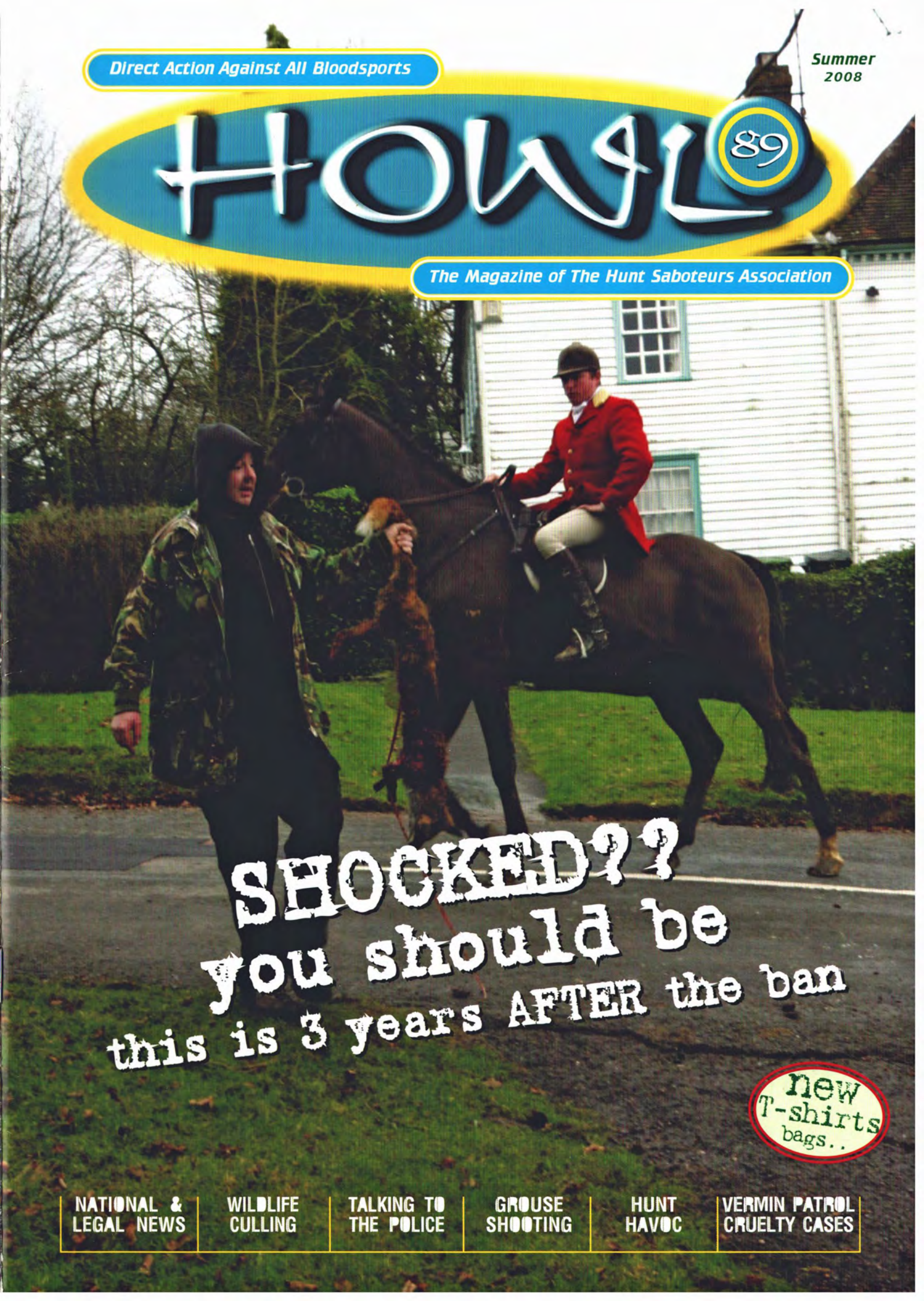
Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

Summer 2008

HOWL 89

The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association



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NEWS ROUND UP

RSPB SUPPORT SHOOTING BIRDS

Local blood sports enthusiasts, the Langstone & District Wildfowlers & Conservation Association, have had shooting rights on the RSPB nature reserve since 1979 and wildfowling has taken place in the harbour since the 1600s. The bird conservation organisation issues licenses to hunters who are allowed to shoot up to 10 birds per day.
They are allowed to shoot between September and January when thousands of migrating Arctic birds will be wintering, on two of five islands in Langstone Harbour, which can be reached by walking across the mudflats, and on saltmarshes at the northeast of Farlington Marshes.

The RSPB have tried to justify blood sports taking place on their nature reserve by claiming it is the best way of protecting the wildlife! If they didn't allow people to shoot, the birds may be poached. Critics remain unimpressed that the organisation which takes money from their one million membership of bird lovers, have no problem with them being shot for sport. Chris Cockburn, RSPB warden for Langstone harbour, said: "The RSPB does not have any axe to grind against any sport unless it affects the conservation issues and then we would be very much against it."
Barry Hugill, from the League Against Cruel Sports, said: "I find it exceedingly distasteful. It's a wildlife sanctuary.
"How on earth can it be a sanctuary if someone is going to come and kill the birds that are resident there simply because they enjoy killing things? "I think it's scandalous and I do hope the RSPB will reconsider their decision."
Keen birdwatcher and conservationist Robert Hill, was horrified when he discovered a dead widgeon covered in pellet wounds at Langstone.
Mr Hill, 43, of Waterlooville, Hants, said: "I don't think it's acceptable. It's a blood sport.
"I can't see any justification for it. It's a macho, egotistical, self gratifying act and I think it's disgusting. No-one owns wildlife. These poor animals come in for sanctuary and end up getting blown out of the air."

SURREY UNION CAUGHT IN THE ACT BY MONITORS

Horrific images of a fox being brutally killed have been taken by anti hunt campaigners while monitoring the Surrey Union foxhunt at Ockley.

Stuart Barlow, a monitor from the Hunt Saboteur Association, who was present at the hunt, insisted that the fox was killed because the Surrey Union Hunt was flouting legislation.
He said: "They were doing a bit of trailing but when they got to Ockley they got onto the scent of a real fox and the huntsman could not control the hunt. When they got to the green the hounds went AWOL and started tearing a fox apart". "We arrived and managed to get the hounds off the fox, but it was too late". "The hunt stayed at a distance because they didn't want to come close because they knew we would photograph them with the fox."

A spokesman from Surrey Union Hunt said "We don't like the law but the law is the law. We were being very careful before. Now we will have to be doubly careful."

Surrey Police were called to The Green, Ockley, following a report of an incident involving the Surrey Union Hunt. A police spokesman said: "A full and thorough investigation is underway into hunting a wild mammal with dogs. Officers are pursuing a number of lines of inquiry."



Deirdre

IRISH MASTERS OF FOXHOUNDS ASSOCIATION SUSPENDS TWO HUNTS

Following allegations of maltreatment of a fox during a joint meet between the Avondu Foxhounds of Co Cork, the Ormond of Co Tipperary and the visiting Coniston from Cumbria, both Irish hunts have been suspended.
It was one of the hunts' own members who reported the incident which has not yet been disclosed in detail. Brian Munn, spokesman for the Irish Masters of Foxhounds Association (IMFHA) said "Both hunts are suspended from any hunting activity for the duration of the investigation, although the hunting season is due to end, the suspension could take them into the new season, there could be fines and people could be expelled." He said "the IMFHA took the allegations very seriously and would punish those involved if they were proved to be true".

Stephen Lambert, director of the MFHA in the UK said although the Coniston was not involved in the alleged misbehaviour, his organisation and the IMFHA would draw up a protocol to cover the behaviour of packs while visiting abroad.

SEA SHEPHERD CREW MEMBERS KIDNAPPED

Two Sea Shepherd Conservation Society members were kidnapped by a Japanese whaling fleet in January. Benjamin Potts 28, an Australian citizen and Giles Lane, 35, a citizen of Great Britain were held hostage onboard the whaling vessel. Both men were assaulted and then tied to the railings of the whaler. They were then moved and tied to the radar mast by the whalers.

Both men boarded the Yushin Maru to deliver a message to the Japanese captain that the whalers were in violation of international conservation law by targeting endangered species in an established whale sanctuary in violation of a global moratorium on commercial whaling. They also notified the captain that Australia had just passed a court ruling barring Japanese whalers from the Australian Antarctic Economic Exclusion Zone.

The hostages were released several days later and despite their ordeal were determined to continue their fight against whaling. "Although we appreciate the concern that people have expressed for our welfare, it is important to remember that this is not about us" said Giles Lane. "It's about stopping this cruel and illegal whale hunt. The treatment that we received was trivial in comparison to the suffering that the whales' experience at the hands of the Japanese whalers. They may have been rough with us but at least we were not harpooned, electrocuted and mutilated. This is not about us, it's about the whales."

"It did not take long before the whalers realised that they made a huge public relations mistake in keeping us on their ship," said Benjamin Potts. "We made it clear to them that Sea Shepherd was committed to stopping their illegal whaling activities."

The Australian court has ruled that the Japanese whaling fleet cannot kill whales in Australian Antarctic Territorial waters. Sea Shepherd is prepared to work with the Australian government to uphold the court's ruling to ban the Japanese fleet from Australian waters.

Because of actions by anti-hunting activists such as Sea Shepherd, Japan's whaling fleet has failed to catch its quota. The Japanese fisheries agency said the fleet caught 60% of the minke whales they had planned - 551 from a target of 850.

BOAR HUNTING AN ADRENALINE HIGH FOR BLOOD JUNKIES



BRITAIN'S first commercial wild boar hunt has been set up in Scotland, with gunmen paying £550 a head to shoot the beasts. But organisers are so concerned at being targeted by anti-hunting campaigners that the boar drives will only be advertised by word of mouth. Two hunts have been held at a secret location on a private estate in Dumfries and Galloway, where 20 riflemen killed 51 wild boar.

The animals, which are kept in a 200-acre enclosure bounded by an electric fence, were driven through the woods towards a line of shooters.

Dave Corner, who helped organise the drives, said: "It is an adrenaline high as the 16-stone boar charges at you through the undergrowth. "But it is not without danger. Often the dogs used will be killed and the people can be badly hurt too. One chap shot 10 of them and said he could have had 30 more. We have all sorts of people taking part; they are bored with pheasant shooting and are looking for something different."

Wild boar became extinct in Britain 300 years ago, but escaped and released animals from farms have re-established in the wild. The owner of the estate plans to hold regular commercial boar drives, but they will not be advertised publicly. Anti-hunt groups are horrified.

A spokesman for the League Against Cruel Sports said: "It beggars belief that people actually get pleasure out of the mass slaughter of animals."

And a spokeswoman for the Born Free Foundation said: "It is inhumane to treat wild or farm animals in this fashion."

SCOTTISH MINISTERS REJECT SNARE BAN PLEA

Environment Minister Mike Russell said alternatives to the wire traps were not always suitable, and an effective form of predator control was vital. The use of snares in Scotland will be restricted and interfering with them may be made a criminal offence.

Campaigners and some MSPs accused the Scottish Government of failing to listen to public opinion. Organisations, including Advocates for Animals, claimed the measures would not prevent protected species, such as badgers and otters, as well as household pets being caught and killed in snares. They said the only solution was to outlaw their manufacture, sale and use.

