Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

HOWL

winter 2009

93

The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association

THE HUNTS ARE STILL AT IT!



soap saviours
virgin sabs
cubbing news
badgers under threat

SOAP SAVIOURS

THE STORY OF HOW A HIGH ST SOAP RETAILER ENDED UP SUPPORTING THE 'SOAP DODGERS ASSOCIATION'... IN THEIR OWN WORDS

I guess to tell the story of the 'The Hunts Are Still At It' campaign in our shops, I need to go back to January this year.

Each January we have a huge meeting when all of our shop managers from around the country come together and discuss how Xmas went for us and plan the new year. It had been a tough trading period at Xmas, with the whole financial system wobbling, banks being rescued and the general public wondering if their house prices were going to crash and if their jobs were safe. So rather than our usual business type meeting, we thought we would surprise everyone with something different and more light hearted. So we shut production at our factory for a day and let the shop managers loose in there with all our product experts and told them they could invent any product they wanted to. They let their imaginations run wild as years of pent up ideas and creativity finally had a chance to vent.



On day two of the meeting they presented their products and ideas to the senior management and creative team at Lush, for them to decide if any of the items invented were worthy of a place on our shop shelves.

One of the groups had decided to make a solid bubble bar (these are just like liquid bubble bath, making the bath water foamy and nice smelling, but don't need a plastic bottle – so no landfill!!). They wanted to name it Fantastic Mr Fox after the Roald Dahl book and it was a red bubble bar with a white fox paw print stamped on top. They had the whole thing thought out – they had mocked up a window with a design and slogan and they told us that they wanted the whole thing to be done to raise money for the Hunt Saboteurs Association. There were about 200 of us in the room and it is fair to say that every jaw dropped as they suddenly unveiled their window and we saw before us in huge red letters "Don't Be a Hunt!". After the initial gasp the whole room cracked up with laughter and clapping – it was the biggest hit of the day!!

The next week at our regular planning meeting, we all agreed that the strength of feeling in that room had been so strong and the idea and product presented was so well thought out that there was no doubt we had to go ahead with the whole thing as suggested by the group. The window slogan had to be tweaked and the colours on the bubble bar switched around to have a blood red paw print instead of the white one – but these were minor changes to an already fantastic piece of work.

So the year moved on and the product went through our usual human testing process before we could release it onto the market, and in the meantime we contacted the HSA to talk to them about the idea of the money from the product going to them and the best date to launch. Two of the HSA committee came to one of our planning meetings and gave us a bit more background and info and talked about the cubbing season dates, etc. A slot was found in our product launch and window display plans for around that time, and everything was all systems go.

Any rosy idea that this was going to be a quiet and low key window campaign were quickly put paid to, when a week before the product launch, when it was all still secret, we had a call from one of the broad sheet newspapers saying they had received a leak that we were about to launch a product whose proceeds were going to the hunt sabs and were going to run an article about it, whether we were willing to talk or not.

Someone was talking to the press about our plans – but it certainly wasn't us! We had a series of calls from journalists ahead of the launch – all seemed to specialise in countryside issues.
That first journalist to phone was aggressive and actually hotly argued, saying things like 'what a load of nonsense, I'm not going to bother debating stupid points like that with you' when we tried to talk about hunting still continuing, the law not being upheld, and hunters not Sabs being the law breakers. This was not the only aggressive journalist to contact us during the campaign – and it was disappointing, and unusual in our experience, to experience such unjournalistic behaviour. It was like they had phoned up to defend their own viewpoint, rather than to get opinions on an issue or the story from all sides. Significantly though, none of the aggressive interviewers ever had the article appear in print. I was left at the end wondering if they were even on a proper assignment, or if they had phoned up just to vent their own private objections to our window campaign.
But other journalists were more balanced and the story better handled as the week progressed. I thought the HSA press officer did a fantastic job on BBC Radio 4 Farming Today and won the day with his well articulated arguments, when the BBC gave plenty of scope for all parties to air their opinions.

When the window finally went in we quickly realised that the nonsense had only just begun. A host of pro-hunt forums were debating the issue by then and they seemed to be brazen and open about their plans to cause us disruption. As the week went on we experienced a series of incidents at our shops. Luckily nothing too serious – but of course the most important thing was the staff in our shops, and some of them did have to put up with intimidation and bullying, which is unforgivable in our eyes.



- Taunton shop were open late one night that week, hosting a child's birthday party in the shop, when they received a call from someone saying they were watching them and they had better 'watch their backs'. They also had Keep Hunting stickers stuck outside the shop.

- Plymouth shop had Countryside Alliance stickers superglued to the window.

- Manchester shop advertised a 'meet the Hunt Sabs' event for the coming Saturday, with people from HSA coming to the shop to talk to customers. They received a call saying that if the event went ahead 'there will be trouble'. They did go ahead with the event, and there was no disturbance. But perhaps only because the shop manager pointed out to the person that the shop phone had caller ID and the caller had failed to restrict their number from view !!

Despite the fact that we kept news of all of this quiet and strictly internal, clearly the Countryside Alliance had news of what was happening to us, because they suddenly released a statement to their supporters, and even registered on our Lush customer chat forum to post it there. I believe they also posted this message on some pro-hunt forums, etc. So the hunting community knew what was going on.



- Our Chelmsford shop had a man come in and sweep the whole display of the Fabulous Mrs Fox bubble bars onto the floor and walk out. He came back the next day and did the same thing again, but this time he said that he would be back every day to do it until we stopped selling it. On day three when he arrived the manager recognised him and stood between him and the display and told him to leave the shop. He started shouting and arguing. She told him that if he didn't leave immediately that she would call the police. At this point there was a couple being served at the till, and the gentleman stepped forward and said "You don't have to - we are already here" and pulled out his warrant card. Turns out he was off duty and shopping with his wife!! He made the guy leave - and since then he has not returned.

- Our Maidstone shop had 'Fuck You' scratched into the glass and a kebab smeared across the window. (as a vegetarian company, I don't need to tell you which we found the most offensive !!)

In fact, some pro-hunt forums had people openly boasting of what they had done or were planning to do.

But we survived the week of the Hunt window being in. In fact we more than survived – sales of the product were very strong in that week and we are hoping that with it still on sale until Boxing Day, sales will continue to be strong and the money will be helping to save foxes all next season. We hope our customers post cards will let the police authorities know that there is still a huge strength of feeling amongst the British public against this archaic and barbaric pastime and that one day there will truly be an end to hunting with hounds in the UK.

Hilary from Lush

The Fabulour Mrs Fox is on sale in Lush stores nationwide until Boxing Day 2009, please support us , visit our website , support your local sab group or make a donation.



HOWL 93

Cover image - Lush Launch

Magazine of the Hunt Saboteurs Association
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The Hunt Saboteurs Association has been in existence for over 40 years, and is dedicated to saving the lives of hunted animals directly. Prior to the Hunting Act of 2004, hunt saboteurs used non-violent direct action to prevent the horrific deaths of thousands of hunted animals every year. Post hunt ban the primary tool of hunt sabotage has switched from the hunting horn to the video camera, as saboteurs monitor hunts with the aim of capturing their illegal activities on film. This in turn can immediately save lives on the day, and can lead to police action against the hunt concerned. Our range of pre-ban nvda tactics remain in active service, and saboteurs will continue to use them should they be deemed the best way forward on the day for the hunted animal at risk.

The HSA committee is made up of a maximum of 12 voting members, supported by as many non-voting members as is deemed necessary. All posts are voluntary and unpaid – **no-one on the HSA committee is paid** – as we believe that all money raised by membership and donations should go towards the running of the organisation, and to directly help saboteurs in the field. As a member of the HSA your contribution is vital – thank you.

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MYSpace:
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Facebook:
http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=32757379750

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EDITORIAL

Most sab groups have just witnessed yet another season of cub hunting with no obvious sign of the hunting Act being enforced and as usual the police being more concerned with harassing us than with the law breaking violent thugs in the hunt. Already, sabs have been hurt and police have shown little interest. Already foxes and hares have been killed and no one has been prosecuted for their deaths. Despite the grimness of having to deal with these sour faced bumpkins at such an early hour in the morning, cubbing has gone pretty well. Check out group news inside to see what some of the groups have been up to. If you can help your local group then please do, they would love to hear from you. Membership is creeping up at the moment and we have new sabs popping up in various parts of the country. This is either due to the looming threat of a repeal of the hunting act or because of the fantastic promotion from Lush our soap saviours who have tolerated abuse and intimidation from hunts to show their public support for hunt sabs.

Check out our new improved website, it looks great and you can now buy merchandise online.

www.huntsabs.org.uk



Welsh badger cull

Last year, Elin Jones (Welsh Rural Affairs Minister) took the extraordinary decision to authorise a badger killing programme in North Pembroke as a measure to halt the spread of bovine TB (bTB). This is against the recommendations of the Independent Scientific Group (ISG) who had supervised a 10yr trial of culling badgers in England, and in direct opposition to the actions of Hilary Benn, the Environment Secretary who decided (on the same advice) NOT to cull badgers in England but to concentrate on cattle control measures and vaccinating badgers.

The approach of the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) to bTB has been shambolic from the beginning. Word is the powerful farming unions in Wales refused to co-operate with increased cattle testing unless there was also a badger cull – nervous that their dirty practices would be shown to be the cause of much of the problem.

