saboteurs will be required for the foreseeable future. The meeting instruction to the Committee was to issue a press release to this effect, and this was duly done shortly after the meeting (see 'News' section at **www.huntsabs.org.uk**).

Two other main points came out of this debate, firstly that video cameras will play an increasingly important role in hunt sabotage tactics, and as such their use should be supported fully by the Committee. The second point was that shooting had been flagged up by the Countryside Alliance as being our 'next target'. The meeting agreed that shooting had always been part of the HSA's remit, and as such would continue to be targeted. On that note a representative from the NWHSA addressed the meeting on plans for the start of the Grouse Shooting season, and this brought the formal part of the meeting to an end.

The AGM proper was then followed by more beer (a cheap bar was run by the Committee & other lovely helpers), food (thanks to Veggies for providing last minute food, Mmm...yummy cakes for lovely cakes, and the ad hoc team of burger-fryers who made soaking up too much beer possible). Last year's very successful karaoke competition showed that hunt sabs the length and breadth of the country couldn't in fact sing, and this was again proved with wild abandon. A good day was had by all – many thanks to all those who attended, and those people who worked to make the day possible.

Chair – HSA Committee.

'Glorious 12th' 2005 Report



Saturday August 13th 2005 was a typical summers day up 't north yes it was pouring down, bloody cold and blowing a gale, however, that did not stop sabs from Manchester, Liverpool, Reading, Derby, Leeds, Lancaster, Nottingham , Birmingham, Northampton, Edinburgh, Bristol and North and East London coming together to stop a grouse shoot.

Just gone 9am and sabs spotted some vehicles ready for a days shooting in the drive of a local gamekeeper. This gamekeeper was no ordinary gamekeeper as he worked for The Duke of Westminster on his Abbeystead estate just east of Lancaster.

Very shortly after finding the shoot vehicles the sabs arrived in their vehicles and parked either side of the driveway and waited for them to make a move. The local police were soon on the scene but did not show much interest and were happy just sitting in their cars and eating their butties (northern word for sandwiches).

Mid-afternoon the shoot decided enough was enough and called it a day and with the support of the police who very kindly blocked the road for them they sped off into the fog.

The next hour sabs spent driving round the local moors to see if anybody else was out shooting, however the good news is that they weren't.

Yet again another great days sabbing, not a shot fired and many lives saved.

Once again a big thanks to all the sabs who came and extra thanks to those who had a long journey and to the Duke of Westminster I'm sure we will meet again soon.



GROUP NEWS



SOUTH

Since the fun and games on the 19th February, most of the hunts on our patch were behaving themselves in anticipation of a Tory election victory. The season ended early with even hardcore blood junkies like the SOUTH DORSET FH calling it a day in mid-March rather than continue through until mid-April. Summer saw the purchase of a new vehicle from some disreputable land rover dealer in the West Country and a bit of work getting it through the MOT. Stalls were adversely affected not by public apathy but by the local council enforcing bye laws. We also recruited some new sabs who were duly dispatched to Scotland for training at the G8. At the time of writing, none of them have seen action in the field due to a bad allergy to early mornings. With the happy news that old regulars the CHIDDINGFOLD are sticking to drag hunting, the start of our season has involved a little surveillance of some Hampshire hunts who will remain nameless for the time being. We also had some joint action with SOMERSET SABS on the NEW FOREST BEAGLES, BLACKMORE & SPARKFORD VALE FH and CULMSTOCK MINK HOUNDS. We anticipate spreading ourselves around the packs once the main season kicks in. As an overview, we'd like to report that it ain't sabbing like we know it...but then again, it ain't huntin either so that can't be a bad thing.

NORTH and EAST LONDON HUNT SABS spent the summer furiously fundraising, and scratching our heads about what would happen. We have been to the PUCKERIDGE, SUFFOLK and SUFFOLK and ESSEX FH so far during cubbing along with ESSEX and SUFFOLK SABS. We have had one pathetic arrest, and have seen one bird of prey, but no kills and we hope this is how it stays. Doubt it though...

After a lazy summer of working and/or selling drugs, the READING SAB group had just enough energy to drag themselves up to the grouse moors on August 13th, part of an impressive national turnout, we joined the convoy and ensured that the day was a total washout for the shooters.



Then in September we started cubbing, beginning with the VINE & CRAVEN FH who were out puppy walking and also the HAMPSHIRE HUNT, where we were threatened by badger diggers. More lately we have been out with the AVON VALE FH, and received a kick for our trouble. Watch this space.

Since the beginning of September CROYDON SABS have been out each week and on the odd occasion have seen double hits on a Saturday. Most hunts in our area have been playing by different times this cubbing season, though they have not been impossible to find. Monitoring the CRAWLEY & HORSHAM FH has been the priority as we were rightly convinced they would break the ban from the outset. On the groups first encounter with them holding up a covert in early September they smashed our windscreen, however, despite attempting to hunt they seem keen to stop whenever we get too close. A little camera shy, I think! At their meet near Washington, with hounds in full cry, they had to make frantic efforts to whip back the hounds, when at the last minute we were seen on a track all lined up with about eight video cameras on them!

The OSB&WK have also been secretly filmed twice, and once again, they were hunting illegally. At an evening meet hosted by a very pro-hunt farmer the field were openly holding up a large covert as the hounds were hunted through it. The group is now well equipped and well versed in monitoring techniques. It is only a matter of time!

MIDLANDS

After a closed season of everyone being really busy with other AR stuff, this season sparks a bit of a change for us. The BLACK COUNTRY & WORCESTER SABS have joined forces and are going out under the new name of WEST MIDLANDS SABS. Vehicle'd, video'd and keener than ever, our first day out of the season (October 1st) proved to be a great start for us, when we caught the WORCESTERSHIRE FH with their jodhpurs firmly round their ankles! Their faces were a stunned picture, when we turned up at their meet at Inkberrow, video camera in hand. Poor things hadn't got a clue what to do! After being abused by one of their bumpkins (we call her 'sweary Mary'), the hunt behaved themselves



until they thought they had lost us, just before they packed up. Thanks to a tip from one of them, and good directions from a local, we soon managed to find them – illegally hunting in Feckenham Rough. The police were called and were quick to respond, which was good, as reports from the other side of our patch suggest the police aren't interested, and details were passed to them. A couple more meets since then, up to the point of writing and nothing much more to report. One of these occasions was with the ALBRIGHTION WOODLAND, who claim to be drag hunting, though we are not 100% convinced of this and will keep an eye on them. Plenty to keep us busy this season though.

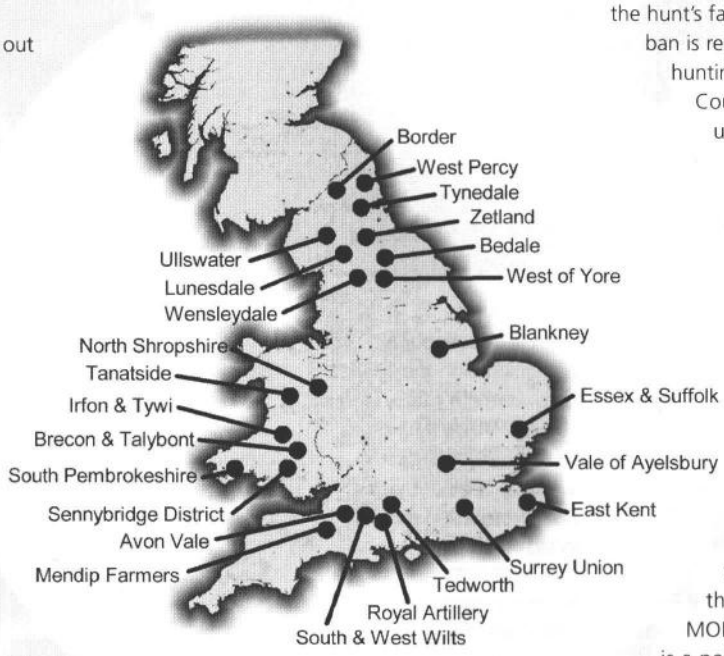
HUNTING AND THE M.O.D.

Following on from the article in *Howl 83* we take another look at the military and hunting to see what changes have occurred since the Hunting Act was introduced.

It is an offence to trespass on land owned by the MOD. This is why hunts had to get licences issued to them by the Defence Estates section of the MOD in the past. So the HSA's Research Officer contacted Defence Estates to find out what the situation would be post-ban. Would they allow hunts to access MOD land, and if so, for what purposes?