Mr Russell told the Scottish Parliament that the control of animals, such as foxes, through snares, helped maintain Scotland's world-famous £240m shooting industry, boost conservation projects and assisted farmers in protecting their animals. He announced a series of measures on the use of snares, such as the compulsory fitting of safety stops, ID tags and marking areas where snaring takes place with signs.

Another group, Animal Concern, claimed MSPs were more concerned about upsetting rural voters than taking positive steps to protect animals. The organisation's John Robins said: "This highlights the need to take animal welfare issues away from the minister who really represents farmers, landowners, gamekeepers and fishery interests." Labour rural affairs spokeswoman Sarah Boyack pointed to a public consultation on snaring, which suggested there was a "clear majority" for a complete ban.

The campaign to ban the traps has been backed by high-profile figures, including Queen guitarist Brian May, actresses Joanna Lumley and Annette Crosby, and UN Messenger of Peace and chimpanzee expert Jane Goodall.

More ducks killed by DEFRA

Marksmen have carried out a further cull of Wigan's Ruddy ducks.
The gunmen, working for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), shot a total of 24 ducks on Pearson's Flash in Poolstock.
Paul Timpson from animal rights campaign group the North West Hunt Saboteurs, which has disrupted previous culls, condemned the latest killing.
He said: "These ducks have been shot for no reason whatsoever. It is a sad state of affairs."
The cull took place even though the UK's bird shooting season ended on February 1. The shooting season ends to allow birds to breed. In previous culls before Christmas, 46 ducks were shot and killed by marksmen at Pearson's Flash. It is not known whether any ducks survived the cull.

Mr Timpson said he had been contacted by two local residents who claimed they had come across the marksmen while walking their dog and said there had been no warning signs to inform members of the public that shooting was taking place.
He plans to write to Wigan Council to complain, adding: "I would have thought it would be a legal requirement to put warning signs up."
The slaughter of Wigan's ruddy ducks has upset many Wigan residents as the ducks are doing no harm to the environment or other UK wildlife.
The controversial cull of ruddy ducks has cost a staggering £1.4m - the European Union has set aside that sum to fund the killing programme on Pearson's Flash in Wigan and other waters in the North West and Midlands.
Opposition leader on the Metro Council Peter Franzen, who has led the fight in the town hall against the cull, said: "I find this figure, if correct, absolutely astonishing. I have never been convinced that a case has been made for shooting the ruddy duck ... this money could have been spent so much more usefully on wildlife conservation."
But the Spanish are worried that a small number of ruddy ducks are migrating and breeding with their indigenous white-headed duck. The NW Hunt Saboteurs has slammed the cull as "a pointless slaughter" which amounts to the "ethnic cleansing of wildlife."

British Bird soon To Be extinct



Daniel Hotchkiss @ Dreamstime

One of the country's most beautiful creatures is almost certain to be the first bird to become extinct in Britain since 1840. The glamourous Lady Amherst's pheasant is destined to disappear from the countryside after years of steady decline. Only one of the birds is thought to remain, in the northern Home Counties. Unless it can find a previously unsighted mate and breeds successfully, Lady Amherst's pheasant will become the first bird species since the great auk to be lost from the British countryside. Introduced to Britain from China in the 19th century, the pheasant was named after Countess Sarah Amherst, whose husband, William Pitt Amherst, was governor general of Bengal. For a century and a half it has been one of the most distinctive features of the English countryside, with a black and silver head, a long grey tail, and striking plumage of yellow, white, and metallic blue, red, and green.
Despite its exotic colouring, the birds could be difficult to spot in the wild because their natural habitat is dark, dense foliage.
Conservationists have complained that decades-old wildlife laws prevent them from countering population decline. The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) includes a ban on introducing new breeding stock of species that are not native to Britain.
Britain's bird population is under major threat from ecological destruction and turbulent weather patterns. Of the 247 species of bird in Britain, 40 are listed as being under severe threat. The Lady Amherst's pheasant is also believed to be culled by gamekeepers.

Sea Shepherd Captain 'shot By Japanese whalers'

The Captain of the Sea Shepherd anti-whaling ship, the Steve Irwin, claims he has been shot by Japanese whalers during a confrontation in the Southern Ocean. Paul Watson says members of his crew threw stink bombs aboard the whaling ship, the Nisshin Maru, and the Japanese responded by returning flash grenades. He says one of his crew was hit by a grenade and received minor injuries.

Mr Watson says he then felt a thud in his chest and found a bullet lodged in his bullet-proof vest.
"... but it also came through and I have this badge and it hit the badge and bent that too so it just left a bruise really on my chest - if I wasn't wearing the vest it could have been pretty serious,"
Mr Watson said. He says even before shots were fired, the Japanese whalers were acting recklessly in their confrontation.
"We were doing what we usually do, which is putting stink bombs on deck," he said.
"We go out of our way to make sure we don't throw them near anybody, but they were throwing the flash grenades directly at us."
Mr Watson says there is no justification for the whalers opening fire.
"These people are criminals; they're down here killing whales illegally in a place they're not supposed to be."

More deaths at the Grand National



Millions of racing fans who followed the recovery of Grand National favourite McKelvey on television after his near fatal injury in the race last year, were left devastated after the horse died in the gruelling race. A spokeswoman for Aintree racecourse said: "Regrettably, McKelvey sustained an injury after unseating his rider at the 20th fence and was humanely put to sleep." The animal rights groups Animal Aid had warned before the race that McKelvey was at particular risk in the steeplechase. Spokesman Andrew Tyler said, McKelvey, who damaged a tendon while coming second in last year's race, could not have possibly recovered from such an injury sufficiently, and would not be fit enough after a year without racing. "This is a race even a fit and healthy horse struggles to finish, never mind a horse that suffered such an injury just a year ago." Mr Tyler said "It's the most gruelling, lethal race in the world, I hope the BBC shows the public that an event it sponsors, and millions of people bet on, leads to the deaths of horses. As an animal lover, it is a very distressing race to watch. I think it should be stopped. The obstacles are intentionally difficult". "McKelvey's death brings the number of horses to die in this year's meet to three. Time to Sell and In the High Grass died after falls in the Topham Chase. 174 horses have now died in horse races in the UK since March last year. Since 1991, 51 horses have died at the Aintree meeting, although only one jockey has been killed. Improvements to the course were made in 1989 after two horses died after failing to clear Becher's Brook.

Grouse shooting returning to moor

Grouse shooting could return to Ilkley Moor a decade after it was controversially scrapped for being offensive. Bradford Council is drawing up plans which would allow shooting parties back on the famous moorland for the first time in 11 years. Danny Jackson, the Council's countryside and rights of way service manager, said: "We are asking people to tender for grouse shooting rights on Ilkley Moor.

An Animal Aid spokesman said: "It would be a huge step backwards to allow shooting on Ilkley Moor again."
There was a row in 1997 when the Council, which has managed the moor since 1974, decided not to renew the shooting licence. Opponents of the decision argued it would be detrimental to the management of the moor and amounted to an attack on the hunting and shooting lobby. Supporters claimed that good management of the moorland was not dependent on grouse shooting.
Two years later, the Council produced a ten-year management plan for Ilkley Moor that outlined objectives for nature conservation, recreation and the area's archeological features.
Animal Aid campaigner Fiona Pereira said: "Aside from the obvious and blatant cruelty of using birds as feathered targets, the management of moorland for grouse shooting interests means the legal and illegal destruction - through trapping, shooting and poisoning - of a host of indigenous species that interfere with shooting."
At the time, RSPB conservation officer Tim Melling said: "It is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard to say you are shooting to protect the species."

International anti-hunting demo

The demo was definitely an unusual sight and a thorn in the eye to about 550 hunters gathered for their annual meeting in Bamberg, in Germany. With more than 300 participants it was an impressive march through the city of Bamberg, followed by speeches from representatives of European animal rights and nature protection organisations.



CANADIAN MOUNTIES SEIZE SEA SHEPHERD FARLEY MOWAT



© Sea shepherd Conservation Society

Armed Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) have stormed and seized Sea Shepherd Conservation Society's ship the Farley Mowat. All of the Sea Shepherd crew were brought into Sydney, Nova Scotia by the Canadian Coast Guard.
Captain Alex Cornelissen and 1st Officer Peter Hammarstedt were detained and charged with allegedly approaching within 0.5 nautical mile of the seal slaughter. They appeared in court on the morning of April 13th. The Farley Mowat remains in the custody of the Canadian Government. It has not yet been determined whether the government intends to permanently confiscate the vessel. The Farley Mowat was documenting the cruel and inhumane slaughter of seals in international waters - not Canadian waters - at the time of the boarding. In Canada it is illegal to film, photograph or even witness a seal being killed without permission of the Minister of Fisheries. "It is these images of brutal sadistic slaughter on the ice floes that Canada is desperate to keep hidden," said Captain Paul Watson, Founder and President of Sea Shepherd. "What the Sea Shepherd crew have witnessed over the last two weeks has exposed the lies of Canadian government claims that the seal slaughter is humane.
Canadian Minister of Fisheries Loyola Hearn authorised an assault on a Dutch registered vessel in international waters in order to detract from the tragedy his department was responsible for two weeks ago when four sealers drowned while under tow by the Canadian Coast Guard."

© Photo SueBK

MASS OPPOSITION TO THE SLAUGHTER OF WELSH BADGERS



The Welsh Assembly Rural Affairs Minister Elin Jones has made a controversial decision to approve a cull of badgers in a pilot area as part of a comprehensive package of measures to eradicate bovine tuberculosis in Wales. The measures to deal with TB in cattle, such as strengthening biosecurity standards and husbandry practices, could begin straight away, informed by results from the Biosecurity Intensive Treatment Area in South-West Wales, where farmers have been working with vets from seven private practices to identify the risks and improve the health of their animals. These results are expected to be available by the summer. The site of the first ever cull of badgers in Wales will probably not be known until the autumn. There is no timescale for the cull as yet though it has been said it will be carried out over a significant period of time.
Meanwhile preparations are under way for a one-off TB test for every herd in Wales over the next 12 months – and to test camelids such as llamas and alpacas for the first time.
Badger Trust Cymru spokesman Trevor Lawson called it "sacrificial politics at its worst" and said badger culling would actually spread the disease. "The Assembly have cherry-picked the scientific evidence which suits the powerful farming lobby in Wales," "With 96% of the public opposed to a cull there will be a damaging impact on tourism and public support for Welsh farm produce in the culling area. It will also cost Welsh tax payers more in compensation to farmers, since the policy will exacerbate rather than contain the disease. "Bovine TB is a problem spread by cattle, not badgers. For example, the movement of untested cattle in the wake of foot and mouth disease caused a 262 per cent explosion in TB between 2000 and 2002 whilst badger populations remained stable". "It is hard to imagine a more naive and short-sighted political decision than killing badgers. The RSPCA also criticised the cull and wildlife lovers are threatening to boycott Welsh tourism and produce if Wales goes ahead with killing the country's badgers. Tourist information centres in Wales have already received emails from disgruntled wildlife lovers threatening to shun Wales as a holiday destination and are alarmed at the potential public backlash. The National Trust has caused further problems for the cull by stating they will not cooperate with the cull unless it is backed with legal force, a situation unlikely to happen.

KARMA POLICE

Arthur the Labrador shoots hunter
Having just shot down a goose near Stowell, about 60 miles east of Houston, Hunter, Perry Alvin Price, 46, set the gun in the back of his truck and was about to open the tailgate to release his tracking dog. Arthur the chocolate Labrador then stepped on the loaded gun in the back of the truck, firing a fatal blast into Prices thigh, Sheriff Joe LaRive said paw prints from the dog were found on the muddy shotgun.
Price died in hospital from severe blood loss from his femoral artery shortly after the accident.

