Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

Summer
2007

HOWL 87

The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association

NATIONAL & LEGAL NEWS | KEEP CAMPAIGNING! | KEITH MANN BOOK EXTRACT | SABBING IN NZ | SUPPORTING PRISONERS | VERMIN PATROL CRUELTY CASES



Caught in the Act

the camera never lies!

Always giving people the same old stuff? Show someone you care about wildlife and them: presents made easy with the HSA!

Please allow 28 days for delivery

HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION

salesgoods 2007


ZIP



M1


T1



NCS


SKI


W1


HD1



WMN

BLU



DJ/Courier Bag

DJ/Courier Bag with bright red HSA logo. Could you look any cooler this summer?! Grab one while you can.. Only **£10** each.


DJ1

Drawstring Bag


BA1

Drawstring Bag with red HSA logo. Versatile and trendy, we're practically giving them away at a **£5** each.

Name.....
Address.....
Postcode.....
✆.....

Code	Description	Size (delete one)	Price (£)	Qty	Total
ANT	'Anti' with HSA logo on back (in ❑ red ❑ light or ❑ dark grey)	S/M/L/XL skinny fit (red only)	10.00		
WMN	Big Red/White Logo on Black T-shirt + striking backprint!	skinny fit M / L / XL	10.00		
BLU	Small white logo on Blue T- shirt + 'wot we do'! backprint	M / L / XL	7.00		
T1	Black HSA T-shirt	skinny fit / L / XL	10.00		
ZIP	Black Zipped Hooded top	XXL	20.00		
HD1	Black Hooded top	XXL	20.00		
SKI	HSA Ski hat	one size	7.50		
DJ1	HSA DJ/Courier Bag		10.00		
BA1	HSA Drawstring Bag		5.00		
M1	HSA Mug		2.50		
W1	HSA Wallet		4.00		
C2	HSA Car sticker		1.00		
K	HSA Keyring		1.00		
B1	HSA Badges (4 for £1)		1.00		
PEN	HSA Pens (3 for £1)		1.00		

< £50 = £2.95
£50 - £100 = 10% of Order
> £100 = Contact the Office
Overseas (Europe) = £10 + 10% of Order
Rest of the World = Contact the Office

Sub Total	
P & P	
Membership	
Donation	
Grand Total	

Payment method: cheque/PO (payable to '**HSA**') and send to BM HSA, London WC1N 3 XX

If you would like to pay via paypal please email - info@huntsabs.org.uk



HOWL 87

Stag cover image - Copyright Richard Thomas Dreamstime.com

Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association
BM HSA, London WC1N 3 XX Tel. 0845 450 0727
Howl e-mail: howleditor@huntsabs.org.uk
HSA e-mail: info@huntsabs.org.uk
website: www.huntsabs.org.uk

The Hunt Saboteurs Association has been in existence for over 40 years, and is dedicated to saving the lives of hunted animals directly. Prior to the Hunting Act of 2004, hunt saboteurs used non-violent direct action to prevent the horrific deaths of thousands of hunted animals every year. Post hunt ban the primary tool of hunt sabotage has switched from the hunting horn to the video camera, as saboteurs monitor hunts with the aim of capturing their illegal activities on film. This in turn can immediately save lives on the day, and can lead to police action against the hunt concerned. Our range of pre-ban nvda tactics remain in active service, and saboteurs will continue to use them should they be deemed the best way forward on the day for the hunted animal at risk.
The HSA committee is made up of a maximum of 12 voting members, supported by as many non-voting members as is deemed necessary. All posts are voluntary and unpaid – **no-one on the HSA committee is paid** – as we believe that all money raised by membership and donations should go towards the running of the organisation, and to directly help saboteurs in the field. As a member of the HSA your contribution is vital – thank you.

Editors: Mr D & Bad Penny
Contributors: Paul T, Dawn, Nath, Suzanne & Jasmine at Auckland Animal Action, Keith Mann.
Photos: Deidre; Auckland Animal Action; Sean@imageriot.co.uk, Keith Mann; NWHSA; Southampton HSA; HSA Archive; Dreamstime.com
Vermin Patrol: Paul T
Distribution: HSA
Big taverymuch: All HSA members & anyone who we've pilfered stuff off and forgotten to credit

INSIDE

REGULARS

Merchandise 2
News Round Up 4
Hunt Havoc 8
Group News 16
Legal News 18
Vermin Patrol 22
Useful addresses 26
HSA Promotionals 27

FEATURES

Keep Campaigning
Lots to keep you busy 10
From Dusk 'til Dawn
Keith Mann's been busy! 12
Hassling the hunters down under
Aucklands finest keeping busy! 14
Vegan Prison Support Group
Keep busy supporting AR prisoners 21

Copyright: All material in Howl is anti-copyright (unless otherwise stated) and indeed we would encourage it's repetition elsewhere. Please do remember to credit us (or the appropriate stated source) should you reproduce what you see here. Ta.

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

EDITORIALS

By now everybody will be well and truly enjoying their summer rest (not withstanding the occasional mink packs). We seemed to end the second strangest season I can remember with a mixture of confusion over the early final meets of a lot of packs and a return to very familiar ground in certain regions. The end of the 2006-07 season seemed to have a very predictable ring to it in Essex for example, with a return to the various packs naturally violent ways.
Although we may have had to wait for it the season has ended well in terms of another successful conviction for illegal hunting at the Quantocks in the S.W. Almost at the same time further arrests have been made on the Isle of Wight after a seasons worth of monitoring and investigation by the local police.
By the time you read this issue the appeal in the Tony Wright case will be being heard. There are few I think who truly believe that he has a good case, and the expected failure of the appeal should send a shock wave of reality to those determined to be criminals. Let us hope that a dismissal of the appeal may finally galvanise the Home Office into action and relieve the unwarranted burden from the League's shoulders of being forced to mount private actions that should never have been necessary right from the start.
We must look to the next season with this in mind as proof that change is occurring and that the hunters little world is certainly not the same as it once was – and never will be again.
With that in mind, we all need to stay strong and committed in this time of change. The AGM takes place on the 21st July, and it would be good to see you all there.

Mr D

This season marked my 15th one out in the field – and was possibly the most frustrating one I've ever had to go through. I expect frustration from the cops, and the hunters – after all they have always been constants on which we can rely. But what I don't expect is frustration from certain small sections of our own movement, those who fail to grasp that things have changed – and the old rules can't continue to apply in the same way that they used to.
As the front cover says – the camera doesn't lie, and it's the camera that is now the primary tool of hunt sabotage. The Hunting Act has now been used successfully 11 times (2 with direct application to hunting as we know it) and I suspect once the appeal of Tony Wright is heard and dismissed the cops might have to get off their arses and start to play ball. But until they do, our role is clear – so I'll see you in the field with your camera next season. It's imperative that right now we go forward as one, and continue to support each other in the unique way that has made us the successful movement we are - and that we should continue to be.

Bad Penny
(Back once again is the renegade mistress)

P.S. And as we go to print the hunting fraternity's own press are reporting that the CA made a loss last year, that they struggle to raise the 'required' £3.5m per year, and that membership fees are too high at £50... Enough to warm the cockles of your heart!

Credit & Debit Card Payments - Important!
The HSA has ceased accepting payments by credit and debit cards via the usual 'you write down your details and we'll process' method. We looked at the costs involved, saw it wasn't a cost effective means of processing payments, and as such we've ditched that payment route! Fear not though, you can still pay for membership/goods/leaflets etc by cheque and postal order - plus we're getting sorted with PayPal. Watch the website for more details on that & thanks for your patience in the meantime.

NEWS ROUND UP

AOHS 'NO FUN FOR HUNT SCUM'

Irish CA Hunt Ball cancelled after demo threat. A planned demo action by the Association of Hunt Saboteurs (the Irish equivalent to the HSA) resulted in the cancellation of the Countryside Alliance Irelands Spring Ball at the Shelbourne Hotel in Dublin. A big demonstration was planned at the event, due to take place at the end of April, but the AOHS was informed by the Hotel itself that the CA had cancelled in writing, citing the reason being that 'one of its members was sick'. The CAI had previously advertised the event as involving 'sumptuous food, live music, and incredible sporting auction and raffle...' but it seems the threat of a demo meant a key organiser took to their sick bed in fear! A spokesperson for the AOHS stated 'We shed no tears for them but for the thousands of animals shot, mutilated, terrorised and abused in the name of so-called sport. The Shelbourne Hotel, recently under new management, was interested to hear it had avoided a big demonstration outside the plush new renovated building on the Green. 'More information on the activities of the AOHS can be found at www.huntsabsireland.org



DAWN RAIDS ON ISLE OF WIGHT HUNT KENNELS

Dawn raids on Isle of Wight Hunt kennels leads to four arrests for illegal hunting but CPS prove too easy to fold – again
Early May saw the Hampshire police carry out a number of dawn raids on the Isle of Wight, in connection with an incidence of illegal hunting that was believed to date back to the start of the season. The hunt concerned was the Isle of Wight FH, and the kennels, based at Gatcombe in Newport, were also raided as part of the operation. A police spokesperson stated 'This follows an incident in Shepherds Chine, Isle of Wight in November last year'.

Four men were arrested and were held in custody: a 41-year-old from Ryde, a 61-year-old and 36-year-old from Newport and a 36-year-old from Ventnor. Stephen Lambert, chairman of the Council of Hunting Associations (CHA), was reported in Horse & Hound to have expressed his 'total astonishment' that the police had prioritised this issue to such an extent that they carried out dawn raids.

However just a few days later news came out that the CPS had decided that there was not enough evidence to proceed with the case, and so no further public action will be taken. Simon Hart was immediately heard insistently crowing that this was because the Hunting Act doesn't work (can't think of a new line yet Si?). Howl suspects it was more likely the pressure brought to bear by CA Chairman Kate Hoey MP and also local MP Andrew Turner that really did the trick. It's not what you know, it's who you know, as the old saying goes...

WAR OF WORDS OVER STAG DEATH

War of words breaks out over stag death on League land

The brutal death of a stag on land owned by the League Against Cruel Sports has led to a war of words between LACS and the Countryside Alliance. The RSPCA were believed to be investigating after the CA released footage showing the stag being stabbed and then its neck being twisted in an apparent attempt to break it. The involvement of the CA at the scene, ready and willing to film the whole incident and then more than happy to make it a media story, has been questioned by those on the anti-hunt side.

Steve Coates, a Countryside Alliance member, said he and some friends had been attempting to video an ailing and collapsed stag they believed to have been infected with parasites when a man he did not know appeared in a pick-up and walked up to the animal. One of those who took the film claimed the brutal killing would not have been necessary if the ailing deer had been better cared for. He claimed the killer of the stag might be linked to the League, a claim LACS have categorically denied, saying none of its workers had anything to do with the killing and suggested the filming of the incident by pro-hunt campaigners was "very suspicious".
The person who killed the stag himself, Geoff Hayes, 67, a retired estate ranger, maintained he had no connections to either pro or anti-hunt groups. He said he had simply been driving past the sanctuary when he saw the deer in distress and decided to put it out of its misery. The RSPCA are investigating.



OTIS' DAD IS AS MENTAL AS HIS HUNT JUNKIE SON

Otis' dad is as mental as his hunt junkie son – official!

Ageing rock star Bryan Ferry has been unceremoniously dumped from a lucrative M&S advertising campaign after coming out with a bizarre series of statements seeming to show support, and indeed admiration, for the Nazi regime. Ferry praised the architecture and propaganda of the Third Reich, and also admitted that he used the term 'Fuhrerbunker' when referring to his studio in West London.
The Roxy Music singer was dropped from the high profile 'Autograph' range of clothing promoted by M&S following the comments, and was forced to issue an apology. In an interview in Germany's Welt am Sonntag magazine Ferry had stated that 'The Nazis knew how to put themselves in the limelight and present themselves'. His later apologised 'unreservedly' for any offence caused by his comments on Nazi iconography, which he said 'were solely made from an art history perspective.'
If only his awful son would see the light and admit that his admiration for hunting is best viewed from a historical perspective...

BIRDS OF PREY 'LOOPHOLE' BREAKS LAW CLAIMS QC



A barrister has claimed hunts using birds of prey to circumvent the ban on hunting with dogs are breaking the law. Dozens of hunts have bought hawks and even owls to use an exemption under which dogs may be used to flush animals out to a bird of prey. In a legal opinion for the League Against Cruel Sports and the International Fund for Animal Welfare Anthony Scrivener QC said this would be against the law as - with the possible exception of golden eagles - birds of prey do not hunt foxes.
His legal opinion has been sent to police forces and the Crown Prosecution Service.

photo - Copyright Kurt @ Dreamstime.com

CAMPAIGNERS TURN FOX HUNT PROTEST INTO PERFORMANCE ART

Anti-hunt campaigners have been hard at work in Northern Ireland as a new drama hits the street bringing home the message of the cruelty of fox-hunting. Although the ban came into effect in England and Wales in 2005, Northern Ireland is not covered by the Hunting Act and the play aims to spread the anti-hunt message far and wide in the northern part of the green isle.
At one performance in Belfast city centre fascinated crowds were reported to have watched a fox turn the tables on the huntsman, as the cornered animal fought back, bringing the red-coated, whip-cracking hunter to the ground. The anti-hunt protest is now winging its way across Ulster by text message after scores of teenagers recorded the performance on mobile phones.
The performances marked the launch of a new campaign to have fox-hunting outlawed in Ulster, and protesters hope a new Assembly will take the issue seriously. Campaigners said they had collected around 1,000 signatures and that protesters are adopting innovative ways to campaign, relaying their message by text and posting the performance on YouTube.