The response we received, although not as satisfying as a complete denial of access, contained some good news:

- Hunts will not be allowed to flush live quarry to guns
- Hunts will need a licence (as was necessary before the ban) to carry out "exempt hunting"
- Hunts can apply for a licence to trail hunt or a licence to exercise hounds (or both). They can not carry out other activities.
- Only those hunts that previously held licences to hunt foxes would be entitled to apply for licences to utilise land for trail hunting – which means other hunts cannot expand into MOD territory. See below.
- Hunts must be a member of the Master of Foxhounds Association.
- Deer hunting was never permitted on MOD land. Former deer hunts will not be eligible to apply for licences.
- Members of the Master of Bloodhounds and Draghounds Association can apply for a slightly different licence to drag hunt.



No mention was made of hare hunting and we are pursuing a response about whether or not beagle packs can apply for licences. Given the previous involvement of the military in a number of beagle packs and the existence of the Army Beagling Association (see Howl 83) this is of particular concern.

What difference does it make?

So, why is this important information? What difference does it make if the MOD lets somebody exercise a pack of pooches across their land or follow a scent trail? There are a number of reasons that spring to mind immediately.

- It could be useful to know if the hunt you are monitoring or sabbing is able to disappear into MOD land – this could make a difference in where you would look should you lose track of them.
- It could be useful to know if a hunt's behaviour has broken the condition of the licence so they can be reported.
- It could be useful to know if any trespass on MOD land is worth reporting and whether the hunt would subsequently be prosecuted because it has not licence.....
- Given the licence conditions (see below) it could be argued that hunts entering MOD land will be "safe" – that is, if we trust them!

Some might say that it's fair enough that hunts will be using MOD land as long as animals will not be suffering.

However, it is also worth bearing in mind that from the live quarry hunter's point of view, those who do not outright defy the ban and carry out trail hunting, flushing to guns and hound exercise are all just carrying out activities to keep the hunt's fabric together until the hunting ban is repealed. Hunts that carry out trail hunting have been advised by the Council of Hunting Associations to use a scent trail based on their usual live quarry (now, that deserves another article of its own right) In my view, until the hunts fold, we are stuck with the possibility that the ban could be repealed and hunting as used to take place could start up again very quickly.

Remember, it was not so long ago that the hunting fraternity refused the MOD access to their land for training purposes in protest at the hunt ban, so it is not as if the MOD owed them any favours. This is a policy decision from within the MOD. What we have not ascertained yet is who is responsible for that decision and whether or not that decision can be changed. Perhaps having read this article, it might be something *Howl* readers wish to pursue.

Which hunts can apply to use MOD land?

As of September 2005, Defence Estates did not hold information on which hunts had applied or been granted licences. Again, we are following up this information.

North Shropshire	Zetland	Irfon & Tywi
Tanatside	Ullswater Foxhounds	South Pembrokeshire
Border	Blankney	Avon Vale
West Percy	Essex and Suffolk	Royal Artillery*
Tynedale	Surrey Union	South & West Wilts
Bedale	Vale of Aylesbury	Tedworth
West of Yore	Brecon and Talybont	East Kent
Wensleydale	Sennybridge District	Mendip Farmers

* *The RA has been accepted into membership of the Master of Bloodhounds and Draghounds Association*

The definitive list we were supplied with follows, and the map opposite shows the rough location of these hunts.

Trail hunting licence

It is worth having an understanding of the conditions that hunts will have to comply with in order to retain their licence to access MOD land. Key points include:

- The hunt has to supply the local Defence Estates office with the calendar of activities and days for the season 4 weeks in advance of the first meet. 7 days notice is required for changes.
- The names and addresses of all hunt servants have to be provided to the local Defence Estates office not less than 14 days before the first fixture
- 1 weeks notice will be required for any changes in staffing
- Hunt servants must carry I.D.
- The Hunt has to maintain £5m public liability insurance
- No firearms are to be used on MOD land – which rules out any flushing from earths with terriers otherwise allowed by the Hunting Act
- Only Hunt officials – and no other persons or animals – may enter new or young plantations, and care must be taken not to damage them
- A list of persons who will participate in an event must be supplied at least 7 days in advance
- Whenever participants are on MOD land, the Master or Controller must be present with a minimum of 3 hunt staff
- The Master or Controller must remain in control of all participants
- Only up to 2 vehicles are allowed to accompany the hunt using stone tracks or rights of way. 1 other vehicle containing MOD monitors may also accompany
- The hunt must use artificial scent or scent from legally obtained fox carcasses
- The use of fox carcasses is not allowed
- Shooting foxes purely for the purpose of providing a trail for hunting is not allowed
- Vehicles must not be parked in gateways
- Any disturbance involving a member of the public, MOD staff or the participants has to be submitted in a written report to the local office within 7 days
- The MOD will monitor the activity. They will appoint officers from time to time to attend hunts and ensure compliance
- Non-compliance with the licence or with the MFHA Rules will result in immediate termination of the licence and the MFHA will have the matter referred to them



domestic continued from page 31

VERMIN

Owners of a Maryport cat rescue have been banned from keeping cats for 10 years after kittens were found dead and dying in squalid conditions during a raid. Sisters **Claire and Lynda Snowden** (55) of Wood Street, who run **Cumbria Cat Rescue** centre on Crosby Street, were found guilty of five charges of causing unnecessary suffering to an animal. At Keswick and West Allerdale magistrates on 23/07/05 they were both found guilty on five counts of cruelty and not guilty on one other. They were fined £300 each and ordered they be banned from keeping cats for 10 years.

Douglas Morrison (41) of Union Street, Aberdeen was given 80 hours community service and banned from owning a dog for three years after he choked his Jack Russell to death. Morrison said he did not know what he was doing as he was high on a cocktail of drink and drugs. On 3/8/05 Morrison admitted ill-treating the dog and causing unnecessary suffering by suspending his pet by the lead around its neck until it died.

On 4/8/05 retired vet **Elizabeth Rogers** (71) of Euximoor Drove, Christchurch admitted charges of animal cruelty, after eight of her poodles were found stuffed into cages that were far too small them. She also failed to provide veterinary treatment for several of the dogs. Rogers' home in discovered an overpowering smell of urine, and the floor of the room that housed the cages was covered in faeces. Rogers admitted 22 charges of causing unnecessary suffering to animals when she appeared before Fenland magistrates. At Wisbech magistrates on 25/8/05 she was banned from keeping dogs for the next 10 years.

A mother and daughter have been banned from keeping animals for five and three years respectively after neglecting two family pets. **Susan James** of Kingsfield Way, Astley pleaded guilty at Wigan magistrates on 12/8/05 to three charges of animal cruelty relating to a six-year-old collie dog and a one-year-old cat. The daughter **Rebecca James** (45) of Lynton Road, Astley, also pleaded guilty to two similar charges while her brother **Christopher James** (20) of no fixed abode, faced two charges and was found guilty in his absence. Magistrates ordered Susan James to serve 160 hours community service, banned her from keeping animals for five years and ordered her to pay £250 in costs. Rebecca James must serve 100 hours community service, was banned from keeping animals for three years and must also pay £250 in costs. Both animals have since been re-homed by the RSPCA.

A Rottweiler had chains tied around her muzzle and front and back legs. She lay in a bedroom, unable to move, eat or drink. **Serena Lloyd** (20) from Malvern in Worcestershire said she chained the dog to stop her scratching and irritating her flea allergy. An RSPCA inspector discovered the dog trussed up and lying on a bed in Lloyd's house. Lloyd was banned from owning any animal for five years, given a 60-hour community punishment order, and ordered to pay costs of £1,250. Jess was rehomed by the RSPCA.

A pre-school assistant and her mother who battered a kitten to death to avoid paying vet fees have been spared jail sentences. **Emma Cherrett** (25) of Orchard Close, Colden Common, Winchester accidentally injured a black six-week-old male kitten, as she closed the door on the cat. The kitten was hurt, but not killed. But instead of taking it to the vet, her mother, **Patricia Smith** (47) of Crowders Green, Colden Common, Winchester crushed the kitten's skull with three to four blows from a piece of wood. The kitten's original injuries were easily treatable and it would have survived if the pair had gone to a vet. At Andover magistrates both were found guilty of cruelly ill-treating a cat. The pair were sentenced at Basingstoke magistrates on 25/8/05 to 200 hours community service.They were also ordered to pay £750 each towards the RSPCA's costs.

COUNTRYSIDE ALL LIARS® ?

'Since its inception in 1997, the Countryside Alliance has buit up an unrivalled reputation in the national and regional media, as an effective rural campaigning organisation.' *On the Front Foot, recent CA leaflet.*

Since the chaos of February this year, when the ban was finally made law, it is a good time to reflect on past events. The Countryside Alliance (CA) battles on, promising its members that the war is not over and as they continue to beg / demand the rumoured £3 million needed to fight their battles in court out of their membership, it looks like their hopes may be fading. In July this year, they lost their second High Court Challenge to the hunt ban, apparently with costs of around £150,000 being awarded against them, and next are planning a separate human rights case, which could take years to reach the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg (anyone thinking of flinging more cash into the CA money pit, should bear in mind that the CA is formed from the ashes of the Countryside Movement, set up in 1995, with ex Liberal leader David Steel as its executive chairman, which heavily outspent its budget, and had to be rescued with £1 million from the Duke of Westminster. Ouch.) So, with all the great minds, the hefty donations, landowners, property tycoons, MPs, business men etc. behind the CA, know is as good a time as any to ask the question - what have they been successful at?