Currently cattle go to market, possibly with bTB, mix with all the other animals, who may also be incubating bTB. Then they are sold and travel to many and various locations, to mix with a new herd – free to pass on bTB to all their new mates. If you were looking for a quick way to deliberately pass on disease, you'd have to consider this as an option!!

Bovine TB in Wales increased by 177% between 2000 and 2002 when farmers restocked with TB-infected cattle after foot and mouth disease.

There are also travelling stud bulls who go out on loan from one farm to another, again possibly incubating bTB. Taking animals to agricultural shows helps spread the disease too.

In 2008 there were 711 herds overdue for routine bTB tests. WAG have accelerated testing and are now down to 18. Consequently there has been an increase in the number of positive reactors. Farming unions have been misusing this information as evidence of a huge increase in bTB rather than an increase in detection.

So, Elin Jones's cunning plan is to set up an Intensive Pilot Area (IPA) of 200 sq km, where farms will be required to test cattle before moving them and to increase bio-security on their land (e.g. protecting animal feed from contamination). You won't be alone in thinking if this disease is so dreadful and devastating – why weren't they doing this anyway?

Sadly, under influence from farmers, Jones also decided to include a badger cull in the IPA. This will make a nonsense of the evaluation of the inevitable reduction in TB -- the farmers will just say that it's because badgers are being killed.

To allow this cull to take place WAG need to change the law – badgers and their setts are protected by law. So over the summer a 'consultation' took place on how to carry out the cull.

WAG seek to make it an offence to -

- take into captivity, harbour, conceal or otherwise protect wild members of the badger species to prevent their destruction; or
- in any other way obstruct or interfere with anything which has been, is being or is to be done or used in connection with that destruction.

They even have a clause which means they can compel the landowner to assist.

So we would have a bizarre situation, where in England it will be an offence to interfere with badgers and in Wales it would be an offence to protect them.

The order, which will allow this change in the law, is currently before WAG and Assembly Members (AMs) have just 40 days to make objections. So if unchallenged it will be law by mid-November. The cull would then be likely to start on 1 May 2010, ironically the same time the England is planning to start vaccinating badgers.

WAG have put out a tender for the contract to carry out the cull. They have also applied to the EU for additional funds as they are fast running out of cash and are planning to carry out the cull for 5 yrs.

The only reason bTB is considered a problem is because farmers make a profit whilst people continue to eat beef and drink milk – so if you are still doing it. STOP. Go vegan.

Two AMs – Lorraine Barrett and Peter Black -- have challenged the order and will put their case before the Senedd (Welsh parliament) on November 4, after which there will be a straight vote.

Sadly the challenge was voted against and the cull looks set to continue.



photo courtesy of Stan


come and see us
HSA AGM & Party!
sat 5th June 2010
Live bands & DJ
great vegan food,
licensed bar & stuff to buy
Saturday 5th June 2010
Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Holborn London, WC1R 4RL
1pm til Midnight

SUPPORT ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS



JONNY ABLEWHITE (TB4885)
Birthday: 27 January
HMP Ranby, Retford, Notts, DN22 8EU.
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

SARAH WHITEHEAD (VM7684)
Birthday: 12 February
HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Middx TW15 3JZ
Sentenced to two years for removing a beagle from a garden where it was kept muzzled in a wooden cage and regularly beaten.
Cheques/postal orders made out to 'The Governor'. Books, stationery, stamps; saes. Write prisoner name/number on the back.

GREGG AVERY (TA7450)
Birthday: 5 December
HMP Send, Ripley Road, Woking, Surrey GU23 7LJ.
Sentenced on 21 Jan 2009 to nine years in connection with HLS.
stamps (12 in letter); Self-addressed envelopes, cheques/postal orders made out to 'HMP Headquarters' with inmate's name and number on front and sender's details on reverse.

NATASHA AVERY (NR8987)
Birthday: 28 December
HMP Send, Ripley Road, Woking, Surrey GU23 7LJ.
Sentenced on 21 Jan 2009 to nine years in connection with HLS.
Cheques/postal orders made out to 'The Governor'. Stationery, stamps; saes, blank cards, but no Bday or Anni cards. Write prisoner name and number on the back.

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; p/os/cheques payable to HMP LOWDHAM GRANGE inmate's name & no on back & name/address of sender. No paper or envelopes.

DAN AMOS (VN7818)
Birthday: 19 November
HMP & YOI Guys Marsh, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 0AH
Sentenced on 21 Jan 2009 to four years in connection to the campaign against HLS.
Writing pad (non ring binder), envs £5.00 of stamps. Cheques/POs made out to 'HM Prison Service' inmate's name/number on back, with a return address.

DAN WADHAM (A5705AA)
Birthday: 3rd February
HMP Camp Hill, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5PB.
Sentenced on 21 Jan 2009 to five years in connection with HLS.
Only cheques and postal orders can be sent in made out to 'HMPS' with inmate's name and number on front and the sender's details on reverse.

MEL BROUGHTON (TN9138)
Birthday: 5 July
HMP Frankland, Brasside, Durham, County Durham DH1 5YD
Sentenced to 10 yeads in relation to the SPEAK campaign.
SAEs; a small, non ring-binded calendar; Postal Orders made out on front to "HMPS", with the inmate's name and number on back, and also the sender's name and address if there is room

GAVIN MEDD-HALL (WV9475)
Birthday: 20 March
HMP Coldingley, Shaftesbury Road, Bisley, Woking, Surrey GU24 9EX
Sentenced on 21 Jan 2009 to eight years in connection with HLS.
What you can send: stamps (12 in letter); Saes, cheques/postal orders made to 'HMP Headquarters' with Gavin's name, number and sender's details on reverse. (Please remember that Gavin has poor eyesight and will appreciate if you write in clear, large writing).

HEATHER NICHOLSON (VM4859)
Birthday: 30 January
HMP Foston Hall, Foston, Derby, Derbyshire DE65 5DN
Sentenced on 21 Jan 2009 to eleven years in connection to the campaign against HLS.
Cheques/postal orders made out to 'The Governor'. Stationery, stamps; saes, blank cards. Write prisoner name and number on the back.

NICOLE VOSPER VM9385
Birthday: 15 February
HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Middx TW15 3JZ
Nicole Vosper made a plea at Winchester Crown Court on 16/03/09 on charges relating to Huntingdon Life Sciences and was remanded.
Cheques/postal orders made out to 'The Governor'. Books, stationery, stamps; saes. Write prisoner name/number on the back.

WHAT TO EXPECT ON YOUR FIRST DAY OUT SABBING

what was your first time like?

IF YOU ARE QUITE INTERESTED IN GOING OUT SABBING BUT DON'T KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT, HERE ARE A FEW POINTERS AND A FEW EXTRACTS OF OTHER PEOPLE EXPERIENCES ON THEIR FIRST DAY OUT SABBING.

PREPARING YOURSELF FOR GOING SABBING

Sabbing can be wet and cold so make sure you wear suitable outdoor clothing. You can spend a lot of time out on foot so several layers which you can remove as you warm up are better than one thick layer. We sometimes have to negotiate barbed wire so it's up to you whether you wear your best gortex jacket or not. Make sure you bring enough food and drink for the day. Most foxhunts stay out from 11am until 4-5pm during the main season, beagle packs tend to have a shorter day.

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU GET THERE

You will almost definitely meet up with your sab group beforehand and travel to the meet together. Sabs are pretty friendly and groups will look after new people. Make sure people in the van/landrover know its your first time out. have a good read of the tactics on the website and try to relate them to what you see going on during the day. No one will expect you to know what's going on straight away and more experienced sabs will be happy to answer your questions. Do try to stay focused on what's happening, you'll pick things up much quicker that way. It's easy if you've no idea what's happening to sit back and leave it to the others but if you pay attention you'll be surprised how quickly it all fits into place.

Sometimes out sabbing there are confrontational situations, usually its just verbal abuse from members of the hunt. You'll notice that sabs tend to ignore this and get on with what they are there to do. Don't say anything which will antagonise the hunt. Occasionally hunts will be threatening, it is important that you all stick together, don't get split up from your group. Sab groups look out for each other and tend to be quite good at assessing when a situation could become violent.

SAB EXPERIENCES

~ My first day out sabbing was with the Puckeridge hunt in Hertfordshire. There were plenty of sabs, but me and another first timer got separated from the hunt and the rest of the sabs. We were walking along a road when a massive fox bolted past us about ten metres away. We sprayed like crazy, and ten seconds later the whole pack of hounds came charging in pursuit, hit our spray, and stopped speaking, started going round in circles and headed off in the wrong direction. Text book sabbing, and I was hooked, the feeling of knowing that we had saved that fox inspired me to relentlessly sab for the next ten years...



~ I had been involved in disrupting hunts in the early eighties, but my first proper day sabbing was in 1996. Croydon, Brixton and Guildford sabs paid the Surrey Union a visit. Right from the start I was very impressed by how welcoming the other members of the group were to a newcomer in their midst. When we got to the hunt I really showed my naivete by trying to block the bridleway the hunt were using by standing in the middle of it! Luckily for me, one of the other sabs towed me out the way before I got trampled into the ground. As the day went on I quickly learnt some of the other essential dos and don'ts of sabbing. One of the dilemmas often faced by sabs is whether or not to enter a covert. On this occasion, three of us had out run the rest of the group and we found ourselves on the edge of a wood with a lot of undergrowth. We could hear the hounds in the wood, but the other sabs quickly decided to hold back as trampling through the undergrowth could easily have put up a fox. Their judgment was spot on, for moments later the first fox I had seen in the field strolled casually past, even pausing to look at us! As soon as he had gone on his way we went into the wood and sprayed liberal amounts of citronella across his path just as the hounds went into full cry. I shall never forget then watching how the other sabs turned the pack with home made whips and voice calls nor the feeling of elation at having help save the life of a hunted animal. It must have made an impression, because I have rarely missed a Saturday since.

~ Nature shows her true beauty in later months of the year, from spring till September everything within nature seems peaceful and calm. Sitting in the back of a land rover one crisp autumn's morning is where I first experienced the true horror that autumn and winter brings to the creatures of the countryside.

Myself and around 9 others were crammed into the back of a land rover awaiting any sign or movement of the event that was ever approaching nearer and nearer. The people who I was out with knew what to look for and seemed fairly confident about how the day was going to pan out. I began to learn that most people have their place in what we are doing - although everyone chips in as and when they can but most have their own actions and ways that they are skilled in - blowing a horn for example. I had known of the hunt sabs 2 years before the first day I ever came out and was always very curious as to what actually went on beneath all the propaganda.

I was told we were looking out for horseboxes that would be on their way to the meet of the hunt, this way we could follow them and sab the hunt from the meet. As soon as we spotted one we were off on its tail.

As the day went on I was guided by the more experienced sabs who regularly kept me up to date and informed on what was happening. We crossed many beautiful crisp frost drenched fields and woodland on that day. As we were walking through a patch of woodland a horn began to sound out through the calm stillness of the day - so loud it felt as though it could crack ice - a piercing high pitched sound that will haunt me for life. The hounds began to cry and it was obvious to all of us even me what was about to happen, the hounds had come across a scent. The more experienced sabs got everyone into place.



Some of our group had horns and citronella spray at the ready, tools that at times can prove very useful in confusing the hounds and getting them off the scent of a fox. Suddenly it grew closer - a chill went up my spine and adrenalin kicked in preparing me for what I was about to do. Nearly every sab had cameras at the ready - ready to film the illegal and degrading acts that may just may be about to happen. Fortunately nothing came of it. Cameras were on the hunt that whole day and due to the sheer presence of us being there they were too scared to kill anything for fear of prosecution and backlash from the media that would no doubt come with it. I have now been sabbing 3 years and have learnt and gained a lot from everybody involved and the experiences that I have had in this time, every single time I come home from having sabbed a hunt I feel a huge sense of achievement.

GROUP NEWS

SOUTH DEVON Animal Rights have been out and about already and several of our hunts down 'ere in the west country have already had their opening meets, one of which was the East Cornwall who had their opening meet the second week in October. We only seemed to have to be there to keep them on the move and away from any foxes so not a lot needed to be done there as they just kept running.

The South Devon Foxhounds are still cubbing, well trying to cub I should say. They have been done on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays and do not know if they are coming or going or which day to go out on so as to try and be out without us. They have been trying to sneak out and lose us but this is also not working – at the moment we've been lucky enough to keep finding them and also people calling us to say where they are. Let's hope we can keep this up. They have two new whips that we have been running circles around. We've found the hounds have been responding extremely well to our voice calls, getting the whole pack when we call, to the hunt's despair! Hope the rest of you wonderful guys are having as good a time as we are at the moment.

READING sabs have had some good days out with the VAGSB during cubbing. On our first visit we arrived just as a fox popped out of the wood – the hunt soon decided to let him/her go when they realised we were right there with them. We also visited the Tedworth who had their opening meet a week earlier than usual. They seemed particularly aggressive and mowed down two sabs with their quad bike.

New people are always welcome; If you want to join us call 07984977603 or readinghuntsabs@hotmail.com

BRISTOL sabs have been out with the Ross Harriers, Cotswold Vale and the Berkeley so far this season. The Cotswold Vale and Berkeley were not at all happy to see us and spent a fair amount of time going back and forth whilst "trying" to hatch a cunning plan, but to no avail and just simply legging it leaving vast "hunting" territory untouched.



Meanwhile the Harriers just haven't grasped drag hunting – a pathetic excuse of a trail whilst "casting hounds" in the other direction? More visits are planned with education in mind. Bristol sabs are also planning a benefit, so sad old punks keep your ears peeled!

Southampton have mainly been out with the New Forest Foxhounds during cubbing, and have even managed a few sporadic mid-week drive-bys. Their behaviour has made it obvious that were it not for the presence of our group, joined by Bournemouth who now have their own landrover, they would be hunting foxes in defiance of both the law and their Forestry Commission licence. Tactics from the hunt have consisted of "run and hide" and "ride 'em down", the latter occurring on one occasion in front of a group of walkers whose presence saved some of our group from serious injury. The attention of the "trail layer" is now focused firmly on where the sabs are and informing the huntsman of the location so he can avoid us. In itself this could be seen as a mark of our effectiveness but we have to put up with the annoying twerp. What passes for wit makes it like babysitting a 5yr old trying to be clever.

SOUTH WALES sabs spent the summer recruiting and raising awareness - as well as much needed funds. We took part in the regional skills day which was fun and a great way to induct our new sabs. The cubbing season started well with visits to the Cotswold Vale and Berkeley who were both openly cubbing in the classic style - well, until we turned up! We've had some landy troubles which look like they've been sorted now (thank you Lush!). The Lush campaign has been both exciting and inspiring. We've visited the Swansea and Cardiff stores where the staff are incredibly motivated and enthusiastic and seem to be recruiting for us! Thanks to the groups we work with regularly - you know who you are and we loves ya!

NORTH AND EAST LONDON Sabs found that the Essex and Suffolk hunt started the season a week early last week and were blatantly showing no regard for the hunting ban. They were hunting illegally all day and at



one point the huntsman was off his horse and leading his hounds on full cry after a fox. Sabs followed him despite attacks from the terriermen. The police arrived whilst the hounds were on cry and up close to the fox, chasing it around in circles inside a covert. The police could blatantly see they were going to kill a fox, yet when asked to intervene they informed us that a "trail had been taken through the covert". They then continued to threaten sabs with arrest for trespass. Blatant display of partiality towards the hunt. Luckily, thanks to sabs, the fox got away. We have noticed that since the Tories are talking about bringing back hunting, everyone is acting as if hunting it is legal again. We think that although the ban is pathetic it is a lot better than nothing and it wouldn't be so unworkable if the police decided to police it as they should do. We have been in so many situations like the one above where the hunt could've been stopped (or even prosecuted) if the police would do their job properly. We've got loads of sabs waiting to come out, but we are struggling with vehicles; we have one on the road after having to get lots of repairs done but we are aiming to get another as soon as we get some more money. But we are partying hard for the foxes, however – fundraising, making benefit cafes and gigs!

Sabs from **HASTINGS, BRIGHTON AND CROYDON** have continued to team up to take on the hunts in the South East and in general numbers from each area are rising. Brighton has a new Landrover, which although needing a lick of paint seems reliable. Unlike last season we have had better luck in tracking down hunts cub hunting with regular trips to monitor and where appropriate interfere with the South Down and Eridge. As seems to be the norm, no effort is made to lay a drag until sabs turn up and then a half-hearted effort is made. As September turned into October even this



pretence was stopped and for the last few meets leading up to the start of the season no drags have been witnessed.
We made odd trips over to the Crawley and Horsham just to let them know we haven't forgotten them since their attempt to stop sabs and monitors by their failed court injunction. Since the court case failed they seem to have stopped having their own monitors to follow us around.
The last day of cubbing turned into a mammoth effort, with the South Down being monitored until 1pm with sabs closely following and no scents in evidence. One rider took a tumble and was seriously hurt and had to be taken away by ambulance. Needless to say the hunt showed their compassion for their fallen comrade by carrying on as normal. At around 1pm they packed up and just when we were ready for the trip home a phone call was received to say that the Crawley and Horsham had left their kennels. One hour's drive later we turned up in their territory and spent the day on and off keeping them running. They hunted until dusk finishing at 6pm. So with the early start and traveling it was a full 13 hours of sabbing. At least the season proper means they will pack up by 4pm in most cases.

The **BATH** Sab group is resurgent this season, with new members coming from the Lush campaign and regular information stalls. For the Lush campaign we held 2 presentations for the staff and managers, attempted a piece for the local paper, but waited for an hour for them to turn up, thanks Bath Chronicle for your no show! We also held a information stall outside the shop on Saturday, giving out leaflets and postcards, having a great response.
Unfortunately our old Nissan has bitten the dust, too much work needed to get it through its MOT, so we have limited transport to get us out, but hopefully we'll be up and running (but not too much) soon. We've got a Christmas street collection booked and monthly ones in the new year.

The **NOTTS** group have been very busy during cubbing and have been out since the start of September. So far we've sabbed the Burton, the Meynall and South Staffs, the South Notts and the High Peak Harriers.
As usual all our hunts are quite blatantly flouting the hunting act and no longer even make a pretence of hunting within the law (hardly surprising when the police only turn up to deal with us and are never remotely interested in what the hunt are doing). Lincolnshire Police once again win the award for most biased policing, turning up in large numbers when we sabbed the Burton (already in the area due to the Highgate rabbit farm demo happening a couple of miles away). Although their wildlife officer has been forced by his superiors to take his BASC sticker off his vehicle it is still obvious where his sympathies lie! They also had a cameraman out from the show "cops on camera" so watch out for the lovely Notts sabs on your TV in the near future!

The South Notts, dealing with sabs for the first time in about 15 years due to their not hunting Saturdays and their part time hobby of breaking sabs' arms, also decided to call the police when we arrived. This important task was delegated to their bumpkin countryman who wasn't sure what the phone



number was until helpful sabs suggested he call 999. Due to the incompetence of his call we all hung around for an hour and a quarter waiting for the police. Great news for us as the sun came up and burnt the scent off. When the police turned up they didn't seem to know what was going on and the huntsman, in disgust, had a couple of gallops and packed up.
We also had a really successful benefit gig that raised some much needed funds. Thanks to 'the livewire' who organised it. You know who you are and we really appreciate all your hard work. We've also been involved with the Lush campaign, giving talks to the staff in several stores. We've been really impressed by their enthusiasm for the campaign and we've already had people making contact who want to come sabbing with us.
We're all looking forward to the start of the main season so we can stay in bed longer before getting out there to help protect wildlife in the midlands.
12/9/09 **SHEFFIELD** sabs sabbed the



Bramham & Badsworth near Leeds. They were completely blatantly illegally cubbing, going through woods and corn fields with the field surrounding to stop foxes escaping. The huntsman was even seen off his horse scrabbling through undergrowth, either for foxes or for an earth. The hounds got onto a fox in the first wood of the day which they hunted for some time before chasing it into a used badger sett. Terrier men started filling in the entrances to start a dig out but left as we approached, we unblocked the sett. They later hunted a fox out of a corn field and into the same wood but hounds were stopped and sent away.

26/9/09 Bramham & Badsworth again. As we arrived the pack went into cry and chased a fox out of the small wood they were in, the fox passed us and the hounds were stopped. Just minutes later another fox was seen running from the hunt and the hunt was diverted away from it. We ran pretty much all day, keeping very close to the pack throughout and no foxes were killed.

17/10/09 We attended a meet of the Bramhan & Badsworth. After struggling to find them and starting to follow, we noticed police pouring into the area at an alarming rate, and they were looking to arrest sabs – for no particular reason. So we decided to head for the York and Ainsty South Hunt, who were hunting nearby. With some police following us all the way, we made a break for it down a footpath, heading towards the sound of horn calls. We found the hunt had been hunting in a large wood and were about to dig out a fox. As we approached the terrier men walked back their vehicle, with spades and terrier in hand. After the terrier men left, we checked out the earth which was an active badger sett that they had already started to dig, but little damage was caused. So, another good day, and with no arrests!

ASSOCIATION OF HUNT SABOTEURS (AOHS)

Lush are running the same promotion with the bath bar fabulous Mrs. Fox for the AOHS here in Ireland. No trouble so far from hunters – guess they are too busy dealing with the Puppy farm legislation. This is the first time in years we have secured legislation pertaining to hunting. The stag hunt ban will end carted stag hunting with amendments being made to the wildlife act. The hunts are even more worried by the puppy farming bill. Meetings were held by panicked hunters who obviously don't want their breeding kennels inspected. With the ward union hunt now sorted (hopefully) it's back to sabbing this season.

CUMBRIAN hunt sabs have been out up on the fells since the beginning of October with us going out twice a week. And the good news is that we have more people coming out with us. The Blencathra spent one afternoon just collecting his hounds after sabs took the pack off Barry. The new sabs were chuffed with what they had done, and it really inspired them. Plus Barry and co. came in for some stick off the tourists, who could not believe that hunting still went on, we put them right on this, and informed them of the local packs flouting the law. On Saturday Oct. 24th, after not seeing much for the first part of the day, we came across the pack at the latter part of day. The support took it upon themselves to block us in. Moments later we saw the fox on the middle of the crag, with hounds not far behind, so two sabs, mixed in with twenty or so foot followers of the blencathra holloaed the pack off the fox. A little while later, the same fox was seen making its get away, while we enjoyed a pleasant conversation with supporters of the Blenie. We have also paid a couple of visits to the Melbreak. One meet saw sabs about a thousand ft up, whip the hounds off the line of a fox, on a narrow crag. Well this October has been busy for Cumbria sabs, and things are on the up. It looks good for us, not so for them!

To get in touch with Cumbria hunt sabs contact phcumbria/myspace

With a couple of early mornings under our belt it was back to business again for **EAST KENT** sabs with the start of the cubbing season. After getting up at silly o'clock and sitting outside the kennels, we were able to follow the hunt from the start.
We mainly stuck to following the East Kent and we are glad we did. With their new hunt master and whipper in, who looked all of twelve, they had no plan to keep to the law. They have given up using the fake trail scent and don't even bother to go out and pretend to drag it around. When we were around they had no problem holding up the woods and sending the dogs in. Luckily after we had gone in to investigate we saw a large male fox who quickly went to ground. After dousing the wood with citronella, there was no way he would be found. They packed up shortly after. It has already been an interesting start to the season with some of the hunts new members being particularly vocal about being filmed. One member informed us that it was a breach of his human rights and would get somebody to confiscate our camera. He didn't and we keep on filming, after all, we were on a public road. He was joined by another simpleton who told us that he wanted the hunt to kill as many foxes as they could that day before waffling on about how this was the best kind of conservation. I don't know where they found these 2, but they must be getting hard pressed for members.
After a summer recruitment drive, our numbers have almost doubled with new people taking an interest and getting involved.

We feel confident and are ready to tackle another season.

Due to vehicle repairs and other commitments **PEWSEY VALE** sabs first time out for this cubbing season was not until the end of September- a month late for us, but those lie-ins were heaven!
First outing was to the Cotswold Vale Foxhounds. We joined up with Birmingham, South Wales and Forest of Dean sabs. The first encounter with the hunt was of riders completely surrounding a wood, and horn calls coming from within, so obviously trail hunting there. Our cameras pointing towards the wood was enough to get riders using their mobile phones and the huntman quickly moved on- job done. Hounds picked up a scent in a maize field and were soon in full cry. The huntsman, riders and terrier boys were so intent on trying to eject us from the area that they lost most of the hounds, who in turn lost the scent.
The following week was the Ross Harriers opening meet (3rd October seems very early). This lot are a secretive bunch so it was only fitting that we should turn up, joining forces with Birmingham, Gloucester, Bristol and Forest of Dean sabs. We looked more impressive than they did for an opening meet. Sabs had to have their wits about them as hares were popping up regularly. Two foxes were also seen. Despite the number of hares there were still no kills, but some very tired sabs at the end of the day.
We met up with South Wales, Bristol and Birmingham sabs to visit the Berkeley Hunt next .They moved fast and keeping up was hard. The Berkeley terrier boys definitely need lessons in footpath location, which sabs were more than willing to give. (Brain over Brawn!)
We had a second visit to the Cotswold Vale Foxhounds with Birmingham, Gloucester and Bristol sabs. The day started well with the huntsman and hounds running from sabs. Unfortunately vehicle breakdown for most of the day meant that sabs were out on foot.

We did our local pack the "sneaky" Tedworth joined by South Wales, Reading and Cirencester sabs. According to the master / huntsman we should all have been at home because as we well know he "hunts on Fridays, not Saturdays".
Our distrusting nature and sitting at the kennels for 2 hours paid off- He went out AND it was opening meet a week early- wonder why? They were not overly pleased to see us.
Two sabs were driven at and over by the terrier quad bike, pinning both sabs against our vehicle and then dragging them to the ground. Both sabs suffered serious bruising and cuts. The police were called and investigations (hopefully) are taking place. As reported many times before in the pages of Howl, arrest, let alone conviction, of hunters can never be expected no matter how serious the attack or amount of evidence against them. Two hunt saboteurs have lost their lives in hunt vehicle attacks with no convictions- will these people never learn just how seriously dangerous it is to use their vehicles as weapons. They have absolutely no regard for our lives.
Despite this cowardly attack sabs still stayed with the hunt for the rest of the day and averted hounds from picking up two foxes.
To end our group news on a much more uplifting note Pewsey Vale Sabs would like to say a huge thank you to LUSH the sabs "Fairy Godmother " for the great work they are doing with Fabulous Mrs Fox. A special thankyou to Swindon Lush and staff for letting us have our stall poster outside the shop on the soap launch day whilst we handed out leaflets. Inside the store staff were putting back issues of Howl inside customers Lush bag of purchases. The response from the general public was overwhelmingly positive.

During the summer, members of the **NORTH WEST HUNT** Saboteurs Association have been collecting information on shooting estates through out the North West. We have held many info stalls and in October we supported the Lush campaign (The Hunts are still at it) by handing out HSA leaflets and postcards in the main shop in Manchester. During the course of the day we also showed a video of what sabs do best, 'saving animals', this attracted lost of positive support. We will be returning to the shop again before the end of the year, this despite threats from hunt supporters to disrupt any planned events.

We have also attended a few meets of the Cheshire Forest FH, during one meet we filmed the hunt flushing a covert, looking for foxes and not even pretending to follow a trail. The hunt was also reported to the police for blocking up badger setts. Will report in the next issue of Howl what happened. The High Peak Hunt in Derbyshire has also had the pleasure of our company on a few occasions. I must also say a big thanks to our new supporters in Cheshire, Derbyshire and Cumbria who have been passing us meets for the different hunts in the North west, its most appreciated.





Legal News

Hunt protesters get police payout

Eleven anti-hunt protesters have been given a total of £38,300 in damages from Derbyshire Police. The force made the out-of-court settlement after admitting its policing of a demonstration in January 2008 was heavy handed. Lawyers said protesters had been wrongfully arrested and imprisoned after they had peacefully followed the Meynell and South Staffordshire Hunt. No charges were brought against the Hunt Saboteurs Association members.

They had been following a few fields behind the hunt. Police vans and the force helicopter were sent to the hunt, which goes through Ashbourne, after the protesters were seen. They were chased by police and arrested before each protester was handcuffed to another and forced to walk across several fields, the solicitor said. The protesters were held at Derby police station overnight, interviewed and released on bail.

Ifitkhar Manzoor, of Irwin Mitchell solicitors, said: "My clients were arrested under the Trade Union Regulations Act for disrupting a lawful activity. Sending several police cars and a helicopter to confront a group of peaceful hunt protesters seems to be a little over the top and the police need to ensure they have cause to make arrests before they take innocent people into custody. The issue for hunt saboteurs is, of course, that it has to be done in a lawful and meaningful basis and if they do break the law then of course police have power to arrest. On this particular occasion we say the police made unlawful arrests."

In a statement, Derbyshire Police said: "Derbyshire Constabulary can confirm that it has come to an out-of-court settlement relating to the arrest of 11 people in January last year. A claim for unlawful arrest and detention was made against the force and an early offer of settlement was made. A total of £38,300 compensation was agreed".

ACPO police investigators manual October 2009

A couple of useful extracts.....

5.3 Indications of illegal hunting posing as trail hunting.

Lack of trail laying equipment (dusters).

Searching for mammals in coverts.

Hounds following a scent across areas where the scent was unlikely to have been laid e.g.

through crops, and across main roads,

railway lines, thick hedgerows or domestic property.

Repeated reports of 'accidental kills'.

Earths or badger setts blocked.

Presence of terriers and digging equipment. It should however be borne in mind that such dogs may only be in the company of hunt followers or those responsible for maintenance of hedges and fences.

Chapter 16 Policing hunts

16.1 Whilst police have a duty to prevent and detect criminal offences the priority given to policing hunts should be determined locally, taking account of other needs and priorities.

16.2 Forces should consider the impact of policing operations relating to hunting activity. Such assessment must include the consequences of frustration if sections of the community feel a legitimate (if sometimes disproportionate) expectation is not being addressed.

16.3 When policing hunts the actions of the police must be proportionate and is

likely to be subject of significant scrutiny.

16.4 The policing of hunts presents health and safety risks not normally encountered.

16.5 When dealing with hunting issues officers should have regard to ACPO guidance on enforcement of the Hunting Act 2004

ACPO Manual of Guidance – Keeping the Peace,

ACPO Strategic and Tactical Considerations.

Critical Incident Policies

Community Tension Policies

Public Order Policies,

16.6 Hunting activity usually takes place on private property. Where it does the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 might apply.

16.7 Officers should refrain from condoning or advising on specific activities, in particular as to whether those activities amount to exempt hunting.

16.8 Any allegation of illegal hunting should be directed to either the FHLO or a DHLO. This requirement is in addition to any deployments considered necessary to address an offence in progress.

16.9 The Force Hunt Liaison Officer will complete an initial cursory review of the evidence and where appropriate ensure that it is properly allocated for investigation.

16.10 Investigating officers will avoid providing witnesses with views on the strength of evidence and the prospects of conviction.

16.11 Investigating officers will conduct a thorough and effective investigation into allegations of criminal offences. Verbal explanations should not be taken at face value and corroborative evidence of exempt hunting should be sought.

16.12 The seizure of any carcass should be undertaken only after full consideration has been given to heath risks in particular zoonosis (Animal borne diseases).

16.13 Consideration should be given to the gathering of optical evidence of any dead mammals thought to be subject of an offence under the act.

16.14 Where post mortem of a recovered carcass is considered the advice of either the State Veterinary Service or the RSPCA might be sought as to the evidential benefits & requirements.

16.15 Investigating officers might choose to consult with the RSPCA. In doing so they should have regard to the ACPO memorandum of understanding with the RSPCA (In preparation).

Are you moving?

If you move house, please don't forget to tell us.

The HSA has a disproportionate number of returned envelopes due to unknown addressees, which inevitably means wasted funds on postage.

We greatly appreciate your support and want to ensure you receive your precious copy of Howl as usual.

Make sure we know where you are!!

ta muchly

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.

JUL.	**S. SHORTHOSE**
	S. MCGREGOR
	A. TURNER
AUG.	**P. FENN**
	P. RICHARDSON
	P. PERRIN
SEPT.	**P. WIBBERLEY**
	A. BENDING
	B. CHAPMAN
OCT.	**D. THURLEY**
	P. FENN
	J. INSLEY



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.....

VERMIN PATROL

CRUELTY CASES IN THE COURTS

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

bloodsports
VERMIN

Hunt supporter **Benjamin James Elliot**, 21, of The Stables, Winterbourne Came, near Dorchester was ordered to pay £1,065 in fines and costs on 23/6/09 after magistrates watched 30 minutes of film footage showing him using his Land Rover to stop a hunt monitor's car travelling freely on a Dorset road. The prosecution told magistrates at Blandford that Elliot's manner of driving was "designed to intimidate and harass". He admitted driving without reasonable consideration and causing a highway obstruction at the Cattistock Hunt near Abbotsbury.

A terrierman and whipper-in for the South Dorset Hunt is to go before Bournemouth magistrates. In two cases Christopher Leadbeater will face charges of interfering with different badger setts in March and November last year.

Two land owners have been found guilty of hare coursing following a two-day trial. Former racehorse trainer Peter Easterby, 79, and Major John Shaw, 56, were convicted at Scarborough magistrates' on 30/7/09 of attending and allowing their land to be used for hare coursing events in March 2007. During the trial the court heard and saw video evidence from two animal welfare activists who secretly filmed footage during dog trials at land belonging to Easterby and Shaw. The events were organised by the North Yorkshire Greyhound Field Trialing Club.

Four men were caught hare-coursing, at Angmering Park, on the South Downs. Thomas Joseph Connors, 31, from Wallington, Surrey; Edward Mark Connors, 40, from Horley, Surrey; James O'Brien, 38, from Saltbox Hill, Biggin Hill, Kent and James Robb, 24, from Stanmore, Middlesex, used dogs to hunt wild hares on the Downs between Worthing and Arundel. Each of the men was fined £200 and ordered to pay costs of £250 each when they appeared at Worthing magistrates' on 31/7/09.

A Crowborough man arrested after shooting squirrels to feed his pet ferrets, walked free from court after magistrates accepted he had a "reasonable excuse" for carrying an air rifle in public. Matthew George Good, 21, was arrested after a police patrol spotted him concealing a .22 Webley Hawk air rifle behind a tree on the edge of Tunbridge Wells Common. Good, of Belvedere Gardens, admitted he had been shooting on the common as friends had told him it was allowed by the Lord of the Manor of Rusthall under ancient by-laws. Jeremy Aldous, portfolio manager for landowners Target- follow, denied such permission existed.



The case against Robert McCarthy, 35, of The Kennels, Cannongate, accused of illegal hunting has collapsed after a judge ruled there was insufficient evidence to convict him. McCarthy, a huntsman with the Percy Hunt, was alleged to have been chasing a fox with a pack of dogs while on horseback. But on day two of the three-day trial, at South East Northumberland magistrates on 13/8/09, District Judge Stephen Earl said the prosecution had failed to put forward sufficient evidence to convict McCarthy.

Clarissa Dickson-Wright escaped punishment on 1/9/09 after she admitted being a spectator at a hare coursing event. Dickson-Wright and race horse trainer Sir Mark Prescott joined hundreds of hunt supporters for two days coursing event held on farmland near Malton, North Yorkshire, in March 2007. The event was secretly filmed by animal rights activists and the case against Dickson-Wright, 62, and Prescott, 61, was a private prosecution brought by the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). At Scarborough magistrates District Judge Kristina Harrison gave both defendants an absolute discharge and awarded no costs against them, but warned that future offenders would be dealt with more seriously.





On 18/9/09 a district judge threw out a case against a huntsman accused of two counts of hunting foxes with dogs because of insufficient evidence. At Penrith magistrates the court heard several witnesses see terrier men digging out foxes from two holes using terrier dogs and tracking devices, while John Harrison, 48, of Grassthwaite Howe in Glenridding, who is the huntsman of the Ullswater Foxhounds, appeared stood by with the pack of hounds. However, despite producing videos and testaments from six hunt monitors who had secretly watched the hunt, there was no clear proof that a fox was ever involved in the hunt. Speaking after the verdict, Harrison said that he did not know what the terrier men were doing digging their holes.

On 23/9/09 an Angus man was fined £300 after being found guilty of hunting rabbits on private land without permission. James McPhee, 43, from Monifieth, had been charged with hare coursing but after trial at Forfar Sheriff Court, Sheriff Alan Miller ruled there was not enough evidence to convict him. McPhee, 27 Brook Street, had pleaded not guilty to hunting hares with three lurcher dogs; he claimed he was there to hunt for rabbits as food for his three ferrets.

Martin Johnstone was spotted digging holes and sending a dog down to hunt foxes on wasteland near to Drumchapel. The 32-year-old was arrested after police arrived and saw him and a fox running from a hole he had dug. At Glasgow Sheriff Court on 19/10/09,

Johnstone, of Fraser Avenue, Dumbarton, admitted deliberately hunting the animals. His co-accused Alexander McCafferty, 25, of Boghead Avenue, Dumbarton, had his not guilty plea accepted. Sheriff Norman Ritchie reduced Johnstone's fine from £600 to £500 because of his early plea of guilty.

badger
VERMIN

A gamekeeper on the royal family's Highland estates at Balmoral was fined after a badger was killed by one of his snares, breaching wildlife crime legislation. On 17/6/09 Robbie Elliot, 45, admitted he had failed to check a snare at least once a day at Birkhall, the snare had killed a badger, which had lain there for at least two weeks. Elliot was fined £450 at Stonehaven sheriff court for breaching the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 after Sheriff Patrick Davies rejected a defence plea for leniency. The gamekeeper was, however, cleared of a second similar charge of failing to check a snare after pleading not guilty to that offence. The snares were placed near a "stinkpit", where animal carcasses are dumped into a small pit to lure predators such as foxes, stoats and weasels, which are then snared and killed by gamekeepers.

On 19/8/09 Anthony Rogers, 58, of Breconside Farm, Moffat, admitted two charges contrary to the Wildlife and Countryside Act and one of breaching the Protection of Badgers Act and was fined £3,500. Rogers was accused of snaring and beating to death six badgers.

On 22/8/09 Richard Michael Butler, of Gosfield, near Halstead, was fined £1,500 at Colchester magistrates' after he admitted interfering with a badger sett. Butler admitted obstructing a badger sett entrance and was fined £1,500. The 53-year-old also pleaded guilty to using a pesticide in a sett, which badgers appeared to be using, without approval and was fined £500. Butler also admitted storing a toxic gas generating product without locking it up, not storing it properly and using it without the relevant training.

On 2/9/09 Gerard Monk, 27, of Millbrook Close, Wheelton, near Chorley and Paul Billington, 37, of Llydir Lane, Rossett, Clywd, who were caught badger digging by an undercover RSPCA inspector have avoided jail. Monk and Billington were filmed digging a badger sett near Whitchurch in Shropshire. Both men fled the scene when they realised they were being watched, but were later arrested and eventually found guilty of six charges after a two-day trial. The pair were sentenced at Shrewsbury magistrates to four months in prison, suspended for 18 months. Both must undertake 200 hours of community service and pay £6,000 costs each. Monk and Billington faced charges of attempting to kill, injure or take a badger, digging for a badger, interfering with a badger sett, causing a dog to enter the sett, disturbing a badger and hunting a badger. Monk said he had been rabbiting and was digging to free his dog, while Billington also claimed to be digging for Monk's terrier, which had run down a rabbit hole. Billington said in court this was the first occasion the two men had ever met and they had arranged to meet as he was interested in buying a terrier bitch from Monk. However, they were found to have badger digging equipment with them and the court heard that there were numerous inconsistencies with the pair's accounts.



dog fighting
VERMIN

A man described as a key player in a major dog-fighting scene was sentenced to four months in jail and banned from keeping dogs for life on 29/6/09. Barkat Hussain, 44, from Unett Street, Smethwick, West Midlands, trained pit-bull terriers for fighting and kept related medical supplies. He admitted keeping and training pit-bulls dogs in breach of a court order. He had previously been jailed and banned from keeping dogs, following involvement in a mass dog fight. District Judge Mark Layton said Hussain had shown a blatant disregard for court orders and liked training animals to fight. A raid on the premises in Dudley Road, Winson Green, where Hussain worked as a barber uncovered treadmills used for building dogs' muscles. Medical kits including skin staplers, syringes, and a solution used by vets to exterminate dogs were also discovered. Two of the dogs in Hussain's possession were kept in cages while another was found tethered to an upstairs balcony with 59 separate wounds.

On 18/9/09 seven men arrested at houses in Edinburgh appeared in court charged in connection with an organised dogfight. Terence Carlin, 21, and James Carlin, 23, both of Hay Gardens; Edmond Reid, 22, of Niddrie House Square; Ryan Moore, 21, of Hay Gardens; Mark Richardson, 22, of Cumnor Crescent; Darren Sutherland, 25, of Bingham Broadway; and Calum Gallagher, 20, of Gilberstoun, all Edinburgh, were charged under the Animal Health and Welfare Scotland Act 2006. Sutherland was also charged with road traffic offences. All the accused pleaded not guilty at Edinburgh Sheriff Court to the charge that they attended an animal fight at the Duddingston Mill public house in Duddingston Park South. Ryan Moore also denied being in charge of a dog that took part in a fight with another dog. James Carlin, Darren Sutherland and Calum Gallagher were all granted bail with the special condition that they did not enter the Duddingston Mill public house. The other four men were remanded in custody.

On 25/9/09 six people were jailed for their part in one of Europe's largest dog-fighting syndicates. Claire Parker, 44, of Kexby Lane, Kexby, Lincolnshire, was sentenced to 18 weeks in prison. The jury was told the ring was smashed following an investigation by the BBC's Panorama programme. Parker was also banned from keeping animals for 10 years. The court found that the syndicate had links to a gang in Northern Ireland, with paramilitary connections, who supplied illegal American pit bull dogs. Members of the ring attended fights as far away as Finland. Parker was found guilty of holding a fight in the garage at her home, which she shared with her husband, John Parker. He has since died in prison. She was found guilty of being present at a dog-fight, keeping premises for dog-fighting and possessing three pit bull dogs. She denied all the charges. Gary Adamson, 38, of Ramsey Crescent, Yarm, North Yorkshire, who pleaded guilty to six charges in connection with illegal dog-fighting, was given 23 weeks in prison. Mohammed Farooq, 33, of Daniels Road, Bordesley Green, Birmingham, who was found guilty on two counts of causing unnecessary suffering to an animal and possessing training equipment for dog-fighting, was sentenced to the maximum penalty of 26 weeks. Owen Batey, 40, of Cannock Road, Middlesbrough, was given 23 weeks in jail, having admitted setting two pit bulls on each other, being present at a dog-fight and owning a pit bull. Christopher Burgess, 42, of Longstone Way, Ladybrook, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, who pleaded guilty to one charge of keeping a banned dog, received 160 hours of community service. Both Adamson and Batey were banned from keeping animals for life. Another member of the ring, Kenneth King, 35, of Main Street, Ragnall, Newark, Nottinghamshire, was sentenced to 23 weeks, he was also banned from keeping animals for life and ordered to pay £1,500 in costs for eight charges related to fighting banned pit bull terriers which he had earlier admitted.

domestic
VERMIN

A cat killer was jailed for eight months and banned from keeping animals for life for a horrific catalogue of cruelty against his neighbours' pets. Anthony Docherty, 23, from Clarkston, Renfrewshire tortured five cats - scalping two of them, decapitating another three and pulling the tail off. Docherty pled guilty to seven charges of cruelty during an earlier hearing at Paisley sheriff court. But he denied ever stealing the pets or shouting and screaming at them. At Paisley on 22/6/09 he was sentenced to 12 months, which is reduced to eight months due to your early guilty plea. He was also disqualified indefinitely from owning or keeping any animal, taking possession of animals and taking charge of any animals.

HOW YOU CAN HELP END 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. Contact us if you don't already have a salesgoods order form, page 2.
- 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 AND 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*)

❒ £15 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 0845 450 0727 or email us - info@huntsabs.org.uk

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 Lodge, Kings Toll Road, Pembury, Kent, TN2 4BE
01892 842111 mon-fri 9am-3pm
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)
New Sparling House , Holloway Hill
Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1QZ
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

POWA (Protect Our Wild Animals)
www.powa.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

NEWS ROUND UP

TWO SABS RUN DOWN BY HUNTSMEN

Two hunt saboteurs have been run down and injured by a quad bike, driven by a member of the Tedworth hunt, in Wiltshire.
The hunt saboteurs were parked up in a narrow lane watching the hunt when a quad bike, driven by the hunt's terrierman, accelerated towards them. Despite there being not enough room to pass their landrover and with absolutely no regard for the two people who were standing at the side of the vehicle, the quad drove at them. The driver shouted to "get out the fucking way!" There was no time and nowhere for the hunt sabs to go. The quad drove at speed knocking down two men and driving over the upper arm of one of them. The quad sped off. It was a deliberate act which could have been avoided. Both men suffered cuts and bruises and one had suspected fractured ribs.
The sabs called 999 and reported the incident to the police. The hunt - complete with quad - came back past about 10 minutes later. The riders were recklessly riding very close to people. The quad driver threatened one of the sabs he'd just run over and said "you and me, down a quiet lane - then we'll see....".
Lee Moon, Press Officer for the Hunt Saboteurs Association said: "It's business as usual in the countryside. The hunts continue to illegally kill wildlife and act with violence towards anyone who tries to stop them. In election year, with the Tories promising to repeal the Hunting act, we feel it is important for the British public to know what type of people these are - willing to illegally harm people and wildlife in pursuit of their own pleasure."

IMPALED HOUND LEFT TO DIE



A Mid-Glamorgan community was left shocked and traumatised at the weekend after a hunting hound died when it became impaled on a metal fence where it was then left for four hours. More than a dozen people – including six children – witnessed the horror.
The Ghelligaer Hunt were in woodland close to the village of Cilfynydd, near Pontypridd, on Saturday lunchtime, when their hounds came into the village and rampaged through streets and residents' gardens and allotments. One hound became impaled on a metal fence where, despite a struggle from locals trying to help the animal, it died.
Mike McCarthy, 43, of Pontshonnorton Road, Cilfynydd, reported the matter to the RSPCA and the League Against Cruel Sports, and said today: "There are two things that really sicken me with what happened. First how the pack were allowed into a built-up area without supervision, and secondly that dog died a slow painful death and was left to hang there for hours in sight of children playing in the park. These people don't give a damn about human or animals' wellbeing."
A spokesman for the League Against Cruel Sports said: "Once again we have clear evidence of a hunt showing no regard whatsoever for animal welfare. That this poor dog was allowed to suffer an agonising distressing death just goes to show what a twisted and perverted sense of 'fun' these people have." The case has been referred to police by the League Against Cruel Sports.

WICKHAM LAB LOSES BID FOR NEW RURAL SITE

Controversial plans to build a new animal testing laboratory in a rural village have been unanimously rejected. Wickham Labs, currently based in Wickham, failed in its latest bid to win permission for a purpose-built facility at Torbay Farm in Lower Upham.
More than 20 animal rights protesters turned up to stage a demonstration outside the civic offices of Winchester City Council, where the planning committee was holding its meeting. After two-and-a-half hours the 10-member committee voted unanimously against the officer's recommendation to accept the proposals on the grounds that the building would be too large and its design unsympathetic for the rural setting. The main proposed building was about 50m by 30m and 9.5m high.
Cllr Therese Evans, who represents Wickham and is also on the committee, acknowledged that security wasn't their concern, but added that Upham, in the Meon Valley, would not be a suitable place because of the attention the labs would attract. She added: 'There was a demonstration a couple of weeks ago in Wickham where all the roads were closed and there were 130 police.'
Afterwards, animal rights campaigner Helen Nelson said: 'We are absolutely delighted. We have been working so hard towards getting this result, it's such a relief. I'm sure they will try again – they're not going to give up. They think they can trample over everyone and get their own way, but this proves they can't.' Moving the operation to Torbay Farm has been a long held ambition for owner William Cartmell. Ray Botterell, representing the labs at the meeting, refused to comment afterwards.

ILLEGAL WILD ANIMAL DEALING

Shenfield High School has been publicly condemned for its part in facilitating an underground reptile market that took place in September 2009, at which illegal trading of wild animals took place. The Animal Protection Agency, with support from International Animal Rescue, is now calling for an inquiry, and will be carrying out their own investigation, into the school's role in keeping the event hidden from the authorities.

The school originally announced that it had disallowed the event. A hunt then began for the new venue after organisers had threatened that their event would go underground. Public appeals for information were made and the police, as well as officers of several councils across Essex, spent considerable time searching through their contacts to track down the event. Some councils even made out-of-hours provisions in case the event turned up in their areas. The Animal Protection Agency then received a tip-off from a reptile keeper that the event would be taking place at the original venue, Shenfield High School. The school, however, refused to confirm or deny that the event was taking place there and advised that an announcement would be made later.

Said Animal Protection Agency spokesperson, Elaine Toland: "The school was made fully aware of the legal situation regarding reptile markets and also the health risks involved in staging such an event. Our team of investigators attended the market where countless criminal transactions were observed and recorded. The school, which is complicit in those crimes, may now be subject to prosecution. It's a scandal that time and public resources were wasted in tracking down this event when Shenfield High School could have provided information to the authorities that would have been helpful. If the school was confident that this was a legitimate event, then why all the secrecy?"

Conditions at this event were typical of all reptile markets and would have caused tremendous stress to the animals that were traded. Under current legislation, animals are protected from this type of mistreatment and numerous animal welfare organisations are working hard to ensure that this form of abuse is stamped out. Experts in public health warn that venues at which reptile markets have taken place may be contaminated for up to three months afterwards.

The Animal Protection Agency is an organisation focused on ceasing the trade in wild animals as pets. They work closely with International Animal Rescue which is dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of suffering animals all over the world.

CAMPAIGN TO CLOSE NOAHS ARK ZOO





Local campaigners have launched a campaign to close Noah's Ark zoo following an undercover investigation by the Captive Animals Protection Society (CAPS). The first demo has been held outside the zoo and received an astounding amount of support from passersby.

The zoo in Wraxhall, North Somerset, has admitted many of its animals are on loan from the owner of the Great British Circus, the only UK circus to use tigers in its shows. The zoo has been breeding tigers and camels for the Circus, and has been keeping the arrangement secret from visitors and from the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA). BIAZA, a professional group representing zoos, said it would investigate the allegations.

An undercover researcher, working for CAPS, also discovered the zoo had buried a tiger carcass on its land instead of sending it off for incineration as the law demands. "We skinned it. Cut the head off. ... Shoved it in a big hole" These were the shocking words of a senior member of zoo staff talking to an undercover CAPS investigator about the fate of a tiger on loan from the owner of the Great British Circus.

Acting on a tip-off that Noah's Ark Zoo Farm, near Bristol, was running a breeding programme with the owner of the Great British Circus, a CAPS investigator secured a job at the zoo to find out more.

In June, amongst a fanfare of publicity, the zoo received two female Bengal tigers, Kushkja and Tira. They were followed shortly after by a male named Tanvir. No media reports mentioned where the animals may have come from and all that zoo keepers would tell the public was that they came from "up north, from a private collection". It didn't take long for the investigator, 'Sarah' (not her real name), to uncover the truth. Keepers were well aware that the tigers, along with the zoo's camels, were from the owner of the Great British Circus on breeding loan, with offspring to be returned to him. They were, however, under strict orders not to tell anyone.

Tira was already heavily pregnant when sent to the zoo and gave birth in late July. Three cubs were stillborn and a fourth, named Tumkur, was removed to be hand-reared by keepers. Six weeks after arriving, Tira died. The zoo claimed she had died from Feline Infectious Peritonitis, resulting in organ failure, but as we were to discover, a proper cause of death could not be confirmed. Just 12 days after the death of his mother, the cub Tumkur also died. Not wanting the breeding programme to be disrupted, the zoo took delivery of a third tiger, a male called Khan who was brought in to mate with Kushkja. The zoo removed all mention of the animals from its website, despite the coverage it gave to them arriving, the hand-rearing of Tumkur and the webcams that had initially been installed in both Tira's enclosure and in the room where Tumkur was bottle-fed every hour. It is as if they had never existed.

All of this may provide an interesting insight into life and death in a zoo but the most shocking was yet to come in conversations with the zoo's education officer, Catherine Tisdall. She is a qualified vet who, although no longer practicing, keeps her hand in with cutting up any animals the zoo wants to avoid the costs of sending to the Veterinary Laboratory Agency (VLA). This was the case with Tira.

Tisdall told our investigator Sarah that she did an examination of Tira, although admitting that she did not take samples for pathological study: "All I could do was look at it and say what I thought." As such, this was not a proper post mortem: it could not confirm why she died, whether it was an infection, contagious disease or management problem. Tira then suffered the indignity of having her head and paws cut off. According to Tisdall the tigers' 'owner' wanted them back, although Sarah later came across the gruesome discovery of Tira's head in a freezer. Her skin is apparently to be hung from the ceiling of the staff meeting room. Tisdall even admitted that burying the body on the zoo premises was illegal as it should have been sent for incineration. Presumably too many questions would be asked about why a tiger had no skin, head or paws.

Zoo owner Anthony Bush gave an interesting insight to the camels at the zoo, who also came from the circus and were to be trained. He explained how "a little girl called Helyne", co-owner of the circus, is an "absolute master" of the camels and with Martin (Lacey, circus owner) trained tigers. Bush had great advice for anyone wanting to train the male camel at the zoo: "You carry a little stick with you and threaten him with it".



Tories determined to overturn hunting ban

David Cameron has reiterated his determination to hold a Commons vote on overturning the hunting ban if the Conservatives are elected. There have been loud anti-hunting protests outside the party's annual conference in Manchester, but Cameron said the ban had been a "farce" since it came into effect in 2005. Cameron admitted to having been involved in a number of rural sports in the past including hunting.

Asked whether the Tories would seek to repeal the ban on hunting with dogs, Cameron said: "If you have a new election and a new House of Commons, we will have a vote - but it will be a free vote because this is a conscience issue, and anyone who cares about this issue should talk to their Member of Parliament and join the great public debate about it." He went on: "Personally I think the hunting ban has been a farce. I don't think it works, I think it wastes a huge amount of police time and I think we should have a free vote in a new House of Commons to see whether we want to continue with it." Another source has claimed that Tories will try to sneak through a bid to overturn the hunting ban. Officials will put cruel sports at the top of their agenda, but plan to bundle the law into a civil rights bill, fearing an outcry if it is pushed on its own.

But the move has infuriated animal rights' groups, who claim 60% of Tory voters are against hunting and say it shows David Cameron is only interested in keeping a posh minority happy. A party source said: "No one wants it to be a stand-alone piece of legislation. It could be much less explosive if it was part of a broader bill that did not attract so much attention to it." The bid to scrap the hunting with dogs ban will be tied into the Repeal Bill, which will also axe ID cards.Tory environment chief Nick Herbert has said there would be no "watering down" of the pledge to restore hunting. But a League Against Cruel Sports spokesperson said: "The Tory party is way out of step with public opinion."



Recession hits pheasant shoots

A new analysis from Smiths Gore, the land management consultant, has found that about 60 per cent of the 3000 shoots in this country expect to lose income this year. With bookings 20 to 30 per cent down, many shoots have reduced the number of birds they intend to release, which cuts the price of a day's shooting.

The cost of a shoot is calculated by the number of birds. A typical day is based on a bag of 300 or 400 birds, which costs from £10,000 to £20,000. But this year bags are as low as 150 birds a day, which brings costs down to £5,000, a sum that may be shared between seven to nine shooters. David Steel, head of sporting services at the firm, said: "Commercial shoots are under financial pressure and they are reporting fewer let days and fewer confirmed bookings. Interest is down and inquiries are down, there is no guaranteed cash flow. Casual staff will also be affected, the beaters, pickers up and loaders, who help out on the day and rely on this extra cash." There will also be a knock on effect on the 250 farmers who rear game birds.



Hunt Havoc Film

TWO women who made national headlines after instigating an ASBO on a pack of hunting dogs which strayed into their gardens are making a film about the trauma of hunts straying on to private land. Jeanne Berry and Denise Ward, from Elcombe in the Slad Valley became the first people to get ASBO warnings issued against huntsmen in 2006 and three warning notices were issued to three members of the Cotswold Hunt.

An exclusion zone was set up around Elcombe and for the past three years Ms. Ward and Mrs. Berry have been researching the effects of continued foxhunting – despite hunting live animals being banned by the Government in 2005. Ms Ward has collated a database of violent and disruptive incidents on roads and private property, including the deaths of pet animals and livestock.

Ms. Ward said: "We are no longer a feudal society. Traumatising incidents of disruption, trespass and violent acts on private property, or dangerous intrusion onto roads, which are directly caused by a minority pleasure activity, are unacceptable." Ms. Ward herself saw the hounds invade her and her neighbours' gardens back in 2006. She still finds it hard to talk about the event, which she says had a traumatising impact.

"One minute there was peace and quiet and the next thing I knew a pack of hunting dogs was causing chaos in our gardens," she said. "It had the impact of a major event like a car crash, where you feel yourself watching but cannot believe it is happening – it was a moment of utter chaos."

The second time hounds strayed into Elcombe, Ms. Ward saw dogs rushing out of the private woodland that belongs to Mrs. Berry. "I heard a horrible screaming noise - they were chasing a deer, and after they had gone I found bloodstains, it was disgusting," she said. The pair are now working with film makers to expose what they have found out during the last few years.

The project has been taken on by an independent film company and will be released next year - the film will be called A Minority Pastime. Ms. Ward said: "There are many instances of when an animal, including cats, a pet terrier, a pet goat, foxes, and deer have been torn apart in front of members of the public, often being disembowelled. In four cases I have recorded these animals being torn apart in front of young children. There is no doubt that these events can traumatise - imagine seeing your pet cat disembowelled in front of you."

Ms. Ward and Mrs. Berry believe that the 70 incidents they have collected are only the tip of the iceberg as many go unreported or are not officially recorded. They believe the incidents show that packs of hounds trained to hunt live prey, or even scent derived from live prey, cannot be fully controlled

THE SECRET WORLD OF DUCK SHOOTING



The shooting season is now underway but very few people in Britain will appreciate that, in addition to the 45 million partridges and pheasants mass-produced to be shot every year, almost one million ducks – just like those fed by families in parks – are also killed by 'sport' shooters. Animal Aid has gathered unique undercover footage from Ceredigion, Wales, showing mallard ducks being reared in appalling conditions for the shoot industry. Far removed from their natural wetland habitat and confined in huge sheds, ducks are intensively bred and raised in filthy conditions, only to be moved to flight ponds for the start of the shooting season.



Their film shows the various stages of their development: from tiny chicks, penned in enclosures, to the thousands of birds who are almost fully-grown, living in a huge shed which appears not to have been cleaned out since the birds were transferred there. In the darkness, their camera picked out the faeces-covered floor and the lack of comfort or bedding, as well as the deafening noise that so many birds, packed together, produce.

In another shed, young, inquisitive ducks wandered past a dead mallard, whilst a companion – who was much smaller than the rest of the flock – lay on the ground, breathing heavily and too weak to stand or move over to the automated feeding and watering stations.



In another room at the farm, their undercover cameraman discovered 15 crates piled high, awaiting collection. They were crammed full of cheeping baby chicks. There was no food or water for them. Their visit took place at 3.30 a.m. and so it is likely that they had been left in this state for some hours. Animal Aid contacted Ceredigion Animal Health Department on 11 August 2009. In a follow-up phone conversation, a senior council official was not prepared to say whether an investigation has taken place or if any action has been taken against the owners of the farm.

Says Animal Aid Director, Andrew Tyler:

'Compassionate people will be shocked to discover that mallard ducks are purpose-bred to be killed by people willing to pay £500 a day for the pleasure of extinguishing life. Most of us have fond childhood memories of being taken to the park to watch the ducks swimming, feeding, preening and caring for their young. In turn, we treat our children to this joyful tradition. Our film shows that, behind closed doors, these same birds are factory-farmed in grim and filthy sheds, only to be gunned down by those who think that shooting animals for fun makes them good sportsmen.'

- Animal Aid filmed during August 2009 at Cefn Gwyn Hall, Pennant, Llanon, Ceredigion, SY23 5PD.
- Ducks may be shot for sport between 1 September and 31 January.
- Every year in Britain nearly a million ducks are shot. Most of these are mass-bred in sheds and delivered to flight pond locations by breeder businesses. The flight pond is an open expanse of water used by the ducks in the evening for roosting. The ducks will return to the pond at dusk from other daytime feeding areas and depart the pond at dawn. These are the times that the shooters lay in wait.
- Only one fifth of the shot ducks are sold to game dealers for public food consumption..The fate of the remaining 800,000 is uncertain, but it is likely that the bred ducks suffer a similar rate (estimated to be 50 per cent) of predation, starvation, wounding and misadventure as other game birds in the harsh environment of release, for which they are unprepared.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST LAB RABBIT DEALERS



On Saturday, 26th September, around 350 people demonstrated outside Highgate Rabbit & Ferret Farm in Lincolnshire, as part of the Global Week of Action against lab animal breeders. Highgate are a supplier of animals to the vivisection industry, including Huntingdon Life Sciences and had the spotlight put on their dirty dealings after a rescue in January 2008 of nearly 130 rabbits by caring persons unknown. Protestors have hailed the event as a success, bringing the attention of local people to the farm's immoral practices and the start of an ongoing and growing campaign to close them down for good.



There were several short speeches during the five hour protest which helped keep the focus on Highgate and their sordid trade. One speaker addressing the crowds, police and Geoffrey Douglas (the owner of the 'farm') stated that this campaign could be like another Newchurch campaign and called for the closure of the animal breeding business, where animals are sent off to certain misery and torture at the hands of the vivisectors. Protestors stood 750 metres from the farm which lies in Normandy, not being allowed to stand any closer to the farm as police had placed a perimeter of police protecting the private business. As demonstrators arrived police used a 12 by 6 foot banner to announce the implementation of the legislation.

The deserted country lanes around Highgate farm were heavily policed, with 10 police vans being used as a barrier between the farm and demonstrators, with mounted police waiting beyond. The road down to the farm was also closed so that anyone arriving by vehicle was forced to get out and travel down the lane by shuttle minibus. This prevented people from arriving all at once. However the disruption caused to the local highways has brought the issue to the attention of local people, and there have been positive responses from those people who have spoken to protestors about the issue. There was also a 2 by 2 foot helicopter with a camera on it is being used by police to monitor the demonstration and also record images of the people there and there were police on motorbikes in some of the fields. Demonstrators were not surprised by the over the top police presence and the peaceful, loud and focused protest continued until 5pm.

Geoffrey Douglas should be under no illusion that his farm will close and we call upon him to release the animals being held captive, so that they can be rehomed to a life-long loving environment where they can live out their lives without being tortured by vivisectors. This was a peaceful, vibrant demo, but angry and focused and our goal is simple, to close down Highgate Farm. This is a winnable campaign, with many protestors pledging a build-up of the campaign at the farm. There are regular protests and other events being planned for the near future

HSA stuff

Want it for chrimbo?...order online



items not shown to scale or actual size

Code	Description	Size (please circle)	Price (£)	Quantity	Total
POL1	Polo Shirt stitched full logo - Black	S / M / L / XL	12.00		
POL2	Polo Shirt stitched discreet running fox - Black	S / M / L / XL	12.00		
STL1	T-shirt 'still hunting the hunters'+ sml back logo - Black	S / M / L / XL	10.00		
STL2	Ladies strappy 'still hunting..'+ sml back logo - Black	S / M / L	10.00		
LOG1	T-shirt large logo + 'words mean nothing..' back - Black	S / M / L / XL	10.00		
ANTR	T-shirt RED 'Anti' + sml back logo	S / M / L / XL	10.00		
ANTD	T-shirt DARK GREY 'Anti' + sml back logo	S / M / L / XL	10.00		
ZIP	Zip-up Hooded top - Black	S / M / L / XL	20.00		
CZIP	NEW Zip-up Hooded top - Camo limited edition	S / M / L / XL	25.00		
SKI	Ski hat stitched logo - Black	one size	7.50		
W1	HSA Wallet printed logo - black		4.00		
BBH	HSA baseball hat, discreet fox, white www on rev		7.50		
KF1	NEW HSA Keyring, chrome, web address on rev (appx75cm)		2.75		
RPB2	NEW Round metal/emamel badge (30mm tie pin style)		1.75		
FPB	NEW Running fox metal/enamel badge (20mm tie pin style)		2.00		
PEN	NEW HSA Pens (2 for £1) recycled plastic		1.00		
MG2	NEW HSA Mugs, matt outside, gloss inside		4.50		

Membership £15 **Post and Packing** < £50 = £3.50 £50 - £100 = 10% of Order > £100 = Free Outside UK = Contact the Office

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GRAND TOTAL	

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