Blood sports fanatic dies in fall from her horse
An 84-year-old huntswoman, Sheila Castle was acting hunt master for Norfolk's Dunston Harriers, when she fell from her horse and later died. During a speech on Boxing Day last year, Mrs Castle said: "I can assure you that we intend to stay and we shall be here long after the politicians have written their memoirs."
Margaret Wilkins, whose daughters grew up hunting alongside Mrs Castle, said: "We are all terribly sad but Sheila would not want that. Instead, we will plan a huge hunt meet next week to remember her the way she would have wanted."



HUNT HAVOC



4000 damage by rampaging Bicester hounds

Up to 20 rampaging fox hounds from the Bicester hunt caused £4,000 damage to a garden.

Sonia Hawes, who lives in High Street, Eydon said "The dogs ploughed straight through the fence and wrecked two fencing panels. I've got quite a large pond and at one point there were 12 hounds in it. They've pierced the liner and our swimming pool cover has been wrecked because it has been stretched".

"I went out into the road to see if there was anyone there because these dogs have no collars, so there's nothing to grab them with. It wasn't until 10 to 15 minutes later that the hunt got into the village".

"The master apologised and agreed to pay for the damage. It's all very well paying for the physical damage but it doesn't cover the stress of that afternoon. I've got an elderly dog and the shock if nothing else could have killed it".

Crawley and Horsham hunt hounds killed and injured on a busy road

Crawley and Horsham hounds chased a fox across the A281 just north of Shermanbury, Partridge Green, W. Sussex, which resulted in two hounds being struck by a woman motorist (Helen Daniel) returning from a mother and toddler group. Although the car was badly damaged the woman driver claimed a huntsman shouted "its not damaged, just drive on." When monitors tried to video the huntsman with the injured hound, hunt whipper in, Freddie Morby desperately tried to ensure the injured hounds were not filmed.

Another member of the mother and toddler group (Lisa Morris) pulled up immediately behind Helen Daniel and was told by the hunt to move on. When she saw the injured hound still blinking, and demanded the huntsman deal with it, she claims she was abused. When she pulled up further, the hounds crossed back over the road, and she stated she said to the hunt: "I expect you are upset you did not get your fox," and was met with a "torrent of abuse."

Hunt monitors from West Sussex Wildlife Protection, said the Crawley and Horsham hunt are entering their hounds in the most dense woodland undergrowth in a deliberate attempt to chase foxes. This incident reveals the truth, with hounds crossing a busy road at least twice in full cry and running from dense woodland when no trail could ever be laid.

In the 2006-7 season the Crawley and Horsham hunt tried to circumvent the Hunting Act 2004 by using an Eagle Owl, and claiming an exemption allowed their hounds to flush out foxes from cover. While the hunt has abandoned this method on police advice, they continue to hunt illegally.

Hunt kills fox in empty Northamptonshire house

A fox was chased into an empty house then cornered and killed in the bathroom by hounds from the Grafton hunt. Villagers said dogs gained access to the house in Chapel Lane, Maidford, near Towcester, through an open backdoor before pursuing the fox inside and then killing it, leaving behind what one called a "bit of a bloodbath".

Colin Richmond-Watson, hunt master of the Grafton Hunt, said: "I don't know the details because I wasn't hunting that day, but I think it did happen. We regret it, if it did. It's just one of those things unfortunately." Mr Richmond-Watson said there had been a "big clean-up" following the killing of the fox.

Cottesmore hounds storm villagers house

Frank Holcombe, 49, of The Crescent in Swayfield, went to investigate when he heard a commotion outside of his house. A pack of hounds from the cottesmore hunt were running through the village. "There was a pack of about 20 waist-high hounds" he said, "They were scattered across the village, rampaging and barging through my neighbours' hedges."

Moments later Mr Holcombe says he found two dogs in his house. He said: "They entered through the patio doors lathered-up in mud. I managed to usher them out of the house and they went off."

Mr Holcombe says he spoke to someone on the hunt immediately afterwards to express his disgust and was told the hunters had laid a drag scent which had gone off line.

But Mr Holcombe is not satisfied with the explanation. He said: "We've got three cats and it is a wonder none of them were killed.

Superintendent Kieran English, of Lincolnshire Police, said a call about the hunt had been received but no action was taken. He said: "The police do understand residents' concerns about the disturbance the hunt can cause and recommend the hunt master is contacted to raise concerns directly."

Hunting hound killed on road

Hounds from the Britannia beagles caused traffic chaos as they ran across the A380, a busy dual carriageway, at Ideford Dip, near Newton Abbot, South Devon. Sadly one of the dogs was killed in the incident. It was 40 minutes before they were herded into a nearby field.

A Britannia Beagles spokesman said: "The hounds were following a trail when a handful broke away from the hunt and ran towards the road. We tried to stop them before they reached the carriageway but some made it on to the road."

In a recent report, which examines the shocking extent to which wildlife is persecuted, Animal Aid outlined the myriad of ways in which wild animals are killed in this country. It certainly isn't just the familiar fox, hare, game bird

WILDLIFE KILLING

THEY CALL IT CULLING!



Britain's animals are killed because they're perceived as being an alien, a predator, or a pest, and in some unlucky cases, all three (stand up, the grey squirrel). Alien species are either those which have the temerity to move around a bit and establish themselves in a new area, or, increasingly, exotic escapees (e.g. the Parakeet population in London's Hyde Park). Predators often attract attention by preying upon human-made enclosures of others e.g. foxes killing chickens in a run, or cormorants using the well-stocked larder which is a fish farm. Pests are also victimised, but their pest-status is usually hyped-up and subjective at best; to propose a cull of wild boar due to the damage they cause to the bluebell population is rather an over-reaction.

Victims

Badgers – everyone knows about their proposed cull, due to their supposed but scientifically disproven role in bovine TB transmission. In certain areas, they will be annihilated using snares, guns, or gassing.

Cormorants – make the mistake of eating fish. This is problematic if those fish come from commercial fish farms or popular angling spots. Anglers, those renowned conservationists, bemoan the 'devastation' which a colony can cause to fisheries. They are controlled by shooting.

Boar – are hunted for amusement, principally north of the border, and escapees are shot for the damage they do to flora, and gardens and sports fields, and for their over-hyped dangerousness.

Corvids – feed on farmers' crops or chicks or eggs on game farms. Typically, one is caught (and their wings sometimes clipped) and then placed in a small wooden device called a Larsen trap (now banned in Larsen's native Denmark) to act as a decoy for others. Other birds which are attracted then become trapped themselves, and are later shot by the landowner.

Deer – stalkers have been responsible for a massive impact on deer numbers in some areas, so much so that even one West Country deerstalker has been quoted as saying that 'to annihilate one species to save another is ridiculous'.

Foxes – Their victimisation needs little introduction. Hunted for centuries for the way in which they supposedly take grain meant for young game-birds and slaughter chickens and lambs left, right and centre, they now (supposedly) only have trapping, snaring and shooting to watch out for.

Hedgehogs – make the mistake of taking eggs of ground-nesting birds either intended as 'sport' for shooters, or the favourites of 'conservation' societies. So far, culls have involved trapping and subsequent euthanasia via lethal injection.

Mink – have been released into the countryside from fur farms by farmers in financial difficulties, and occasionally animal rights activists. They are blamed for killing poultry, fish and game birds, and are killed by trapping and shooting (the hunting of them having been banned in 2005).

Goats – Wild goats are thought of as a nuisance because they compete with sheep for food, cause erosion and over-grazing, and occasionally cause road accidents, so herds are periodically culled by shooting. A cull last year in Purbeck in Dorset organised by the National Trust killed 18 goats originally released by the self-same National Trust to keep scrub down.

Gulls – Even the RSPB regards all five species of gull found in urban areas as a 'conservation concern', but still they are killed as a nuisance and stealer of eggs of other more favoured birds. Proposed culling methods include shooting, and also the dipping of eggs in a mineral oil which renders them sterile.

Pigeons – pest control agencies maintain that they spread disease, and farmers complain that they eat their crops. Pigeons are poisoned and shot, and to a lesser extent hawked and gassed, but protests against urban culls are becoming increasingly effective. Culls in any case are rarely successful – more useful are



reducing the availability of food (with thought for the welfare of pigeons, unlike the case with Trafalgar Square where birds have starved to death) and non-lethal deterrents such as spikes and wire systems, which dissuade pigeons from landing, and in extreme cases, egg removal has also been used.

Moles – Their burrowings leave unsightly mounds of earth in their wake, disturbing the uniformity of modern gardens, farmland and recreation areas. As a consequence of this order-breaking, moles are gassed and poisoned, and lethal traps can often be found liberally distributed on golf courses.

Rabbits – as if the continuing evil of myxomatosis wasn't enough to deal with, rabbits are also shot, trapped, gassed and hunted with various domestic predators. The killing is even enshrined in law – since 1954, every landowner has been legally obliged to destroy wild rabbits on their land, or take steps to prevent them causing damage.

Parakeets – may compete with native birds for nesting sites and food. Although not currently threatened, a mass cull either by shooting, predator or a released virus (when will these 'conservationists' learn?) was proposed last year for London. Watch this space...

Ruddy Ducks – originally in this country as an ornamental exhibit, they were accidentally released into the wild, with the first cull then starting in 1993. Their enemies are 'conservationists', as some ducks (more likely from France) breed in Spain with the rare white-headed duck, causing 'impure' hybrids. Methods such as dipping eggs in paraffin, which have proved 100% effective in keeping populations under control, have been replaced by inefficient shooting culls, such as the recent slaughter in Wigan.

Raptors – raptors such as the red kite, osprey and golden eagle are persecuted by gamekeepers protecting fisheries, shooting estates and grouse moors. Despite their legally-protected status, individuals are nonetheless killed by trapping, shooting and poisoning.

Grey Seals – Commercial fishermen advocate a cull of these beautiful creatures since they supposedly damage static nets and their fish-eating has caused a decrease in the amount of commercially-landed fish. Although the campaign for the cull is not proving particularly popular, it is proposed that they will be shot.