Lets start with an example of how their campaigns are shaping up, in the post ban climate, with their newest fundraising idea to boost the war chest ...the CA have called on their members to...organize 'fetes', (or should that be 'fates', i.e, worse than death,) - but before you mock, I think the CA really could excel at this. Anyone who has had the misfortune to attend a hunts open day, will have seen an event so squeaky clean and sanitized, it's a Mary Whitehouse wet dream (as of course, they have nothing to hide...such is their desire to share with you the true face of hunting, well, you even get to stroke the hounds!). The CA have named this campaigning tool 'Through the Garden Gate', where the CA ask you to invite every redneck and bumpkin arselicker round to YOUR house (note, not theirs!), and organize a 'cream tea, bbq, or even a hog roast!', make people pay to attend, then you give the CA any money raised. Surely a good old jumble sale and tombola should be next, maybe with a raffle...unused hunting horns as prizes maybe? (Hopefully the H.S.A will be able to donate some of these in the near future). This kind of back to basics, grass roots campaigning must be causing many a sleepless night for Tony Blair...

Now, if a main CA promise/campaign manifesto, had been for their supporters to kick the living shit out of saboteurs as the days of legal hunting ran out, then at least there would have been one promise their supporters kept! Resorting as always to violence, they were no doubt proud of there cowardly attacks on us, but the violence was inevitably unfortunate for the CA. Most of the regional news programmes around the time of the ban were focused on these scenes of violence, showing the hunters of today up to be the spoilt arrogant thugs they always have been, but let us reflect back over some of the bullshit the CA have inflicted upon us since their inception, (and of course inflicted upon their own members....).

In 1998, the CA decided that what the world needed was a Wurzels' style hoe down, entitled 'GUARDIANS OF THE LAND'. Written and performed by George Bowyer (at the time, a 33 year old 'insurance worker', possibly the same Honourable George Bowyer, master of the Fitzwilliam Hunt?). If this was an attempt to portray hunt supporters as backward to the point of embarrassment, then it worked! With all the lyrical and musical subtlety of 'I've Got a Brand New Combine Harvester/The Day We Went To Bangor', the record and accompanying video (a sort of surreal "One Man And his Dog/The Good Life" pastiche,) pitched to us the notion that the CA were, well, a pretty embarrassing bunch of bumbling village idiots, slurping up cider and chewing straw. They announced that the record was selling so fast, it was a sure fire top 10 hit...in fact, the record entered the charts at #36, then vanished. Don't give up the day job George...(reports at the time that Mr Bowyer may receive 'death threats from anti hunt activists', were believed only to be likely if any sabs had to actually listen to it. Luckily, only George and his mates who staggered home from HMV with all the copies they could carry, had to endure this torture. For research purposes only, I obtained my copy from a Woolworths bargain bin. It cost 25p.

Recently, as the ban became more of a reality, the CA began to assume a sense of urgency. THE HUNTING DECLARATION was dreamt up and suddenly every hunt supporter, from plummy voiced redcoat, judge, and magistrate, to knuckledragging terrier man armed with their best crayons, announced that going to prison was acceptable, even *desirable* to them, as hunting wild animals really meant that much to them...so, on DECLARATION DAY, they all signed up, 40, 000 in total!, and promised, come the day hunting was outlawed, they would deliberately flout the law:

"Those in the campaign commit themselves to breaking the law...and then neither resist arrest, nor attempt to evade punishment. On the first day of outlawed hunting, individual followers may then get together, each taking charge of a hound or two, and then overtly break the law by hunting forbidden quarry. Should anyone be arrested, then all others would come forward also to offer themselves for arrest. All would plead guilty in court, and the hope is that as many as possible would refuse to pay fines and prefer to go to jail"
- from the Hunting Declaration 2004



So, come the day that hunting *was* banned. Well, they kinda changed their minds, and "flouted" the ban, by, well, not actually breaking the law at all. And the list of name and addresses they all proudly signed up to in their thousands, ready to eagerly hand over to the plod, for ease of arrest? Rumours are, it's been burnt.

And some other lofty ideas were mooted about. The water supplies would be poisoned? Hmm, didn't really happen (except of course, in the event of overheated/unwashed hunt supporters jumping into Trafalgar Square fountains mid demo, maybe to wash off the blood...). Motorways would be blocked? Well, they had a go, and pissed a lot of people off. Mass suicides of hunt supporters? (stop laughing at the back! - Robin Page is reported as telling the Burns Enquiry Committee, at the Ludlow foxhounds point to point, that he was approached by one person after another saying "we are desperate...the only thing that stops me from killing myself is my hunt work"). Well, as they say, no time like the present!

Oh, and they were going to stop London getting the Olympic contract. Robin Page (yes, him again, busy chap, dental issues, but busy...), launched the "Countryside Against the London Olympics" or CALO - may I suggest next time Robin, your new organisation may fare better under the moniker "Countryside Under Nasty Threat? Or CUN...(that too, like CALO, and all the other slightly more *extreme* little pro hunt groups that sprang up, would also, be *independent* of the CA, of course). Our toothy friend Robin fumed "Hunting is just the last straw. Urban Britain has not listened, and has continued to interfere in things it does not understand, so now the countryside will interfere with the town and try to stop the Olympics coming to London in 2012". CALO warned the organisers of the capitals bid, that the country will be "at war" in February, when the Olympic committee delegates arrived, to assess London's facilities. At the time, Tim Bonner of the CA, warned that they were planning another protest in Parliament Square on Friday 18 February, that demonstrators may disrupt London's transport system, and that a least a MILLION people would be flouting the ban the next day. Sorry guys, but none of that really happened, did it, and London did get the Olympic contract. I suppose Robin still has his sheepdog to console him over his failed plans though, so all's not lost.

"Our quest to be taken seriously is in tatters. We have been torn apart by ambition, power struggles, prejudice, and the inability to see the bigger picture."

And then there were the famous marches. Large as they were, a confused rag bag of predominantly Tory marchers ambling through London, on the most confused set of issues, failed to impress anyone (except, of course, the right wing media) - in fact, shortly after the first march, the newly appointed head of the alliance, Edward Duke, resigned, and all began to look pear shaped at CA HQ. *Horse and Hound* stated in an editorial that " Our quest to be taken seriously is in tatters. We have been torn apart by ambition, power struggles, prejudice, and the inability to see the bigger picture". Well, the marchers did all had a lovely day out in the "big town", get to chat over a few things they had in common with the BNP members present, and for those who couldn't be bothered to go, the CYBER MARCH was invented. Now, this is a fantastic idea. Organize a huge march...and if you can't be bothered to get off your arse, you don't have to! You just say you *wanted to go!* By simply adding your name to a website listing, a cyber march is created! Now, that's genius! Unfortunately, as open to abuse as a phone poll. But a bit more sad.

Now, we have the pleasure of looking at the HUNTING HANDBOOKS little brother, the CA publication, 'How We Will Overturn the Ban', the most optimistic volume ever published. The CA had previously decided that Labour would be unseated after a ban (because, lets face it, all hunt supporters are no doubt diehard Labour, but would be switching allegiance after a ban), but just in case, they decided to try to pick off a few Labour MPs one by one the VOTE-OK campaign was set up by "Charles and Chipps Mann" (honest!), to unseat anti hunt MPs before the last election. They claimed that 250 hunts were involved in assisting pro hunt candidates in 130 marginal seats, being encouraged to help in simple tasks, such as stuffing envelopes, delivering leaflets, and putting up posters - they claimed that they had hand delivered 370,000 leaflets around rural areas, *Horse and Hound* was also full of sweet little photos of ruddy faced hunt supporters, in their best winter woolies, tramping round villages with their leaflets, looking like rather late carol singers, or rather too old trick-or-treaters, in the wrong month - but boy, their masks were scary!. Some hunts (including our-pop superstar friend George Bowyer) went as far as telling their supporters that they wouldn't be welcome to hunts next season, unless they put the campaigning time in (not a good time to show your supporters and only allies, the door...but, hey, what do we know?). It was an interesting idea, but how much effect it had was obviously minimal - Labour still won, albeit with a decreased majority yes, but if anyone believes that this was caused by major tactical voting over hunting, rather than other little issues like the war in Iraq, you are somewhat self deluded and could do well to remember that when labour seized power with their biggest majority, it was on the back of a clear manifesto wish for a hunt ban.