'ANOTHER ACCIDENTAL' KILLING

THE POLICE INVESTIGATE

Police have launched an investigation after a fox was pursued by a pack of hounds and killed. The Puckeridge Hunt confirmed 25 hounds chased down the animal but says the killing was 'an accident.' The investigation relates to an incident that occurred in February when a member of the public saw the hounds and a huntsman pursuing the fox and later called police. She said 'I was with my husband driving through the area when we had to stop because a man on horseback was blocking the road as the hounds chased the fox. We could see the fox had just about had it. I think it's disgusting they were chasing after it.'
Tim Vestey, Joint Master of the Puckeridge Hunt, said: 'I can confirm the Puckeridge Hunt was in the area at the time on a trail hunt.
Unfortunately, as does happen from time to time, a fox came out and the hounds have gone away from the trail and onto the line of the fox.
The fox was caught by the hounds and killed. It was an accident.'
Essex police are investigating.

HUNSTMANS BALLS

Noel Cahill Special!

There you are, calmly reading your Guardian on a Saturday morning (on a booked day off from sabbing of course, filled in the holiday card and everything...) and whose ugly face suddenly greets you from the depths of the Weekend Magazine? Noel-bloody-Cahill, that's who! This is a particularly 'special' man in the history of hunt sabotage. In past years he was the Surrey rep for the Fell & Moorland Working Terrier Club, and loved nothing more than getting handy with both journos and photographers alike when they were out accompanying sabs in the field. Funny how times change eh, now it seems that those very media types have ended up being some of his best friends?!

Quite how he managed to end up in the 'Are you happy' section of the mag is unknown, although we suspect someone at the Guardian is using his 'pest controller' services (lets hope they come to regret letting that dodgy feck into their expensive London pad). But at least his appearance gives us a reason to dedicate a large section of this particular regular feature to him, so take heart dear (Guardian?!) reader, things aren't all bad! And the photo itself was quite intriguing, as the man seemed to have his own name tattooed across his knuckles. Maybe just in case he forgot... Anyways, brace yourself!

All quotes from The Guardian Weekend, 24 Feb 2007.

'I've always had an interest in ferreting, hunting with hawks and falcons. That led to pest control.' Ah, nice one Noel – so that would mean that none of the above are seen by you actually as pest control...Interesting!

'I injured my back doing construction and started this business 16 months ago.' Didn't injure your back whilst 'actively engaged' against sabs then? Surprising, the amount of effort you've put in in the past!

'I get real satisfaction...Personally, I'm very happy' Killing animals and getting paid for it now Noel? We're not surprised that you're happy, you sick feck. We'd put money on the fact that this man is only really happy when terrifying and torturing defenceless animals, or when attacking heavily outnumbered anti-hunt protestors.

'Clearly, with these sorts of allegations, the police have slightly overreacted' Alastair Jackson, director of the Masters of Foxhounds Association (MFHA), commenting on the dawn raids and arrests undertaken by the Hampshire Police with regards suspected illegal hunting by the Isle of Wight FH. Jeez Alastair, how many times? You break the law, you gotta face the consequences!

'Whatever we may think of the hunting laws, we are law abiding citizens and we very much endeavour to comply with its stipulations.' Tim Vestey, Joint Master of the Puckeridge Hunt, commenting after being reported to the police by a member of the public for illegal hunting. I'm guessing his school report often said 'must try harder.'
www.cambridge-new.co.uk 16/02/07

'If the fox was fully fit you would have expected it to get away.' Our Tim again (see above). And if you were really trail hunting, you would have happily let it get away...

SEA SHEPHERD HEADS NORTH TO PROTECT WHALES

Regular readers of the mag will remember the 'Sabs and sea dogs aboard the Sea Shephard' article from Howl 86, which told of a recent high seas battle with the Japanese whaling fleet which a sab was involved in. Now a new country is on the SS hit list – Iceland!



An example of Sea Shepherd's enforcement actions came in 1986 when Sea Shepherd sank half of the Icelandic whaling fleet at dockside in Reykjavik and destroyed their whale processing plant - ending illegal whaling for 20 years.

Now, two decades later, we are about to challenge illegal Icelandic whaling once again. In October 2006, after 20 years of compliance, Iceland began to violate the International Whaling Commission's global moratorium on whaling and gave only a one-day notice before killing a whale. In order to defend the beautiful whales that Iceland is targeting, Sea Shepherd crews are now heading north towards Iceland with their vessel, the Farley Mowat, with the mission of stopping Iceland's brutal whaling fleet.



All photos from Sea Shepherd

This new campaign is called Operation Ragnarök. This is an old Nordic word that means "doom or destruction of the powers." The SS crew intend to take their intervention to the land of the Norse - straight to the coast of Iceland - for a confrontation with the outlaw Icelandic whaling operations.

Iceland has issued themselves a quota of 9 endangered fin whales and 30 piked (Minke) whales to brutally slaughter before August 31, 2007 - in addition to their bogus lethal "scientific research" program which targets another 39 piked whales. For more information on the new SS campaign and to make a donation to help keep the SS afloat (ahem) go to http://www.seashepherd.org/ragnarok/.
Plus for those that love SS merchandise check out the website for new items and also a sale on select t-shirts. Go spend some money!

AR2007 INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL RIGHTS GATHERING

The AR2007 global animal rights gathering will take place in the Netherlands this year, from Friday 10th of August until Monday 13th of August 2007. The gathering will be held at Appelscha in the north of the Netherlands at a beautiful site with good camping and other facilities next to a forest.



Like previous gatherings in the UK, this will be the place and the opportunity to meet other activists from around the globe. The main focus during this year's gathering will be on practical workshops and international networking, and one of the main goals is to start new global campaigns, and revive existing ones.

For more information visit www.ar2007.info

CLUB DRAW ☆ WINNERS ☆

As part of our fundraising activities, the HSA operates a 'Club Draw' - Just like the National Lottery (except unlike them we wouldn't donate to 'worthy causes' like the Museum of hunting: Past, present and future) If you'd like to take part fill in the leaflet which should be included in your issue of Howl. If the slip is missing, just write to the HSA office and request an entry form.

October
1st P Littmoden
2nd F Ford
3rd N Brooks

November 2006
1st D Simpson
2nd E Miles
3rd P Littmoden

December 2006
1st P Fenn
2nd S Higham
3rd N Brooks

January 2007
1st P Fenn
2nd P Littlemoden
3rd N Brooks

February 2007
1st S Higham
2nd F Inkley
3rd S Coyle

March 2007
1st D Thurley
2nd M Huggett
3rd K Atfield

April
1st D Wetton
2nd E Jackson
3rd S Fenwick

May
1st D Dunbar
2nd P Owen
3rd N Widdowson

June
1st M Clarke
2nd P Fenn
3rd D Simpson

KARMA POLICE



sherez - dreamstime.com

Keep your bull in Westminster, we'll keep ours in the countryside...?
One of the West country's best-known farmers and hunts master has died after being attacked by one of his own cattle. Raymond Burroughs, master of the East Devon Hunt and former chairman of his local NFU branch died on Boxing Day after being attacked by a young bull calf on December 15th last. Burroughs had just bought the calf at Exeter livestock market when this tragedy occurred. It is understood that the animal attacked him in a shed at Gateshayes Farm, where he lived and worked. He was taken to hospital with internal injuries, which proved fatal.

Balls up in West Wales
Dyfed-Powys police announced that a man died during the Pembrokeshire Hunt ball in mid January. The man in question was Peter Lewis Evans, 48, from Hayscastle; he was given immediate medical attention by a doctor who was also a guest at the ball. Police were called to the party, which was held at the Parkhouse Buildings in Haverfordwest, at around 2:15am. They said at the time, that little information was known about how the man died, but his death was not thought to be suspicious. Evans had strong hunt connections and the local hunt regularly used his land. The coroner was informed of the tragedy.

Huntsman dies in the field
Huntsman Chris Bennett, 62, from Savernake near Marlborough died following a fall while hunting with the VWH Hunt in Gloucestershire. Bennett was galloping along a muddy path when his horse slipped and he was thrown over its head. He was knocked unconscious and then suffered a heart attack; paramedics were called but were unable to revive him. He was airlifted to the Great Western Hospital in Swindon where he died the following day. Joint master Simon Oliver said: 'Everyone is terribly shocked. This is only the second serious accident I've heard of in 40 years.'

Lamper shoots himself dead
Daniel Willetts, 23, was hunting foxes when he is thought to have tripped and accidentally discharged his firearm at the beginning of February. He suffered serious injuries to his head and face but managed to call the emergency services from a field, where he was lamping. The police helicopter took him to hospital but he was dead on arrival. Speculating, the police believe he may have climbed over a fence and tripped over causing the gun to discharge, the police went on to say that there do not appear to be any suspicious circumstances surrounding the death.

Other odds and injured sods...
The huntsman if the Mendip Farmers, Robert Dixon, was shot in the hand whilst 'dealing with' a very small calf...

Martin Brocklehurts, huntsman with the High Peak Harriers, broke his hand on the opening meet and the kennel-huntsman had to step in for the season.

The Dart and South Pool Harries' huntsman, Gilmore Lewis, was out of action for a sizeable part of the season after he broke his leg whilst out hunting.

A 'double whammy' hit the Croome and West Warwickshire when Daniel Aldersey, an amateur whipper-in, knocked himself out and break his collar bone after failing to negotiate a fence. On the same day Joint Master John Firkins also broke his collar bone when he managed to ride his horse over a hole.



HUNT HAVOC

Locals want notice of hunts arrival

A County Limerick woman has urged organisers of the Limerick Harriers Hunt to let homeowners know when they are holding a meet in their area so that people can protect their domestic pets. Mary Cooke from Ballyclough said she was deeply upset at the death of a 13-year-old cat called Amy, who she claims was killed by hounds belonging to the Harriers who were hunting in the area on St. Stephen's Day (Boxing Day). John McNamara, joint master of the hunt said that a hound would never follow a cat and said he could not say for certain if this particular cat was killed by one of the hunt's hounds. – Yeah right John, because of cause there's no precedent for that sort of thing now is there? – Ed.

First they bag alpacas, now they go for a stag

The Oakley Hunt that savaged a flock of alpacas last October has now torn a stag to pieces in front of horrified householders. The attack took place in Bromham when five dogs got away from the pack, which was allegedly draghunting nearby. They picked up the scent of a deer and chased it into the front garden of Brett Drive resident Carol Burroughs, 48, who watched the sickening attack. One of the hounds then ran on to the road and was hit by a passing car, without serious injury. Mrs Burroughs said: 'The poor screaming thing was ripped to death. It was horrendous. I thought hunting was illegal. To bring their dogs into a residential area is downright irresponsible.' In Howl 86 we reported that the Oakley had terrorized and killed a flock of alpacas, just two months before this incident. A police spokeswoman said: 'We have spoken to the hunt and they collected the hounds and removed the dead deer. As the dogs had slipped the pack, they were not hunting and no offence has been committed under the Hunting Act. There is an offence of not keeping your dog under control in a public place and the best way forward would be to issue a reprimand.'

Hunt trespass on SSSI Site

Hunt monitors in Somerset have called for the prosecutions of huntsman who they allege illegally charged over a nature reserve with a pack of hounds. They claim that members of the Cattistock Hunt broke the law when they burst through Hardington Moor nature reserve on December 30th 2006. The 60-year-old hunt monitor maintains the huntsman and another rider led the pack of hounds into three fragile meadows that make up the Site of Special Scientific Interest. The hunt claimed to have a permit to enter the beauty spot, a suggestion the hunt monitors refute.

Hunt accused of recklessly endangering horses

A Woman has slammed a hunt after her horses were terrified when a party of riders and hounds charged through a field. Linzie Winckless, 35, of Steeple, claims her horse, Bismarck, suffered a gaping wound to his face when 30 horses and 20 hounds charged across the adjacent field. She said the Essex Farmers and Union Hunt then returned and stopped metres from where the six horses had been grazing. She said vets believe Bismarck cut his face after striking a wall or the hoof of another horse. She went on to say: 'They don't seem to care what they do to other people's horses. To congregate in the field at the bottom where they could see the horses were distressed, I think is totally irresponsible.'

Hunt investigated after claims they hunted muntjac

Children were reduced to tears as bloodthirsty huntsmen and hounds charged through Broxbourne Wood, Brickendon in a chase being investigated by Hertfordshire police. A large pack of 30-40 hounds dashed past terrified dog-walkers and children in late December as they chased a full-grown muntjac deer. One of the walkers commented: 'They were chasing a muntjac and they were right on its tail. It was running for its life. I could not believe it. My wife was shaking. I am totally amazed!' Two local hunts have denied any involvement in the incident; however, local police confirmed they would be looking into the debacle after being informed by the local paper.

Foxhounds cause mayhem in village

Foxhounds pursued by huntsmen caused mayhem in the streets of Popley in Basingstoke, Berks before Christmas last year. The Vine and Craven Hunt ended up running through the village in mid afternoon after hounds picked up a 'mystery' scent. One local resident was quoted as saying: 'There were about 30 dogs and four or five men on horses shouting at them. But they seemed to have no control at all. There were kids screaming and dogs were running in front of cars and busses.' Damon Edwards, joint master of the hunt attempted to explain things away by saying: 'It was a good scenting day and we think the hounds swapped scent, maybe to a deer or something, and got away in front of us... It was unfortunate, but I'm afraid these things happen.' - I'm sure the residents see it that way too Damon, there there. - Ed.

Hunt chases stag through school yard

A small area of Meath in the Republic of Ireland turned into a scene of terror when a hunt chasing a stag went wrong as the animal was forced through the yard of a primary school. A number of primary school children had to be kept inside the Kildalkey national school at the end of January when the terrified animal jumped into the schoolyard pursued by hounds. A number of small children were playing in the yard at the time. RTE Radio1's 'Liveline' was flooded with calls from witnesses claiming that the hunt had caused chaos at the school. One witness claimed that a schoolboy had become trapped among the pack of hounds but had managed to run to safety. The hunt in question the Ward Union Stag Hunt, claim later they were







Jack Scrivener - dreamstime.com

Akautz - dreamstime.com

running a licensed event, and apologised for any disturbance.