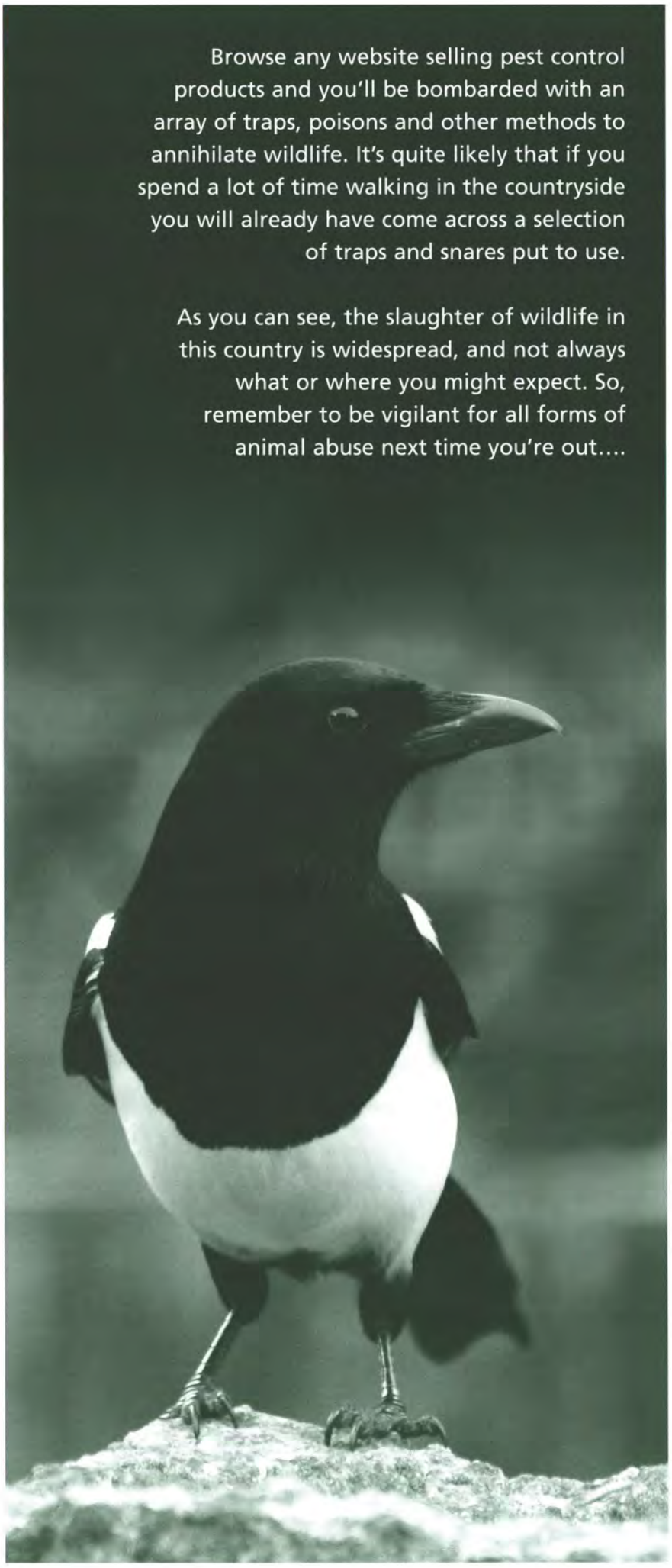
Rats – these lovely, intelligent animals have got a bad press for a long time, and are one of the most persecuted of all British mammals, being killed with poison or dogs, or trapped. Recent studies suggest that they weren't after all responsible for the spread of the Black Death in the fourteenth century, the fault instead lying with human-to-human contact.

Grey squirrels – Sociable, delightful creatures but not native and sadly taking the blame for the decline of red squirrels in this country. They are generally caught in cage traps then shot.

Stoats and weasels – gamekeepers victimise them as they sometimes target chicks or eggs of game birds, and are said to have an impact on songbird populations. They are trapped, or killed with dogs.

Browse any website selling pest control products and you'll be bombarded with an array of traps, poisons and other methods to annihilate wildlife. It's quite likely that if you spend a lot of time walking in the countryside you will already have come across a selection of traps and snares put to use.

As you can see, the slaughter of wildlife in this country is widespread, and not always what or where you might expect. So, remember to be vigilant for all forms of animal abuse next time you're out....



Grouse Shooting!

The Grouse shooting season lasts from August 12th (aka the inglorious 12th) — 10th December and mostly takes place oop north.



Grouse are smaller than pheasant, they feed mostly on heather shoots, which are found on the moors.

About half a million grouse are shot every year during the grouse shooting season. The birds are not hand-reared like pheasants; instead their numbers are maintained by the gamekeepers who 'control' predator species and maintain the grouse moors.

Over the last few years many gamekeepers have been convicted of wildlife crimes such as setting baited traps to catch birds of prey to using illegal pesticides to kill unwanted predators. (see www.nwhsa.org.uk for more convictions).

Birds are shot in two ways; the most common being driving shooting or walking up.

- Shooting driven birds is the traditional form of grouse shooting. Grouse are flushed from the heather by a long line of beaters towards the waiting guns who are concealed behind shooting butts.
- Walking-up entails the guns walking in a line across the moor, with the wind, sometimes with a variety of gundogs to disturb concealed birds, shooting as they take off. This method is employed mainly in the later part of the season when the numbers have been depleted by driven shooting or on moors where grouse are in short supply.

Where are grouse shoots advertised?

Very, very few if any shoots at all will advertise where they will be shooting, this is due to the continued campaign by hunt sabs and the total paranoia connected with game shooting industry. The last thing they want is the general public finding out all their dirty little secrets.

One of the few tell tale signs is that you will see notice boards or warning signs at the beginning of footpaths or public tracks leading onto a grouse moor. They will tell you the moor is closed for shooting.

Some County Councils have negotiated public access agreements with the owners of grouse moors and it becomes their task to inform the public that these moors will be closed. These county councils will keep lists of such moors and when they are closed. However they will only tell you when asked about a certain moor on a certain day.

It should be remembered here that most grouse moors are huge, private, fenced-off tracts of land where no member of the public is ever allowed. You will have great difficulty in finding shoot dates for these moors, because the owners are under no obligation to warn the public and publicise the dates. It should also be pointed out that those moors which have had access agreements negotiated with them and allow public on, have to fix days of shooting well in advance of the 12th August. Once decided on, the dates can't be changed - so if one shoot is disrupted by sabs, they can't hold another to make up for lost sport.

What to take with you

- Anything that will make a loud noise such as a whistles, hunting horns, air-horns etc.
- Large white rags, flags or old sheets. Old plastic bags will do for beating purposes.
- Ordnance Survey Landranger (pink) or Explorer (orange) maps of the area. All groups should be given maps of the shoot and area, but try and bring the relevant O.S. maps or at least a road atlas.
- Video camera or camera, mobile phone (note some moors do not have coverage) and binoculars are all essential to take on the moors.
- Compass or GPS. Do not under estimate how easy it is to get lost on these open moors. Someone in the group should be able to use one.
- Small mirrors or shiny surfaces for
  a) reflecting light into the eyes of shooters to disrupt their aim &
  b) warn grouse of impending danger at the butts.
- Food and drink are another essential item to have, as you might be on the moors all day.
- Padlocks and chains!!!

What to wear

Clothing that can protect you from the elements is a must. Fog, rain and winds are a common feature of the moors even in the late summer months, so be prepared for all conditions. Strong sensible footwear is a must for high, often boggy rocky slopes. If you have room, a change of clothes would help. If there are only a few sabs on the moor you could try and look like a hiker as it may provide you with a cover story on the moors. Thus sabbing the shoot without them even knowing.

Planning a grouse shoot sab

Because regional or joint hits are needed to sab a shoot effectively, the local sab group needs to explore the shoot moors and it is vital that someone knows their way around the moor. A good sab is really dependent on the planning that has led up to it.
The following points have to be known:-

- How much land can the shoot go on - they can't shoot willy-nilly over the nearest 100 miles of moorland. The moor is divided up into say 5 or 6 shoots and shooting your neighbour's grouse just is not cricket.



- You need to know all access points onto the moor. How far can you get a vehicle up the track? Most of the access to the butts will be little better than dirt tracks. Remember also, grouse shooters are often sickly creatures and hate walking uphill. Nine times out of ten there should be some means of getting a vehicle up to the butts.
- Lines of shooting butts and lodges are often marked on O.S. maps. Once they are marked it is possible to determine which stretches of moor belong to which line of butts i.e. what particular stretch of moor is beaten for each butt line. Ensure all butts have been checked and correspond to those marked on the map.
- Also try and visit a moor a couple of weeks before the season starts, you can check if the shooting butts have been repaired and made ready for the new season.

With this information in hand, obviously moving across the moors and directing sabs becomes a lot easier.

Tactics before the shoot starts

Pre-beating is the most effective method, and it should be done:-

- With the wind - no bird wants to fly into the wind.
- Away from the line of shooting butts and beyond the point that shoot beaters will start their beating.
- If possible downhill; it is a lot easier to force birds to move in this direction. The sab beat line should be longer than the line of butts. Do not forget also that the beat line will have to widen out as it progresses away from the butts to encompass the whole area the shooters will beat. Gaps of 20-30 feet are needed between sabs and generally most of the rules for pre-beating hare-coursing apply to grouse moors.

White flags and noise seem to shift grouse best although noise should be controlled. Grouse beating (official) usually starts around 8.30am so sabs need to **START** at around 7.30am at the latest. Remember these attempts are not races. The line should move at the pace of the slowest person and should be kept straight.

Tactics after the shoot has started (driven)

Depending on how many sabs there are and how well the pre-beating has gone there are a number of options open.

- The tactic most used with great effect is to occupy shooting butts and block the line of fire at both the front and the rear of the butt. The butt is usually made of natural materials i.e. timber, turf, stone and is usually shoulder height. Its prime task is to provide camouflage for the gun-wielder, hence their tweedy attire. Clearly then no shooter is going to want white sheets, banners, piles of non camouflaged bodies, lots of silvery reflective items, screams and shouts etc., as it just might ruin his camouflage cover. By standing in front and on top of the butt it becomes more difficult to shoot accurately. Pro shooting organisations advise shooters that if they are confronted by sabs they should 'Immediately unload/break their guns, place them in slips and keep them secure or place in a locked vehicle'. Some shooters will attempt to carry on and sabs must be prepared to assist in these areas.
- Counter-beating can take place and the aim is to move or funnel grouse in a particular direction. As the birds approach they are flushed away from the butts and out of shooting range.
- If it proves impossible to form a static counter-beat line at an angle then a line of sabs should be placed approximately 200 metres out from the butts. This line should be very tight and noisy; the object being not to turn the birds back into the beaters but to make them rise up into the air, out of range of the guns. Sabs have to ensure birds DO fly high and must watch that shooters do not shoot behind their butts after the birds have flown over and started to descend.
- During the day, guns and beaters will move to different lines of butts on their moor. Always keep with the guns.

Walk up shooting tactics

Being well ahead of the shooters is the main tactic to adopt here. Sabs should form an arc 400-500 metres ahead of the shooters and keep ahead of them clearing all wildlife as they proceed. Care has to be taken that sabs proceed at the same speed as guns and that guns do not switch direction, leaving the sab line too far away to swing back in front of them.

A good day's sabbing will save the lives of 100's of grouse.

SUPPORT ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS



Those imprisoned for 'Animal Rights' offences need your support. Show them you care by sending letter of support – these are greatly appreciated by most prisoners. Please remember that letters are opened before they reach prisoners – so don't write anything you wouldn't want anyone else to read...

For more information on how to support those who take action to help animals (besides the HSA of course!) contact the ALF Supporters Group or the Vegan Prisoner Support Group – full details can be found in the 'Useful Addresses' section within this magazine.

Sentenced Prisoners

SARAH GISBORNE (LT5393)
Birthday: 5 July
HMP Downview, Sutton Lane, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5PD.
Serving 51/2 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.

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

DONALD CURRIE (A3660AA)
Birthday: 13 April
HMP Parkhurst, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5NX.
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. No paper or envelopes

Remand Prisoners

SEAN KIRTLY (NEW)
HMP Birmingham Prison, Winson Green Road, Birmingham B18 4AS
Remanded on charges related to the Sequani trial
More details when we have them

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.
Cheques/postal orders made out to 'The Governor'. Books, stationery, stamps; saes. Write prisoner name and number on the back.