Interestingly, Angela Walder of Sheppey RSPCA, pointed out in a letter to *Kent on Sunday* (May 22nd, 2005), that pro hunters were canvassing for Conservative Gordon Henderson, in his attempts to win the Parliamentary seat of Sittingbourne and Sheppey. All well and good...except that in a letter dated Nov 27, 2004 to an RSPCA member, he stated " I will continue to support a ban on hunting until I am convinced that all suggestions of cruelty have been removed from this activity", and whilst he was a member of Kent County Council, he was one of only two Conservative councillors who voted for a ban on hunting on KCC land. Hmm, with friends like that, you should worry.

So, will the various packs keep their hunts structures, in the hope of a Labour defeat in the next few years, in the likelihood that the CA will get the ban over turned? Pretty much clutching at straws I'd say, as unless they enter the real world, and make moves to adapt with the times, bankruptcy/closure/mergers is the best they can really look forward to. The CA may have been unsuccessful in their attempts to save hunting, but boy oh boy, at least you can't accuse them of ever being dull! You lost guys, just admit it.



Legal News



HUNT MASTER PLEADS GUILTY TO ASSAULT

On the 18th October 2005 Simon James Upton, Joint Master of the Essex Foxhounds pleaded guilty to 3 counts of assaults on sabs form North and East London.

Upton was ordered to pay £300 for assaulting a female sab with £150 compensation and £225 for each assault on two male sabs with £100 compensation to each. With court costs of £455, the total came to £1,550.

The assaults happened at a mid week meet of the Essex Foxhounds on the 9th February 2005, near Navestock, Essex. About an hour into the day a group of 7 Sabs were driven into by the Terrier Man (Jamie Purcer) on his quad bike and attacked on horse by Upton.



The two of them continued to drive and ride at every member of the group indiscriminately, riding down sabs, hitting them with the whip and driving at and some cases into sabs. The attack lasted for nearly 4 minutes. Thankfully, most of the attacks were caught on camera. A little later in the day the groups Land Rover was attacked twice by Upton and had both wing mirrors smashed. After the attacks in the field the Police were called but at no time were they spotted in the area for the rest of the day.

3 sabs decided to press charges due to the video footage so reported the incident to Brentwood Station on the way home.

3 counts of assault and 2 of criminal damage against Upton and 1 count of assault against Purcer.

Unfortunately, the Police and the CPS thought there wasn't enough evidence to get a conviction against Purcer on the quad bike, but Upton looked pretty banged to rights.

A week before the 2 day trial was to start Upton changed his plea to guilty and had the 2 charges of criminal damage dropped.

On the morning of the sentencing hearing there were several press and T.V journo's present but the hearing was delayed by half an hour as the CPS prosecuter hadn't had time to look over the case and evidence, not a good start, the magistrates were very pissed off.

Upton's reason for changing his plea was that after having the tape examined by an expert there was no proven case of tampering with the video tape. However, his solicitor tried for nearly 30 minutes to not have the tape played in court for various reasons, 'dangerous for the magistrates to see', 'unsafe to be viewed', ' lots of filming of the floor', 'the taping looked suspicious or staged'.

Eventually the tape was shown and after a while the court was cleared so the magistrates could view it properly, as the court was cleared one of the magistrates winked at Upton's father! Could be love, could be a stich up.

Winks aside it was a good result, Upton's smarmy arrogance soon disappeared when the sentence was handed down. I bet having to pay 3 sabs a total of £350 really hurt. It received good press both nationally and locally, and having copies of the tape available to the press on the day made sure it got onto local TV stations both early and late news slots.

LEGAL BRIEFS

A sab from N&E London group is currently on police bail after being arrested for Aggravated Trespass at the Essex and Suffolk Hunt on 1st October.

A Pewsey Vale sab was arrested at the Avon Vale Hunt Kennels on 24th September... He was charged under the Protection from Harassment Act1997. This law was designed to protect people from stalkers and courts have previously been unimpressed by its use against demonstrators. The charges have since been dropped. Other members of the group had also received letters from the police threatening arrest.

A case is still pending against a sab arrested at the Surrey Union in February. He is charged with Criminal Damage.

Horse and Hound magazine recently printed an apology regarding a Reading sab. The original article printed in October 2004 related to a court case following an arrest at the Vale of Aylesbury with Garth and South Berkshire Hunt in November 2003. *Horse and Hound* stated that the sab had been seen whipping hounds. no such evidence was heard in court. As well as the apology it was alleged that the magazine had made a cash payment. This could not be confirmed but the sab in question has recently been spotted driving a new Land Rover, has taken a number of foreign holidays and has appeared at his local hunt with a new video camera.



HEATHER NICHOLSON
NR7271
HMP Bronzefield
Woodthorpe Road
Ashford
Middlesex TW15 3JZ
Remanded on 10 Nov 2005 for an alleged Section 4a Public Order Act against a hunting family

KERRY WHITBURN
TB4886
HMP Birmingham
Winson Green Road
Birmingham B18 4AS
Charged with conspiracy to blackmail the Hall family, who run Newchurch guineapig farm

JOHN SMITH
TB4887
HMP Birmingham
Winson Green Road
Birmingham B18 4AS
Charged with conspiracy to blackmail the Hall family, who run Newchurch guineapig farm

JON ABLEWHITE
TB4885
HMP Birmingham
Winson Green Road
Birmingham B18 4AS
Charged with conspiracy to blackmail the Hall family, who run Newchurch guineapig farm

JAN LAWRENCE
NR7220
HMP Peterborough
Saville Road
Westfield
Peterborough PE3 7PD
Serving eight months for charges related to the SHAC campaign

SARAH GISBORNE
LT5393
HMP Cookham Wood
Rochester
Kent ME1 3LU
Serving 6½ years for conspiracy to cause criminal damage in relation to Huntingdon Life Sciences.

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!** If you would like to send money to prisoners make cheques/POs payable to "The Governor", and put the prisoner's name and number clearly on the back of the cheque/PO. The prisoner will then forward the cheque/PO to be processed. Please also include a SAE for the prisoner to acknowledge receipt, and indicate in your letter that you have included a cheque/PO.

Another way to show your support is to make a donation to the A.L.F. Supporters Group and the Vegan Prisoners Support Group (VPSG) who provide financial help and support for animal rights prisoners.

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*



VERMIN PATROL

CRUELTY CASES IN THE COURTS

FIND MORE AT: HTTP://NWHSA.REDBLACKANDGREEN.NET/VERMIN_PATROL.HTML

bloodsports VERMIN

In 2004 **John McLeod** who is the gamekeeper on the Haystoun Estate near Peebles was fined £300 after police officers found a weapon and ammunition in his unattended Landrover.

On 16/2/05 near to the Waterloo Cup hare coursing event at Altcar, a car containing five men was stopped by the police and two Harris' hawks were found inside. On a further search they discovered a holdall in the boot belonging to **Dean Nugent** of Snowberry Road, Huyton, Liverpool. Nugent claimed the bag contained only rabbits, but there was also a dead mallard, which had only recently been killed. Nugent admitted that he had taken it with his Harris' hawk. Mallards cannot be killed after 1 February, or 21 February for birds killed below the high water mark. Nugent was reported for possession of a wild bird. He appeared at North Sefton magistrates on 15/6/05 and pleaded guilty to both offences. He was given an absolute discharge.

A landowner was been fined £16,500 and ordered to pay £17,026.44 costs after causing damage to moorland habitat in the South Pennine Moors Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). On 22/8/05 **Walshaw Moor Estate** Limited pleaded guilty at Keighley magistrates to three offences relating to track building and dumping material on a grouse moor. Magistrates ordered restoration works to be carried out at the estate's expense.

Lady Jane Benson (57), **formerly Lady Jane Lowther** who is the *Joint Master of the Ullswater Foxhounds* has been banned from driving for 12 months after failing a roadside breath test in the centre of Penrith. Benson was arrested and taken to the police station where she was asked to complete another breath test. She was unable to give a reading despite two attempts and a custody sergeant believed it was because she was too drunk. Benson of Rose Cottage, Askham, was also fined £270 with £58 costs by Eden magistrates on 31/8/05 after she admitted failing to provide a specimen of breath for analysis.

Charlotte Denis (20) a gamekeeper from Cirencester, Gloucestershire was arrested for wearing her "Bollocks to Blair" T-shirt at the 2005 Midlands Game Fair. Denis was stopped by police as she left the Countryside Alliance stand because of the "offensive" slogan. After agreeing to wear a friend's coat, Denis was released without charge.

A Devon man who admitted the manslaughter of his 13-year-old stepson while he was out lamping received a nine-month jail sentence, suspended for two years on 2/9/05. Byron Evans (13) was shot while out lamping with his stepfather **Philip Rowe** (50) of Stafford Lane, Colyford. Rowe pleaded guilty at Exeter Crown Court on 26/7/05 to manslaughter by gross negligence.