Since then the people of Kildalkey village have issued a statement to Environment Minister Dick Roche to withdraw the hunt's licence, the statement followed a well-attended protest against stag hunting outside the Minister's office in Dublin. In a further development to force the issue a number of the local landowners have banned all hunting on their land. With most town lands in the village and surrounding area being affected by the landowners' decision, this effectively bans all hunting in the Kildalkey area. Local farmer Tony Brady said all hunting was being banned for the foreseeable future due to the 'arrogance of the huntsmen and total disregard for public and private property,' of the stag hunt. He said the hunt secretaries of the Meath Hunt and Tara Harriers would also be notified in writing of the areas affected by the ban.

Huntings elite still happy to be killing wildlife

Prince Charles's favourite hunt – the Duke of Beaufort Hunt – is facing a police probe after its hounds ripped apart a fox in a family's back garden in Sherston, Wiltshire. Homeowner Gwen Butler looked on in horror as the dogs savaged the cornered animal. Hunt supporters who witnessed the killing apparently did nothing to prevent the sick spectacle. Ms Butler said: 'There were people on horseback following the hounds but they just watched. They...didn't really seem to care. It was awful.' The killing comes just after a member of Prince Phillip's shooting party was seen stomping on an injured fox. He was photographed beating the defenceless animal over the head with a flagpole. Members of the Beaufort Hunt are now set to be quizzed by police following the incident. A hunt spokeswoman commented: 'I understand that it was a very windy day and the trail scent obviously drifted.' – of cause it did my love, but don't fret I'm sure a full exoneration will be forth coming – Ed.

Hounds rip yet another pet cat to pieces

A South Armagh woman has described the horrific scene as her pet cats were ripped to pieces by a pack of hounds while huntsmen looked on. Anne McKeown also accused up to 20 members of the Newry Harriers, accompanied by as many as 40 hounds, of trespassing on her six acres of land and damaging hedges and gates during their annual Ballymoyer Forest meet. In the incident two of Ms McKeown's four cats managed to scramble to safety up a tree, but the other two, Ermentrude, a kitten, and her mother Lucy couldn't get away. 'I was actually sick watching it and when they were finished, there was nothing left of the cats except for a bit of blood and some skin. Thank God my children weren't there, the dogs could have killed them' she said.

One week later and the same hunt have been accused of losing control of its pack, allowing them to run wild through the streets of Bessbrook. Interestingly, once the hounds had been brought under control two of the huntsmen appeared to be bleeding from facial injuries. – Probably not too many low hanging tree branches in Bessbrook, so I wonder how those injuries were caused? – Ed.

Hounds run amok in village

Police have launched an investigation after a pack of hounds allegedly cornered and killed a fox in a domestic garden. They are also looking at claims that a pet rabbit and cats were attacked. Officers recovered the mutilated body of a fox in a rear garden of a house in Bath Road, Sturminster Newton, Dorset at the end of February. PC Hollick of Dorset Police said: 'Alarmed homeowners have told us that a number of hunting hounds chased a fox through several private gardens. Apparently the hounds cornered the fox against a fence before one resident tried to beat back the hounds – fearing that a pet cat had also been caught by the hounds.' No one from the hunt, the Blackmore and Sparkford Vale Hunt was available for comment.

Nesting birds terrified by marauding hounds

Nesting birds at a Falconry Centre at Batsford scattered their eggs and were injured flying around cages in panic as hounds from the Heythrop Hunt tore through at the end of February. Families with young children in pushchairs and toddlers screamed in terror as the pack of around 20 hounds rushed through the centre and neighbouring Arboretum Garden Centre. Geoff Dalton, founder of the falconry centre, said staff were now anxiously monitoring birds and their eggs to see if the breeding programme for this year was ruined. Among the birds most at risk are Rufus owls, Ural owls, Ferruginous hawks and red-tailed hawks. Joint master for the hunt, Liz Wills said: 'We deeply regret what happened...'. Blah, blah, blah.

Hunt invades Norfolk animal sanctuary

A row has broken out after an animal sanctuary volunteer claimed to police she was hurt when a hunt spilled onto land they should not have been on. Deborah Sparks, a volunteer at the PACT animal sanctuary in Woodrising, has lodged a complaint to the police about the behaviour of the West Norfolk Foxhounds. She said that she suffered a bruised hip when three huntsmen galloped towards her and two others, forcing them to take cover. Pact owner George Rockingham said: 'Our staff managed to turn the hounds back the way they had come. If they had not been successful then the 50 cats, 150 ducks, 50 cockerels, nine peacocks and a few rabbits which live free on the sanctuary would have been very much a risk'. North Norwich MP Ian Gibson said: 'It sounds like it was a terrifying experience, and somebody should either apologise or action should be taken to look into the very serious charges that have been made. This is not tolerable and I look forward to meeting the people to hear of their experiences at first hand.'

By the time you read this two full seasons will have passed since MP's voted finally to ban hunting with hounds as we know it, and the Hunting Act 2004 came to pass. If we're honest things are not as we'd have hoped - whilst the Act is fine in principle the enforcement of it is not. That's the negative view. The positive one is that things are certainly not as the Countryside Alliance (CA) et al hoped either, and despite their futile legal attempts to challenge the law (see Howl 86 for full details on that) all they do is chase a pathetic dream of the law being repealed.

KEEP CAMPAIGNING!!

Finally though, it seems as if we have movement on enforcement from the police, as in October Avon and Somerset Police charged two hunt staff from the Devon and Somerset Staghounds with hunting a wild mammal with hounds, contrary to the Act. This comes behind two private prosecutions from the League Against Cruel Sports – the first of which was won out-right in court. The CA of course are behind the Appeal launched against the conviction, but they couldn't be seen not to appeal – to not do so would be to accept their fate too easily. And they do have money to spend, so they'll of course keep spending it until it runs out. We of course do not have such money to burn, but that didn't stop us from being part of the movement to bring the hunting ban to fruition. Whether you were/are an active hunt sab, are a supporting member, or have just stumbled across the HSA and have just picked this magazine up from a stall, the fact is that you can continue to help push the ban forward. Sure, we have the legislation, but what we need now – and soon – is proper enforcement. Read on for what you can do – and please do all you can, and do it now.

Get out and monitor your local hunt

Sab groups up and down the country have undergone a transformation since the Hunting Act came into force, the main difference being that the primary tool of sabotage became the video camera. Illegal hunting taking place? We're there to get it on camera! The hunts, as ever, think that they are above the law, but we are the very people who know the difference between legal and illegal hunting – after all we have over 40 years hands-on experience. As such, if you can and you aren't already, get out with your local group and let your local hunts know that they continue to be watched. Our 'in your face' presence at hunts has always been something that the hunting fraternity has hated, after all who wants to be literally be caught with blood on their hands? And if it could result in a court case, fine and public disgrace they want to see us there even less.

If you don't have a local group to go out with you can still make a difference be either going out on your own and watching covertly (the hunt don't need to see you for you to see them), or perhaps you could don your rambling gear, making use of the many public footpaths or open access rights to our open spaces and keeping an eye on the hunts at the same time. Take a video camera, stills camera, mobile phone and your police HQ number so that you report incidents of illegal hunting.



Keeping them under watch (nice hat too!)

Information is power!

Even if you can't get out yourself, do keep your eyes and ears open. Do you know someone who is connected to the local hunt, who may be encourage to divulge info? Or have a friend who lives near where the hunt meets, and so is likely to be told when they are in the area? Any information on hunt movements can be passed onto the local sab group, and can prove to be very useful. Hunts these days want to keep a low profile in the hope that they can just get on with their sordid



HSA 'enforce the ban' postcards

business. The more we know about them the more we can do to make sure any illegal hunting is found, caught on camera, and the information passed to the relevant authorities.

Keeping the issue in the spotlight

In an ideal world, the bloodsports fanatics would like to be left to get on with their activities without the glare of the media spotlight, and without people asking questions about what they are up to. Whilst the Hunting Act is in existence the enforcement remains lacking – and until that balance is resolved we need to keep telling the public that only half the deal for wildlife we thought we had secured is in place. Summer is here, and with less time required in the field hassling the hunters directly, you can get yourself instead on the streets with stalls. Make sure you have our 'Enforce the Ban' petition (one was included with your last Howl, and a pdf can be downloaded from the website at www.huntsabs.org.uk).

Our 'For Fox sake enforce the Ban!' postcards (again, as included in the last mag) have already gone to the Home Secretary by the sack load! THANK YOU if you sent one in – we've had a response from the Home Office, and are currently on the backs of the police forces too on the issue of enforcement (see elsewhere in this issue for details on that. The law is nothing without clear enforcement, and that enforcement needs to happen now. More postcards are available – please simply send £2 to cover postage and packing and we'll send you 50 more to hand out, use on stalls.

Watch out for local debates on hunting that may spring up in your local paper, especially if you live in the countryside. The CA seems to be trying to push the message that the public is fed up with the ban, and that it isn't working. Not true! The public want to see what they thought had been sorted actually be put into practice. Hunting a wild animal for sport is a cruel, out-dated and now thankfully outlawed activity. It was banned for a reason, and no amount of hot air expended on talk of 'civil liberties' can ever make it acceptable. Be out and proud about your opinion, and make sure you challenge pro-hunt articles / letters / advocates even if you've been through the argument a hundred times before.

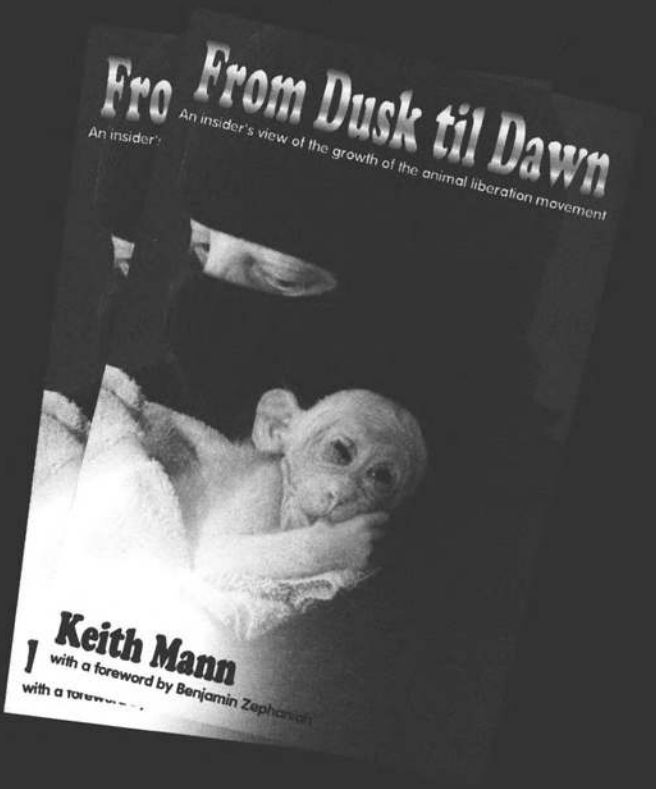
Stick with us!

As a member of the HSA you know this anyway, but without our members we're nothing. The HSA is run by a committee of unpaid staff (just your average sabs, basically!) who provide national support for local groups on the ground, be that in the form of legal advice, tactical support, a media response service, financial loans/grants, information/literature provision etc etc... Basically if there is a need for it within the sabbing world we do our best to cater for it. That of course takes money, and without our members and supporters we wouldn't be here. So please keep renewing your membership, buying our merchandise, supporting the cause – and ultimately keep keeping the faith!

The Hunt Saboteurs Association is an organisation that exists to campaign against all bloodsports, and will be in existence for as long as is required.

Tzooka - dreamstime.com

From Dusk til Dawn



'From Dusk 'til Dawn' is a new animal rights book giving the low down on the history of the movement from one its most famous sons – Keith Mann.

Starting with a brief but not exhaustive summary of the early history of the movement, From Dusk 'til Dawn is primarily the personal perspective of former ALF activist Keith Mann on the direct action wing of the Animal Liberation Movement, which began to burgeon in the 1960s. The book takes you on tour with the ALF as activists carry out raids, and allows the reader to gain a better understanding of the thinking and motivation of some of the people who work within ALF cells or alone - those who go out of their way to break the law of the land.

Keith's long service with the AR movement has seen him involved in many campaigns, and on many levels, including serious time dedicated to the anti-hunt movement. What follows is an extract taken from 'From Dusk 'til Dawn' covering Keith's experiences as a sab...

Battle Scars & Blood Sports

They are just paid rent-a-mobs. At first we thought they were genuine animal lovers, but now we know they get paid about £40 a day for disrupting things. Most of them are on the dole or on student grants so that is a lot of money for them. It is all politically motivated with someone in the background paying them

Mrs. Dorothy Cook, Master of the Holderness Hunt
in the East Yorkshire, Journal, January 1994

It was 1984 and I was new to 'sabbin' but learning fast. I was also quick on my feet and energetic, so was able to stay close to the hunt if they were moving, unlike the majority of observers on both sides. This was something I found often landed me in tricky situations and out numbered by an ever-angry enemy. On one occasion early in my education, at the meet there had been 30 riders and a few dozen saboteurs, four Lancashire Constabulary mounted police and a pack of dogs. A couple of hours in, there were two coppers, the huntsman, the hounds, a hare and myself. The hare is the key player in all this. And they accuse us of putting animals before people! The police seemed to enjoy these events as they talked horsey with other riders, waited in line with hunt supporters to jump the next obstacle and galloped after hounds in cry. Got to be there, may as well enjoy it, eh? Their presence did sometimes help to keep the peace; at other times they just fanned the flames and were to blame for sabs being hurt, animals killed. I may not have been able to save this particular hare, but I desperately wanted to try. After all, that was the point of being there.

She had been hunted for an hour and was slowing down. A hare will run in ever decreasing circles as it tires. As the hounds close in and it has little left, it runs in a direct line. Most of the hunt riders and saboteurs were spread out across country engaged with their own conversations, confrontations, and obstacles. I just had to get in between the hounds and the quarry, a big brown hare with huge legs, ears and eyes, the white of which were increasingly prominent as it looked behind in terror. We could all see what was happening. Sneddon, the huntsman, had had his gallop and could have tried to stop the kill but that would have been too much to ask. I have no idea what the police were thinking, but their actions spoke clearly enough as they did their utmost to stop me crossing into the killing field. I was caught and corralled against the hedge, flanked by two police on huge horses pulling my collar high and threatening me with arrest for action likely to cause a breach of a peace, as the hounds in full cry bore down on the staggering hare on the other side of the hedge. With Sneddon racing in to be there at the kill to collect his trophy or masturbate or whatever it is they feel the need to do, the hare let out the most awful scream as the pack engulfed it in the middle of the field.

This was the desperate last cry of a small animal, a harmless utterly inoffensive individual, and I heard those cries over and over, again and again for months. Most of the hunt didn't even see it, yet it was done in their name! For what purpose? What happened that day changed me forever.



The Holcombe Harriers and one of their many victims

Since the earliest meetings between sabs and hunters there has been serious violence, and the victims have tended to be saboteurs. Hunt supporters—despite the impression given by the media and the hunts—have suffered remarkably little violence in reality. Hunt violence is extensively illustrated on the HSA website. In 1976 in the UK, League Against Cruel Sports activist William Sweet was shot and killed during an altercation with a shooting fanatic. Others have died since and the list of walking wounded is much, much longer, each a shocking story of extreme violence and police and media indifference.



Holcombe hunt staff launch attack on sabs

Thirty-four-year-old Eddie Coulston hadn't been sabbing before when he joined hundreds of others at the annual gathering of coursing supporters at the repulsive Waterloo Cup hare-coursing spectacle at Altcar near Liverpool in 1984. Coulston was there less than an hour when his skull was cracked open by coursing supporter Paul Willingale using a shooting stick. Astonishingly, the assailant was later sentenced to just six months in prison. Eddie Coulston had to undergo life-saving brain surgery to remove bone splinters and a clot, and was left afflicted with epileptic fits. The very same day he was attacked, coursers killed one of their own in a drunken brawl. The violence surrounding this event brought home just how dangerous a crack over the head could be—something many hundreds of saboteurs have suffered and narrowly avoided. Many such incidents have been filmed and photographed by sabs, hunt monitors and independent observers, many witnessed by police, yet the number of these thugs sent to prison can be counted on the fingers of one hand.

Here's another random example. Twenty years on, Steve Christmas was awarded £18,500 in criminal injuries compensation, following an attack by hunt supporters whilst out sabbing a cub hunting meet of the Old Surrey and Burstow FH. Considering the circumstances, this was a hard-fought-for but derisory award. Psychotic hunt supporters had been goading the small group of regular sabs for hours, whipping some and making threats of worse to come. Angered beyond words at a group trying to stop him tracking down some tiny baby animals to tear to pieces, gamekeeper Martin Maynard drove very deliberately at the group, hitting Croydon sab Steve Christmas as he tried to flee, then deliberately driving over him with his Land Rover. And all this on land owned by a local magistrate. After the incident, Christmas was airlifted to hospital where he had tubes inserted into his heart, was put on a ventilator and spent four weeks in intensive care with a crushed pelvis, broken ribs, extensive internal bleeding and serious abdominal injuries.

Consequently, he had to have part of his intestines removed, a plate fitted in his pelvis and repairs made to multiple stomach hernias. He now suffers from a double groin hernia that is inoperable due to previous operations and he is unable ever to work again. But for his sturdy frame, the attacker would have surely killed him.

There were three good witnesses; they'd all ducked out of the way of the vehicle in time and told how Maynard initially drove off in a panic but then returned minutes later to taunt his victim. The police, incredibly, were desperately slow to bring their man into custody. The assailant, even though he was eventually charged with Grievous Bodily Harm, had the charges against him dropped by the CPS because—they said—one of the witnesses had been previously in prison for an unrelated animal liberation offence. An extremely unusual decision under any circumstances, but given the attacker and his vehicle were clearly identified as having nearly killed someone deliberately and Maynard himself had a lengthy criminal record for violence, this decision seemed even more inappropriate. There were tyre tracks in the earth and over the victim; there was a number plate and vehicle description, and even a name to go with face of the driver! Even more perverse was a two-year delay by the police to bring charges against Maynard for driving with no insurance or a driving licence; charges which were brought to bear eventually and only then under great pressure.



Steve Christmas in intensive care.

Soon after a group of sabs who descended on the hunt kennels to protest following the attack, were attacked by hunt staff with pickaxe handles. The sabs responded by breaking some house windows before scarpering. Comprising mainly young women, they were later hunted down by a squad of six-dozen police who made 18 arrests and later sent them to trial for conspiracy. After protracted legal proceedings those found guilty narrowly avoided prison but were given lengthy community service orders. All as the hunt's supporters continued to attack those who oppose them and their torture of little furry animals.

It was four years and £20,000 in legal fees later before an appeal against an initial decision not to award compensation was overturned. This is one of a large number of cases plodding through the courts in which saboteurs are seeking redress for the behaviour of the police and hunt supporters. Many, many others get nowhere near justice.

Some saboteurs can only take the threat of arrest and reality of violence for so long before they decide they have to move on to other forms of campaigning with hardened hearts, or just move on; others seem able to overcome it with admirable dexterity and go on for years risking life and limb to save wild animals. These people are the true heroes of this movement.

”

To order 'From Dusk 'til Dawn'

Send £14.99 + £4.95 P&P to BM2636, London, WC1N 3XX. Please make cheques payable to K. Mann. Or order online at http://animalliberationpressoffice.org/Merchandise/Mann_From%20Dusk%20til%20Dawn.html

First Edition due to be published June 2007. Over 650 pages, including a vast gallery of photographs, some never-before-seen from Keith Mann's private collection.

All pre-orders will be signed by Keith Mann.

The Howl Ed's ears certainly pricked up when this bastardised version of a favourite childhood tune reached them! And the photos were quite entertaining too. So we got in touch with Auckland Animal Action to find out more...



AAA in the drink!



To mark the start of duck hunting season 2007 Auckland Animal Action held a demo/occupation of a South Auckland wetland. We approached the hunters and attempted to discuss the ethics of hunting and the reasons behind their involvement however the hunters were not willing to comment on their own motivations other than to say 'because we do.'

After growing tired of getting nowhere with the hunters we decided to try a new tactic of blocking the only boat access at that point of the wetland. Banners were held over the boat ramp reading 'Ban blood sports' and 'big guns = small dicks.' Expecting us to move, two hunters backed their boat in to our blockade forcing us in to the water. After much pushing and shoving the hunters attempted to launch their boat, at this point two people grabbed hold of the boat and refused to let go for two hours.

During this time there were several attempts to launch their boat but we held on tight knowing that the time we delayed them meant less time that they could be killing and maiming. At times the motor was started with us still holding on as they attempted to reach their mai mai (camouflaged floating hide), however we were successful in getting their boat back to shore several times until they finally managed to get away.





Standoff to prevent boat launch

As that sounded all very cool, we asked Suzanne at Auckland Animal Action to tell us more about the group...

Auckland Animal Action (AAA) is a vegan based animal liberation group that campaigns against animal exploitation in the Auckland area. We are opposed to all animal exploitation and actively campaign to expose those that are involved in abusing animals for profit. The group was started in 1996 by a small group of activists who had become frustrated at the lack of active campaigning on behalf of animals. A grassroots activist group was needed that promoted direct action against all forms of animal abuse. AAA was the first animal liberation group in NZ to start using civil disobedience (CD) in campaigning against animal suffering and abuse. CD is an effective tool for raising public awareness and placing pressure on abusive industries. It gets media attention and allows issues to be taken and debated within the legal system.



One of our main campaign focuses has been our anti- fur campaign "Fur Free Aotearoa" during which we have convinced over 60 businesses to stop selling fur. This campaign involves regular loud protests outside shop fronts where we use banners, posters, leaflets and noise to draw attention to what the store is selling. When we began the fur campaign several years ago, we used home demos and civil disobedience regularly. Now having built up our reputation for never giving in, it usually only takes a letter, information pack and one or two protests before a shop removes all fur items from sale.

AAA also campaigns on many other animal rights issues. Actions have included rescues and investigations into factory farming, resulting in widespread media coverage of the issues. As well as protesting and carrying out rescues, we hold regular stalls to educate the public about animal cruelty and have fortnightly meetings where people are encouraged to get involved. We also act as a voice for anonymous activists such as the ALF and let others know what actions have been carried out and why, and we contact media on their behalf.

New Zealand is a democracy, and that means we should have a legal right to protest peacefully. Most of the time we have no problems with police when protesting or handing out leaflets. However this is not always the case, and many of our protests have resulted in activists being arrested, usually for minor charges such as disorderly behaviour.

In the past the police have tried to crack down on activism especially in regard to our fur protests – we believe because we have been so effective with our campaign. There are occasions when police turn up to our protests and are volatile and threaten to make arrests for actions that we know are totally legal. We know the law pretty well now so know what our rights are and don't give in to their attempts at intimidating us. On the odd occasion this has resulted in arrests, but the charges usually end up being dropped or thrown out of court.

In 2004, four AAA activists had their homes raided by the Threat Assessment Unit (the Police counter terrorism unit – focussing on internal domestic threats) after a couple of fur demos against a shop called Belucci that was selling huge amounts of fur. Police took everything in relation to activism from these homes including computers, diaries, cell phones, cd's, videos and even items such as stickers, leaflets and posters.

The activists were charged with intimidation and disorderly behaviour. The police put thousands of dollars and man hours into trying to get convictions for what were really minor offences that could actually be wiped clean from their records in 7 years (If no other convictions are incurred in that period). What came out during this trial was that the police had been closely monitoring AAA and even following people.

AAA aims to get people to look more into animal rights issues and not just believe what they are being told by the industries that are involved in exploiting animals. We try and send out the message that just because something is legal doesn't mean it's right and that if lots of people start standing up against these industries then we can stop a lot of the cruelty that is happening.

Keep up to date with AAA actions at www.aucklandanimalaction.org.nz

GROUP NEWS

South

Southampton sabs have been covering a wide radius visiting hunts that have required our attention. They have had some successes with the South Dorset FH and even the Cattistock FH who have proved a particular tactical challenge. Several visits to the New Forest Beagles ended in disaster for them and hilarity for sabs!. The first occasion saw 2 of the group with a lone **Reading** sab pack them up after they chased a hare right into view of cameras. The next 2 meets attended saw absolute disarray, much discussion and the production of false trail layers before a speedy exit. The crew will of course be back. A visit to the Pimpernel Beagles with South Wales and Pewsey also turned into a farce with the Wiltshire police helicopter being scrambled to protect law breakers. The Vale of Aylesbury with Garth and South Berks has also seen some visits, with cameras often proving as effective as a hunting horn in keeping them moving too fast to pick up a scent. As the season wore on the group discussed adopting more traditional sabotage tactics in the face of the defiance of law breaking hunts and on a couple of occasions at the Cattistock decided that spraying was the only appropriate action when they put up a fox, due to cameras being blocked. Given that most of the group joined after the ban, they are itching for some of 'the real thing'. This was tested out at the Cotswold Vale hit at the end of March when horn calls were used to take the pack of hounds off the back of a fox - suspected to have been bagged - assisted by **South Wales, Pewsey Vale and North & East London's** whip & spray line. Summer is here. Mink hunts beware.



Cattistock Whip tries to block filming



Even the beaglers carry sprays now!



Cattistock supporter beating fox back

Since the last Howl, **North and East London** sabs have been concentrating on the good old Essex Farmers, the Essex and Suffolk and the Suffolk, with the odd visit to the Puckeridge. Lots of kennel watching and the usual fun, been out mostly with the **Suffolk** sab group, and occasional visits from **Northants** sabs. The group has been subjected to 2 stupid section five arrests in Suffolk, but the sabs concerned were in the pub by dark with £80 fixed penalty notices, and have of course appealed.

At the last of the Farmers meets a load of boys came down from the Essex, all in balaclavas and ended up getting stopped and searched by the police! Looking forward to a long hot summer of fundraising...

This part of the season, **Reading** have been keeping it somewhat real and have done a selection of hunts; teaming up on occasion with **Southampton, West London** and even **Pewsey**, our mixed crew have attended the Old Berks, South Dorset, Vale of Aylesbury with garth and South Berks, Hampshire, Surrey Union, the Tedworth, the Vine and Craven and had a memorable day at the New Forest Beagles with the **Southampton** Punk Crew ("we ain't hunting, honest, leave us alone and stop scaring the hounds with your funny haircuts..."). The group has had mixed results, there's been both sabbing and monitoring, there's been sabs injured and cameras stolen; the cops have been conspicuous in their absence at meets, but have been taking our submitted video evidence seriously-watch this space for some courtroom updates...

South East

Croydon sabs have been busy as ever, with the trusty help of **Hastings** and **Brighton**, keeping an eye on the usual suspects – the Old Surrey, Burstow & West Kent FH and the South Down & Eridge FH. Plus visits to the Crawley & Horsham, and also a lovely chance meeting with the (wait for it)



Run, crying beagler, run!



Beaglers pack up, with infamous black landy as escourt



Sab tries to work out how many beagles he can fit in his pocket...

Brighton Storrington Surrey and North Sussex Beagles (or BSSNSB for 'short!!). The latter brought a fine end to a day's sabbing elsewhere as the first beagler encountered seemed only able to pull his cap down, start running – and indeed start crying! Fantastic – hopefully they cried all the way home, after a very swift packing-up. February saw a vicious and unprovoked attack on the landy, complete with sabs inside, whilst at a routine visit to the OSB. Cops are investigating...

Wales

From the end of cubing **South Wales** hunt sabs have been out with the Curre and Llangibby, (whose loony recruitment drive has gone swimmingly,eh Henry?), as well as having away days with the **Pewsey** and **Bath** sabs to do the Tedworth and Royal Infantry Beagles, who thought it necessary to have a bit of police overkill. **South Wales** sabs have also been out with the Monmouth, Pentrych and South Hereford,(who haven't changed a bit, and still like riding down and whipping people). **East London**, **Reading**, **Pewsey**, **Notts** and **Southampton** sabs also joined up for the last meet of season at the Cotswold Vale. The need for some text book sabbing at the start of the day saw one ginger saved and the hunt on the run and hiding for the remainder of the day.



North West Sabs with High Peak Harriers



South Devon FH yet to realise owl's head is sewn on backwards

and below - the one that got away



North

The 2006/2007 has been a strange but rewarding season here in the **North West**. Sabs have been at the forefront of trying to get a proposed cull of Ruddy ducks in the Wigan area stopped. At an extraordinary meeting of the Wigan Council in March 2007 following the campaign the council postponed the cull until September 2007, so it's good news for now.

Hunts attended are the High Peak Hunt, Cheshire Forest FH, Forest and District Beagles, Royal Rock Beagles, Blencathra FH, Vale of Aylesbury with Garth & South Berks, The South Devon FH and the Mid Devon FH on one of the wettest, coldest days ever!!!

Throughout the season a fair few new sabs have been coming out so next season should be busier than normal.

Derby have been regularly visiting the High Peak Hunt this season - much to the annoyance of the senior hunt master. Video cameras have been found to very effective in the local area. Hunts have been stopped in their tracks just by the sight of a video camera.

A visit to the Meynell and South Staffordshire at their traditional New Year meet resulted in them packing up 3 hours early when word got around that 'a gang of antis in balaclavas armed with video cameras' were trailing them. There were actually just a car load of us dressed as hunt support, so not sure how that 'chinese whisper' started!

One or two hunts have also been visited covertly on a monitoring basis with footage submitted to the police. Local police seem to be fairly approachable but are not proactive in policing the ban.



Legal News



Stills supplied by League Against Cruel Sports

GUILTY

QUANTOCK STAGHUNTERS CONVICTED

Following a week long case held at the end of May, two officials from the Quantock Staghounds, Richard Down and Adrian Pillivant, were found guilty of breaching section 1 of the Hunting Act by chasing deer with hounds. The case related to an incident on the 16th February 2007, when Hunt Crimewatch monitors from the League Against Cruel Sports saw the pair engaged in illegal hunting, and the footage taken formed the basis of the second private prosecution that LACS have brought under the Hunting Act.

The League believed the evidence clearly showed the deer being chased by stag hounds with no attempts made to either shoot the deer 'as soon as possible' or attempts to call off the hounds from pursuing the deer. Speaking on the day the guilty verdict was announced at Bristol Magistrates Court, LACS Chief Executive Douglas Batchelor said, "We are delighted but not surprised by the result. Justice has prevailed today in what was a clear cut case of blatant law breaking by hunters who believe themselves to be above the law. Today's result will send out a stark message to those extremists who insist on flouting the law that their behaviour will not be tolerated.' He continued 'The hunting fraternity must grasp what the British public have understood ever since the ban was introduced - chasing and slaughtering stags for pleasure is totally unacceptable in a civilised society. To do so is a criminal act as these two gentlemen have discovered today.'

'The defendants were hunting for sport and recreation to continue their way of life and are disingenuous in attempting to deceive me into believing that they were exempt from hunting'.

'Exempt hunting does not allow for a chase – there was no sign of the deer being shot. In fact it was not possible for them to be shot and Mr Pillivant did not call the hounds off.'

'It was obvious to him that the deer were not as soon as possible going to be shot. They should have been called off; they were not.'

Finding them guilty, District Judge David Parsons fined both men £500 and ordered them to pay £1,000 each as a contribution towards costs. In giving his verdict, the Judge stated that: 'The defendants were hunting for sport and recreation to continue their way of life and are disingenuous in attempting to deceive me into believing that they were exempt from hunting'. 'Exempt hunting does not allow for a chase – there was no sign of the deer being shot. In fact it was not possible for them to be shot and Mr Pillivant did not call the hounds off.' 'It was obvious to him that the deer were not as soon as possible going to be shot. They should have been called off; they were not.'

Simon Hart, the alliance's chief executive, said: 'On the day in question they hunted with two hounds, as stipulated by the Act, and ensured there were experienced guns in place to shoot the deer. They shot six deer. If this is not flushing to guns I do not know what is.' (And all we can say to that is no Simon, you clearly don't – Ed)

This is the second successful private prosecution under the Hunting Act 2004 for the League Against Cruel Sports. On 4th August 2006, in a historic case, Tony Wright became the first huntsman to be found guilty under the new law. Mr Wright has appealed the ruling and his appeal trial will be heard in the week commencing 9th July 2007. There have been nine successful prosecutions in total since the Hunting Act came into force.

The details - The League vs. Richard Down & Adrian Pillivant

A private prosecution brought by the League Against Cruel Sports against Richard Down, huntsman, and Adrian Pillivant, whipper-in for the Quantock Stag Hounds, for offences under the Hunting Act 2004.

The allegation

Evidence obtained by Hunt Crimewatch monitors shows a mounted Richard Down using his hounds to search for deer and then watching them chase a herd of nine deer beyond the horizon. Adrian Pillivant, the mounted whipper-in, stands by and watches the chase. No hunt marksman is present.

The League believed the evidence clearly shows the deer being chased by stag hounds with no attempts made to either shoot the deer 'as soon as possible' or attempts to call off the hounds from pursuing the deer.

The video

The video evidence presented by the League Against Cruel Sports was not contested in court by Richard Down, Adrian Pillivant or the defence team.

It was therefore accepted that:

- hunting was taking place;
- the nearest guns were out of sight, over the horizon;
- the hounds were allowed to continue to chase the deer beyond the horizon, towards the position where the gun was apparently sited;
- the hounds were, during this time, at some distance from the hunt staff.

The League has argued that the video showed that the deer were being not flushed out of cover, that no attempt was made to immediately shoot the deer, and that a prolonged chase was allowed. In our opinion, the hunting could not be considered as exempt hunting.

The defence

The defence team said that deer had already been flushed to guns twice earlier in the day, and that two sets of two hounds had been used. They said that the legal requirement to shoot "as soon as possible" should be interpreted as meaning "when the deer have reached the guns."

They also argued that Richard Down and Adrian Pillivant reasonably believed that the activity they were engaged in was 'exempt hunting'.

The verdict

That Richard Down and Adrian Pillivant are guilty of breaking the Hunting Act because:

- they chased deer for 2 3/4 hours;
- they did it for sport and recreation, not for pest control;
- the hounds were not under control.

For the full verdict and more details on the Prosecution Unit at the League please visit http://www.league.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=1983

LEGAL BRIEFS

☺Huntsman Anthony Allibone, 49 from the Dulverton Farmers' Hunt appeared before magistrates at the beginning of February charged with assaulting a Tiverton pensioner. Yvonne Nicola, 66, was monitoring the hunt for the League Against Cruel Sports almost a year previously when she was hit by Allibone, who denied the charge. After a seven hour trial West Somerset Magistrates, sitting at Minehead found him guilty as charged and ordered him to pay compensation to Ms Nichola and fined him £100.
– Another fine example of hunting folk at work me thinks. – Ed.

☺A hunt steward has been given a fixed penalty fine of £80 for using threatening words and behaviour towards two monitors on Boxing Day. Mervyn Dowell, a steward for the Cotley Harriers, harassed and threatened League monitor Graeme Forsythe and Helen Weeks from Protect Our Wild Animals, as they attempted to video the Harriers near Yeovil. When the monitors tried to retreat to the safety of their car, they found it completely blocked in by hunt supporters. Dowell apparently declined to comment after receiving the penalty fine. – Well he was probably still counting up to 80 on his fingers at the time. – Ed.

☺A hunt supporter subjected a grandmother to a torrent of verbal abuse and caused several hundred pounds worth of damage to her car in a bid to stop her monitoring the Vale of the White Horse Hunt. Judy Gilbert, 60, was left shaken by the ordeal as she watched the VWH at Filkins Farm near Lechlade but was determined to carry on doing her job. The incident happened on December 2nd 2006 but only came to light at the end of February 2007 when her attacker was cautioned by Thames Valley Police. Video footage handed to Thames Valley Police shows a 68-year-old man, understood to come from the Cirencester area, forcibly pulling Mrs Gilbert's car door open while swearing at her. The man has now been handed two adult cautions after admitting criminal damage to the sum of £540 and a public order offence. He also apologised for his actions. Having carried out the investigation Thames Valley Police still refused to identify the offender.

And finally...Judge rules in favour of protestors shock!

☺Fourteen animal rights campaigners walked free from court at the end of May after a judge condemned the police for unlawfully stopping their protest. The protesters were all cleared of refusing police orders to break up the demonstration against Oxford University's animal research laboratory outside the Sheldonian Theatre at the Encaenia ceremony last July.

A tape-recording emerged during the trial of unguarded comments by officers, calling the campaigners from the Speak animal rights group 'c****', saying they wanted to 'prosecute the s*** out of them' and claiming the university was powerful. The comments, caught on a dictaphone accidentally switched on inside an officer's pocket, led to Speak accusing the force and university of colluding to stifle their right to protest. During last summer's protest, demonstrators refused to move from outside the Sheldonian Theatre, where the Encaenia ceremony was being held, under police powers known as section 14s, and instead sat down.

At Bicester Magistrates' Court, District Judge Deborah Wright cleared all 14 defendants of offences under section 14 of the Public Order Act. But she found 70-year-old Pauline Broughton guilty of obstructing a police officer and Fran Cornwell guilty of assaulting a police officer - and gave them both absolute discharges.

Ms Wright said: 'I find the (section 14) conditions were imposed unlawfully.

'Whoever was responsible for making the decision that this prosecution should proceed in light of the tape may well have made a serious error of judgment."

She added: 'Although the (taped) conversations were made away from the public, all the officers were on duty. Pc (Colin) Travi accepted he had referred to them (the protesters) as c****.' He was also recorded saying 'the problem is the protesters do not realise how powerful the university is - it's a sleeping giant'. Pc Andy Bignall was recorded saying: 'We knew we were going to take bodies today.' Supt Chris Shead said: 'Now we have to prosecute the s*** out of them.' And Ms Wright added Chief Insp Chris Sharp admitted the measures they imposed were 'draconian'.

Ms Wright said the protesters had been put under a 'metaphoric microscope' by police. Outside court, Speak spokesman Mel Broughton said: 'I am extremely angry and disturbed about what has been revealed of the attitude of Thames Valley Police.

I think anyone in the country who believes you have a right to protest and a right to free speech should be very, very concerned.'

Support Animal Rights Prisoners



The aims of the VPSG are to:

- **give moral and practical support where needed**
- **help to obtain vegan food for prisoners or anyone arrested whilst in custody**
- **help to obtain vegan toiletries for prisoners**
- **highlight and work to improve the inadequate facilities for vegans in prison shops**
- **campaign for equal rights for vegan prisoners**

The last 12 months has seen a huge increase in the number if animal rights' prisoners. The Vegan Prisoners Support Group (VPSG) has been in existence for over 13 years, and aims to both support AR/vegan prisoners and to educate the prison service on what a vegan diet entails and how to provide for it. A clear example of what they do is given below, in an extract from their latest newsletter, relating to the sentencing of Mark Taylor, Suzanne Taylor and Teresa Portwine in March this year. The VPSG is a non-profit making organisation with no paid staff, and relies soley on donations for support. Donations can be sent to the address given below, but the best and preferred method of support is through a regular gift – as this provides a regular and reliable stream of income which enables VPSG to plan work more easily. A Standing Order form can be downloaded from the website, and even £1 a month can make a huge difference.

VPSG in action

The day of Mark, Suzanne and Trish's sentencing at the Old Bailey, we were standing by in the office waiting to receive a call from a colleague at the Old Bailey, who was at court to alert us to the outcome. When we received the bad news, our – sadly – well practised routine was put into place.

We first contacted the People Escort Courier Service to check exactly which prisons the three were being taken to. Once this was established we started making calls to the prison kitchens to make sure there would be a meal waiting for them on arrival, and then called the Reception Areas to make sure they had access to suitable hygiene products.

The next couple of hours made us realise that although April 2007 marks the thirteenth year of VPSG, despite the best made plans designed to cater for the arrival of new prisoners there can always be last minute unforeseen problems which need sorting out. We were advised that the kitchens at HMP Belmarsh were well organized, but Reception informed us that the prison issue toiletries had run out of vegan toothpaste – and so quick arrangements were made for emergency supplies of toothpaste and soap to be dispatched for Mark's use.

At HMP Holloway we were experiencing problems getting through to the kitchens, and when we finally made contact we discovered the regular Catering Manager was on leave and they were in the middle of moving premises. We got the impression that the Catering Information Pack (we have provided one to every prison) had gone missing in all the chaos, and also that things were not quite as they should be – to the extent that a call to the Governor's Office was required. The speed the prison acted was impressive – they requested that up-to-date information be e-mailed to them, and this was taken down immediately to the kitchens so that the correct dietary requirements could be met. We will await further contact from them to see what other help they need.

This case highlighted the importance of updating and reissuing our Catering Information Pack, as it was last done in 2003 and is very out of date regarding nutritional requirements. We have also been busy compiling our cookbook 'Cooking Behind Bars' in order to give kitchens an idea of what they can cook to vary the vegan option – and to do this we need funds! Please help us to achieve this by sending any donations to our usual address.

Jo-Ann – VPSG.

Contact VPSG

BM 2107,
London.
WC1N 3XX.

Tel/Fax: +44 (0)20 8292 8325

info@vpsg.org

www.vpsg.org

Sentenced Prisoners

JONNY ABLEWHITE (TB4885)
Birthday: 27 January
HMP Lowdham Grange, Lowdham, Nottingham. NG14 7DA.
Serving 12 years for conspiracy to blackmail the Hall family who run Newchurch guineapig farm, which has now closed down.
Stamps, Postal orders/cheques payable to 'HMP LOWDHAM GRANGE' with inmate's name/number, name & address of the sender on the back. No paper or envelopes

WAYNE BUNCH (VB7189)
HMP Brockhill,
Hewell Lane,
Redditch, Worcestershire,
B97 6RD.
Serving 12 months for sending threatening letters in connection with the former campaign against the Newchurch guineapig farm.

DONALD CURRIE (TN4593)
Birthday: 13 April
Birthday: 13 April
HMP Whitemoor, Long Road, March, Cambs, PR15 OPR
Serving 12 years in relation to arson attacks.
Cheques or postal orders made out to "HM PRISON SERVICE", with prisoner's name and number on the back.
No stamps, envelopes or writing paper are accepted.

KERRY WHITBURN (TB4886)
Birthday: 18 April
HMP Lowdham Grange, Lowdham, Nottingham. NG14 7DA.
Serving 12 years for conspiracy to blackmail the Hall family who ran Newchurch guineapig farm, which has now closed down.
stamps; postal orders/cheques payable to HMP LOWDHAM GRANGE - include inmate's name and number on back and name/address of sender. Not writing paper or packs of envelopes.

MADELINE BUCKLER (PR7492)
Birthday: 23 October
HMP Morton Hall, Swinderby, Lincoln, LN6 9PT.
Serving two years in connection with charges relating to the former campaign against the Newchurch guineapig farm.
Stamps, writing paper. Only Postal Orders to be sent and made out to 'The Governor', with inmate name/number on back.

SARAH GISBORNE (LT5393)
Birthday: 5 July
HMP Cookham Wood, Rochester, Kent. ME1 3LU
Serving 5 years for conspiracy to cause criminal damage in relation to Huntingdon Life Sciences.
Self-addressed-envelopes (SAEs), writing paper, envelopes, cheques/postal orders payable to THE GOVERNOR - please write inmate number and sender name/address on back.

JOSEPH HARRIS (TN5728)
Birthday: 10 November
HMP Bullingdon, Patrick Haugh Road, Arncott, Nr Bicester, Oxon OX25 1WD.
Serving 2 years for connection with charges relating to Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty.
Stamps (max 24), envelopes, writing paper, postal orders/cheques payable to HM PRISON SERVICE with name /number on back, CDs, DVDs, some items of clothing but check with prison.

JOSEPHINE MAYO (PR6508)
Birthday: 8 February
HMP Drake Hall, Eccleshall, Staffordshire. ST21 6LQ.
Serving 4 years for conspiracy to blackmail the Hall family, who run Newchurch guineapig farm.
Stamps, envelopes, gummed tear-off writing paper (not metal ring bound), postal orders/cheques payable to HM PRISON SERVICE with prisoner's name and prison number on back.

SUZANNE TAYLOR (TM7154)
Birthday: 22 January
HMP Cookham Wood, Rochester, Kent ME1 3LU
Serving two and a half years for demonstrations again customers of Huntingdon Life Sciences.
Self-addressed-envelopes (SAEs), writing paper, envelopes, cheques/postal orders payable to THE GOVERNOR - please write inmate number and sender name/address on back.

TERESA (TRISH) PORTWINE (TM7153)
Birthday: 27 January
HMP Cookham Wood, Rochester, Kent ME1 3LU.
Serving 15 months for demonstrations again customers of Huntingdon Life Sciences.
Self-addressed-envelopes (SAEs), writing paper, envelopes, cheques/postal orders payable to THE GOVERNOR - please write inmate number and sender name/address on back.

MARK TAYLOR (TT6636)
Birthday: 8 August
HMP YOI Onley,
Rugby, Warwickshire, CV23 8AP.
Serving four years for demonstrations again customers of Huntingdon Life Sciences.
Postal orders only (no cheques or cash) and these must be made payable to HM Prison Service. Include Prisoner name and number on the front, and the sender's name on the back.

Remand Prisoners

GREGG AVERY (TA7450)
Birthday: 5 December
HMP Lowdham Grange, Lowdham, Nottingham. NG14 7DA.
Gregg Avery was remanded 4 May 2007 at Portsmouth Magistrates Court on charges in connection with Huntingdon Life Sciences.

NATASHA AVERY (VM4846
Birthday: 28 December
HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Middx TW15 3JZ.
Natasha Avery was remanded 4 May 2007 at Portsmouth Magistrates Court on charges in connection with Huntingdon Life Sciences.

HEATHER NICHOLSON (VM4859)
Birthday: 30 January
HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Middx TW15 3JZ.
Heather Nicholson was remanded 7 May 2007 at Portsmouth Magistrates Court on charges in connection with Huntingdon Life Sciences.

VERMIN PATROL

CRUELTY CASES IN THE COURTS

To keep up to date on all Vermin Patrol cases visit www.nwhsa.org.uk

badger VERMIN

On 5/1/07 a Joint police and RSPCA swoop has captured five people on suspicion of digging a badger sett near Stroud. Gloucestershire Constabulary said a 19-year-old, an 18-year-old, two 16-year-olds and a 15-year-old were all from Mountain Ash in South Wales. Police acted after a call from a concerned member of the public. They were detained on suspicion of digging into a badger sett. Officers also seized an air rifle at the scene.



Six alleged members of a badger-baiting ring appeared on 14/2/07 at Bedlington magistrates charged with conspiracy to hunt wild mammals with dogs. **Ian Walton** (51) of Avebury Place; **Brian James Cole** (30) from Avebury Place; **Sean Dilger** (26) from Alderley Way; and **Lee Lawton** (37) from Avebury Place, all of Cramlington, are charged with conspiracy to hunt wild mammals with dogs. Similarly charged are **Wayne Lannen** (23) from Coniston Rd, Wallsend, and a 17-year-old from the Cramlington area who cannot be named for legal reasons. All six were sent to be dealt with at Newcastle Crown Court in March 2007. Their unconditional bail was renewed. During the long-running operation, three raids were made on houses in Cramlington last year and two men were arrested. On one of those raids police also recovered items thought to have been stolen from churches in Tynedale, including a 6ft eagle-shaped lectern snatched from Holy Trinity Church, Matfe.



A Gang of four teenagers, the youngest aged 15, appeared before Gloucester magistrates accused of badger-baiting on 26/2/07. The four defendants, all from Mountain Ash, Glamorgan, South Wales, were charged with interfering with badger setts. **Christian O'Reilly** (19) of Craig Street, was also charged with possessing an offensive weapon, possessing a firearm without a certificate and with hunting a wild animal with dogs. **Scott Palmer** (18) of Pentwyn Avenue, was also charged with hunting a wild animal with dogs. One 15-year-old, was also charged with hunting a wild animal with dogs and the fourth defendant, also aged 15, faced the one charge of interfering with badger setts. The case was adjourned until 26/3/07 and all four defendants were granted unconditional bail.

On 11/3/07 three men were charged in connection with a badger-baiting ring in the Borders. The move follows dawn raids on three houses in Hawick, Roxburghshirel. Police said three men aged 24, 18 and 16 would appear at Jedburgh Sheriff Court on 22/3/07.

bloodsports VERMIN

On 10/2/07 eight people were arrested on suspicion of poaching after a police raid near Dumbleton. Officers swooped after reports of a group of men coursing. Eight men were arrested and taken to Cheltenham Police Station. They included a 29-year-old from Charlton, near Pershore, and a 15-year-old, 18-year-old and 32-year-old from Rowley Regis in the West Midlands. A 21-year-old from Wednesbury, a 33-year-old and 19-year-old from Tipton and a 43-year-old from Brierley Hill, all in the West Midlands, were also arrested. The 15-year-old was issued with a final warning. The others have been charged with poaching and will appear at Cheltenham magistrates on 9/2/07

Colm Davis of Courtclough Upper, Blackwater who shot a pheasant in his front garden, was fined ?130 for killing a protected wild bird out of season by the judge at Wexford District Court on 18/1/07. Davis admitted the offence. The garda told the court that the defendant had two firearms licences and both of them were revoked following the incident.

On 19/1/07 two hare coursers were handed ASBOs to stop them practicing the illegal sport on farmland in Cambridgeshire. **George Lee** (24) and **John Bruce** (39) both of Belvedere, Kent, were caught hare coursing. The pair were spotted by a member of the public, and were arrested with help from the force's helicopter. They were fined £650 and ordered to pay £60 costs when they appeared at Cambridge magistrates and have now been given post-conviction ASBOs which ban them from entering Cambridgeshire, Suffolk or Norfolk.

Bloodsports supporter **Otis Ferry** has avoided a driving ban despite drinking at least seven shots of vodka during a night out. Ferry (24) of Keeper's Cottage, Eaton Mascott, Shrewsbury who is the master of the South Shropshire Hunt, was found to have 55mg of alcohol in 100ml of breath. The legal limit is 35mg per 100ml of breath. But during a special reasons hearing, Gloucester magistrates on 20/1/07the court was told that Ferry's friends had bought him treble vodka Red Bull drinks, but he believed he was drinking single shots. Ferry escaped a driving ban, but was fined £500 and ordered to pay £364 costs.

On 30/1/07 a hunt steward was fined £80 for using threatening behaviour towards two hunt monitors on Boxing Day. **Mervyn Dowell**, a steward for Cotley Harriers, harassed and threatened League Against Cruel Sports monitor Graham Forsythe and Helen Weeks from Protect Our Wild Animals, as they attempted to video the Harriers near Yeovil.When the monitors tried to retreat to the safety of their car, they found it completely blocked in by hunt supporters. Dowell, of Burridge Farm, Chardstock, Axminster, who was given an £80 fixed penalty fine.



On 8/2/07 a hunt supporter was cautioned after trying to puncture a tyre with a nail hidden in a Mars bar. The attack on a hunt monitor's car came as the Heythrop Hunt. Two women monitors from the Protect Our Wild Animals group were filming the hunt, when one of them noticed a woman acting suspiciously near their vehicle. "A closer inspection revealed that the woman had placed a two-inch nail, embedded in a Mars bar, in front of one of the tyres," said Powa spokeswoman Penny Little. "Swift action on the part of the monitor who owned the car ensured that the evidence was seized, despite attempts by the hunt follower to take it back, and the entire episode was captured on film." The film was given to police and the woman was arrested and cautioned.



A **Dulverton Farmers** huntsman was found guilty of assault after he rode his horse at hunt monitors. **Anthony Allibone** (49) of The Kennels, East Anstey, near Tiverton, Mid Devon, had pleaded not guilty to assault on the pensioner who was monitoring the hunt. But on 9/2/07 after a seven-hour trial at West Somerset magistrates sitting at Minehead ordered him to pay £100 compensation and a fine of £100.

Seven men were fined after being caught poaching in the Cotswolds. They all admitted coursing - hunting for rabbits or hares with dogs when they appeared before Cheltenham magistrates on 12/2/07. They seven were **Dean Dallow** (21) of Wednesbury, **Lee Garrington** (29) of Pershore and **Craig and Scott Richards** (32) and (19) both of Rowley Regis, were fined £400 for their part, because of a previous conviction for the same offence. **Malcolm Fletcher** (33) and **Richard Smallman** (20) both of Tipton, and **David Quinn** (43) of Brierley Hill, were given £300 fines.

Otis Ferry (again) who is the master of the South Shropshire Hunt, was thrown in a police cell after a raucous night at a BAFTAs after-show party on 11/2/07. Ferry was cautioned by police after throwing a photographer's keys into the gutter outside London club.

A Northern Ireland Gaelic footballer is to appear before a court next month accused of keeping an illegal pit bull terrier for dog fighting. Tyrone player **Gerald Cavlan** (30) from Willow Gardens is charged with two counts of keeping a dangerous dog and four of keeping dogs without a licence. Cavlan was not in Dungannon magistrates on 12/2/07 for the hearing. The USPCA said at the time that a vet examined the male dog and found injuries consistent with wounds inflicted during dog fighting.



A hunt supporter subjected a grandmother to a torrent of verbal abuse and caused several hundred pounds worth of damage to her car in a bid to stop her monitoring the Vale of the White Horse Hunt. The monitor found her vehicle blocked onto a grass verge by hunt supporters who then shouted a volley of abusive and lurid language at her. Video footage handed to Thames Valley police shows a 68-year-old man, understood to come from the Cirencester area, forcibly pulling her car door open while swearing at her. Later on the same man reversed his own vehicle towards her forcing her to leap out of the way. On 22/2/07 the man was handed two adult cautions after admitting criminal damage to the sum of £540 and a public order offence.

Two men were fined for endangering migrating fish species by using illegal nets on the Welsh coast. **Anthony Julian Jones**, from Cardiff, and **Kevin James Webber**, from Tonypandy, were prosecuted after being caught using the fixed nets near Pendine, Carmarthenshire. Each man was ordered to pay a £175 fine with £75 costs by magistrates in Ammanford on 7/207.



David Smith (57) from Northdene Terrace, Seaham who is a builders' merchant pleaded guilty to burying dead greyhounds at his home without a licence. It is claimed that Smith shot about 10,000 dogs with a bolt gun. On 16/3/07 he was fined at Durham Crown Court following a private prosecution by the Environment Agency, after police said he had committed no offence. Smith was fined £2,000 and also ordered to pay £2,000 costs. He admitted a single charge under the Pollution Prevention and Control (England and Wales) Regulations that he disposed of waste - the bodies of deceased dogs - on land without a permit.

On 28/2/07 the master of the Banwen Miners Hunt was found guilty of punching his horse in the head in a temper tantrum after losing a race. **Lodewijk De Smet** of Waun Hir Farm, Betws Ammanford, Camarthenshire yanked hard on the reins and galloped towards horrified spectators and children after hitting the animal. The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons said De Smet - who is also a vet - was guilty of using unjustifiable force against his horse. The Austrian vet had been competing in a relay race with his wife for the Banwen Miners Hunt. On 6/3/07 De Smet was cleared of a charge of professional misconduct by a disciplinary committee of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

On 1/3/07 two Nelson men become the first in the county to be prosecuted under the Hunting Act 2005. They were arrested after being found near a badger sett with three dogs, one of which had a blood-stained muzzle. But Blackburn magistrates heard that the men had been hunting rabbits, a fact accepted by the prosecution after items of clothing and equipment had been sent for forensics examination. **John Ryan Greenwood** (29) of Hammond Street, and **Daniel Frank Anness Graves** (21) of Waidshouse Road, pleaded guilty to hunting rabbits with dogs. Graves was fined £50 and Greenwood £100 and both were ordered to pay £95 costs.

Ian Graves (45) of Waidshouse Road, Nelson allegedly stole back his pet dog from an RSPCA compound after it was seized by police. Graves had his dog impounded after it was taken as part of an investigation into badger baiting involving his son. On 17/3/07 he was taken to court over the theft, but denied the charge and had the case against him dropped after the baiting allegations were not proceeded with. The lurcher dog was taken after Graves's son Daniel was arrested in connection with the badger baiting investigation. Daniel Graves and John Greenwood, of Hammond Street, became the first people in Lancashire prosecuted under the 2005 Hunting Act and pleaded guilty to hunting rabbits, but were cleared of badger baiting.

At Aberdeen Sheriff Court on 23/3/07 Alexander Cowe (34) of Rosario, Lumsden, Huntly was accused of killing a protected bird - a peregrine falcon - on an estate in Aberdeenshire. Cowe is said to have poisoned the bird at Clova Estate (grouse shooting estate), at Lumsden, near Huntly . Cowe is also accused of having a bottle of poison at his home address and at Tomatin Estate. Cowe is further accused of having a pesticide in his possession at his home address and elsewhere. This pesticide contained carbofuran, which can be used to poison birds of prey, it is alleged. The case was continued without plea until 12/4/07.



On 26/3/07 Paul McMullen (36) of Musker Drive, Bootle, Merseyside was convicted of using his dogs to kill a fox. McMullen was arrested after a woman reported a group of men with dogs digging into a badger set in Cheshire. He had denied hunting a wild mammal with a dog but was found guilty by magistrates in Chester. McMullen was fined £750 and ordered to pay £5,000 in costs. Two other men and a youth were sentenced for last year. Paul Kelly (21) of Outer Forum, Norris Green, Liverpool, pleaded guilty on 6/11/06 to hunting a wild animal with a dog and was ordered to pay £500 in fines and £2,896.09 costs. Mark Kenneth Walsh (18) of St Augustine's, Netherton, Liverpool, admitted a charge of hunting a wild animal with a dog on 16/10/06. He was fined £500, ordered to pay costs of £2,896.07 and forfeit a number of spades and locator collars, and his dog, a tan and white terrier, was confiscated. The youth pleaded guilty at Sefton Juvenile Court on 16/10/06 to the same charge and was sentenced on 3/11/06 to an 18-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay costs of £500.

bloodsports VERMIN

To much dismay, a lenient sentence has been passed on a man Mark James (47) of Eifl Road, Trefor, on the Lleyn Peninsula, North Wales, was given a conditional discharge and ordered to pay £56 costs after he was caught trapping garden birds to feed to his snake. James claimed that steel rat traps scattered around the garden were in place to deal with a serious rat problem, but admitted that he had accidentally caught a bird. During an interview, James admitted catching and freezing tits and feeding them to his snake, but maintained that they were 'bycatch' in his bid to rid the area of rats because, he claimed, the local authority had failed to do so. At Caernarfon magistrates on 10/1/06 James pleaded guilty to charges of killing and possessing wild birds.

The owner of a bird shop in Enfield was fined £2,500 and ordered to pay £6,000 costs after admitting illegally possessing nine goldfinches and having illegal wild bird traps set up in his garden. The RSPCA visited the Crews Hill Bird Centre, Theobalds Park Road, Crews Hill, Enfield, and found five goldfinches. The home of the owner, **Kamran Motahammadani**, at Plough Hill, Cuffley, Potters Bar, was then searched ☛

and four more caged goldfinches were found, plus two traps set to catch wild birds in his garden. Motahammadani claimed the birds had been given to him and said the traps were being used to catch an escaped canary, but he was convicted at Enfield magistrates on 10/1/06. The goldfinches were released back into the wild.

The proprietor of an auction house has been fined £6,000 after offering protected wild birds' eggs for sale. **Colin Peeke-Vout**, who runs Willingham Auctions, Willingham, Cambridgeshire, was handed the fine by Cambridge Magistrates on 13/4/06 after pleading guilty to three charges of possession of, advertising and offering for sale 69 eggs.

A Burnley taxidermy dealer was fined £2,000 for buying and offering for sale a variety of stuffed birds and other animals. **Alec Cunningham** of Plumbe Street, Burnley pleaded guilty to five charges at Burnley magistrates on 26/4/06. Cunningham also pleaded guilty to possession of birds eggs and was fined a further £200. All the seized items were forfeited.

A falconer was fined £500 and ordered to pay £500 costs after the RSPB filmed him disturbing nesting peregrines in Nottinghamshire. On 7/7/06 at Mansfield magistrates **Martin Groves** of Leas Road, Mansfield Woodhouse, was found guilty on two charges of disturbance and one of being equipped to commit a disturbance offence. The Home Office recalled Groves to prison as he was out on licence for another matter. Three other men were cleared of all charges. They were Stephen Lewis of Salmon Lane, Annersley Woodhouse, Lee Butler of Hazel Crescent, Shirebrook and John Cooper of Langham Place, Mansfield.

equine

VERMIN

Trainer **Richard Guest** of Brancepeth Manor Farm in County Durham was fined £2,750 by racing regulators following a criminal conviction of causing unnecessary suffering to a horse. Guest (41) and stable employees **Richard Dalton** and **Louise Tidman**, appeared at Durham magistrates on 15/2/07 follwoing the death of a horse. The trio were each given two-year conditional discharges. The horse was put down after developing a severe infection in her near-hind leg. Guest's fine took into account four different factors, including the guilty plea to the criminal offence, the court costs of £14,731, the unusual nature of the injury to the mare and the favourable results of an inspection at Guest's yard. Dalton and Tidman were both fined £250, a figure which reflects their personal circumstances. Guest pleaded guilty to failing to exercise reasonable care and supervision.

On 21/12/06 a circus boss and his employee were given suspended sentences and a fine of £25,000 for causing a collision in which a mother and daughter were killed in Galway. **Stephen Courtney** (35) from Earl Street, Longford town, and **Francisco Daria** (24), a Venezuelan national with addresses in Cherry Wood Park, Dublin, pleaded guilty at Galway Circuit Criminal Court to several charges relating to the collision. The mother and daughter were killed when a runaway circus trailer collided with their car. The judge sentenced Courtney to two years in prison and fined him £25,000 for intentionally or recklessly engaging in conduct that allowed a trailer to be attached to a lorry unit and another trailer in a defective manner. The sentence was suspended for two years. Daria - who had driven the circus lorry that pulled the trailer - was found guilty on two counts of dangerous driving and was sentenced to three years in prison on both charges, to run concurrently. The judge suspended both sentences for two years and disqualified the accused from driving for seven years.

A building firm was fined £7,000 after admitting destroying the breeding site of a protected species. **Gerald Patrick McHugh** of King Street, Seagrave, company secretary of McHugh Construction, pleaded guilty on behalf of the firm to destroying a structure or place used by great crested newts and a charge of damaging or destroying a breeding site of the same creatures. At Melton magistrates on 24/1/07 they fined the firm £3,500 for each charge, plus £70 costs. McHugh was also charged with the same offences, which he admitted. He was fined £700 for each. It is an offence to kill, capture or disturb newts, or to damage the places they use for breeding or resting.

A vet working at Alder Veterinary Hospital, Liverpool who became so addicted to the drugs he was using on animals was struck off on 2/2/07 after a misconduct hearing was told that he tried to staple a greyhound's leg rather than its tail. **Michael Mario McCarthy** (31) escaped with a police caution and he was struck off the Register of Veterinary Surgeons for 10 months after admitting disgraceful misconduct. He also admitted three charges of stealing controlled drugs when he worked at the hospital and during other periods of employment.

On 5/2/07 a leading greyhound trainer has pleaded guilty to seven charges of possessing unauthorised animal "remedies", some of which could be used to enhance the performance of dogs. **Paul Hennessy** from Rathvawn, Garryduff, Gowran, Co Kilkenny was fined £4,200 and ordered to pay £800 in expenses at Kilkenny District Court today for the possession of illegal substances. The prosecution was brought by the Special Investigations Unit of the Department of Agriculture and Food following a visit by veterinary inspectors to Hennessy's premises.

A three-year ban on operating a pet shop has been imposed on a Barry woman by Vale of Glamorgan magistrates on 14/2/07. **Margaret Pring** of Charter Avenue, Barry who admitted two offences of failing to provide suitable accommodation for pets at her shop, 'Kate's Pets', at Main Street, Cadoxton, was conditionally discharged for a year. Pring was also ordered to pay a contribution to Vale Council costs of £300.

A Norfolk meat company was fined £7,500 on 21/2/07 at King's Lynn magistrates and ordered to pay £5,888 in total costs after admitting causing river pollution. It is the 10th time that Bowes of Brandon Road, Watton, Norfolk has been convicted of environmental offences, all of them breaching the same section of the water.

Three men have been fined thousands of pounds after a court heard how they sold poultry unfit for human consumption from a filthy farm. Owner **Brian Clay** (72) his brother **Frank** (66) and **Vali Moosa Yusuf** (30) of Oldham, admitted breaching regulations over the animals' welfare, slaughter and transportation at Halifax magistrates on 3/3/07. The court heard how the chickens had their throats slit with a knife without being stunned and bags of blood and feathers were left lying around Sunnybank Farm, Royd Lane, Ripponden. Brian Clay was ordered to pay £4,800 in fines and costs. Frank Clay faces £2,100 in fines and costs and Yusuf £2,500. At Halifax magistrates on 11/9/00 Yusuf pleaded guilty to offences under the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 and the Specified Risk Material Regulations 1997. Yusuf was fined a total of £250 and ordered to pay £100 costs.

On 15/3/07 two shopworkers were arrested as police seized 16 stuffed animals under new powers aimed at protecting endangered wild species. **Kevin Cosgrove** (67) the former owner of the Sellitall antiques shop in Blackburn Road, Accrington, and manager **Paul Barrett**, were later released on bail as part of the investigation. But Cosgrove said the raid, a week after his shop was criticised by war veterans for selling a Hitler Youth uniform, was the final straw and it would now close. Officers recovered a range of birds and animals, including three tawny owls, a European eagle owl, a sparrowhawk, two buzzards, two peregrine falcon, a Eurasian owl, a red squirrel, a Scottish wildcat, a mounted otter's head and a mounted badger's head.

On 23/3/07 **Marlon Brown** (23) was found guilty of stealing a rare squirrel monkey from his cage at Chessington World of Adventures. Brown was among a group who stole the endangered Bolivian monkey from the theme park in south-west London in July 2006. He denied the theft but traces of his blood were found in SpongeBob the monkey's enclosure, a court heard. On 29/3/07 at Kingston Crown Court he was jailed for 12 months.

farming

VERMIN

Farmer **Angus Campbell** may face a ban on keeping livestock after admitting causing unnecessary suffering to animals when he appeared at Chippenham magistrates on 25/1/07. Campbell (49) of Home Farm, Spye Park, near Calne also pleaded guilty to failing to dispose of dead livestock. On 21/2/07 Campbell was banned from sheep farming for ten years. In addition, the farmer also faced charges after breaching a two-year suspended sentence imposed on him in 2003 for similar offences. He will also have to complete 60 hours' of community service and pay £2,000 towards the £6,000 court costs. The court granted the farmer three months to sell off the flock when he pointed out that the ban comes in the middle of lambing season.

A Kent farmer was banned from keeping animals for five years for causing unnecessary suffering to cattle and poultry at his

farm in Halstead. **Craig Sargent** (46) of Clarks Lane, Halstead was also fined £12,000 and ordered to pay £20,000 in costs. RSPCA inspectors found a bull at Oaks Farm with hoofs so overgrown they were like Turkish slippers. Other cows were living in up to 3ft (1m) of slurry. At Sevenoaks magistrates on 31/1/07 they banned him from keeping sheep, cattle, birds and pigs. The court also heard Sargent also had a chicken shed containing birds so badly feather-pecked their backs were bleeding. Sargent was found guilty of three counts of causing unnecessary suffering to the bull, cattle and poultry. He was also found guilty of failing to ensure cattle had dry bedding and failing to provide fresh drinking water to cattle, pigs and sheep.

Farmer **Michael Salvidge** (51) of Poplar Farm, Easton escaped a custodial sentence after admitting causing animals to suffer. Salvidge admitted causing unnecessary suffering to a cow and pig, as well as failing to comply with animal by-product regulations.At Wells magistrates on 16/2/07 Salvidge was given a two-month prison sentence, suspended for a year, with a residency requirement at Poplar Farm, and was ordered to pay £200 towards prosecution costs.

Hampshire farmer **John Kilford** (62) of Oak Tree Farm, Cadnam was given 28 days to find new homes for his cattle after he admitted seven offences of causing unnecessary suffering to animals. At New Forest magistrates on 28/2/07 they banned him from keeping cattle for life and told him he was told to complete 180 hours of unpaid work and pay £1,544 costs.

domestic VERMIN

Colette Alcock (35) of Alisa Avenue, Marto, Blackpool kept more than 60 animals at her home has admitted shocking cruelty to a pet rabbit. Alcock was found with a rabbit whose teeth were so long they had grown into its cheeks, causing an abcess and the most severe eye infection a vet had ever seen. Alcock – who had 40 rabbits, five dogs, three cats, several kittens, two parrots, fish, two budgies, a hamster and three ferrets in her home and rear garden – was banned from keeping rabbits for 10 years. On 5/1/07 at Blackpool magistrates Alcock was also given a two year conditional discharge and ordered to pay £350 costs. She pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to an animal.

On 5/1/07 **Shenol Hussein** (20) of Cotton Hill, Bromley, was sentenced at Greenwich magistrates after being found guilty of two counts of animal cruelty. The court heard Hussein was seen attacking his father's pit bull terrier Bailey as he walked along the road. Several witnesses saw Hussein kick the dog repeatedly and drag it along the pavement by its lead. Hussein was arrested and was later sentenced to one month in prison, suspended for six months, and was ordered to carry out 36 hours of community service and pay £500 costs.

A 15-year-old has been banned from owning animals for five years after being sentenced for animal cruelty and burglary. Along with accomplice Daniel Davenport (21) of Nashe House, Nashe Way, Fareham they stole two guinea pigs and a rabbit after breaking into a shed. The pair admitted they had been drinking when they broke into the back garden. At Fareham Youth Court on 10/1/07 the youth was given a 24-hour attendance centre order and his mother, who accompanied the boy at his sentencing, was ordered to pay £90 compensation. Davenport of Nashe House, Nashe Way, Fareham, is to be sentenced on the same offences soon. Both had pleaded guilty to the charges at the first opportunity.





Two brothers who allowed their dog's weight to rise by almost four stone in two years have been convicted of causing unnecessary suffering. **Derek Benton** (62), and his brother **David** (53) from Fordham, Cambs were found guilty on 12/1/07 of providing their pet Labrador with an inappropriate diet. They were given a three-year conditional discharge by magistrates in Ely.

Jordan Johnstone (22) of Gloucester Avenue, Accrington let his dog starve until it was less than half its normal weight has been banned from keeping animals for five years. Johnstone pleaded guilty to animal cruelty and was fined £100 with £700 costs at Hyndburn magistrates on 16/1/07.



A couple were banned from keeping animals for life for causing unnecessary suffering to 36 animals at their three-bedroom council house. **Glyndwr** and **Margaret Jones**, from Gorseinon, Swansea were given 56-day suspended jail sentences and fined £2,000 each by a district judge on 16/1/07. Their son **Michael** (19) was banned from keeping animals for two years and ordered to do 150 hours community work. The RSPCA prosecution said 100 animals were found in "appalling conditions". The Joneses were found guilty of three charges of causing unncessary suffering to 14 dogs and 22 cats. The parents had also been found guilty of breaching an order preventing them owning more than five pets each. Glyndwr and Margaret Jones both have a previous conviction from November 2003 for the exact same thing.

A woman has been accused of causing unnecessary suffering to an animal and helping someone pretend to be a vet. **Lucie Gravell** (27) of Gillfoot Road, Egremont, was due to appear before Whitehaven magistrates on 18/1/07. Gravell is accused of causing unnecessary suffering to an animal at her home by unreasonably failing to provide veterinary care for infected tail stumps. She is also accused of aiding and abetting persons unknown to say 'that he did practice veterinary surgery whilst unregistered in that he did dock tails of certain animals, namely four rottweiler-type pups'.

Gregor Phillip Marnoch (32), of Parkview, Station Road, Birnam will go on trial at Perth Sheriff Court on 27/3/07 charged with biting a German Shepherd dog and causing the animal unnecessary suffering. Marnoch is alleged to have seized hold of the dog at a house at Broompark Crescent, Murthly and then bitten it, contrary to the 2006 Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act. A second charge alleges at the same address, on the same day, he committed a breach of the peace by shouting and swearing, and refusing to leave when requested by the occupier and the police, to the fear, alarm and annoyance of the public. He was freed on bail following a court appearance on 26/1/07.



Tania Barlow (28) of Foster Park, Stourbridge abandoned three pets, two dogs and a cat, in squalour without food and water for nearly a month until RSPCA inspectors broke in, a court heard. A Labrador dog was found dead from starvation and two other animals, a short-haired kitten and a Jack Russell-type dog, were both found to be suffering from severe dehydration and malnutrition. At Dudley magistrates on 26/1/07 Barlow was sentenced to three months in jail, suspended for 18 months. She was banned from keeping animals for life. Barlow pleaded guilty to two counts of causing unnecessary suffering to animals at an earlier hearing. She was also given 200 hours community service and told to pay £750 costs.



On 1/2/07 **Tracy Green** (30) from Salford was banned from owning an animal for 20 years after she left the family dog to die crippled and lying in its own filth. Green was charged with two counts of neglect towards her German Shepherd after the nine-year-old animal was found dead in a pool of its own urine and faeces. The dog was crippled in agony, unable to move from the kitchen of Green's Flagship Avenue home for a week or more. Green was found guilty of failing to take the dog to a vet or provide an adequate diet. She was also handed down two 12-month community orders to run concurrently and ordered to pay £200 costs deducted from her state benefits.

A dog was left starving in the yard of a house for up to two weeks, a court was told. **David William Marsh** (34) of Mere Avenue, Leigh, was charged with causing unnecessary suffering to the dog. He failed to attend Wigan magistrates on 2/2/07 to answer the charges and the case was proved in his absence. After hearing the evidence the magistrates found the case proved and issued a warrant for the arrest of Marsh.



Diane Hannon (42) from Old Colwyn, Conwy killed her boyfriend's cat by putting it in a washing machine received a four-month suspended jail sentence. Hannon admitted causing unnecessary suffering and cruelly ill-treating six-year-old Paws, who was deaf. Paws suffered a heart attack, severe burns and loss of fur. Llandudno magistrates on 5/2/07 they also gave Hannon a lifetime ban from keeping any pet and ordered her to pay £300 costs.

Mason Fleming (18) of Moray Drive, Slough appeared at Bracknell magistrates on 15/2/07 charged with animal cruelty after a dog was thrown 130ft to its death from a block of flats. He was released on bail and is due to return to Bracknell magistrates 18/4/07.

HOW YOU CAN HELP END BLOODSPORTS

The Hunt Saboteurs Association needs your help in defeating bloodsports.

Organisations such as the Countryside Alliance are backed by some of the richest people in Britain, and can spend millions on advertising and paid campaigners. Their wealth and power gives them a stranglehold over most of the media and some of the most influential people in government.

The Hunt Saboteurs Association, in comparison, runs solely on funds from you, the public, who keep the organisation afloat with donations and membership. It depends on the small band of volunteers who give over their spare time to keep the HSA running smoothly, who produce leaflets and adverts and salesgoods, who staff stalls, who give advice to other sabs and deal with the press. And most importantly of all it depends on the dedication of the men and women who, week in, week out, defy the hunts on their own turf, and in the face of increasing violence and police powers, *still* manage to save the lives of thousands of hunted animals every year.

There are several ways you can help the HSA.

- Get in touch with your local sab group (details from the office) and either go sabbing yourself or help in other ways such as fundraising or mechanics.
- If you are not already a member of the HSA, please join now by using the form below - it only takes a few minutes to fill in and return to us.
- If you are already a HSA member then please photocopy the form and pass it on to someone else you think may like to join us.
- Ask the office for back copies of HOWL to leave in places where they can be read by members of the public (ie. doctors waiting rooms). If you are still at school or college why not leave a copy in the library reference section?
- Support us by buying HSA T-shirts and other merchandise. Phone the office if you don't already have a salesgoods order form.
- Let the hunters know what you think! Write to your local newspaper's letters page and write to your MP to let them know your views on Government plans either regarding hunting or hunt saboteurs. Your MP's address will be House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA



HSA MEMBERSHIP / DONATION FORM

PHOTOCOPIES WELCOME

I would like to become an active / supporting* member of the Hunt Saboteurs Association (**delete one*)

I enclose my membership subscription of: (*tick one*)

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

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

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

Address .....

.....

..... Postcode .....

Telephone Number.....

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

Please return to HSA, BM HSA, London WC1N 3XX

For a standing order form, to pay via Paypal or for more information phone Tel. 0845 450 0727

USEFUL ADDRESSES

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

ALF Supporters Group
BM 1160, London, WC1N 3XX
www.alfsg.org.uk

Animal Rights Coalition
PO Box 339, Wolverhampton, WV10 7BZ
0845 458 0146 www.arcnews.redblackandgreen.net

Arkangel magazine
BM 9240, London, WC1N 3XX
arkangel@arkangelweb.org www.arkangelweb.org

The Coalition to Abolish the Fur Trade (CAFT)
PO Box 38, Manchester, M60 1NX
0845 330 7955 caft@caft.org.uk www.caft.org.uk

Digging Out (Campaign for the Abolition of Terrier Work)
BCM Digging Out
London WC1N 3XX info@diggingout.org www.diggingout.org

Earth First!
www.earthfirst.org.uk www.eco-action.org

The Fox Project
The Southborough Centre, Draper Street, Southborough,
Tunbridge Wells, TN4 0PG 01892 545468 (Head Office)
01892 514863 (Pre-recorded advice line)
fox@foxproject.org.uk www.foxproject.org.uk

Hunt Watch
PO Box 487, Norwich, NR5 8WE
07952 550054 contact@huntwatch.info www.huntwatch.info

League Against Cruel Sports (LACS)
Sparling House, 83-87 Union Street, London, SE1 1SG
0845 330 8486 info@league.org.uk www.league.org.uk

The National Anti Snaring Campaign (NASC)
PO Box 3058
Littlehampton West Sussex BN16 3LG
info@antisnaring.org.uk www.antisnaring.org.uk

National Fox Welfare Society
135 Higham Road, Rushden, Northants, NN10 6DS
01933 411996 natfox@ntlworld.com www.nfws.org.uk

Pisces – The Anti-Angling Group
BM Fish, London, WC1N 3XX
01792 464176 pisces@pisces.demon.co.uk
www.pisces.demon.co.uk

SchNEWS
PO Box 2600, Brighton, BN2 0EF
01273 685913 schnews@brighton.co.uk www.schnews.org.uk

Sea Shepherd
BCM Bass, London, WC1N 3XX
uk@seashepherd.org www.seashepherd.org

SPEAK Campaigns
PO Box 6712, Northampton, NN2 6XR
0845 330 7985 07906 497317 info@speakcampaigns.org
www.speakcampaigns.org

Stop DEathFra Badger Killers
www.badger-killers.co.uk

Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC)
C/o FRIEND, 89 Bush Road, East Peckham, Tonbridge, TN12 5LJ
info@shac.net www.shac.net

Vegan Prisoner Support Group (VPSG)
BM 2107, London, WC1N 3XX
020 8292 8325 info@vpsg.org www.vpsg.org

The Vegan Society
Donald Watson House, 21 Hylton Street, Hockley, Birmingham,
B18 6HJ 0121 523 1730 0845 458 8244
info@vegansociety.com www.vegansociety.com

HSA PROMOTIONALS



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 wildlife from the hunters.

'It ain't over 'til it's over'
FREE (+p&p +DONATION)

Striking 'Anti' stickers - Stick these on your own property and nowhere else. (clearly unsuitable for lamposts, hunt supporters cars, etc as this would be illegal! Also wholly unsuitable for plastering over the statistically absurd '59% say keep hunting' posters)
FREE! (+p&p+DONATION)



POSTAGE AND PACKING

To keep promotional material free we would ask you to make a donation to at least cover postage. To help you donate, 1 Howl costs 55p to send as do 5 posters. 250 leaflets cost approx. £3.75, 500 leaflets £4.25 and 1000 leaflets £6.25.



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

Per 1000 'And How to Stop It' leaflets
£10 plus p+p **NOW HALF PRICE!**

BACK ISSUES OF HOWL

Single back issues 50p each
Bulk orders: 10 + issues **FREE!** (+p&p)

You can order more copies of this Howl for £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 receive a discount of 20% when ordering (cost price)** Please quote the name of your group contact when ordering.





sean@imageriot.co.uk

Go on stick your nose in!

The HSA is run by a committee of up to 12 voting officers, plus as many non-voting positions as is deemed required. It seeks to represent sabs at a national level, support groups at a local level, run the machine that is the national organisation, and ultimately has a main aim of campaigning for the abolition of all bloodsports. No-one on the committee is paid (apart from expenses), as is the tradition of our organisation. The committee meets every six weeks, usually in London.

The fight to secure a ban on hunting with hounds was a major achievement in the history of the anti-bloodsports movement – but we should not think for a minute that the fight ends there. Indeed, anyone who has been out this season should know that there is still much to do – and we need YOU to help us do it. An organisation is only as good as the people behind it, and that's precisely why the HSA has consistently punched above its weight time and time again. We represent the largest group of experienced anti-hunt monitors you can find – we know how hunts hunt, what is legal and illegal hunting, and how to get under the skin of the hunters themselves. Not only do we know this – we do it.

But to do it to the best of our ability means doing it not only at local, but at national level too. So if you have ever thought that you'd like to get involved at committee level – and whether that be because you thought what a great job the HSA does, or indeed because you were wondering what the feck the fools 'in charge' had gone and done this time – then now is the time to step up!

The Annual General Meeting of the Hunt Saboteurs Association will take place on Saturday 21st July from 1 5pm at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London, WC1.

Traditionally all current committee members step down and will stand for re-election accordingly. If you are interested in joining the committee please come along and either make your interest known, or speak to committee members present to find out more. The committee needs people interested in press work, tactics, research, promotions, stalls, fundraising, website development, group liaison…ultimately whatever you like – the list is endless!

So if you've got an idea, some passion for the job or just want to find out more we'll see you there.



Season done? That's us off to the AGM then!

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting

Of the

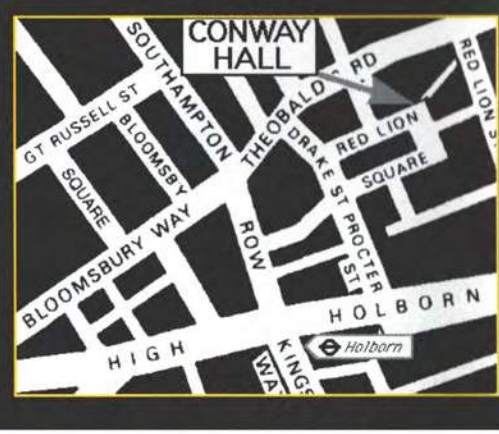
Hunt Saboteurs Association

Will take place on

Saturday 21st July 2007

The meeting will be held at Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, London, WC1. Nearest tube Holborn (Central & Piccadilly lines).

The meeting will run from 1pm – 5pm and will consist of a business meeting only, retiring to a local pub once all business is concluded. HSA merchandise and promotional material will be available, as snacks and soft drinks.



ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. THE HSA IS YOUR ORGANISATION GET INVOLVED