GREGG AVERY (TA7450)
Birthday: 5 December
HMP Winchester, Romsey Road, Winchester, SO22 5DF
Remanded 4 May 2007 at Portsmouth Magistrates Court on charges in connection with Huntingdon Life Sciences.
Writing pad (non ring binder type); envs; £5.00 worth of stamps; 20 (5x7 or 6x4) photos (check with inmate). Cheques/postal orders made out to 'HM Prison Service' the inmate's name/number written on back, together with a return address.

NATASHA AVERY (NR8987)
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.
Cheques/postal orders made out to 'The Governor'. Books, stationery, stamps; saes. Write prisoner name and number on the back.

MEL BROUGHTON (TN9138)
Birthday: 5 July
HMP Woodhill, Tattenhoe Street, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK4 4DA.
Mel Broughton was remanded on 14 Dec 2007 at Banbury Magistrates' Court in connection with alleged offences relating to the SPEAK campaign.
Cheques/postal orders made out to "HMPS". For information on other items which can be sent in please apply in writing to the prison.

PROSECUTION ROUND UP

Starting with some good news, in January William Goffe, huntsman, and Gary Bradley, whipper-in, of the Minehead Harriers pleaded guilty to illegally hunting a fox. Bradley also put his hands up to a Section 4A (Public Order Act) offence. They were fined £300 each and ordered to pay £500 each towards costs. Bradley also received an additional £100 fine for his Public Order conviction. He had ridden at, and sworn at, one of the hunt monitors. The original private prosecution had also charged the hunt master and was based on incidents that happened in January and February of 2007. Charges from the January incident were dropped in return for guilty pleas for the February incident. The real value of this case is the guilty plea. These two have not only accepted that they were hunting illegally but also that they knew they were hunting illegally, which goes against the CA line of an unclear and unenforceable Act.

At the time of writing there are a further three hunting cases pending. A private prosecution of the huntsman, whipper-in, terrierman and field master of the Isle of Wight Foxhounds; a CPS prosecution of the huntsman, joint master and second whip of the Devon and Somerset Staghounds; and a joint CPS/private prosecution of 7 people following an investigation into an organised hare coursing club event in Yorkshire.

The defence is expected to claim that those charged in each of these pending cases were using one of the exemptions to the Hunting Act. Part 1, Section 4 of the Hunting Act states that it is a defence for a person to show that they reasonably believed that their hunting was exempt.

However these three cases are on hold until the high court makes a ruling on where the burden of proof lies. There have been different decisions made on this issue in the hunting cases that have been to trial so far. Hunters being prosecuted claim that it should be for the prosecution to prove that a defendant is guilty. The prosecution believes that Section 101, Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 applies. This states that "Where the defendant ... relies for his defence on any exception, exemption, proviso, excuse or qualification ... the burden of proving the exception, exemption, proviso, excuse or qualification shall be on him...". Thus it is on the defendant to prove, on the balance of probabilities, that his hunting was exempt or that he reasonably believed it to be. This reverse burden of proof was made clear in Parliament when the Act was debated.

The judge in the D&S Staghounds case has made a ruling on the burden of proof and the defence is appealing that decision to the High Court. Thus this case, and the other two cases, is on hold until the High Court makes its decision. Realistically this should all be seen as a delaying tactic by the Countryside Alliance. It's in their interests to delay all prosecutions for as long as possible.

Finally the bad news is that Tony Wright, huntsman of the Exmoor Foxhounds, won his appeal. The appeal judge took a very limited view of what constitutes hunting and accepted that Wright believed that reasonable steps had been taken on the day to shoot any fox flushed out by the two hounds i.e. a lone gunman positioned up to 1 kilometre away from the huntsman and hounds. The latest news is that the CPS is to question the appeal judge's ruling on a number of points. This could either be by a Judicial Review, to review the lawfulness of the appeal judge's decision, or "case stated", forcing the appeal judge to explain his reasoning to the High Court. Either way Section 101, Magistrates' Courts Act will also form a part of that case. Unfortunately whichever route is taken Wright can not be reconvicted; it will just stop future trials making the same mistakes.

Don't expect anything soon.



Legal News

Anger over "heavy handed" arrests

The leader of Derby City Council has written to Derbyshire's Chief Constable to complain about the arrests of 11 hunt saboteurs.

Councillor Chris Williamson, a former hunt saboteur, sent an e-mail to Mick Creedon following the arrests, describing the police response as "heavy handed".

Officers were called out to a farm in Somersal Herbert, where a Meynell and South Staffordshire hunt was taking place. They arrested the saboteurs under the Trade Union Act, which covers protests, and kept them in custody overnight at St Mary's Wharf police station in Derby, before interviewing them the next day.

A group representing the saboteurs has labelled the police's actions as "draconian". Roger Swaine, of the Hunt Saboteurs Association, said the East Midlands' saboteurs were "monitoring" the hunt. Mr Swaine said: "They were using purely video cameras to monitor the hunt from public footpaths. "Police descended on the group using dogs and the force's one helicopter and arrested the entire group. Video cameras, purses, wallets, house keys, mobile phones and the group's vehicle had been confiscated".

In the e-mail, Mr Williamson said: "On the face of it, this seems to be an incredibly heavy-handed response by the police. People do have a right to monitor the activities of hunts."

He wrote that, since the 2004 Hunting Act was passed, banning hunting with hounds, there had been a number of incidents around the country where hunts had been convicted of breaching the legislation.

The e-mail continued: "These cases were only brought after evidence was gathered by monitors."

Mr Williamson said that he was concerned that the civil rights of hunt monitors could be impinged unless Mr Creedon gave the force guidance on "an appropriate police response to a lawful activity".

A police spokeswoman said that the e-mail had been received and that Mr Creedon was not in his office to respond but would do as soon as possible.

The hunt saboteurs were never charged and have subsequently been told that no further action will be taken.

Cruel jockey banned from racing for three months

Animal rights charity, Animal Aid, have contacted the police over possible offences under the animal welfare act. Jockey Eddie Ahern received a 3 month ban from the British Horseracing Authority's disciplinary panel in what they described as "a shameful exhibition" on the horse Marsam, who was whipped so vigorously by Ahern that weals were raised on the horse's skin.

The British Horseracing Authority is also to contact Nottinghamshire Police to make the force aware of the strong action taken against Eddie Ahern following his ride on Marsam at Southwell in December last year.

Hunt hounds 'must have leads'

Hounds being used on hunts in Shrewsbury are not exempt from the new dog control order and will therefore have to be kept on a lead on all public roads, carriageways, adjoining pavements and verges managed by a highway authority, local authority or a housing association.

This was decided at a meeting of Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council. It was Labour group leader Danny Moore who raised the issue and councillor Judith Williams who confirmed that hunting dogs were not exempt. The issue of whether the hunt should be able to hold its Boxing Day meet at Shrewsbury livestock market was also raised and Councillor David Roberts, portfolio holder for investments, said under the terms of the site lease, the livestock market could not be used as a gathering point for a hunt.

Police raid on highland estate exposes illegal poisoning

More than 50 police from the Highlands, Grampian and Tayside forces mounted a dawn raid on Glenlochy Moor shooting estate, in the northern Cairngorms near Grantown-on-Spey, owned by the Formula 1 motor racing tycoon and multi-millionaire Paddy McNally.

An extensive search of the estate by police, police dogs and staff from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Scotland and the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals found several legally protected and rare birds of prey, red kites and buzzards, poisoned in

the area, and poisoned bait allegedly used to kill them.

Four gamekeepers were detained and items such as clothing, equipment and documents were seized during the raid. Northern Constabulary, which led the operation, said: "A substantial number of items were recovered during the searches of several properties and locations in the Badenoch, Strathspey and Nairn area. Inquiries will continue." And Northern Constabulary's wildlife crime co-ordinator, Chief Inspector Paul Eddington, said prohibited pesticides laid down by gamekeepers posed a risk to birds of prey, land animals, pets and people. The searches, which follow an investigation lasting several years, came after a series of high-profile discoveries of poisoned birds of prey across Scotland.

Hunt banned from Forestry Commission land

The Isle of Wight Hunt has been banned from land owned by the Forestry Commission. The Hunt is already the subject of a police investigation and facing a criminal prosecution.

The Commission took its unprecedented action following evidence from the League Against Cruel Sports showing a fox being pursued across its land. Further film showed the hunt, with hounds, present at a badger set. Both actions could lead to prosecution.

The Hunt had been granted a licence by the Commission to drag hunt across its land. Drag hunting involves the following of a scent, not a live fox, and is legal. Following the initial complaints from the League the Commission launched an investigation and was given an assurance by the Hunt that it would stay off its land pending an outcome.

The Hunt was subsequently filmed by the League blatantly disregarding the assurance it had given.

It is inconceivable that the Hunt will be ever allowed back on FC land. It also faces the possibility of an action for trespass.

Matt Fox, League campaigner said: 'The Isle of Wight Hunt has long behaved as though it owned the entire island. I am delighted the Forestry Commission has taken decisive action. 'He added: 'We believe that other hunts are also abusing their FC licences and we have been asked by the Commission to provide it with the evidence. The Commission is sending a clear message to all hunts it will not tolerate breaches of license.'

Saboteurs acquitted after shoot is deemed illegitimate

7 saboteurs have been acquitted after successfully disrupting a duck shoot in Brindle, Lancashire. Because the shoot technically had five or more employees, paid or otherwise, the defence argued that it falls under the1974 Health and Safety at Work Act and the 1999 Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations, and must have a written health and safety policy and risk assessment in place at the time of the incident.

As the shoot was therefore not legitimate, the saboteurs could not be convicted of disrupting a lawful activity under aggravated trespass laws. Shoots are now being urged to ensure they have a written health and safety policy in place.





It's over 3 years since the Hunting Act came into being and we have yet to see a change in the attitude of the police in general and the Crown Prosecution Service. Many groups after a brief experiment with passive filming have now reverted to, or are contemplating a return to traditional sabbing and in many cases are well justified with this approach.

During this time how many groups have attempted to liaise with the police? I reckon the percentage is pretty low from the general feeling I get from the AGMs and talking to sabs from around the country. This is understandable perhaps as there aren't many active sabs out there who have been lucky enough to avoid 'a clash of viewpoints' with the law at some time or other. For example since the Hunting Act, where sabs are sabbing, pro-hunt police seem to be reverting to the pre-1994 charge of 'Section 5' to avoid the obvious defence of hunting being an unlawful activity.

Now I'm not going to say we should stop sabbing as we're all members of the Hunt Saboteurs Association (if you're not - what are you doing reading this mag?!) and we should continue to intervene to save an animal's life. The Hunting Act is however still a useful piece of legislation which at least helps our cause to a degree and should be applauded for this alone. It pretty much cancels out the effect of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act of 1994 which attempted to criminalise hunt sabbing.

TALKING TO

The police may not be impartial but they're not stupid. A potential return to pre-1994 hunt sabbing is making some senior police officers nervous - enough in some cases to attempt to open a dialogue with local groups. This article attempts to pass on the experiences of groups which have been in this situation.

Should we approach the police?

Use your own judgement on this but the relationship is going to be more productive if the police are left to make the first move. If the police are arresting sabs left, right and centre, confiscating equipment and ignoring the (often violent) activities of the hunt then frankly, it's not worth it. Don't whine about it, get those official complaints submitted and seek damages through the courts. Embarrass them through the local media. Too many sabs just accept the pro-hunt stance of police officers and by not taking action, they're not only endangering their own reputation and well-being, they're endangering colleagues as well.

Talking to the police

During a hunt is not the correct time to be having discussions with the police. Nothing has changed about how we deal with police during a hunt and there have been enough articles in previous Howls discussing the legal rights of a hunt saboteur in the field.

The police will probably suggest a meeting at the station. Before this happens, the members of the group have to nominate somebody to be their sole spokesperson with the police. It is important to choose the correct person for this task. The person should have a mature outlook, be an experienced hunt saboteur or monitor and have a conservative, business-like appearance. Although the police should not judge on appearance it is a sad fact that many do and we have to make that fact work for us.

Surprisingly, many police officers will only be attempting to contact you to gain information about your group rather than as a genuine gesture of good will! Bearing this in mind the central point of contact may be the already most well-known member of the group, or maybe the driver/owner of the group's vehicle or perhaps the main person who operates the video camera. Ideally, they should have some experience of dealing with the police on previous occasions - but not in a negative way!

At the meeting

Take a pen and paper and an OS map. It is unlikely the police will have given you an agenda so who knows which way the discussion will take you. It has been known for the police simply to ask advice from sabs: "We have a meet for next week. Which way do you think the hunt will go? What is a good location to cover them with a video camera?" These sorts of questions have been asked in the recent past, so be prepared!

More likely than this will be the suggestion of some "ground-rules". Do not let them dictate anything to you but don't refuse anything outright either. The group may accept one rule of behaviour in exchange for the police enforcing an equivalent rule

The police - not usually considered the good guys



THE POLICE

on the hunt. Respect the other members of the group and simply say to the police "I'll have to take this away and discuss it with the other members of the group" if you're not sure. It also makes the spokesperson look less like a leader which is useful.

Also take a mobile phone number that the police can contact you on. They should return the favour at the meeting. This will be an easier and more direct way to reach someone who knows you and knows what you are talking about than going through the public county-wide telephone number.

An important point to make in the meeting is that we are not interested in disrupting a legal activity. If the hunt is drag or trail hunting we will leave them be and simply monitor their activity. If they're hunting as normal, then we have every right to prevent them going about this. The police should have no involvement in cases of civil trespass.

At the hunt

If the meeting was successful things should be a little more pleasant at the next hunt. Don't be upset if the police don't turn up! They do have other priorities. If the hunt is doing anything dodgy (as if!), don't just blindly call the police out and expect them to do something. Remember that the average police officer knows significantly less about hunting and the Hunting Act than the average hunt sab so just film what the hunt are doing wrong. Telephone your contact and calmly tell them what the hunt is doing - they may swing past and take a look - but it is down to us to record these things on camera.

Remember how arrogant the average huntsman is by simply telling the local police officer to arrest the antis for being there? Police don't generally like being told what to do and then tend to do exactly the opposite. The same applies to us; screaming hysterically at the police officer present telling them to arrest the huntsman will achieve nothing apart from annoying them.

The time to call the police out is when things are looking dangerous. The police that come out may not have any knowledge of your liason meeting. Bearing this in mind, with a potential public order incident the police may automatically attempt to remove the smaller, easier-to-remove side of the altercation i.e. us! Some name-dropping and statements like "in full cooperation with the police" may help in this situation especially if it's a couple of PCs who are a little out of their depth.

Afterwards

Think you've got something good on tape? Don't just hot-foot it straight away to the station. Make a copy and take that. If they refuse to take action (and expect a reasonable excuse) then you still have the original to present to the media, or simply drop it on the internet to name and shame. Also please contact the HSA Press Officer - they are there to help and their media contacts are probably more extensive than your own.

If the police do take action they only need the original when the case is finally handed to the Crown Prosecution Service.

VERMIN PATROL

CRUELTY CASES IN THE COURTS

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

Badgers



Two members of a badger-baiting ring escaped being locked up on 21/1/08 but were banned from owning dogs for five years. Part-time poultry worker **Sean Dodds** (17) McLagan Drive, Harwick and **Kyle Lawrie** (19) Church Lane, Harwick both pleaded guilty to digging at a badger's sett, Dodds also admitted wilfully killing a badger with a dog while at the same time Lawrie was digging at the sett. They watched along with others as Dodds' pet dog fought with a badger pulled from a sett for up to 20 minutes before the animal died. At Jedburgh Sheriff Court Dodds (see pic) was ordered to carry out 200 hours community service as a direct alternative to custody, with Lawrie sentenced to 160 hours. The court was told police suspected Dodds was involved in badger-baiting after he posted an image of a dog killing the protected animal on his Bebo website and later confessed his crimes to officers. Several homes in the town were searched and a number of dogs, some which had injuries, were seized. In addition to carrying out community service, both teenagers were disqualified from having custody of a dog for a period of five years.

Simon Evans (40) and **Peter McGuigan** (37) from Llandysul on the Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire border, were both found guilty of badger baiting by Llanelli magistrates on 7/3/08. Police caught them in the act of disturbing a badger sett and one of their dogs had a badger in its mouth. They were found them guilty of four charges but cleared of another charge involving possession of a net. Both were remanded on bail for reports and sentence was adjourned. When the police arrived at the sett a "limp" badger was found in the mouth of a lurcher dog belonging to them, the court was told. A metre deep hole had been dug close to a badger sett and shovels carried by the friends were stained in blood. They claimed it was an "unfortunate accident" and they were on an ordinary day out hunting rabbits. **John William Lee** (40) of Farndale Avenue, Middlesbrough, was jailed for six months after being found guilty of taking part in badger baiting. Lee was arrested as he walked through a busy town centre while blood dripped from the face of one of his dogs. He was also carrying a rucksack on his back with a garden spade sticking out of the top. When his bag was searched, an eight-inch machete was found. At his trial at Teesside magistrates on 28/3/08 Lee denied one charge of wilfully attempting to take a badger and two charges of causing unnecessary suffering to his two dogs. However, magistrates found Lee guilty and sentenced him to six months for wilfully attempting to take a badger. He was also sentenced to two months concurrent for causing unnecessary suffering to his dogs and for allowing them to come in contact with wild animals.

Bloodsports

On 14/3/07 **Douglas Morris** (67) of Offoxey Road, Tong, Shropshire was sentenced for a string of crimes including dumping cyanide-based pesticides by a stream. Police found a large amount of unapproved poisons, ammunition and shotguns when they searched his homes. An investigation was launched after evidence of wildlife poisoning was found in Weston Park and the Bradford Estate in South Staffs. Morris, a self-employed farm worker who carried out pest control for the Bradford Estate, was arrested in July 2006. At his home police discovered unapproved poisons and other pesticides stored in food containers along with unlawful ammunition and shotguns. Half-empty tins of Cymag, a cyanide-based gassing compound, were among containers discarded on a bonfire near a water course close by. Morris admitted in interview that he used poison to lace dead wood pigeons to kill foxes on land belonging to the Bradford Estate. At an earlier hearing, he pleaded guilty to eight charges including three counts of storing unapproved pesticides, poisoning edible matter so as to endanger wildlife, and shotgun and ammunition offences. Morris asked that six other offences involving the improper storage of pesticides were taken into account. At Telford magistrates he was given an 18-month conditional discharge for the pesticide offences, an 18-month conditional discharge - to run concurrently - for the firearms offences, and ordered to pay £300 costs. A forfeiture and destruction order was made for the illegal firearms and ammunition.

Peter Woolhouse (42) of Hooton Roberts, South Yorkshire was fined £2,000 and ordered to pay £150 costs for three offences. Woolhouse was also being charged with 6 other offences relating to setting baited rabbits and partridges which were intended to kill or injure wild birds. In August 2006 the police and RSPB searched land and premises owned by Woolhouse and found rabbits and partridges which had been laced with the pesticide aldicarb. Pesticides containing the active ingredients mecoprop-P, difenacoum and pirimicarb were found to be illegally stored in insecure outbuildings at his address. Woolhouse had pleaded guilty to 2 pesticide storage offences at an earlier hearing and was convicted of a further storage offence at Doncaster magistrates on 26/7/07. Woolhouse was found not guilty of the 6 charges relating to the baited rabbits and partridges.

Two owners of lurcher dogs admitted hunting hares on a farm in the Isle of Axholme. At North Lincolnshire magistrates on 31/1/08 **Robert Smith** (43) from Histon, Cambridgeshire said he had come to the area to buy a working terrier. He went with some men to see the animal hunting rats and rabbits. But, when getting some more nets, one of the men let his dog out of the vehicle and it then ran off. "I couldn't get her back. I was running across the fields looking for her. All I was concerned about was finding my dog. If I wanted to course hares I could do it in my own back garden," (Oh no ya can't ya thick git) he said. **Ambrose Watson** (38), of Chequer Avenue, Doncaster and Smith both admitted hunting with dogs, and were each fined £100, with £60 costs.

At Liverpool magistrates on 4/2/08 the court heard how four men and a 17-year-old were stopped by police in their Land Rover in Islington, Liverpool on their way back from a hunting expedition. They had dogs, nets and other equipment used for illegal hunting. A 20-year-old man was given a caution after admitting the offence because of his previous good character. The remaining four were charged. **Peter Blackhall** (25) of Lapford Crescent, Kirkby; **Thomas Bell** (23) of Exeter Close, Aintree; **Adam Pengilley** (21) of Adlam Road, Aintree; and a 17- year-old who cannot be named for legal reasons initially denied the charges, however, they later changed their pleas to guilty. They were fined £250 each with £80 costs, and ordered the immediate forfeiture of the Land Rover and the hunting equipment. The teenager was given a conditional discharge for 12 months with £80 costs.

Three gamekeepers admitted using baited traps to catch protected birds of prey that might attack grouse and partridges on the shooting estate in North Yorkshire. Scarborough magistrates heard on 8/2/08 that RSPB inspectors had found five traps baited with live pigeons on the Snilesworth estate near Osmotherley. The traps can be used legally only to catch birds such as magpies and crows, and only members of the crow family can be used as bait. Head gamekeeper **James Shuttlewood** (40) of Hagg House, Snilesworth, Hawnby pleaded guilty to five charges of permitting the use of traps and was fined £250 for each offence. Beat keeper **Charles Woof** (23) of Sparrow Hall, Scugdale, Swainby, North Yorkshire, admitted one charge of using a trap and was fined £100. Under-keeper **David Cook** (18) of Ingleby House Farm, Ingleby, Arncliffe, North Yorkshire, admitted two charges of using traps and was given a 12-month conditional discharge. The three were also ordered to pay costs of £43 each.



On 9/2/08 at Scarborough magistrates various bloodsports supporters were due to appear, but had their case adjourned until 20/6/08. Those charged with various hare coursing offences are **Clarissa Dickson Wright** (60) of Inveresk in East Lothian and Waterloo Cup (hare coursing event) organiser **Sir Mark Prescott** (59) who is based at Heath House in Newmarket, Suffolk. Miles Henry Easterby of Habton Grange Farm, Great Habton, is accused of permitting land to be used for hare coursing and attending hare coursing. **Elizabeth Dixon** (44) of Appleton-le-Street, near Malton, is charged with knowingly facilitating a hare coursing event, while **John Shaw** (54) of Welburn Manor, Welburn, near Kirkbymoorside, faces an allegation of permitting land to be used for hare coursing, **Andrew Lund-Watkinson** (56) of Pine View Lodge, Newton-on-Rawcliffe, and **Jacqueline Teal** (42) of Scarborough Road, Norton, are accused of attending a hare coursing event. The case was adjourned until 20/6/08 at Scarborough magistrates.

A gamekeeper and a land agent are facing trial after a raid on a remote Yorkshire Dales farm uncovered lethal poisons. Gamekeeper **James Freeman** (56) of Moor House Farm, Lofthouse, Nidderdale and agent **Simon Clowes** (56) of Lawkland Green House, Lawkland, Austwick, near Settle, appeared before magistrates at Harrogate on 18/2/08 to answer a total of 13 charges. Freeman faces nine charges and did not enter pleas to any of them. Four claim that at his farm he stored pesticides, with active ingredients including sodium cyanide and aluminium phosphide without approval while a fifth alleges use of a sodium cyanide-based pesticide. He is facing two charges of storing pesticides - involving both sodium cyanide and aluminium phosphide - without taking all reasonable precautions to protect the health of people and creatures, by keeping it in a glass jar in an unlocked store which was not sufficiently fire resistant. An eighth charge claims Freeman had in his possession strychnine which had not been authorised or registered while the ninth count alleges possession of two syringes and a quantity of alphachloralose which were capable of being used to commit offences. Clowes entered not guilty pleas to four charges, three of permitting Freeman to store pesticides without the required approval and one of permitting him to store a pesticide in an unsafe place, an unlocked storeroom in a dwelling, and failing to take all reasonable precautions to protect the health of people and wildlife. The court ordered both men to be tried before a judge and jury and bailed them until 3/4/08 when the case is expected to be sent to York Crown Court.



On 21/2/08 the huntsman of the Coniston Foxhounds **Michael Gerald Nicholson** (40) of Nook Lane, Ambleside, pleaded guilty to criminal damage after attacking a hunt sab's car. Nicholson pleaded guilty to criminal damage when he appeared before South Lakeland magistrates. The court heard how Nicholson had walked towards the car shouting. He banged with the umbrella on the windscreen then turned his attention to the driver's side window. He hit it a number of times, causing it to smash. The driver suffered a minor cut to his face. After the incident was reported to the police, Nicholson was arrested and interviewed. He admitted to being the man involved in the incident. Nicholson was given a 12-month conditional discharge, and ordered to pay £150 in compensation plus costs of £58.

Three teenagers were arrested on 12/3/08 after police raided a suspected cockfight in County Durham. Officers were called to suspicious activity in a white van parked in Durham Road, Bishop Auckland. Two badly injured cockerels were found in a nearby field and items linked to cockfighting recovered from the van. Two youths, aged 16 and 17, and an 18-year-old man were arrested and bailed on suspicion of animal cruelty. The cockerels have been passed into the care of RSPCA inspectors, who are also involved in the investigation.

Three men accused of killing 29 swans have appeared before Bedford magistrates on 13/3/08. The men, from Chesham, Buckinghamshire, were charged with intentional killing of mute swans. **Stephen Barrett** (38), **Marcus Walker** (51) and his brother **Darren** (47) pleaded not guilty. A trial was set for 4/8/08. The mute swans, which had all been shot, were found in October buried in a freshly dug pit at Radwell Lake in Radwell, Bedfordshire. The lake, owned by the Walker brothers, was purpose-built for shooting and at certain times of the area it is legal to shoot water fowl. Barrett of Chessmount Drive, also denied charges of possession of a rifle and ammunition and failing to comply with a condition on his firearms certificate.

On 23/3/08 a man was arrested after claims the Cotswolds-based Heythrop Hunt has been intimidating hunting monitors. An undercover BBC TV team has handed footage filmed to the police, amid further allegations that the hunt continues to catch foxes illegally. The film-makers spent a month earlier this year watching hunt monitors as they followed a number of different hunts

across the county. On one occasion monitor Penny Little is filming hounds from the Heythrop Hunt when a quad bike appears, her car door is kicked closed, and a man threatens her. It is believed the incident resulted in the single arrest made so far. Joint Master of the hunt, Liz Wills said the monitors were an unnecessary irritant for the hunt. She said: "We find it very, very intrusive and I'm not surprised that temperatures do get raised sometimes."



Sussex MP **Nicholas Soames** was prosecuted over the use of his quad bike at a new year's day hunt. Soames was filmed towing a trailer carrying adults and children on the road near his home. The 60-year-old Conservative has been banned from driving for two months and fined £200, he was also ordered to pay a £15 victim surcharge and costs of £35 by Crawley magistrates. Soames was filmed driving down a road in Plummers Plain, near Horsham, as he followed the Crawley and Horsham Hunt on New Year's day. Soames had a child perched behind him on the bike and was pulling four adults and two children on the trailer when the footage was taken. None of the passengers was strapped in or wearing safety helmets. He is accused of having no insurance for his quad bike and trailer and of using a motor vehicle or trailer on the road where its use could involve danger of injury to a person.

Dogfighting & Pit Bulls



Daniel Tate of George Street, Redcar set his illegal pit bull terrier on a smaller dog in the vicious "training session", magistrates in Middlesbrough were told on 18/1/08. He was sent to a young offenders' institution for five months after vile images were shown the court. Tate, said to have previous convictions for sex offences, pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to an animal by causing it to fight and being in possession of an illegal dog. He also admitted failure to comply with his notification requirements as a registered sex offender after he received an 18 month community order for a conviction in March, 2007. Tate was locked up for five months for the RSPCA matters and given a six month conditional discharge for failing to notify police of a change of address. The pit bull was also confiscated and Tate was banned from keeping any animals for 10 years. **James Harland** (20) formerly of King Street, South Bank, is currently wanted on a warrant not backed by bail, the court was told.

At Walsall magistrates on 17/3/08 **Clayton Beard** (24) of Cannon Street, Ryecroft, Walsall admitted four charges relating to dog fighting including a new charge of having items for use in training animals to fight. It follows the discovery of three badly wounded pit bull terriers, a treadmill and veterinary kit at a house in Walsall. Beard will be sentenced on 15/4/08. He admitted possessing and causing unnecessary harm to pit bull terriers. One of the dogs was found in a cage in a dining room. It had more than 70 wounds. The RSPCA also found a makeshift veterinary kit, containing superglue used to stick the wounds together.

Eggs/Birds



On 3/1/08 a man once described as Britain's most convicted wild egg collector was jailed for six months. **Gregory Wheal** (44) of Isambard Drive, Longford, Coventry, admitted possessing raven and peregrine falcon eggs at a previous hearing. Wheal has eight previous convictions for egg theft and this is his second prison sentence. Magistrates rejected an application for an Anti-Social Behaviour Order which would stop him visiting nesting sites. Wheal had also pleaded guilty at Coventry magistrates to owning egg collection equipment. The court heard that Wheal, whose convictions stretch back to 1987, was arrested after four peregrine falcon eggs and six ravens' eggs were found in a bedroom at his home. Climbing irons were also found although Wheal, who represented himself in court, said he had not used them for many years.

Stephen Carruth (39) of Peareth Hall Road, Springwell Village, Washington has been banned from keeping birds after catching magpies in an illegally-sized trap. Carruth who is also the director of Northern Health Care, built the Larsen trap after claiming the magpies were scaring off songbirds. Sunderland magistrates heard on 1/3/08 how the RSPCA visited his home and found four live magpies and one dead in the chicken wire and wood trap. The RPSCA prosecutor said the birds were emaciated with ulcers on their beaks. No food, water or shelter had been provided for them. One of the birds later died and another two had to be destroyed. Carruth pleaded guilty to an offence of intentionally killing a wild bird, and two further offences. Carruth admitted building the trap but told RSPCA inspectors he did not have the "stamina" to kill the birds and was waiting for someone to do it. Magistrates banned Carruth from keeping birds for three years, fined him £500 and ordered he pay £400 costs, plus £15.50 for photography costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

Equine

A man responsible for the drowning of a pony at the Appleby Horse Fair in Cumbria was jailed for 42 days on 13/3/08 by Carlisle magistrates. **Ian Deer** (21) of Seven Sisters Road, Tottenham, London, bought the pony on the day of the fair, before taking it to the River Eden as part of a ritual washing event. Magistrates heard he had little or no experience with horses or ponies and the animal drowned after he lost control of it in the water. He earlier admitted causing unnecessary suffering to a pony. Deer was sentenced to 28 days for animal cruelty, to run consecutively with a 14 day sentence for a breach of bail conditions.

A teenager who laughed while repeatedly throwing a meat cleaver at a horse was sent to a young offenders' institute for five months. **Matthew Corfield** (19) of Higgs Road, Wednesfield, admitted causing unnecessary suffering to an animal but said he did not know why he did it. The mare's leg was broken in the attack and it was put down, Cannock magistrates heard on 13/3/08. **Alex Lister** (19) of Olinthus Avenuem, Wednesfield, who insisted he had only chased the horse, admitted the same charge and was given a 12-month community order and 180 hours' community service. Corfield had thrown the meat cleaver at the horse up to five times.



On the 17/3/08 five people have been charged with animal cruelty over the discovery of scores of neglected horses, ponies and donkeys on a Buckinghamshire farm. RSPCA staff and vets removed 125 animals from Spindle Farm, Hyde Heath in Amersham. **James Gray** (44), **Julie Gray** (40), **Jodie Gray** (25), **Cordelia Gray** (19) and a boy of 15, all from Spindle Farm, are due before Oxford magistrates on 27/3/08. The accused face a total of 12 charges under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. James Gray appeared in court in February charged with three offences related to alleged offences. He denied charges of assault and obstructing a police officer in a case which was adjourned until 9/5/08.

IF YOU MOVE

We have substantial mailing costs for sending Howl to our members, but what you may not know is we also pay for all copies returned to us, items misdelivered or when members have moved and not informed us.
So please, if you move don't forget to tell us

LET US KNOW

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.

Feb 08
1st S.Bramley
2nd P. Fenn
3rd V. Magjeko

March 08
1st M. Saunders
2nd F. Ford
3rd I. Fisher

April 08
1st D.Westwood
2nd P.Fenn
3rd S.Shorthouse

May 08
1st M.Search
2nd P.MCowan
3rd F.Ford

Cuffbert was mildly pleased when Henry decided to show him his shiny new horn!



Howl 88 - Caption competition winner - Rob



HELP SAVE A LIFE AFTER YOUR DEATH

REMEMBER THE HUNT SABOTEURS ASSOCIATION IN YOUR WILL

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

The Hunt Saboteurs Association relies entirely on the generosity of its membership to function. As the organisation has no paid staff and minimal running costs more of the money coming in can be put to good use where it counts most – in the hunting field. Leaving a gift to the H.S.A. in your Will helps to ensure that the good work carried out by active hunt saboteurs can continue. With a ban now in place, and so many hunts blatantly flouting it, the role of sabs has never been more important, so your gift will still be put to good use – the HSA will continue until no sentient creatures are abused in the name of sport.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Name.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Signature.....

Date.....

GROUP NEWS

North

Derby have pretty much been doing their own thing this season with a handful of people (some very new but keen to learn) going to hunts which a few years ago would have dictated much greater numbers for safety. Following the shock arrest of 11 sabs (from other groups) at the Meynell & South Staffordshire Hunt by some dodgy Derbyshire police in January (see Legal News for more details), the group has been attending the hunt fairly regularly since then to show the police that sabs aren't so easily deterred. Unfortunately, thanks to the dodgy policing the hunt has almost lost its fear of the camera with much blatant flushing of coverts, so by the end of the season it was almost sabbing like the bad-old-days with voice calls and plenty of citronella. In between visits to the Meynell, the group also escorted a BBC reporter to the Grove & Rufford Hunt for a feature on the 3rd anniversary of the Hunting Act (yawn...). This particular day almost resulted in an assault on the reporter! Road access and terrain worked against the group but thankfully the day was hot and dry and the threat of antis and BBC nearby severely limited what they could do. The last time out for this season was a rare visit to the High Peak Harriers. Just out of pure chance a number of other groups also turned up which guaranteed that the hunt stuck to the letter of the law the whole day. There was one kill however - a horse died of a heart attack - and the huntsman's own horse was also severely injured.

Cumbria have had a busy time of it since Xmas with a full van once a week from Liverpool and the Midlands much appreciated. January saw us go out against the Coniston for the first time in a while. The huntsman reacted the only way they know (Read elsewhere in howl) Convicted of criminal damage and a conditional discharge for a year. We paid a couple of visits to the Cumberland foxhounds mounted pack, makes a change from running up hills! We are still keeping the heat on the Blencathra foxhounds, since Xmas they have lost meets due to the weather, and not having a licence to hunt on National Trust land on certain days. Plus in March we had a local TV news crew out with us (Border TV). The Blenie were due to be on National Trust land, but when they saw us they changed the meet and bolted to private land (nothing to hide then!). It got good coverage on their news programme. The video camera is paying for itself, when the huntsman for the Blennie has his hounds onto a fox, and then realises we are out with the camcorder he goes through the charade of calling his hounds off. All in all a good year, more of the same next season!

This season has seen the Nottingham group out almost every Saturday, with some of the group making mid week meets further afield. Early in the season we made regular visits to the High Peak, ensuring that hares remained safe up in the dales. We popped in on the Menall and South Staffordshire and were made to feel very unwelcome by the plod. A police helicopter dropped in cops who arrested the entire group and held them for up to 26hrs!!!! The van was impounded and cameras and sab gear confiscated. We also said hello to the Grove and Rufford reminding them that there was a local sab group active, a great day that proved that hunt violence won't be the end of sabbing as we returned later in the season. Nottingham has been supported by our mates near and far this season. Nice One!! up the North!!

South

Croydon once again joined forces with Brighton and Hastings and attended meets of the Old Surrey Burstow and West Kent, Southdown and Eridge and Surrey Union. This month's front cover photo was taken after the Surrey Union chased and killed a fox on a public cricket green, in full view of the public. Surrey police said they looked into the incident and video footage and could see nothing wrong! funny as we never showed them our footage from the day. Also on the Surrey Union a landrover full of sabs were stopped and searched under the terrorism act by armed police because they parked under a flight path to Gatwick. The police were a bit put out by everyone asking where the machine guns were and had to lock their police car from prying eyes and curious sabs! They also were not very helpful when they searched the landrover in helping find the vegan chocolates that were lost in the back.
There were more arrests this season than any of the previous two since the ban. On the Southdown and Eridge after turning up to monitor, an off duty police woman flashed her warrant card every time monitors went into the field. When questioned why there was no drag she refused to answer. During the day two monitors were ridden down and after an incident at the end of the day the hunt followers blocked several of the monitors vehicles in. The monitors tried to gently push a hunt supporters landrover out of the way and apparently ended up cracking the supporters indicator lens. When the police turned up they arrested the driver for criminal damage and kept him in a police cell for 22 hours, a two day trial is due in the next few months!

Southampton's old favourites, the New Forest Beagles, were visited by 2 of our group, acting on a tip off, while the rest of the group did the Foxhounds. At the sight of one sab with a camera in the field and another in a car on the road, the Beagles packed up. Meanwhile the rest of the group had a more eventful day with the New Forest Foxhounds. On two occasions the hunt lost control of hounds when they went after a fox. On the first occasion, hunt staff were panicked at the sight of our cameras and raced to turn hounds. In the second incident staff were nowhere to be seen and sabs decided to revert to good old fashioned sabbing using a liberal dousing of spray to confuse hounds enough so they lost the scent. Sticking with the New Forest has



certainly proved worthwhile, albeit tiring due to the terrain being covered on foot with very little road access. However, a bit of map reading difficulty in the New Forest led to one slightly blank day after which we realised that a repeat could be avoided with the purchase of some hand held GPS equipment. Being strapped for cash we whined at the HSA Contacts Officer who had a word and supplied us with the means to equip ourselves - this should increase our ability to pinpoint the hunt when they are up to no good and hiding. Lush! The Cattistock Hunt in Dorset are still up to their old tricks and have received several visits. One occasion saw a fox mysteriously pop up just in front of hounds. This hunt have started using a tactic of hunt staff holding back when hounds are on a fox so they have a defence that they weren't actively hunting and it was an 'accident' with hounds 'out of control'. The upside is that when hounds check, no-one is there to cast them onto the scent, and if sabs are in the area we can halt

them. We have also had a few of the usual arguments in this practically feudal area over land access, which have proved to be highly amusing.
Another day in March saw 2 hunts visited - this time in Dorset. The Cattistock used the old run and hide tactic, so sabs peeled off to visit the South Dorset. Upon arrival the huntsman put as much distance as he could between us. We maintained a close presence throughout the day with many regular coverts missed out and an irate hunt at the end of the day. A bonus was an opportunity to provide vital ID for a court case. More will be revealed once the wheels of justice have turned. A repeat midweek visit found the normally boisterous hunt and quad riders turn away from 2 sabs - they have obviously developed a fear of cameras! A visit to the Cotswold Vale at the end of the season saw members of our group create a survival teepee while others recreated a scene from the Titanic as the Newport landy sunk into the mud at 45 degrees.

The season started in the best possible way for East Kent sabs, with a real hunt ban going on, due to foot and mouth etc, sabs caught up on some sleep during cubbing-the only interesting point to make about this period, is that one of the suspected Foot and Mouth outbreaks occurred at a farm owned by a senior member of the East Kent Hunt - oh, the irony!
This particular hunt have had a troubled season since the ban was lifted-huntsman Richard Blakeney injured his ankle, and some meets were covered by a camera shy ex huntsman of the Southdowns and Eridge, one Mark Blackman (so we have been led to believe). His tactics were to just openly draw coverts, rather than the previous attempts at draghunting by Mr Blakeney- the police were informed, but "am I bovvered?" was their expected reply...a dig out was successfully stopped though, and no kills thus far with sabs present. Other meets saw them out with no hounds, or various members painfully trying to hunt the hounds..oh, and their whip owes us a new aerial.
The Wye beagles are proving hard to find, with no website, meets etc, yet will provide a human trail if sabs present. The West ST and Tickham are bankrupt as far as we know, and no sign of them out this season so far...but we are sure they are lurking out their somewhere, in their usual dark and nasty style....
The Ashford valley are back advertising meets now (but they aren't always at them!), their bravery bolstered by the boys they still seem to be able to pull out when monitors show up....no real aggro yet so far though, just a few threats and driving at people in their traditional redneck style..If I was a betting man though, I would allege that it ain't a trail they are following..as if!
So, not bad so far, minimal police interference, and no real violence-some undercover work has proved valuable too-for this long in the tooth sab, its kind of weird to have hunters/shooters being friendly to you, as you are taking a "stroll in the woods"....for less well known faces, it may be wise for other groups to consider this now and again?
Just keep that camera well hidden!

Reading have had a great season, it has been really positive despite the frustration of seeing hunts all over the region breaking the law and continuing to persecute wildlife illegally. We've been out with Pewsey Vale and South Wales quite a bit this season, and done our locals the Vale of Aylesbury and the Garth and South Berkshire regularly. They are normally a quiet hunt but by the end of the season, even they had got a bit stroppy and got some not very good hunt stewards out. We've also done the Tedworth, Cotswold Vale, Vine and Craven, Royal Artillery, Old Berks, Sandhurst beagles and a beagle pack who we're not entirely sure about as we stumbled across them by accident and they packed up within 10 minutes of two of us being there. We also went down to the South Devon at the very end of the season, which turned out to be a very long but rewarding day. We've noticed some of the hunts who were making a big pretence of laying a trail last season are happy to let hounds draw through coverts this season, they will let them pick up a scent then once we catch up with them they will pull the hound out of the covert and move on. Most of the hunts we've been out with seem to stop hunting once sabs are right with them and filming, though we have had to do some sabbing as well including calling hounds off of a fox which the VAGSB had chased through a garden. Lots of the hunts we've done this season have shown the strain they are under. Not sure how they are going to keep it up over the next few seasons.



North and East London huntsabs spent the second half of the season focusing on the Essex and Suffolk, with visits to the Essex, the Suffolk and the Essex Farmers and Union, usually teamed up with Essex and Suffolk sabs. One trip up to Notts was rewarded with Liverpool and Notts sabs coming down to enjoy the hospitality of the Suffolk constabulary. Terrier boy with E and S Robert Cundy pleaded guilty to assaulting a sab and got a £200 fine, and two of our sabs had aggravated trespass charges dropped.
Our last day out was with the Essex Farmers and we managed to save a fox from the jaws of a hound - it dropped the fox when we steamed in and she had a little nip at the hound before getting away with the help of sabs. Very close call. Fun filled furiously fundraising summer awaits.

South Wales

Ah the season's end! South Wales sabs are filled with a deep depression that we won't get to see our murdering, blood junky, narrow minded friends for the next few months. How will we cope!
Since Christmas our season has continued in a positive vain, getting out every week to harry and hinder the countryside criminals, sabbing those who openly flout the ban and keeping a close eye on those who are a bit more sneaky and stand around whistling innocently as the
South wales massive arrive on the scene.
One memorable day saw us kennel watching a foxhunt pack who didn't go out, before going to kennel watch a beagle pack who we'd already missed. We then spent an hour looking for another foxhound pack we knew were lurking nearby before finally stumbling on a different beagle pack who we sent home with their tails between their legs.
Persistence pays off see!
Lets go find some mink killers cos we won't survive the summer else!

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

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)



'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!**

Striking 'Anti' stickers - Stick these on your own property and nowhere else. (clearly unsuitable for lampposts, 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)



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.



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.



ARUK 2008 ANIMAL RIGHTS GATHERING

Fri 13th - Sun 15th June 2008

The weekend will include talks, discussions, films and workshops on a wide range of issues and activities related to animal rights campaigning. As well as a chance to relax with like-minded people, you'll be able to socialise and network with other campaigners from all over the UK. With Veggies food, information stalls and much more...



For more information and updates about the gathering, visit:
WWW.ARGATHERING.ORG.UK

In order to provide good facilities we would ask for a small contribution of around £10 per person over the weekend, or £5 per day. There will also be a small charge per day towards food. Any extra will be donated to the animal sanctuary

For more details and to book in advance, contact
ARUK 2008, BM 2636, London WC1N 3XX
Tel: 07899 775493 - Email: 2008@argathering.org.uk



INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL RIGHTS GATHERING IN VIENNA

THURS 21ST - SUN 24TH AUGUST 2008



WWW.AR2008.INFO

There will be a big march through Vienna on Thursday afternoon followed by the gathering near Vienna. The gathering will be at a beautiful spot to the South of Vienna, in eastern Austria at the base of the massive Schneeberg mountain. For more general information, see: www.ar2008.info/details.htm

IT'S TIME TO FIGHT SPECIESISM!

For information about transport from London and the rest of the UK. Please contact us to book a seat, either call: 07899 775493 or email: 2008@argathering.org.uk

IT'S TIME TO FIGHT SPECIESISM!

Come to the 10th International AR Gathering where there will be many workshops, films and information stalls showing the power and solidarity of the Global AR movement!

The Global AR Movement Grows Bigger And Stronger...