Farmer and foxhunter for 12 years **Ivan Holmes** was pictured in the saddle on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway line between Pickering and Grosmont. At Scarborough magistrates on 7/9/05 they were that a large number of bloodsports supporters staging a demonstration ambushed a train carrying an MP. The train was forced to stop." A police sergeant shouted a warning to Holmes not to ride his horse on to the station platform. Holmes later told police that had been his original intention but he decided not to, Holmes (52) of Tylas Farm, Old Byland, Helmsley, admitted aggravated trespass and threatening behaviour. He was given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £20 costs.

Naomi Tamzin Barrett (41) of Tythebarn, Branscombe, Seaton, East Devon admitted stealing £1,500 from the Axe Valley Hunt Supporters' Club. Barrett also pleaded guilty to falsifying a Lloyds TSB Bank statement to lead members of the club into thinking the transactions were genuine, At Exeter Crown Court on 20/9/05 they heard how Barrett committed the offences while she was club secretary. The court agreed to allow a charge of stealing £372 from the East Devon Pony Club to lie on file. The case has been adjourned until 21/10/05, at Exeter Crown Court for sentencing.

On 10/10/05 **Andrew Cass** (51) from Unthank Lane, Holmesfield, South Yorks who is a joint master of the High Peak Hunt was cleared of assaulting a saboteur despite striking here with his riding crop. The sab suffered a 6cm wound in the incident. On 5/10/05 Derby Crown Court heard how two sabs, from Manchester had attended the the hunt to monitor what they were doing. A jury was shown a video of Cass apparently bringing down his crop and striking one sab. Giving evidence Cass conceded that the footage - taken by a saboteur - made it "fairly obvious" that he had hit his alleged victim. Cass had denied assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

Ryan Lowe (24) of Baird Road, Harraby; Peter David Irwin (24) Lingmoor Way, Harraby and Lee Michael Venus (21) of Dalesman Drive, Carlisle pleaded guilty to poaching at Tynedale magistrates on 11/10/05. The court heard how the trio were arrested after a gamekeeper on the Unthank estate became suspicious when he spotted their car parked in a lay-by. The gamekeeper called the police who found 27 dead rabbits next to the car. Each were fined £100 and ordered to pay £20 in court costs.

Simon Upton (40) of Margaretting, Essex, felled one hunt saboteur by riding at him and hit another twice on the head, Basildon magistrates heard on 18/10/05. Upton who is the joint master of the Essex Union Hunt, also abused the seven other sab as he circled them in a field. Upton admitted three counts of assault by beating and was fined £750. Upton was told he used "aggressive" force by magistrates' who also ordered him to pay compensation to the three sab. The court was shown a four-minute video with Upton, charging around on a horse. In the clip, the huntsman is heard saying: "Ah, we meet again," before his horse starts to canter around and through the group. The court heard how Upton charged his horse into the sabs in order to split them up and to separate them out. "After knocking one to the ground and bruising a second, Upton struck out at a third sab, who was hit twice on the head, for this Upton was £300 for assault and ordered him to pay £150 compensation. He was also ordered to pay £225 for each of the other assaults and to pay the other two sabs £100 compensation. With court costs of £455, the total came to £1,555.

Otis Ferry (22) of Keeper's Cottage, Eaton Mascott, Shrewsbury who is the master of the South Shropshire Hunt, will appear at Cirencester magistrates on 15/11/05 on a drink-driving charge. He has been ordered to appear in court for an alleged offence in the town.

Essex huntmaster **Douglas Hill** denied assaulting three people, including a police officer, during a fox hunt when he faced Chelmsford magistrates on 25/8/05. Hill of Church Road, West Hanningfield, also denied damaging a police officer's jacket and using threatening and insulting language in a manner likely to cause distress. He pleaded not guilty to five charges relating to an alleged incident in the Danbury area and was bailed to reappear at Chelmsford magistrates on 27/10/05, when a date for his Crown Court trial will be set.

Five men admitted hunting hares with a pack of dogs they are **Kevin Leslie** (23) of Fowler Avenue, Aberdeen, **Steven Booth** (30) of Provost Rust Drive, **Michael Sim** (22) of Moir Drive, **Colin Stewart** (21) of Cummings Park Drive, who appeared from custody and **Donald Stewart** (35) of Strachan Place, all pleaded guilty at Stonehaven Sheriff Court on 15/9/05. The five were after hares on the Fasque Estate at Fettercairn. On 12/10/05 Colin Stewart who is already in prison for an earlier offence had 60 days added to his sentence. Booth and Leslie were sentenced to 80 hours community service whilst Sim was fined £300 and Stewart was put on probation for a year.

A first conviction has been secured for an offence under the Hunting Act. **Adam Pengilley** (19) of Adlam Road, Liverpool, was fined £155 with £35 costs by South Sefton magistrates on 6/10/05 after being caught leaving the Leverhulme Estate in Lydiate, in possession of two lurchers and lamping equipment.



A man who held organised dog fights in an outhouse behind his father's pub has been sent to prison. **Ian Draper** (41) of Walker's Close, Asthall, was arrested during a nationwide swoop on people involved in what the RSPCA described as the "Premiership" of dog fights. Appearing at Banbury magistrates on 16/5/05 Draper admitted six charges, including causing unnecessary suffering to dogs, keeping a place for dog fighting and owning an illegal breed of dog. Investigators conducting a search at the New Inn in Minster Lovell, owned by Draper's father at the time, found a blood-stained room in an outbuilding where the fighting took place. The former greyhound breeder and one-time boxer was sentenced to three months in prison and was banned from owning dogs for 10 years. A charge against his father, **Martin Draper** (67) of Wenrisc Drive, Minster Lovell, was withdrawn.

badger
VERMIN

Four men pleaded guilty to ransacking a sett with five terriers and causing the dogs unnecessary suffering. **Robert Wenham** (23) **Edward Murphy** (21) **Jimmy Eastwood** (21) and **William Dennard** (19) appeared at Sevenoaks magistrates on 25/5/05. Wenham, Murphy and Eastwood all live in Darenth Wood Road, Dartford, while Dennard lives in Mill Road, Dartford. Each was given a 30-month conditional discharge, ordered to pay £500 costs and banned from keeping dogs for five years. Two dogs owned by Murphy are currently in the care of the RSPCA while the other three dogs have been re-homed.

A gang of eight men were convicted of attempting to take or injure a badger. They were spotted with a pack of 13 dogs, spades and electronic tracking devices on a shallow badger sett near Skipton. At Burnley magistrates on 13/5/05 **Craig Jones** (30) of Neville Street, Platt Bridge, Wigan; **Walter Hankey** (38) of McDonald Street, Orrell; **David Travis** (38) of Winward Street, Leigh; **Dennis Buxton** (38) of Lune Grove, Leigh; **Kim Halliwell** (48) of Aylesbury Crescent, Wigan; **Lee Standen** (24) of Arundel Street, Hindley; **Nicholas Lowe** (31) of Manor Place, Wigan; and **Mark Law** (40) of Park Avenue, Barnoldswick, all denied attempting to take or injure a badger. Jones denied a second charge of disturbing a sett by allowing a dog to enter. All eight were found guilty after a five-day trial and **Sean Parkinson** (20) of Gisburn Road and **Daniel Clark** (21) of St Mary's Avenue, were discharged after the prosecution produced no evidence linking them to an alleged badger dig. The rest were all given three-month prison sentences.

On 6/7/05 **Stephen Tucker** (50) of Lyndhurst Avenue, Blidworth admitted interfering with a badger sett by putting his pet terrier down one of its holes. Tucker was spotted by police digging at a sett with former gamekeeper **Walter Wilkinson** (79) of Retford Road, North Wheatley. During the trial at Worksop magistrates Tucker admitted damaging the sett and ill treating the dogs as it emerged he had been convicted of similar charges 12 years ago. Tucker told the police and RSPCA inspectors that he loved hunting and 'lived for it'. All charges against Wilkinson were dismissed by the judge on the grounds of his age and ill health! On 8/8/05 Tucker was ordered to pay £6,000 costs to the RSPCA and to complete 180 hours community punishment. He was also banned from keeping terriers for life.

equine
VERMIN

Two women were banned from caring for horses on 20/9/05 after being convicted of animal cruelty charges. **Therese Prynne** (33) of St John's Road, Lowestoft, admitted causing unnecessary suffering to a horse and **Michelle Randlesome** (43) of Field View Drive, Lowestoft, was found guilty of permitting unnecessary suffering. At Lowestoft magistrates they were both disqualified from caring for horses, Randlesome was fined £750 with £500 costs and Prynne was fined £500 with £250 costs.

Michelle Doolan, of Rutland Road, Tyldesley, pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to a three-year-old Arab cross colt. She appeared before magistrates in Wigan on 3/10/05 and was told she must complete 150 hours of community punishment and pay a total of £500 and was also banned from keeping animals for 10 years.

circus
VERMIN



On 30/10/05 Stanley Thompson (28) from Whitehaven who performs as Sparky the Clown for Jolly's circus was arrested following a clash with animal rights protesters. Members of the Manchester Animal Protection were handing out leaflets at the main entrance to the circus when Thompson pushed a camera into the face of one of the protesters. She was taken to the Royal Bolton Hospital with a minor injury to her mouth and bruising. Thompson was arrested and released with a caution after he admitted common assault. A second man, aged 20, another member of the circus, was also arrested and later given an £80 fixed penalty notice after he admitted a public order offence when he flicked a cigarette butt into the protesters.

farm
VERMIN

A Farming couple who face animal cruelty charges have had their trial put back so they can find a new solicitor. **Francis Beavis** (63) and his wife *Inger* (61) of Hill Farm, Oxenton, each face 16 cruelty charges. Their trial should have begun at Gloucester magistrates on 14/9/05 but they turned up without representation. The trial was listed for a progress hearing at Gloucester magistrates on 28/9/05 when a trial date will be fixed.

William John Jones of Cwm Farm, Blaenycoed, was convicted on 20/9/05 of causing unnecessary suffering to his cattle and breaking a ban on keeping livestock. In 2002 Jones was banned from keeping animals for 10 years and given a six-month suspended prison sentence, for allowing eight cows to die. In May 2003 Jones was found keeping cattle again. He served a six-month jail term for breaching the ban. At Carmarthen magistrates they convicted Jones in his absence of breaching the ban again after more dead and dying animals were found in April 2005.

A farmer who starved sheep to death, leaving their bodies to rot, was fined £8,000 on 22/9/05. At Caernarfon magistrates **Robert Arfon Hughes** (48) of Braich y Big, Garndolbenmaen admitted five charges of animal cruelty. He also pleaded guilty to failing to dispose of rotting carcases. Hughes was ordered to pay £400 costs.

➲

A couple were ordered to pay £3500 on 29/09/05 after keeping maggot-infested sheep on their farm. **John Oldfield** (35) and his wife **Amanda** (29) failed to provide sufficient food or water for their flock. The couple, of Low Road, Stowbridge, near Downham Market, pleaded guilty to charges of causing unnecessary distress to the animals, not disposing of carcases and 12 charges of cruelty. At Lynn magistrates both were each ordered to do 200 hours' unpaid work in the community and pay £3,500 between them in compensation to the RSPCA. They are not allowed to keep sheep for five years, from 1/11/05.

A businessman convicted for a second offence of animal cruelty says his convictions had no relevance on his ability to operate a pig farm. **Alfonso Luis**, owner of **Alfonso's Catering Meats**, said whatever happened in the past would not happen again. On 29/9/05 Luis was fined £800 and banned from keeping sheep for 12 months after pleading guilty in the magistrates court to failing to provide water for sheep. Luis was last year banned from keeping rabbits.

On 11/10/05 **Thomas Morgan** of 8 Bryn Wyre, Lledrod, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, appeared before Aberystwyth magistrates charged with causing unnecessary suffering to animals, failure to dispose of 29 sheep carcasses, and failure to maintain proper records. He pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to 5 sheep, failure to collect and dispose of 29 sheep carcasses, and failing to maintain proper veterinary medicine records. He was fined a total of £1300, and costs were awarded in the sum of £1250.

Farmer **Martin Leigh** (42) pleaded guilty to 23 charges relating to the management of Chads Farm in Tushingham. These included obstruction of inspecting officers, causing animals unnecessary suffering and failing to return the cattle passport of a deceased animal. He was also found to be in breach of 'standstill' regulations introduced in the wake of the foot and mouth crisis. On 14/10/05 magistrates handed Leigh the maximum 12-month sentence. A six-month sentence for breach of 'standstill' regulations will run concurrently.

Lee Howard (39) of Beaumont Road, North Ormesby, Middlesbrough was charged on 18/10/05 with cruelty five months after the discovery of almost 30 dead animals at a stable. Howard is accused of causing unnecessary suffering to 11 hens, 13 horses, four dogs and a rabbit. He is also charged with abandoning three dogs in circumstances likely to cause them suffering. Howard has been bailed to appear at Bishop Auckland magistrates' on 9/11/05.

domestic VERMIN



Peter Grant of Stretham Road, Wilburton was given a community punishment order of 100 hours for setting fire to a rabbit which he dunked in bleach and bludgeoned to death with a beer bottle. On 27/4/05 Ely magistrates sentenced Grant to 100 hours community service and ordered him to pay costs of £300 and banned him from owning any animal for five years. He previously admitted cruelty charges.

Two women have been charged on 1/9/05 with causing unnecessary suffering to more than 350 animals following a high-profile raid. Hundreds of dogs, cats, rabbits and guinea pigs were seized from a North Norfolk smallholding in one of the biggest ever operations in the country. The RSPCA confirmed that **Elizabeth King** (53) and **Beryl Barker** (72) both of Broadwood Close, Trimingham, near Cromer, will appear before Cromer magistrates on 30/9/05. King faces 44 charges of causing unnecessary suffering to 352 animals. Barker is accused of 42 counts of causing unnecessary suffering to the 133 dogs, 45 cats, 52 rabbits, and 122 guinea pigs.



Paul Hurley (20) of Cleator Moor, Cumbria let a four-month-old puppy starve to death in his empty flat was jailed for four months by Whitehaven magistrates on 1/9/05. Hurley was also banned from keeping animals for life. At an earlier hearing Hurley had admitted causing unnecessary suffering to the male lurcher dog.

A policeman who used a spade to kill a badly injured cat which had been run over in Stoke-on-Trent has been found not guilty of cruelty at Fenton magistrates on 5/9/05. The RSPCA brought the prosecution against Pc **Jonathon Bell**, who said he put the injured pet out of its misery by hitting it over the head four times.

Two West Cumbrian teenagers were in court on 13/10/05 charged with kicking a puppy to death. **Anthony James Gunn** (19) of Buttermere Avenue, Woodhouse, Whitehaven, and a 16-year-old from Cleator Moor appeared in front of West Allerdale magistrates. They both denied causing unnecessary suffering to a puppy. Gunn is currently in custody awaiting sentence for other matters. He appeared in court via videolink, where he also denied assaulting a woman, causing actual bodily harm. Gunn and his co-accused had their case adjourned until 28/10/05, when they will appear in Whitehaven magistrates.

A former slaughterman was jailed after stabbing and bludgeoning his dog to death in a drink and drug fuelled rage. **Paul Stevenson** (38) from Langwith Junction, North Nottinghamshire stabbed the dog 16 times with a butcher's knife, then beat it repeatedly with an iron bar before dumping its lifeless body in a wheelie bin outside his home. Stevenson admitted animal cruelty and other unrelated charges at a hearing at Chesterfield magistrates on 23/9/05 and was jailed for six months.



Merthyr magistrates head how **Griffith Prosser** (35) from Aberfan amputated the front leg of dog. The pet had been hit by a car 10-months earlier injuring his front leg which eventually turned gangrenous. Prosser admitted causing unnecessary suffering and practising veterinary surgery while unregistered and was been banned from owning a dog for 10 years. The dog has been confiscated into the care of the RSPCA who brought the prosecution against Prosser. The court heard on 9/9/05 Prosser bound up the dogs leg for 10 months. When the dog's leg turned gangrenous, Prosser placed the dogs leg on a concrete block then used an unplugged electric saw and a hammer to cut off the infected leg. After cutting off the leg he cauterised the wound with an iron bar he heated on a gas stove. Prosser was made the subject of a hospital order under Section 37 of the Mental Health Act at a separate hearing at Merthyr Tydfil Crown Court. He had admitted an unrelated charge of assault and affray, when officers visited Prosser's home in relation to the allegations concerning the dog.

A retired vet who kept her poodles in cramped cages with no food or water has lost her appeal against a 10-year ban on keeping animals. **Elizabeth Rogers** (71) of Euximoor Drove, Christchurch, near March, pleaded guilty in August to causing unnecessary suffering to eight dogs. Seven were found in small cages stacked on top of each other and the floors of the rooms were splattered with dirt and faeces. The sentence, imposed by Wisbech magistrates included an order to pay £3,700 costs. Their decision to ban Rogers from keeping animals for 10 years was upheld by Cambridge Crown Court on 26/9/05.

Dean Bostock (29) of Church Road, Northwich neglected his pets and caused one to die from starvation He was jailed for six months on 5/10/05 after he admitted causing unnecessary suffering to an animal, breaching a community punishment order and failing to attend court. Magistrates jailed him for five months for causing unnecessary suffering to an animal and banned him from keeping a pet for 10 years. They revoked his community punishment order and resentenced him for the original two offences of driving while disqualified, for which he has to serve 14 days in custody. He was jailed for another 14 days for failing to surrender to court.

A mother and daughter were warned they both faced jail for keeping 120 cats and dogs in conditions of "appalling squalor" at their Yorkshire home. **Edwina Ashworth** (55) and **Rachel Ashworth** (31) of Low Marishes, near Pickering both admitted animal cruelty charges. Both were bailed to appear before Bridlington magistrates on 4/11/05 for sentencing.

A Norfolk woman has been sentenced to 28 days in prison and given a life ban from keeping animals after she was found guilty of neglecting 53 rabbits, 26 cats, four goats and four doves. **Eunice Carlisle, aka Shania Argenta** and **Eunice Witcher**, (50), from Great Massingham, appeared at King's Lynn magistrates, she denied 39 charges of causing unnecessary suffering to animals and breaching a 12-year ban on keeping animals that was imposed in 1993. Co-defendant **John McKay** (65) pleaded not guilty to 38 charges, but magistrates rejected his claims and he was sentenced to a conditional discharge and a five-year ban from keeping animals for the same offences. The court also ordered the forfeiture of all 87 animals.

On 8/10/05 **George James Paterson** (22) of Harris Crescent, Harraby appeared before Carlisle magistrates jointly accused of causing unnecessary suffering to domestic cats. It is alleged he committed the offence by failing to control a lurcher dog.



Two puppies had to be put down after they were starved by a cruel couple. **Julie Oakley** (38) and **Terry Griffiths** (19) were banned for life from keeping animals on 15/10/05 for causing unnecessary suffering to the pups and another dog. Griffiths was also ordered to do 50 hours community service while Oakley was fined £250. The pair, from Sawston, Cambs, were told to pay £207 costs by JPs.

Two dog owners face being banned from keeping animals after they were convicted of cruelty charges. **Owen Evans** (67) and **Patricia Brookes** of Bury Road, Bolton, allowed a huge tumour to grow on their pet Alsatian. Melissa Fagan, prosecuting, said an RSPCA inspector was called to the house in March after a neighbour reported seeing a huge swelling on the dog's leg. Sadly the dog had to be put down. They will sentenced on 11/11/05.

Damien Lawrence, owner of **Paws n Claws pet shop** in Jaxon's Court, Wigan pleaded guilty to animal cruelty and was jailed for 4 weeks. When the RSPCA and police visited his shop they discovered dead and dying animals. There was no food or water in the animals' cages and some had resorted to cannibalism. The live animals were taken into RSPCA care and have since recovered and been successfully rehomed.

John Fletcher (32) of Swinside Road, Breightmet, admitted letting his eight-year-old Rottweiler become emaciated. Sentencing was adjourned until 25/10/05.



Holly Thacker (34) killed the family's cat by deliberately putting it in a washing machine was jailed for six weeks on 18/10/05 by Norwich magistrates. Thacker from Norwich placed the cat in the machine after claiming that it became vicious and lashed out at her. Thacker was also banned from keeping household pets for life and the sentence also includes one day in lieu of £675 in outstanding fines unrelated to the cruelty case.

Kenneth Grindlay (21) from Dunfermline, who cut the tail off his goldfish because he was "bored" has avoided jail. He was placed on two years' probation for maiming the pet and throwing it back into its tank. Grindlay had earlier pled guilty to maiming the fish and causing it unnecessary suffering.



Robert Walker, from Hawkinge Gardens, Ernesettle, was found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to his dog. Walker, who had denied causing unnecessary suffering, was cleared of a charge of causing cruelty by torture by stubbing out cigarettes on the dog's head. As well as being jailed for 21 days, Walker was again banned from keeping animals for 10 years.

Police and RSPCA officers rescued two dogs from **Brian Myers** (40) of Aldam Street, Darlington house, Bishop Auckland Myers, admitted causing them unnecessary suffering by not giving one enough food and not providing veterinary care when the other broke its jaw.

A pet shop boss has been banned from owning reptiles after the RSPCA found he was keeping diseased animals in cramped, dirty, smelly conditions. **Frederick Roberts** (62) of Hempshill Hall, Bulwell who also ran a schools animal roadshow, originally faced 33 charges after reptiles were taken from his shop **The Fish Specialists**, in Mansfield Road, Woodthorpe. Roberts was found guilty in 2001 of running a pet shop without a licence and, in 2003, of taking a wild animal into a primary school. Roberts was also fined £450.

A former greyhound trainer faces being banned from keeping animals after admitting causing unnecessary suffering to two dogs. **David Cox** (68), failed to get treatment for the two greyhounds despite both suffering from serious medical problems. Both animals were put down after an RSPCA inspector discovered them living in squalid conditions at Cox's home in Middle Street, Yeovil.

A man whose dog was left to starve, forcing it to drink fat from a chip pan fryer, was jailed for three months for cruelty to the animal. **Julian Skey** (43) of Flore Close, Westwood, Peterborough, gave his two-year-old female German shepherd so little food that its weight shrank to just about half the weight it should have been.

A woman who kept 271 animals in appalling conditions at her Lancashire home has admitted nine cruelty charges. **Rosalind Gregson** (55) of Lindeth Road, Silverdale, was jailed for three months and was disqualified from keeping animals for life. on 17/6/05 Gregson was released one week into a three-month prison term following an appeal hearing at Preston Crown Court. She was given a three-year community rehabilitation order.

A man who threw his girlfriend's dog off a balcony in a fit of rage after it urinated on his carpet has been banned from keeping animals for three years. **Daniel Harradine** (21) of High Street, Milton, Cambridge was also ordered to complete 100 hours of community service.

Cub Scout leader **Bridget Cole** (22) of Debden Green, Ely was found guilty of putting a rabbit in a bucket of bleach and water, and hitting it with a metal pole. Co-defendant **Peter Grant** (19) of Stretham Road, Wilburton, had previously been sentenced to 100 hours of community service for setting fire to Lucky and clubbing him to death.

A family caused unnecessary suffering to their 16-year-old pet because they couldn't afford vets' bills. The cross collie had an open cancerous leg lesion, his coat was matted and he also suffered skin conditions. He was humanely destroyed by a vet. **Merylyn Davies** (59) husband **Arfon** (63) and their son **Andrew** (32) all from Jenkin Street, Abercwmboi, Aberdare were fined £50 each and their son £100, ordered to pay £150 costs and banned from keeping animals for five years.

Madeleine MacDonald of London Road, Chalfont St Giles was ordered to pay £20,000 and given a ten-year ban from keeping any pets except for tropical fish and one cat at any one time. MacDonald was fined £10,000 for four of the 21 unnecessary suffering charges and ordered to pay £10,000 costs at Wycombe magistrates on 15/6/05. A total of 30 dogs, cats, birds and snakes were removed from her former house.

A mother and son from Manchester have been banned from keeping animals for 10 years after they admitted causing unnecessary suffering to their the dog which was chained to a toilet at their home. **James Howie** (40), and his mother **Agnes** (74) from the Wythenshawe area were also given a two-year conditional discharge and ordered to pay £250 costs each.

continued on page 23

SAVE OUR STAGS:

100 YEARS OF OPPOSITION TO BRITAIN'S MOST CONTROVERSIAL BLOOD SPORT

BY IAN PEDLER



On the 19th February 2005 the abolition of blood sports became law in England and Wales following the passing of the Hunting Act 2004. Nowhere was the passing of this Act more keenly felt than by the three remaining West Country pack that hunt the wild red deer.

Stag hunting has always been the most reviled blood sport on the anti 'hit list', sustaining constant attack for over one hundred years. Singled out for special attention far more than any other form of hunting, it has spawned a whole collection of organisations specifically dedicated to its abolition. National committee's have been formed to pressure Parliament, hundred's of thousands of pounds spent purchasing land to frustrate it's activities, saboteur groups have front-lined it, while its interests have been ruthlessly attacked via such bodies as the RSPCA and National Trust. Even the pro-hunt Wildlife Network, close ally of the parliamentary Middle Way pressure group so prominent during the run-up to the passing of the Hunting Act had long held the view that "the hunting of deer using dogs should be made illegal, either by an amendment to the 1991 Deer Act or by a separate Act of Parliament."

All this has tended to create an entrenched attitude of mind in the small area of the West Country where stag hunting retains a foothold. They have learnt to fight their corner so successfully that they now command an importance far beyond their size or importance.



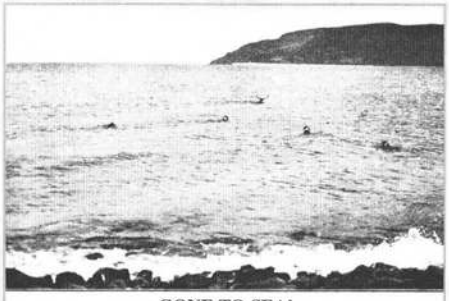
Over the years deer hunters have come to dominate every local structure that may directly, or indirectly, have some bearing on their sport in particular, or the red deer herd in general. They have the Badgeworthy Land Company to buy land, or hunting rights, to protect the interests of hunting in perpetuity. When threatened by Parliament in 1930 it was the Devon and Somerset Staghounds who created the British Field Sports Society, the organisation we know today as the Countryside Alliance. Then, if all else fails, there is always the trump card. They will threaten that if stag hunting is abolished then the red deer will be exterminated from the Exmoor and the Quantock Hills.

It is the story of this clash of ideologies, spanning over one hundred years that has been told in SAVE OUR STAGS: 100 hundred years of opposition to Britain's most controversial blood sport. The book takes the story from the start of Henry Salt's 1891 campaign against the Royal Buckhounds through to the post ban machinations of the Countryside Alliance. The pages between cover in depth every aspect of the story from the earliest attempts at parliamentary legislation in 1883, the formation of the League Against Cruel Sports, through the years of the League's Edward Hemingway, Raymond Rowley and Richard Course, culminating in a detailed account of the final 1997-2004 push to abolition. Every major report on the subject from the 1951 Scott Henderson Report to the Burns Inquiry are given due prominence, as are major stag hunting incidents and court cases.



For the first time serious coverage is given to the role of direct action from the first attempt at hunt sabotage by the LACS in the late1950's, through the birth and early years of the Hunt Saboteurs Association, to the Save Our Stags Campaign of the 1970's and 80's. The role of deer sanctuaries, undercover operatives, hunt monitors, along with every splinter group that has opposed stag hunting (including carted deer hunts in Britain and Northern Ireland), are all given due prominence.

The book also contains a comprehensive explanation of the history and practice of deer hunting, much of it 'culled' from the annals of the hunter's themselves, which offers a fascinating insight into what they consider acceptable in the name of 'sport'.



GONE TO SEA!
A stag boldly swimming across Portlock Bay

To the best of the Associations knowledge this is the first book (with the exception of Mike Huskisson's excellent 1983 Outfoxed) to be attempted by a former hunt saboteur. Therefore, not only does it give the HSA its rightful place in the long history of blood sports abolition, but also attempts to explain something of the tactics, philosophy, and motivations of animal rights that has sustained the movement for over 40 years.

The hope is that the book may help to dispel a long held myth still promoted in some sections of the media that these people are some type of rural 'freedom fighter' brought low by spiteful and class induced legislation. For from the many incidents recounted in the chapters of the book a picture emerges which leaves all but the most blinkered in no doubt regarding the true face of West Country stag hunting, nailing the lie that over one hundred years of opposition to their activities was about anything other than a simple hatred of needless cruelty in the name of sport.

Along with both an appendix and bibliography, the book contains a wealth of photographs and deer hunt related ephemera, much of it having not seen publication for over 40 or 50 years that complement the text with visual imagery, which prove the adage that sometimes 'a picture is worth a thousand words'.

Ian's book has yet to find a sympathetic publisher, but the moment this excellent work is in print the editors of Howl will be delighted to print purchasing details. Watch this space.

VEGGIES
Catering Campaign (Nottingham)

www.veggies.org.uk

Diary Dates

DECEMBER 2005

■ **Saturday 3rd** Leicester Cruelty-Free Christmas Fair. Methodist Church Rooms, Bishop Street. 9am - 5pm. Leicester Animal Concern: 0116 262 2030

■ **Sunday 4th** Christmas Without Cruelty Exhibition. 10am - 5pm. Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, London, W8. Stalls, vegan cafe, auction, Veggies Food! Details from Animal Aid:01732 364546

■ **5th - 9th** Big Pharma and 'Science' Tour. Contact SHAC to support this tour - Educating the public nationwide about the lies of the vivisection industry. SHAC: 0845 458 0630

■ **Saturday 10th** 7th International Day for Animal Rights. Worldwide events, including candle-lit vigils outside local sites of animal abuse, to campaign for fundamental rights to be bestowed upon non-human animals. UK co-ordination by Uncaged: 0114 272 2220

■ **Saturday 10th** East Midlands Vegan Festival. Veggies Food! Stall applications : Reuben : 07904 402209

■ **Saturday 10th** Matlock Ethical Xmas Fayre. 11am-3pm at the Imperial rooms, Matlock. Caron: 01629 583349

■ **Saturday 10th** London Vegan Free Food Fair. 12.00-3.30pm at St. Pancras Community Centre, 30 Camden Street, London NW1 0L. Vegan Campaigns: 07796 774 200

■ **Sunday 25th ?** Covance Campaign Christmas Day Picket at Covance labs, Harrogate. 07960 992824 to confirm

■ **Sunday 25th** Bernard Matthews Picnic. Noon at Great Lenwade, Norfolk. West Norfolk A.R:07779 20607

■ **Monday 26th** 8th Annual International Pizza Punk Day encourages you to form local vegan pizza-making workshops for cooperation, mutual aid and free association. See www.eroding.org.uk/pizzapunx.htm

■ **Monday 26th** Boxing Day Anti-Hunt Demos. Business as usual for the Hunt Saboteurs Assoc: 0845 450 0727

JANUARY 2006

■ Saturday 1st New Years Day Anti-Hunt Demos. LACS, RSPCA etc.Hunt Sabs Assoc: 0845 450 0727

■ Sunday 15th Animal Rights Coalition Meeting in Oxford to promote cooperation and to spread info between groups and individuals working to stop animal abuse. Veggies Food! Info & agenda: arcmeetings@rbgi.net

FEBRUARY 2006

■ Month of rememberance for animal activists Jill Phipps (1st); Vicki Moore (6th), Mike Hill (9th).

■ All month Hare Coursing. LACS: 020 7403 6155. Hunt Sabs Association: 0845 450 0727

■ Waterloo Cup - Look out for illegal Hare coursing event at Altcar, near Formby, Merseyside.

■ **Wednesday 1st** Jill's Day. Details to be announced. Jill's Day 2006 : 07771 953465



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. With a ban now in place, and so many hunts blatantly flouting it, the role of sabs has never been more important, so your gift will still be put to good use – the HSA 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.....

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, BM HSA, London WC1N 3XX

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

USEFUL ADDRESSES

A.L.F. Press Office
BM 4400, London, WC1N 3XX Tel: 01623 746470
Email: alfpressoffice@yahoo.com

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, WV10 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/

League Against Cruel Sports Ltd
Sparling House, 83-87 Union Street, London SE1 1SG
0845 330 8486 info@league.uk.com http://www.league.uk.com/

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 3WF Tel: 01902 564734
email: info@liberation-now.org
www.liberation-now.org

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

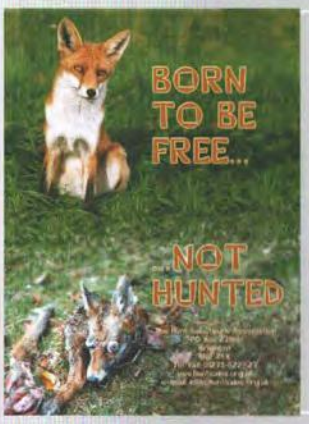
Sea Shepherd
UK (mail only - not an office):
35 Vicarage Grove, London SE5 7LY
USA (International Headquarters):
PO Box 628, Venice, California 90294, USA

SPEAK Campaigns
Publishes Speak Out
PO Box 6712, Northampton NN2 6XR Tel: 0845 330 7985
Mob: 07906 497317 www.speakcampaigns.org.uk
Email: info@speakcampaigns.org.uk

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

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

HSA PROMOTIONALS



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





NEW! Full colour, A5 'It ain't over 'til it's over' Leaflet. Explains what sabs do post-ban and why we're needed more than ever to protect our wildlife!
Ideal for stalls and as an insert for 'Animal Rights' publications

'It ain't over 'til it's over'
.....**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!
More than 225,000 already gone out!

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



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 +DONTION)**

BACK ISSUES OF HOWL

Single back issues 50p each

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

ORDERING MORE COPIES OF THE LATEST HOWL.

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

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

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

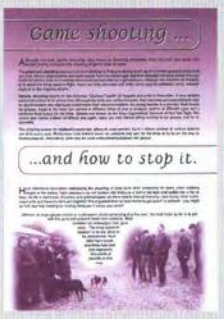


Colour stickers
Help promote the HSA (clearly unsuitable for putting on lamposts, hunt supporters cars, etc as this would be illegal!)

.....**FREE!**

(+p&p +DONTION)





'How to sab game shooting' leaflet giving a brief outline of how a shoot operates, and how it is sabbed with well-researched arguments against it.

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

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.


...watching
you like a hawk
www.huntsabs.org.uk
Prepared to Monitor, Ready to Sab
HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION