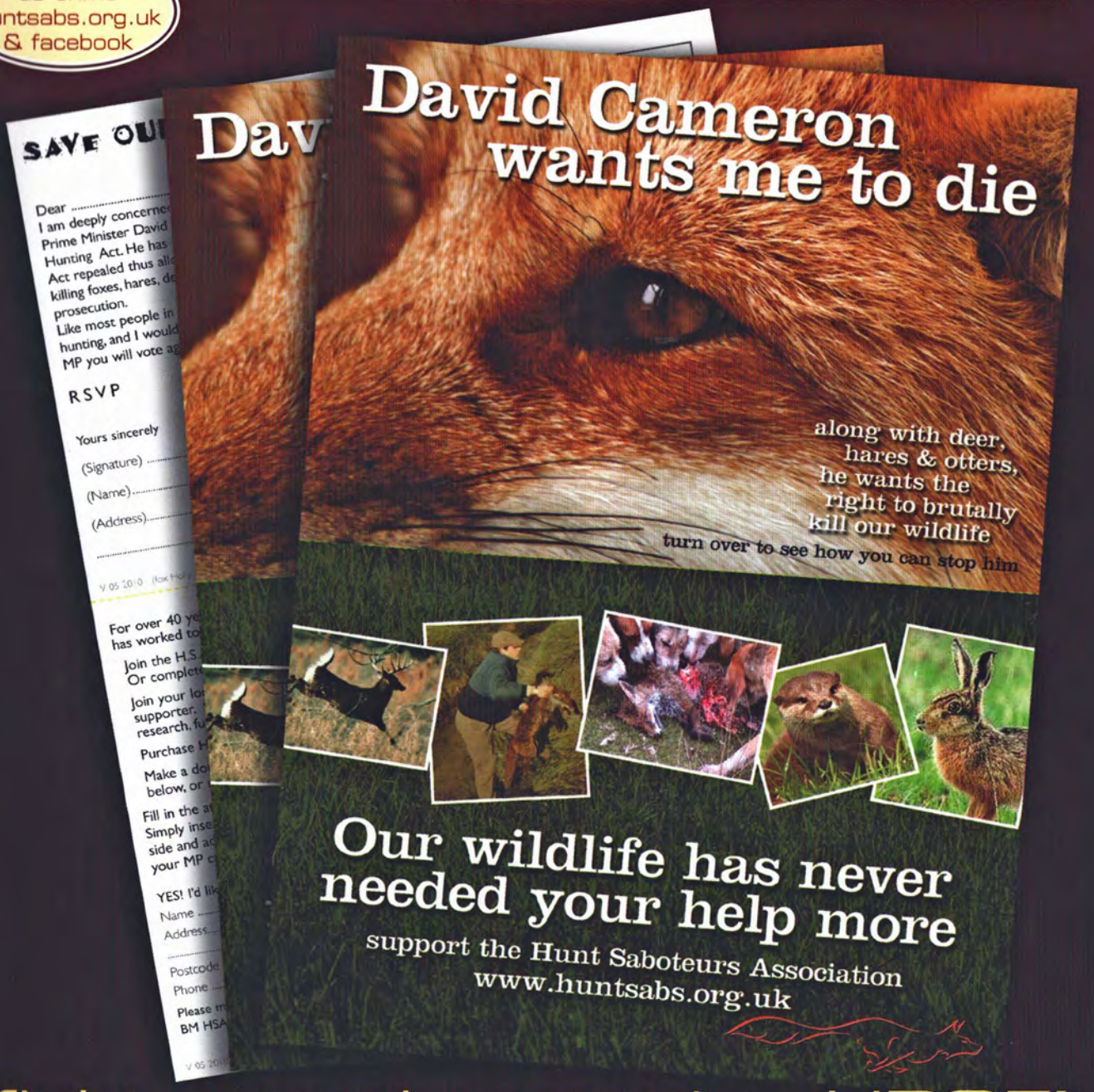
summer 2010

Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

HOWL 95

The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association

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hunt sabs & the law - part 2

badgers under threat

larsen traps

HSA stuff

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BBH	HSA baseball hat, discreet fox, white www on rev		7.50		
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HOWL 95

Cover image - new postcard campaign

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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INSIDE

REGULARS

News round up 4
AR prisoners 7
Legal news 10
Group news 18
Vermin patrol 25

FEATURES

Badgers under threat 8
Legal advice for hunt sabs 12
Larsen traps 23

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EDITORIAL

Well we've had the election and the results were not a surprise but a disappointment to many. David Cameron is bad news for wildlife, he has promised a return to badger culling in the UK and is keen to repeal the Hunting Act. One thing is for sure, whatever happens, hunt sabs will still be there to protect hunted animals wherever possible. Here are some thoughts about the threat to the hunting act in a guest editorial from Digger....
Mel

Threat to the act

The new government poses a real danger to the Hunting Act (HA). In the run up to the election the Conservative's manifesto was clear - MPs would be given the chance to overturn the HA through a free vote, "with a government bill in government time". This meant that the ban would be repealed if enough MPs voted in favour – the likely outcome of a Conservative election victory.

Things have changed with the new coalition government. First they have promised a great repeal bill. This doesn't include the HA but there remains a possibility that back benchers could try to add its repeal in as an amendment. However the coalition government has announced that it will give MPs the opportunity to vote on a parliamentary motion on holding a free vote to repeal the ban. The free vote will then only take place if a majority of MPs back the motion. In effect this will allow the Commons to express its view on repealing the Act. This would be a free vote, with MPs allowed to vote according to their conscience. Interestingly Nick Clegg has stated that it is not his intention to vote to repeal the HA and looking at the numbers there should be just enough anti hunt MPs to stop it being repealed. There is no timetable yet for this vote but it is a substantial watering down of the Conservatives' original manifesto pledge. Clearly though, there is no scope for the HA to be tightened up for now.

Perhaps the biggest threat to the Act would be the government sorting out the "Midlothian question". Currently MPs from Scottish and Northern Irish constituencies are allowed to vote on laws for England and Wales. The majority of these MPs are labour and anti hunt. If the government stopped these MPs from voting on English and Welsh law then pro hunt MPs would likely win a free vote on repeal of the Act.

In the meantime Conservative ministers are pushing the line that the HA doesn't work and it is difficult to enforce. However, analysis of data from the Ministry of Justice shows that the HA compares favourably to other wildlife law. The most recent figures available, from 2008, show 33 defendants found guilty under the HA in that year. This is more than the total for offences under the Badgers Act, Deer Act and Wild Mammals (Protection) Act combined (28 defendants found guilty). The HA has more than 140 convictions to date – it is clearly working successfully, at least against hare coursers, where the vast majority of convictions have occurred. As for hunt staff the next few months will see the trials of five hunt officials from three different hunts for offences under the HA. And difficult to enforce – so what, a lot of crimes are.
Digger

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

www.huntsabs.org.uk

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

NEWS ROUND UP

PARTIAL VICTORY FOR WHALES AT IWC TALKS



photo courtesy of sea shepherd

Attempts at the International Whaling Commission annual meeting in Agadir, Morocco, to reach a compromise on the future of whaling have largely failed.
Recent fears had been that a secret deal was being put together which would letigimise whaling for 'scientific' purposes. A draft proposal for this deal was rejected and calls for a lifting of the ban on commercial whaling were also rejected. However it was not all good news for the whales, as calls for a timeline to be put on the whaling programmes of Japan, Iceland and Norway did not succeed, so the current use of loopholes to kill whales will continue.
While Japan would not agree to the setting of the timeline for their slaughter of whales to end, they did agree to reduce their yearly quota from the present 935 to 200 in 10 years' time. Calls for an end date to Japan's whaling programmes mainly came from Europe, South America and Australia. Argentina's representative, Susana Ruiz Cerutti, said the draft proposal, which has been in front of governments for two months, did not meet the needs of Latin American countries. "It legitimises scientific whaling in the Southern Ocean (by Japan), and does not substantially reduce catches," she said. Australia's environmental minister, Peter Garratt, also held the view that Japan's lethal research should end and rejected a compromise favoured by Greenpeace and WWF to allow some whaling.
The gulf between this vision and that of the whaling nations was exemplified by Japan's junior agriculture and fisheries minister, Yasue Funayama, who described the aim of the talks as "restoring the IWC's function as a resource management organisation".
There is now expected to be a cooling off period before any further attempts to reach a compromise. Although it is clearly disappointing that Japan's whale slaughter will now continue, there is relief amongst anti–whaling groups that their governments did not accept the draft agreement, as in their view it would have legitimised the whaling programmes of Iceland, Japan and Norway.
"Had this deal lived, it would have lived in infamy," said Patrick Ramage, head of the whales programme at the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). "There may be a cooling-off period in the IWC, but meanwhile the whalers will be in hot pursuit of their prey."
The IWC annual meeting came shortly after Japan was exposed by an undercover investigation by the Sunday Times to be bribing small nations with cash and prostitutes to gain their support for the mass slaughter of whales. The Sunday Times filmed officials from pro-whaling governments admitting that they voted with the whalers because of the large amounts of aid from Japan. Officials also admitted that they received cash payments in envelopes at IWC meetings from Japanese officials who paid their travel and hotel bills, and one disclosed that call girls were offered when fisheries ministers and civil servants visited Japan for meetings.
Agreed in 1982, and introduced in 1986, the whaling moratorium was brought in after a prolonged and intense campaign by green pressure groups highlighting the fact that many populations of the great whales had been drastically reduced by over-hunting – blue whales, the largest of all, had been driven to the brink of extinction – and that whaling itself, based on the firing of explosive harpoons into large and intelligent animals, was cruel.
However, three countries carried on commercial hunting regardless: Japan, by labelling its killing "scientific research" – a fiction believed by no one – and Norway and Iceland simply by lodging formal objections to the agreement.
Between them, although there is little market for whale meat, they have since killed more than 30,000 great whales, mainly minke whales, but also Bryde's, fin, sei and sperm whales

NORTHERN IRELAND BANS HARE COURSING



The Northern Ireland Assembly has voted to ban hare coursing in Northern Ireland. A motion to outlaw the use of greyhounds to chase and kill Irish hares was passed by 23 to 18 at the end of June and has been incorporated into the Wildlife and Natural Environment (NI) Bill. The Bill introduces jail sentences for persistent wildlife criminals as well as larger fines. Added investigation and enforcement powers have also been given to the police to tackle wildlife crime.

Assembly Members will also be considering a Private Members Bill introduced by the Green Party aimed at banning fox hunting. Northern Ireland is the only part of the UK where hunting foxes with dogs remains legal.

MAY BANK HOLIDAY DEMO AT NOAH'S ARK



The campaign against Noah's Ark Zoo Farm continues. Sadly they have been given planning permission to build an elephant enclosure. The campaign was recently pleased to hear back from a local college who, after hearing about Noah's Ark's abuse of animals, decided to stop sending their pupils there on work experience. They have also been contacted by a number of primary schools who are no longer going to arrange school trips to this zoo, and a few other companies who are stopping their involvement with, and promotion of, Noah's Ark.

11 campaigners visited the zoo for a demo on Bank Holiday Monday. There were the usual numerous honks of support from passing motorists; it's really good to know that lots of local people really hate this zoo.

The campaign has new and updated leaflets which were given to most people visiting the zoo. There are demos most Saturdays from 10am till 1pm. You can contact the campaign via Bristol Animal Rights Collective, c/o Kebele, 14 Robertson Road, BS5 6JY or check the websites http://closenaz.wordpress.com/ and http://www.bristolanimalrights.org.uk/

SEA SHEPHERD'S CAPTAIN BETHUNE IN JAPANESE PRISON



photo courtesy of Jo-anne McArthur

Following the deliberate sinking of the Sea Shepherd vessel the Ady Gil by the Japanese Shonan Maru No. 2 back in January, Peter Bethune, who had been captain of the Ady Gil,took the decision to serve a citizen's arrest warrant on the captain of the Shonan Maru No. 2 for the sinking of his vessel and the attempted murder of himself and his crew. Under New Zealand law Captain Bethune had a legal right to do this and on his second attempt in February 2010 he managed to board the Shonan Maru No. 2 to deliver his citizen's arrest warrant, along with an invoice for the loss of the Ady Gil.

Unfortunately, upon boarding the Shonan Maru No. 2, Captain Bethune was detained and taken all the way back to Japan, where he is currently being held in a maximum security jail cell in Tokyo awaiting trial on an array of politically-motivated charges with potentially severe penalties. These charges include: (1) trespass, (2) possession of a weapon (the knife used to cut the net while boarding), (3) alleged injury to a person, (4) property damage, and (5) interference with normal business activity. At the moment, Sea Shepherd is working closely with Captain Bethune's legal defence team in an effort to obtain his release from Japan as quickly as possible.

EX HUNT SAB BECOMES COUNCIL LEADER

Derby City Council leader Chris Williamson has admitted having previous convictions. He was bound over to keep the peace and fined £100 during his days as a hunt saboteur. His conviction followed an interview broadcast on BBC Radio Derby in which Mr. Williamson, then secretary of the East Midlands branch of the Hunt Saboteurs Association, said members would disrupt the first day of the grouse shooting season.

Mr. Williamson denied the charge, saying that he was speaking on behalf of the association's members, and not on his own behalf. He said, "I have no skeletons in that sense, and I do feel I was dealt with unjustly. All I did was go on the radio and outline what the hunt saboteurs were planning to do, to stop grouse being shot. I'm quite happy for people to know about that. I think voters have a right to know."

PLANS FOR 'SUPER DAIRY' SCRAPPED



Plans for a so-called 'super dairy' close to a village in Lincolnshire have been dropped after opposition from residents in the area.
Velmur, the firm that wanted to put almost 3,000 cows at South Witham near Grantham, said it had decided to withdraw the plan. In a statement, the company said the scale of the plan was not "acceptable to people in the village".
In their statement, Velmur said: "The directors of Velmur and their advisers have, following their meeting with the South Witham Parish Council and the open meeting, reflected on comments raised at the meeting and the reaction of the village."
The firm said it considered that the case "for more intensive dairying" remains in the UK and added they thought the scheme could have met anticipated concerns of the village. But the document continues: "Velmur had from the outset agreed to consult and listen to the views of the village. The directors have agreed that they will not be taking forward a planning application for this site".
The Parish Council chairman said: "We're very pleased and the word is going around the village very quickly, but there is also a note of caution in as much as are they going to come back with a proposal somewhere else? Things are changing and possibly more intensive farming like this will be the future. What we're very concerned about is that at present there are no rules and regulations which govern factory farming for cows."
In April, proposals for a "super dairy" farm at Nocton, near Grantham, which would have been the largest in the UK, were withdrawn. Nocton Dairies Ltd had submitted plans to North Kesteven District Council for an 8,100-cow dairy. However, they decided they wanted more time to address technical issues in the proposals but intended to submit another application.

CORNWALL'S SQUIRRELS IN DANGER



Tuulum@dreamstime

A potential cull is on the cards for thousands of grey squirrels in parts of Cornwall. The cull is backed by the Prince of Wales and landowners in West Penwith and on the Lizard including Sir Ferrers Vyvyan, who owns about 400 acres around the Helford estuary on the Lizard.

The grey squirrels would be initially culled using poisoned food and then trapped in later stages of the project. It is legal to cull grey squirrels as long as the method used is approved by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). Small traps called hoppers containing poisoned maize would be used, which have a spring-loaded flap so that only grey squirrels are caught and other animals like dormice are not captured. The culling process could take a total of two years and would only be carried out from March to August to protect non-target species looking for food.

The cull is part of a plan to reintroduce red squirrels back into the area despite the fact that it is human destruction of habitat suitable for reds that is partly causing the problem. It was of course also humans that introduced grey squirrels in the first place and while grey squirrels do not harm reds, they are sturdier and better adaptable to the habitats we have made available to them. As usual, it is a human problem and grey squirrels are the scapegoat.

CALLOUS SLAUGHTER OF NORFOLK HARES



In February, the Raveningham Estate in Norfolk, a popular venue for wedding functions, was the scene of a particularly barbaric slaughter of hares, with over 130 of the nationally scarce animals being laid out cold for display on the patio of the Old Granary Studio barn by early afternoon.
A local witness writes: "The shooters and beaters were inside, laughing, joking and stuffing their faces at a long table. When vocal condemnation was heard, these poor creatures were hurriedly slung into the back of a Land Rover and quickly driven away. Their ears and feet were seen by onlookers poking skyward."

Please complain about this disgusting event to:
Raveningham Estate , The Estate Office,
Raveningham, Norwich,
NR14 6NS
Tel.: 01508 548152 E-mail: info@raveningham.com

SUPPORT ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS



ROBERT GRIFFITHS (A7298AG)
HMP Bullingdon PO Box 50, Oxford OX25 1PZ.

Robert was sentenced to 18 months on 12th October 2009 for conspiracy to blackmail companies involved in vivisection.

MEL BROUGHTON (A3892AE)
HMP Bullingdon, P.O.Box 50, Bicester, Oxon. OX25 1PZ.

JONNY ABLEWHITE (A5750AH)
Birthday: 27 January
HMP Hewell, Hewell Lane, Redditch, Worcestershire, B97 6QS.

Serving 12 years for conspiracy to blackmail the Hall family who run Newchurch guineapig farm, which has now closed down.

SARAH WHITEHEAD (VM7684)
Birthday: 12 February
HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Middx TW15 3JZ
Sentenced to 2 years for removing a beagle from a garden where it was kept muzzled in a cage & regularly beaten. She is also awaiting trial in relation to charges in connection with the SHAC campaign.
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 Coldingley, Shaftesbury Road, Bisley, Woking, Surrey GU24 9EX.

Sentenced on 21 Jan 2009 to nine years in connection with HLS.

NATASHA AVERY (5180 AD)
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.

ROBERT J LEWIS (GX5438)
HMP PARC, Heol Hopcyn John, Bridgend, CF35 6AP

Robert was sentenced to 18 months on 12th October 2009 for conspiracy to blackmail companies involved in vivisection.

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 (A3158AJ)
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.
Heather can now receive emails via www.emailaprisoner.com

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.





Guildford demo'

Badgers Ur

Welsh badger cull update

The conclusion from the Krebs 7 year English cull on badgers was that "there is no significant evidence that killing badgers reduces incidence of TB in cattle". So why is the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) so determined to kill badgers in Wales?

Welsh badgers have been persecuted for many years. The 'badger in the bag' is one such tradition practised years ago, possibly stemming from when badger baiting was a common occurrence amongst rural communities. 70% of Welsh AMs (MPs) have farming backgrounds, so it's no wonder that WAG has announced this badger cull; badgers have once again become the scapegoat in the bovine TB debate, instead of changing animal husbandry and dairy farm practices. Appeasement of the farming community is more important to WAG than solutions based on science and common sense.

Pembrokeshire, known for its beautiful coastal National Park is the killing fields for Welsh badgers. It's an area of 110 square kilometres (300 square miles) of coastline, arable fields, hedgerows and steep wooded valleys, where cages will be placed on sets, runs and latrines; the unfortunate badger who wanders into such a cage will spend all night in typical Welsh weather. Come the morning, any badgers in traps will be shot in the head. (See Howl issue 93 for more details.)

New laws have come into force making opposition to the cull unlawful – any person interfering with the cull is liable to arrest. The new legislation say landowners must cooperate; they have no choice but to allow officials onto their land.

A 75 year old landowner is one of the many who disagree with the badger cull. He refused entry to WAG officials, but was left distressed and threatened after his encounter. He said "they were acting like bullies, they became verbally aggressive when I refused entry, there was me versus four of them, I don't want them to kill my badgers, I've been unwell...I cannot defend my land alone".

The Welsh community of Brithdir have also received this bully treatment. When ecologists and WAG officials came to survey their land, the community greeted the officials with the offer of a cup of tea, but were then faced with teams of police officers and balaclava-clad ecology surveyors. By trying to identify who was entering their property, two members of the community were arrested for obstruction and a third man arrested for theft of ID cards (he was trying to ascertain, via the 'unhelpful' WAG landowners cull helpline, who they were), allegedly belonging to the 2 balaclava-clad surveyors! The ID contained no names, only photographs which were useless as the surveyors had their faces covered. The three were later released without charge.

Evidence of tampering with sets is apparent throughout the area; some sets have been dug out, with clear spade marks cut through the earth exposing tunnels below. Much of the badger cull area is remote, in which rights of way are regularly blocked with fencing and barbed wire. The activities which go on in farmland in this part of Wales are a mystery and







...dger threat

landowners want to keep it that way.

But there is still hope for the badgers. Police are investigating sets which have been tampered with, found by survey teams in the northern parts of the cull area; many landowners have vowed to fight for the badgers on their land, even if it means going to court; and committed locals and friends of the badgers will monitor set activities and defend badger populations. Badgers have been in Wales for hundreds of years, long before any dairy farmer came to make money.

Recent allegations that Thomson Ecology is the company responsible for the surveying of the area and the laying and setting of the traps have led to demonstrations at their offices. On 18th June coordinated demos were held at all three of their offices in Guildford, Cardiff and Leeds. At the offices in Leeds, workers were sent home for the day and the offices closed. At the head office in Guildford, people from neighbouring offices came out to find out more as they were amazed that an ecology company were involved in a badger cull. The Cardiff demo had over thirty people on a busy street in the centre of Cardiff shaming Thomson Ecology with an impressive display of placards and banners (see photos below). These demos will continue until Thomson Ecology confirm that they will have nothing to do with the culling of badgers.

There is currently an appeal hearing by the Badger Trust opposing the Welsh badger cull; the results of this should be available soon. If it is successful, it will stop the cull for the moment at least.

You can help:

Join the Welsh boycott – don't go to Wales on holiday, don't buy Welsh products and tell the Tourist Board of your actions and why.

Pembrokeshire Tourist Information – tourism@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

Pembrokeshire County Council – 01437 764551

WAG – Elin Jones, Minister for Rural Affairs – elin.jones@wales.gov.uk Tel. 01970 624516

Help is also needed in Wales to monitor badger sets and support landowners opposed to the cull,

www.badgerkillers.org.uk

BREAKING NEWS

On Tuesday 13th July, judges quashed the WAG order to kill badgers in Pembrokeshire. This is a major setback for Elin Jones in her mission to kill badgers, but does not rule out another order being made, which would take into account the judges' ruling. For this year at least Welsh badgers should be safe.



Cardiff demo



Legal News

James Gray locked up at last

James Gray, the notorious horse abuser from Spindles farm, High Heath near Amersham has at last started his 8 month prison sentence. After being found guilty of abusing more than 100 horses, ponies and donkeys, Gray got scared and ran away from the court before his sentencing had been given. After being on the run for two weeks, Gray was caught when number plate recognition identified his car on the M5 near Bromsgrove. The 46 year old was given a 26 week sentence for the horrific cruelty he inflicted on the animals in his care, many of whom died, and an additional 8 weeks for running away from Aylesbury crown court in Buckinghamshire. The RSPCA chief inspector Rob Skinner said: "This is such an appalling and shocking case, not just because of the terrible suffering the animals endured, but because of the lack of compassion shown by members of the family who seemed to think it was OK to sit back and watch it happen."

The investigation cost the RSPCA more than £2.3 million, including veterinary treatment and care of the rescued horses, who will now be rehomed. The British Horse Society had previously described the "mistreatment" and "carnage" discovered by rescuers in January 2008 as "unprecedented in Britain".



Rumple on arrival at Redwings

Gray's wife, Julie, 42, and daughters Jodie, 27, and Cordelia, 21, had each been found guilty of two animal welfare offences. The women were each given 150-hour community service orders.



Rumpel at Redwings one year later

Gray Sr was banned from keeping horses, ponies and donkeys for life while his wife, son and daughters were banned from doing so for 10 years. He has already been ordered to pay the RSPCA £400,000. A further costs hearing will take place later this year.

The RSPCA has received criticism for leaving the situation to get so bad despite previous calls about animals at Spindles farm. When rescuers eventually arrived at the farm, 111 horses were removed, 3 were killed on site to end their suffering and 32 were already dead. Dene Stansall of Animal Aid commented that "the RSPCA were very late in answering concerns about the James Gray set up".

The bigger question is of course why in a country of 'horse lovers' is a situation allowed to arise where dealers like Gray are selling horses for meat for as little as £10. One writer for the Daily Mail online commented "it is worth noting that, quite simply, there are too many horses in Britain and not enough caring homes. Perhaps the horse-loving public should shoulder some of the blame. If you open your eyes, you can see animals everywhere which are destined to end up in the hands of people like James Gray."

Legal News

Peterborough cops crushing hare coursers' vehicles

Police in Peterborough have been dealing with hare coursers by seizing their vehicles and crushing them as part of a clamp down on hare coursing in the area. Many hare coursers travel to the area from counties as far away as Kent, Sussex and Durham, to take advantage of its flat Fen farmland. Vehicles crushed include a 4 x 4 Subaru Forester whose owner was found guilty of three counts of hare coursing. The owner and another man using the vehicle were found guilty under the Game Act of trespassing on three private farms in the March area on September 25, 2009. Both were fined £400 and disqualified from driving.



Pc Simon Page, from the Rural Crime Action Team (RCAT), said: "I hope that this will send a strong message to other criminals that hare coursing is a serious offence with serious consequences". Pc Page revealed that since October 1, 2009 the RCAT team had dealt with 150 incidents of either hare coursing or poaching in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Of those, 70 were crimes in progress and saw police cars and the force helicopter mobilised, resulting in the arrest of 30 people and 10 cars being seized. He added: "We have a range of powers to punish people caught hare coursing, and seizing the cars does two things. It not only hits them in the pocket but it also sends a clear message that it won't be tolerated."

Of course this zero tolerance approach isn't purely because the police are concerned about the hares. Pc Page added "This kind of trespassing blights the lives of our rural residents and threatens their livelihood. To country-siders it is the equivalent of someone coming into your garden and wandering about and causing damage. It also often follows that, after a hare coursing meeting, farmers and residents can sometimes experience thefts and other crime."

Gamekeeper dies from strychnine poisoning

48 year old gamekeeper Graham Key poisoned himself after being given a two year prison sentence for firearms offences. Key, from Alkmonton near Ashbourne, was initially arrested on suspicion of badger baiting and when police and RSPCA officers searched his property they found unlicensed firearms and three bottles of strychnine. Strychnine is a deadly and illegal poison normally used to kill animals considered 'pests'. Key was later charged and convicted of the firearms offences. Shortly after being taken to the cells to begin his prison sentence, Key told staff he had taken strychnine. Attempts were made to revive him but he was pronounced dead just an hour later in hospital. He was thought to have smuggled the poison into court in his sock, and a blood test later showed toxic levels of the poison in his system.

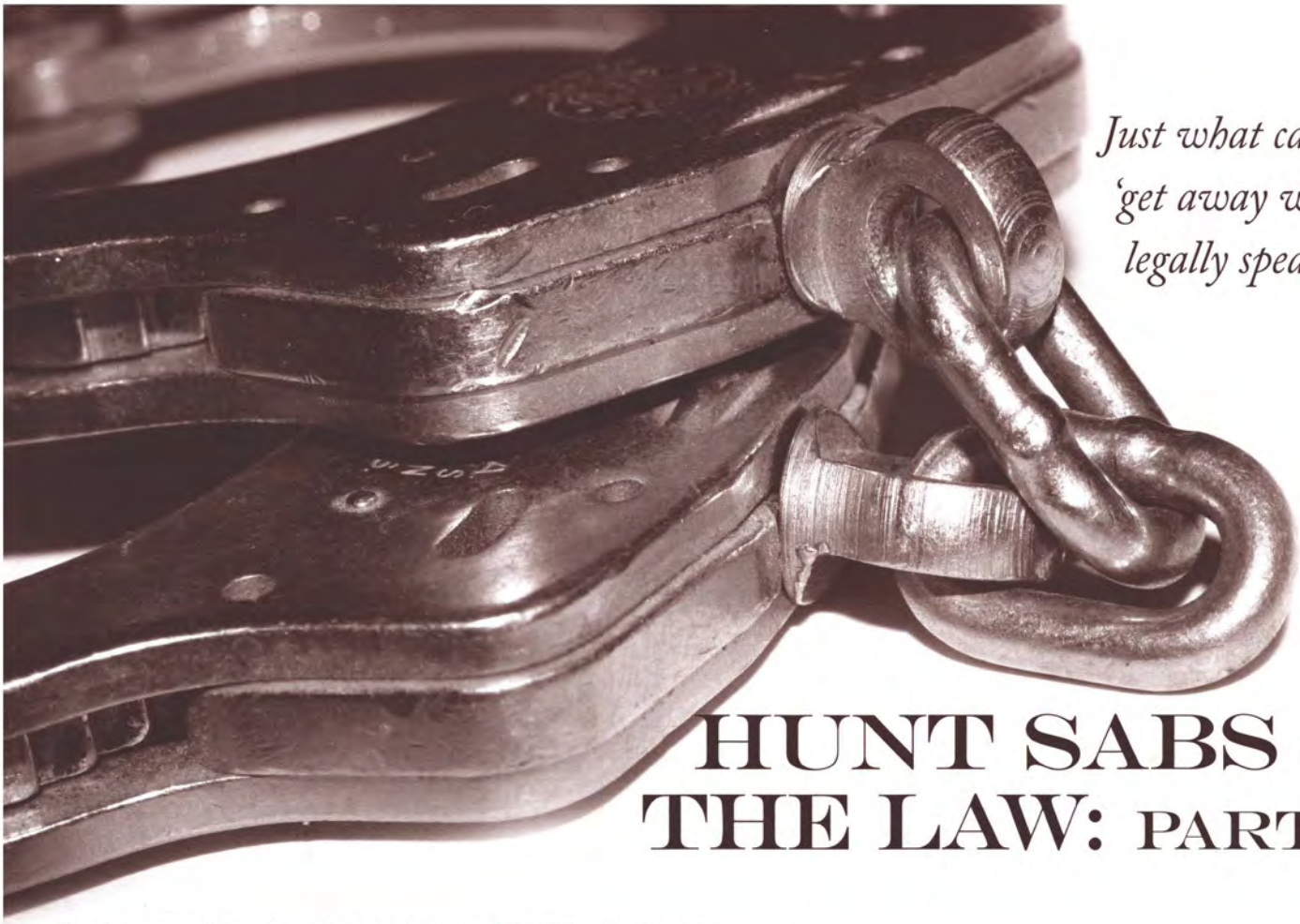


Hunt for wildlife killer in Derbyshire

The poisoning of two fox cubs in Kirk Ireton, Derbyshire, is thought to be linked to the poisoning of six buzzards, four of them in close proximity to where the fox cubs died. Police are working with the RSPB and Natural England to find whoever is responsible for the poison which is still being put down.

A police spokeswoman said: "Whoever is laying poison in the area has not stopped doing so. There is a real concern that dogs being walked, or children playing in the fields, could discover poisoned animals and come to serious harm."





Just what can they 'get away with' legally speaking?

HUNT SABS & THE LAW: PART 2

Having considered in the last issue of HOWL what sabs can and can't do from a legal perspective, it's now time to ask the same of those law abiding, upstanding pillars of the community, the hunting fraternity. This article will consider the Hunting Act 2004 (HA). What activities does the HA outlaw exactly? Does the HA work? Can it work? Will it even exist for very long? As I write this, the nation has just been blessed with a rabidly pro-hunting prime minister. Fortunately, the Tories probably do not have sufficient seats to repeal the HA in the present parliament in a free vote. Nevertheless, the political future of this country is not at all clear, and the HA is certainly looking a bit unsafe. However, we should not be too pessimistic about this because as any active sab knows, the HA is far from a panacea for hunted wildlife; indeed, you may decide after reading this article that repealing the HA would make not the slightest bit of difference to wildlife.

What Activities Does the HA Outlaw?

The HA is simple in principle; it makes it illegal to hunt a wild mammal with a dog. No problem then, you might think. The trouble comes in two main areas. Firstly, hunting is not fully defined in the HA, which merely states that hunting includes (but by implication is not limited to) engaging in the pursuit of a wild mammal with a dog. This means that it's up to the courts to determine the full definition of hunting through case law, and in doing so they must apply the ordinary English meaning of the word "hunting". The Oxford English Dictionary defines "hunt" as follows:

"hunt verb. 1 chase and kill a wild animal for sport or food. 2 try to find by thorough searching. 3 chase and capture someone."

Hunting a wild mammal, taking its ordinary English meaning, therefore includes searching for it. The most significant judgement to date on the



definition of hunting was that of DPP v Wright ([2009] EWHC 105 (Admin)). Anthony Wright, huntsman of the Exmoor Foxhounds, was convicted of illegal hunting on 4th August 2006 at Barnstaple Magistrates' Court after a private prosecution by the League Against Cruel Sports (LACS). However, he appealed to the Crown Court and his conviction was overturned. The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) then took over from LACS and appealed to the High Court against the overturning of Wright's conviction, but their appeal was unsuccessful and his conviction remained overturned. Part of the appeal in the High Court considered the definition of hunting, specifically whether hunting included the search for a wild mammal. Although the court recognised that in the ordinary meaning of the word, hunting could include the search for a mammal, they decided based on the wording of the HA that the answer was in fact no, hunting did not include the search for a wild mammal for the purpose of the HA. Compared with the common sense approach applied by the magistrates' court to convict Wright, one can't help but feel while reading the intellectual wranglings of the appeal court judges that overturned his conviction that they started off with the conclusion that he was not guilty and worked backwards from there to justify it. Their deliberations also give the impression that they are attempting to undermine the HA by making it appear far more complicated than it actually is. As it stands now, however, hunting is very narrowly defined as engaging in the pursuit of a specific, identified mammal with a dog.

The second difficulty is that there are "exemptions" to illegal hunting whereby certain hunting activities (exempt hunting) are allowed under certain circumstances. Although these circumstances are well defined,



not only are the exempt activities themselves a form of abuse of wildlife that we would rather not see happen, but also they do cause some blurring of legal and illegal hunting, and allow illegal hunting to carry on, masquerading as an exempt activity. In relation to exempt hunting, there is also what is known as a "statutory defence" to a charge of illegal hunting. This defence is for a person to show that he or she reasonably believed their hunting was exempt. In other words, even if a person is hunting with dogs and their hunting is not exempt, they cannot be found guilty if they can show that they reasonably believed their hunting was exempt. This means that a person's state of mind is an important component of the offence.

The upshot of the above is that in order to find a person guilty of hunting a wild mammal contrary to the HA, a court must consider, in the following order:



1. Was the person hunting, and did that hunting involve one or more dogs? Note that the dogs do not have to be employed by or controlled by that person; under the HA, a person is hunting with dogs if he or she is engaging or participating in hunting that involves dogs, even if the dogs are employed or controlled by someone else. However, the hunting must be intentional rather than accidental.

2. If that person was hunting with dogs, was the hunting exempt, i.e. did it satisfy the conditions of one of the exemptions in the HA?

3. If the hunting was not exempt, did the person reasonably believe their hunting was exempt? If the answer to this is no, that person is guilty of hunting contrary to the HA.

In points 1 and 2, the burden of proof is on the prosecution, and the standard of proof is the criminal standard (i.e., beyond reasonable doubt). That said, if a defendant relies on the defence that his or her hunting was exempt, he or she must produce some sort of evidence that at least suggests it was exempt; that is, they must properly raise the question of whether the hunting was exempt and then the prosecution has to prove that it wasn't. In point 3 the burden of proof is on the defendant but the standard of proof is lower (i.e., the balance of probabilities).

Exempt Hunting

So what are these exemptions then? There are nine of them, although only four are relevant to hunt sabs in that they potentially provide loopholes to allow hunts to carry out illegal hunting under the guise of exempt hunting. I shall describe these four in some detail because this information is useful to hunt sabs. The exemptions are found in Schedule 1 of the HA, the full text of which can be found at www.statutelaw.gov.uk.

Exemption 1: Stalking and Flushing Out

This exemption allows people to use dogs to stalk or flush wild mammals out of cover in order to shoot them. There are several conditions that must be satisfied for this to be legal:

- It must be carried out for the purpose of protecting livestock, "game" birds, crops, etc. or for obtaining meat or for the purpose of a field trial by which the dogs are being tested for their ability.



- It must take place on land owned by the people doing the flushing or on which they have been given permission to do the flushing.
- A maximum of two dogs may be used.
- Reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that as soon as possible after being found or flushed out, the wild mammal is shot dead by a competent person, and the dogs used must be kept under close control so as not to prevent this from happening.

Exemption 2: Use of dogs below ground to protect birds for shooting

This is the so-called gamekeepers' exemption. Under this exemption, the purpose of using terriers is for flushing out (bolting) a wild mammal, which is then shot. Terriers may not be used for fighting or trapping a wild mammal underground for the purpose of digging that mammal out, as per traditional terrier work. Digging is not the purpose of terrier work, and is allowed only to rescue a terrier that has become trapped or otherwise has failed to emerge. If the fox fails to bolt, it must not be dug out, as the exemption only allows terriers to be used for flushing a wild mammal out. Exempt terrier work must satisfy the following conditions:

- It must be carried out for the purpose of protecting "game" birds or wild birds which are being kept or preserved in order to be shot.
- The terriermen must have written evidence that they own the land or written permission from the landowner. The terriermen must make this written permission immediately available to a constable who asks for it.
- They can only use one terrier below ground at any one time.
- Reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that the wild mammal is bolted as soon as possible after being found, and to ensure that it is shot dead by a competent person as soon as possible after being bolted. The dog used must be under close control so as not to prevent this.
- Reasonable steps must be taken to prevent injury to the dog.
- The terrier work must be carried out in accordance with the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) code of practice.

The last condition means that the BASC code of practice has the force of law, and that non-compliance with it is a criminal offence. It also introduces another set of conditions, as per below.

- The terrier must be used to locate the wild mammal and cause it to bolt so that it can be shot, not to fight the wild mammal.
- Only "soft" terriers (those that stand off and bark at the wild mammal) rather than "hard" terriers (those that attack the wild mammal) may be used.
- Care must be taken to ensure the safety of those involved, and to prevent injury to the terrier and the wild mammal during the bolting process.
- The time spent by the terrier underground must be kept as short as possible.
- The terrier must be fitted with an electronic locator.
- If the terrier becomes trapped, it must be assisted (i.e., dug out).

There is also a BASC good practice guide, the purpose of which is allegedly, and bizarrely, to ensure the welfare of the terrier and the wild mammal. The good practice guide, not to be confused with the code of practice outlined above, does not have the force of law, but is recommended by BASC and the government in order to help ensure compliance with the gamekeepers' exemption.

The use of the gamekeepers' exemption is interesting. Many hunts employ terriermen who rely on it to carry out their terrier work. However, this raises some important issues regarding the legality of the hunts, and I would advise sabs to be aware of these issues, and to point them out to police as much as possible. For instance, the hunts are allegedly trail hunting or exercising hounds, and yet they employ terriermen. By use of the word "employ" I do not mean necessarily that the hunts pay the terriermen, but that the terriermen are there at the request and service of the hunt, and are called in by the hunt to deal with foxes that run to ground. Firstly, if the hunt is not hunting foxes, terriermen would be of no use to them. Secondly, from the terriermens' point of view, if the hunt is not hunting foxes, the terriermen are wasting their time because they are waiting for an "accident" to happen, i.e. they are waiting for the hunt "accidentally" to chase a fox to ground, which they can then bolt and shoot. They are also relying on this "accident" happening on land on which the landowner has game or wild birds (which have been caused harm by foxes) that he wishes to shoot, and on which they already have the written permission of the landowner to do their terrier work. Hmmm... it all seems a bit suspicious, doesn't it? The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) agrees, and their Hunting Act Investigators' Manual lists (section 5.3) the presence of terriers and digging equipment as an indication of "illegal hunting posing as trail hunting." I have asked DEFRA for their view on the legality of hunts who routinely employ terriermen, but they simply replied quoting the gamekeepers' exemption word for word. However, I am aware of one police force that has disallowed terrier work on the basis that the terrier men could not rely on the gamekeepers' exemption given that they were part of the hunt, which was a trail hunt. The police considered that the terrier men could not be trail hunting one moment, and gamekeeping the next.

This certainly seems like a reasonable interpretation to me, and shows how, with a bit more enthusiasm and imagination, I believe the CPS could enforce the HA much more effectively. I know of one case in which a hunt chased a fox to ground and then called in terriermen to

David Cameron wants me to die

along with deer, hares & otters, he wants the right to brutally kill our wildlife



Our wildlife has never needed your help more

support the Hunt Saboteurs Association
visit www.huntsabs.org.uk
to see what you can do to help

(fox - Holly Kuchen and otter - R Howarth at dreamstime.com

'What Hunt Saboteurs do'

Hunt saboteurs use non-violent direct action to save the lives of hunted animals. Tactics include: using sprays to mask to scent of animals being persued by hounds, trying to turn hounds off a scent using hunting horns and voice calls which mimic the huntsman, collecting video evidence of illegal hunting and standing between shooters and their live targets to prevent them from firing. Hunt sabs also work against hunting by raising public awareness through information stalls and organising petitions and letter writing campaigns.

'What Hunt Saboteurs don't do'

Contrary to the propoganda of the pro-hunt community, Hunt Sabs never endanger the welfare of the hounds or horses, nor do they instigate violence against hunters or their supporters.

dig it out. Sabs and the police were present at the dig out. When the sabs tried to prevent the dig out, they were arrested by the police for aggravated trespass. Terriermen entered a terrier into the earth, but the fox did not bolt; it was then dug out and shot. All this happened under the watchful eye of the police in a country where hunting with dogs is supposed to be banned. Now as it happens, this was unlawful because when the fox failed to bolt, the terrier men were legally allowed only to dig their terrier out, not the fox. Once the terriermen began digging for the fox, their hunting was no longer exempt because they no longer satisfied the conditions of the gamekeepers' exemption. However, I would argue that the hunt breached the HA when the terriermen entered their terrier into the earth, even if the subsequent terrier work had satisfied the gamekeepers' exemption. This is because the terriermen were part of the hunt. Had they been independent of it, and had they come across the fox in the earth themselves, then they could legally put a terrier down to make the fox bolt, assuming they had the necessary written permission. But they were not independent, and were called in by the hunt. Now, presumably the hunt would claim that their chasing the fox to ground was an accident, and had they simply left the fox alone, that would be believable by some. However, they didn't leave it alone; they called in their terriermen who put a terrier in the earth, thereby continuing the pursuit of that wild mammal with dogs by the hunt. The first part of the pursuit (by the hounds), could be an accident, but not the second part (with the terrier). It could clearly be argued in court that the huntsman was engaging in the pursuit of a wild mammal with dogs contrary to the HA when he called in the terriermen. The huntsman would not be able to claim the gamekeepers' exemption because taken as a whole, the pursuit of the wild mammal by the hunt (i.e. the pursuit first by the hounds and then by the terrier) did not satisfy its conditions. The pursuit has to be taken as a whole because the terriermen were part of the hunt and were acting on the huntsman's instructions. This would be a test case for the HA, and is just the sort of prosecution that needs to be brought if we are going to stop the arrogance of hunts that blatantly hunt wild mammals, flouting the law in front of an uncritical and unquestioning police force whilst paying lip service to an exemption in the HA.

Exemption 5: Retrieval of hares

A person can use a dog to retrieve a hare that has been shot if he has permission to be on the land.

Exemption 6: Falconry

Dogs may be used to flush a wild mammal from cover for the purpose of enabling it to be hunted by a bird of prey, if the person hunting has the permission of the landowner. In this case, there is no limit to the number of dogs that may be used. This exemption is widely used by hunts, who often go about their hunting in the normal way with a token bird of prey (normally an eagle owl) in a vehicle, which they will get out if anyone is watching. I know that doubt has been expressed by DEFRA as to whether hunting foxes could ever be classified as falconry given that the normal prey of an eagle owl is not foxes, and there is doubt as to whether an eagle owl could actually catch and kill a fox. As far as I am aware, no one has actually seen one of these eagle owls hunting foxes.

Does the HA work? Can it work?

The answer to these questions is no, and probably not in its present form.

That the HA does not work at present is blatantly obvious for anyone who attends a hunt and keeps up with the hounds. The hunts variously claim to be trail hunting, exercising hounds or carrying out exempt hunting. Yet the behaviour of most hunts is identical to their behaviour before the "ban" came into force. They still draw hounds through coverts, they still put up foxes and they still chase those foxes. Huntsmen still hunt their hounds on using the same horn and voice calls. Week after week, sabs witness foxes running through the countryside pursued by packs of hounds. This was of course the subject of the recent Lush campaign, which brought the issue out into the open. The only difference post "ban" is that hunts are more secretive and employ a variety of tactics to keep their "sport" hidden. These tactics range from simple old-fashioned violence, whereby hunt thugs attack anyone who goes near them who might be an "anti", to highly determined and organised groups of followers (who may also be violent) who act as stewards to keep sabs off private land, and the more subtle tactic of organised groups of supporters who act as spotters and report the location of sabs to the hunt so that it can avoid them, and so that it knows when it's safe to hunt. Another tactic often deployed is for the huntsman to hang back at a distance, out of sight of his hounds, when they go on cry so that he can claim it was an accident. HOWL 94 reported the recent death of six hounds of the Beaufort FH on a railway line. In newspaper reports, the hunt claimed to have been on a hound training exercise, and claimed not to know what happened but presumed that the hounds got onto the scent of a fox accidentally and crossed the railway line. Not much of a hound training exercise, was it? The hounds were out of sight and out of control and the huntsman didn't know what was happening. Huntsmen pride themselves on their control of their hounds. It is their job, and if the hounds "riot" they are able to control them. Furthermore, if the hounds had been under control initially but rioted and went after a fox accidentally, the huntsman would know that this had happened. Could the huntsman actually have known that they were after a fox and have been deliberately hanging well back so that he could claim it was an accident? Some might think so, but I couldn't possibly comment...





The reason for the lack of success of the HA is twofold. Firstly, there are the legal difficulties referred to earlier in this article: the definition of hunting and the exemptions, the most important of these being the former. As a result of the narrow definition of hunting in the HA and used by the courts, the HA simply doesn't ban a wide enough range of activities. To get a conviction, there must be an identified wild mammal being intentionally pursued by a person. To prove this, video evidence is essential. In the video, you would need to record the specific wild mammal being pursued. You would need to record the hunter engaging in the pursuit of the wild mammal, and show that hounds were employed in the pursuit. You would need to record the hunter's identity and evidence that his or her engagement in the pursuit was intentional. You would probably need to have no gaps in the video evidence. You would also need to record evidence that the hunting was not exempt, and that the hunter could not reasonably have believed his or her hunting was exempt. Proving a negative is of course very difficult. You would also need evidence of the time, the place and the date of the pursuit. Sabs spend a lot of time following hounds and see more of the hounds than anyone except the hunt staff, and yet it is rare for sabs to even see all of these things, let alone be able to capture it all on a video to a standard of criminal proof. No wonder there have been few convictions of illegal hunting.

The second problem is the lack of will to investigate illegal hunting on the part of the police and to prosecute it on the part of the CPS. Even with the problems just described, much more could be achieved by a willing police and CPS. We can all draw our own conclusions regarding the reasons for this lack of will, but I am often struck by the contrast between the enthusiasm and creativity (some might say fantasy) with which the police and CPS prosecute hunt sabs and other animal rights activists on the one hand, and the indifference at best and legal protection at worst that they apply to hunts on the other.

What would the HA need in order to work? The HA will not work until it outlaws a wider range of activities than at present. Specifically, it must make illegal the search for a wild mammal in order to chase it. It is a ridiculous state of affairs that sabs and monitors have to follow hunts around day after day, often at great personal risk, while hunts draw covert after covert blatantly searching for a fox to chase, but with no prospect of a prosecution. Then when the hounds get on to a fox, the sabs or monitors are not able to capture that vital sequence of video evidence needed for a prosecution. This is a farce. A huntsman must be breaking the law as soon as he puts his hounds into a covert and starts to deliberately draw them through. That is the only way in which hunting can be stopped using the law. The question is, how do we make this illegal? Within the present legislation, this would be difficult.

One way would be for the CPS or LACS to bring prosecutions against hunts based on them only searching for a fox. It is difficult to record the evidence needed for a prosecution based on the pursuit of a specific animal, but it is not difficult to record evidence of hunts routinely and consistently taking their hounds from covert to covert and drawing those coverts. An expert witness could testify that the hunt was indeed searching for a fox because it was consistently taking the hounds to places where foxes were likely to be. If it was exercising the hounds or trail hunting within the law, and had no intention of chasing a fox, why would it be consistently taking the hounds to places where foxes were likely to be? Furthermore, this is exactly what the hunts did before the

"ban" when they were definitely searching for foxes. It would not be difficult to prove that the hunt was searching for a fox, or that it intended to pursue the fox if it found one; after all, it would be difficult for the hunt to claim that it intended to carry out exempt hunting if it had no bird of prey or if it was using more than two hounds, and it could hardly claim to be a group of wildlife photographers or birdwatchers. All that would be needed then is a judgement that the definition of hunting included the search for a fox with the intention to pursue it. This is not impossible, but given the recent High Court ruling described earlier, seems unlikely, and would certainly take appeal after appeal, possibly all the way to the House of Lords. Another way would be to accept that hunting did not include the search for a fox, but argue that a hunt that clearly was searching for a fox was committing the crime of attempted hunting. Attempt crimes were described in "Hunt Sabs and the Law: Part 1", but basically the argument would be that the hunt was searching for a fox with the intention of pursuing it contrary to the HA, and that the search was so closely connected with the act of pursuing the fox that it was more than merely preparatory to it, and hence constituted the crime of attempted hunting. However, both these arguments, although logically quite reasonable, are unlikely to succeed in a system where many judges list hunting, shooting and fishing as their pastimes. Also given LACS' lack of resources and the unwillingness of the CPS to prosecute hunts at all, such cases seem unlikely to be brought. A further possibility would be for sabs or monitors to record individual hunts chasing foxes on several occasions. Although on each individual occasion the hunt might claim that it was an accident, obviously there are only so many accidents a hunt can have before chasing a fox must be regarded as intentional so that taken together, the evidence amounts to intentional hunting. The amount of evidence required to build up a case like this, however, and the effort needed to do so, would be considerable.

A better solution would be to amend the HA to include a recklessness clause so that a person is guilty of hunting even if he or she does not intentionally pursue a wild mammal with dogs, but is reckless as to whether they do. Under such a clause, the huntsman of the Duke of Beaufort FH could probably be convicted over the incident that resulted in the death of six of his hounds on the railway line. Taking packs of hounds to places where foxes are likely to be and drawing them through might also be considered reckless. Alternatively, or as well, the definition of hunting in the Act could be amended to include the search for a wild mammal with the intention of pursuing it. Other ways would be to create additional offences such as going equipped to hunt with dogs, or searching for a wild mammal with the intention of hunting it with dogs. This would certainly clear up the mess that we have now, but politically speaking a revision of the HA is a remote prospect; indeed repeal seems far more likely in the present climate.

The LACS is in denial about the HA, claiming that it is working. They do not tell their supporters that hunting is probably as common now as it was before the "ban". The HSA always tells it like it is. With the HA not working, and not likely to work in the foreseeable future, hunt sabs are as important now as they ever have been in saving our hunted wildlife. Go sab a hunt!

NOTE

"The HSA's legal officer is available, free of charge, to run legal workshops for sab groups anywhere in the country. These are highly recommended to improve sabs' confidence whilst out sabbing and improve group effectiveness. Please contact the HSA if you would like to have a legal workshop."

Disclaimer

Nothing in this article is intended to incite, encourage or condone illegal acts. The author is not a solicitor; the information contained in this article is for general information only and does not constitute legal advice. For legal advice, always seek the services of a trusted solicitor recommended by activists. See below

Legal Information for Activists

The following websites are good sources of legal information:
www.freebeagles.org
www.liberty-human-rights.org.uk

Recommended Solicitors

The solicitors below all regularly work with animal rights and other activists and are trusted.

Birds Solicitors
Tim Greene
1 Garratt Lane
Wandsworth
London
SW18 2PT
020 8874 7433
Out of hours arrests: 07966 234994
Email: info@birds.eu.com
Website: http://www.birds.eu.com

KieranClarkeGreen
Kevin Tomlinson & Gavin Haigh
36 Clarence Road
Chesterfield
Derbyshire
S40 1XB
Tel: 01246 211006
Email: kevin.tomlinson@kieranclarke.co.uk
or: info@kieranclarke.co.uk

Sonn MacMillan Walker Solicitors
Tim Walker
19 Widegate Street
London
E1 7HP
020 7377 8889
Emergency advice (24 hrs) 07659 591505
Email: enquiry@criminalsolicitor.co.uk
Website:www.criminalsolicitor.co.uk

Kellys Solicitors
Lydia Dagostino & Teresa Blades
9, St. Georges Place, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 4GB
Tel: 01273 674898

Bindmans Solicitors
Mike Schwarz & Shauna Gillan
275, Gray's Inn Road, London, WC1X 8QB
Tel: 020 7833 4433
Website: www.bindmans.com

GROUP NEWS

SES (Suffolk and Essex sabs) spent Boxing Day at the Essex hunt with the NELS group, and had the usual big turnout of support for the hunt who quickly left after the usual speeches and the hunt were putting up foxes after entering the first cover. We kept up with the hunt most of the day and a dig-out late
in the day was stopped by sabs.
Meets have been very hard to come by so kennel-watching has been the flavour of the season and with demise of our Landy early in the season we had to use other vehicles, restricting numbers of sabs.

A meet of the Essex Farmers had the hunt put several foxes up and the hounds were called away with good use of the horn. Despite the fact there were only a handful of riders at this hunt it still attracts the local thug element that it is noted for.

Suffolk police continue to be a problem allowing the hunts to do whatever they wish and seem to have forgotten that there is a law of sorts with regards to hunting with hounds. The group has come to the conclusion that it might have to do with the fact that a senior master of one of the hunts is the High Sheriff of Suffolk and has meets on one of his farms nearly every week. There are ongoing court cases and complaints in Suffolk with the Essex and Suffolk hunt and Suffolk police.

The hunts in Suffolk in particular are flouting the laws, chasing foxes in full view of the police and trying to dig out every week, sometimes attempting 3 a day, and it is left to our small groups in the field to stand up to the terrier thugs with it nearly always ending in physical confrontation.

A rare visit to the Puckeridge had the hunt attempt a dig-out early in the day, which they left due to the stubbornness of the group, despite being vastly outnumbered at times. Emergency services visiting the location were thought to be the police, and, expecting the usual outcome of arrests at the hunt, it was received gladly that it was an ambulance for a nearby farm – thanks to the NELS group for letting us know that so quickly ha ha. Later in the day a supporter of unknown sex brandished a large knife towards sabs after using it on the tyres of our vehicle.

The Essex and Suffolk hunt near the end of the season put to ground at the end of a meet and after a fight with the terrier men with bruises aplenty and a Mexican stand-off, it was ended well with all going their own ways with the fox saved. The East Essex Hunt do not go out much on Saturdays so it would have been rude not to oblige the invitation and they were not pleased and a master attacked sabs within 5 minutes. This continued with the hunt's supporters throughout the day and like all local hunts were hunting with no regards to any law and a suspected kill at the end of the day.

Norfolk and Suffolk sabs have had a pretty good season. After all this time the hunt has still not got the hang of drag hunting. They cannot grasp that for the "scent" to be laid their duster needs to be actually touching the ground instead of being waved in the air. All this of course changes on the rare occasions when the Police do turn up and then an Oscar winning performance comes to play.

Despite being ridden at, driven at and being on the receiving end of the usual verbal abuse, the three of us (or occasionally five of us) are not deterred and manage to make a difference every time we are out. Some weeks 20+ hares have been saved. We of course have bad weeks but some weeks are just hysterical. The huntsman's son is doing an NVQ in hunting. One day he was trying to round up a split pack and spent 30 minutes attempting to get the hounds back to him and to put them on leads! After composing ourselves from our hysterics and with one blow of our horn, we ended up with half the pack in our car. The huntsman's son asked "can I have my hounds back" and a hunt supporter commented that it was "not fair" that the hounds had come to us. Imagine the embarrassment of having your own supporters laughing at you for your incompetence. We also have to contend with a pro-hunt Police Wildlife Officer but he seems to be keeping a lower profile since we complained about him.

One thing is for sure, while these sick people are out there trying to kill innocent animals,



nb_pix@yahoo.co.uk



then we will be trying to do everything we can to stop them.

After the cold spell over Christmas hunting resumed, but vehicle trouble kept **North & East London** sabs off the road until mid-January.

Vehicle use has seen a lot of changes for both **NELS** and **SES** and the use of hire cars and own cars supplemented main vehicles. Unknown personal vehicles have helped with kennel watching as we only knew in advance of a handful of meets.

NELS and SES work well as a team made up of smaller groups and with a fearless sab behind the camera we managed to capture some good video evidence of our actions and those of the hunts. We mixed up the hunts we sabbed, keeping them guessing. The Essex and Suffolk got the most attention. Others, like the Puckeridge, who had been close to folding and were left alone, were only sabbed once. We already knew the country well and they weren't happy about us turning up! See the SES report for more details of Puckeridge nastiness on the day.

There have been several interesting days out with the (occasionally) Essex and (mostly)



Suffolk hunt who have been a little more vocal and physical this season. They're very determined to kill, staying out until it gets dark on a number of occasions, ignoring police instructions (on the rare occasion the police agree that they're acting illegally) and we've caught the terrier boys sneakily trying to dig-out away from the hunt a couple of times. Through the determination and passion of the sabs, this hunt has had only had a few kills this year. Luckily we've only seen one incident of violence as 2 sabs were assaulted while a fox escaped from the hunt. The assault charge brought against one of the sabs has since been dropped, while the hunt master has now been charged with 2 counts of battery. Watch this space - the trial is set for August.

On the last day of the season we sabbed the East Essex hunt who were, unusually, out on a Saturday – they had previously moved their meets to a Friday to avoid us. That seemed like what they wanted to do when we turned up west of Sible Hedingham. Locals and hunt support were hostile towards us, especially with displays of dangerous driving, and yet they were the ones that called the plod. It was a wet day and they hunted across three separate maps, but we persevered and kept up with them on foot. Just as the plod changed shifts sabs were ridden at and a brave sab who put herself in the way of a friend was injured. The incident is the subject of ongoing police enquiries.

We have had an eye on the Cambridge and Enfield chase this season and although they weren't out on 3rd April (17 years to the day of the killing of Tom Worby) when we unfurled a banner for Tom at one of their old haunts. We will be visiting them and the rest of the Essex and Suffolk hunts this coming season.

For Tom, the foxes, the horses, hounds and the domestic animals that the hunts have killed or maimed.

Reading sabs had a good second half of the season, with a mix of going out independently and meeting up with Pewsey Vale. Most of our days went well although we had some really hard days on Salisbury Plain. Most memorable of course was the joint Tedworth and Llangeinor meet where we pissed on their fire big time. Eventually, realising they would be unable to hunt that day they resorted to throwing punches and one sab was ridden down and his camera broken. All of this was on a public road with Wiltshire police just up the road. As usual they failed to act in any competent way and unsurprisingly the scumbags got away with it.

If you would like to come and join us contact 07984977603 or email readinghuntsabs@hotmail.com

Pewsey Vale sabs had a good 2010 season, with no major incidents and sabs plus vehicle still in one piece (more or less).

We joined up with Reading for a couple of visits to the Vine & Craven foxhounds, both occasions being fairly uneventful with the hunt running away across the downs and very little road access for us . The highlight of one meet, albeit quite scary, was nearly turning our Landrover over in front of hunt support with their cameras poised! We had visions of making the front cover of Horse & Hound - imagine the caption accompanying that picture.

In early March the Tedworth hosted a joint meet with the Llangeinor, (that's a welsh pack in case you didn't guess) with hounds brought to Wiltshire from Wales. To ensure the guests from across the bridge had a truly warm welcome 3 Landrovers full of sabs were also invited - well, not quite invited.

Pewsey Vale were joined by South Wales, Bristol, Southampton, Reading, Bath & Cirencester - impressive! If the Tedworth planned a nice showy day for their friends they were sorely disappointed. Our three vehicles & sabs were on their every move; whatever the huntsman tried a group of sabs would appear. Good local knowledge of the area paid off for us. Despite hounds picking up strong scents several times there were no kills thanks to sabs. At the end of the day, earlier than usual, the hunters showed their annoyance in the only way they know by throwing punches at one sab, then knocking down, and smashing the camera of a second - think we ruined their day!



We joined forces with South Wales, Bristol, Southampton and Cirencester in mid March for a Cotswold Vale meet. Sabs split into two groups/vehicles which was definitely a good move as the huntsman tried to run with constant backtracking which kept us on our toes. Four - yes four - foxes were put up in one go and ran straight towards sabs, foot followers and the terrier boys. This hunt is not known for their niceties and the possibility of trouble was there. Sabs kept their cool and froze until the foxes had passed, then sprang into action with sprays & pointing our cameras at the hunt and terrier men. Hounds were not hunted onto these foxes due to sabs being present and we only received shouts of "trespass & you're damaging wildlife" (? what ?) from the terrier men, excellent result. Several blocked badger setts were found in the area (obviously not hunting then) and this was reported to the police. The hunt tried to run from us for the rest of the day and finally showed their true colours by deliberately riding down and injuring two sabs. Yet again the hunt are using vehicles as weapons, in this instance a quad bike. Another sab narrowly missed being hit by a golf club wielding hunt madman.

Our final meet for the season was back with the Tedworth. We were joined again by Southampton. The hunt didn't leave the kennels until after 11.30 am and then spent at least an hour before leaving the meet only to run onto Salisbury Plain in an attempt to lose sabs. A small but persistent group stuck with the hunt all day despite them covering a very large area. Our presence meant that the huntsman could not draw coverts thoroughly, with hounds often being put through very fast. Once again due to sabs' presence the Tedworth had a day with no kills. The Pewsey Vale Landrover finished off the season with some impressive off -roading on Salisbury Plain



Bristol sabs have been teaming up with the usual suspects in order get to know 'their local chums' a bit better, aka-hunt mutes! Although much banter and a light hearted approach was brought to the table by sabs, this as usual was met with contorted red faces, violence and a language which really should need subtitles (as we keep saying "take those marbles out of your mouth and perhaps....."). Good days were had with the Cotswold Vale, Monmouth, and Berkeley as well as good away-days. The Herefordshire on the other hand has still got the same loons and apply the same tactics so we might pay a few uninvited visits in order to establish a better 'friendship', who knows! Bristol sabs are once again working on another benefit and will be practicing talking to themselves in a mirror with a load of marbles in their mouths trying to work out bumpkin dialect!

The season ended for **Bath** joining with Bristol, Pewsey Vale, South Wales, Reading & Southampton Sabs, with an excellent sab against the Llangeinor and Tedworth joint meet. With 3 Landies, over 20 sabs and local knowledge we closed them down!!! Saving a minimum of 2 foxes and leaving 2 very pissed off hunts. The Llangeinor scuttled back to Wales and the Tedworth were clearly embarrassed that they couldn't fulfil their guests' blood lust.

When the season ended, Bath sabs started a new hunt for a Landie, and after months of searching we found an early 110 station wagon. Knowing it needed work doing, it was tentatively driven back to Bath, with dodgy brakes and electrics. Work has begun: the Bath group can strip and re-condition the brake system, lighting, bodywork, learn and relearn skills, building, welding, designing, cutting, chiselling, hammering, painting, flattening thumbs and fingers. So I don't know if it's a good idea to mention that by the time it's finished the Bath group should be able to rebuild, build Landies from scratch. Yer Right!!!

Looking forward to a summer of crawling under Landrovers and fundraising.

South Wales sabs have had a good second half to the season, joining regularly with our chums from Bristol. Our new recruits have been excellent and extremely committed, and there has been a general surge in interest in the area.

Unfortunately the season ended with two sabs being run down by a quad bike, whilst we were sabbing the Cotswold Vale - standard practice for this bunch of violent thugs. Luckily, both sabs are now fully recovered.

Since the season ended we have been campaigning hard against the imminent badger kill in North Pembrokeshire, South West Wales, which has been going really well. Welsh Assembly surveying contractors are operating in a 'low key' manner by forcing their way onto private property, against the wishes of the land owners, terrorising people. They turn up, unannounced, at people's gates wearing balaclavas, accompanied by their pals from Dyfed Powys police.

South Devon Animal Rights' have had many successful days this season. On the eve of Valentines Day nine of us had a great day with the East Cornwall Hunt which met at Five Lanes, on Bodmin Moor. They moved off at 11.15 am and went to the first draw but, after dithering for 5 minutes – clearly worried about our presence - decided to abandon the draw



and hacked along the lanes for over a mile. We followed in our Land-Rover until the hunt went onto the moor. Seven of us went in on foot, and by 1.30 pm the hunt stopped running around on the moor and spent the next 45 minutes rounding up hounds. At 2.15/2.30 pm they boxed up and then waited for nearly another hour while their minions searched for 3 missing hounds, eventually arriving with 2 of the 3.

At the penultimate meet of the South Devon Hunt on Easter Monday, after a failed attempt to prevent a dig-out, two sabs received a "good" beating at the hands (and feet) of followers of the South Devon Hunt near Widecombe-in-the-Moor on Easter Monday. We were also robbed of a gizmo and camcorder. The matter was reported to the police but will not be taken further because we cannot prove what happened, there being no independent witnesses or video evidence. We take comfort, however, from the fact that our success in sabotaging illegal hunting with dogs is viewed by hunters as so effective that they feel they have no option but to resort to such brutal and savage tactics. Another (more powerful) gizmo is under repair and should be a star performer next season.

After the attack, we continued to sab the hunt on Easter Monday, one hunt follower being overheard to remark to his companion that we even "had the nerve to come back" after the incident. We will not be intimidated by violence but, the more sabs we have, the less likely we are to be attacked!

For decades the South Devon Hunt hunted on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. In common with most hunts, they have become very secretive about their meets and, because of being frequently sabbed, a few years ago changed their meets to Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Once we worked that out and sabbed them on some of those days, they mixed up their days with no discernable pattern. As a result of doing our homework and gathering intelligence this last season we have sabbed them on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays or Saturdays – so they never know when we will turn up. We have also sabbed the Britannia Beagles, the Mid-Devon Hunt and the Dart Vale and Haldon Harriers. Now it's down to fundraising to prepare for next season.

West Yorks Hunt Sab group has been started, with more optimism than money...members of the group have spent the last few seasons going out with Sheffield, Nottingham and Liverpool but there finally seems to be enough sabs to start up a new crew in West Yorkshire. So far we have held a couple of film showings, a stall at Bradford anarchist bookfair, held some raffles and cake sales to start saving up for a vehicle (hint hint any rich folk out there). We also recruited a few new sabs in the process and managed to talk a few former sabs out of retirement and are delighted that they will be joining us next season. We have plans for a self defence workshop and sab training day over the summer, as well as meetings to plan for next

season so please get in touch if you want to be involved.
email: westyorkshuntsabs@yahoo.co.uk or
phone: 07980837535
westyorkshirehuntsabs.wordpress.com

The **Derby** group has been in semi-retirement for about a year but thanks to the Lush campaign, it has recently had an influx of new recruits. The group would just like to thank the Derby Lush for all their hard work on the campaign (including a very successful fundraising gig) for which they won a national award.

To give the new recruits a gentle introduction to the world of hunting, the group attended the High Peak Hunt solidly toward the end of the season with mixed results. They usually behave if sabs turn up with just a video camera, but they do use the established technique of taking sabs on a wild goose chase into the middle of nowhere, and then doubling back at full gallop to resume hunting where they were intending to go in the first place. Thankfully our driver was on the ball and picked up the field sabs at just the right time so we stuck to them like glue on the first day, resulting in one or two of the riders getting a bit stroppy toward the end.

As Lush people are pretty busy on a Saturday, the group took them out mid-week to the High Peak. What a contrast! There was no prepared trail and they were seriously disgruntled to see the sabs. Unfortunately the Lush people saw how a real hunt operated that day, with many road blocks (upsetting the locals), one guy had a gate rammed into him and a level of aggression the Hunt just normally don't display. It has certainly got the new sabs fired up for next season! Now, all the group need is a proper sab vehicle and a skills day...
If you would like to get involved please call 07754 524661 or e-mail derbyar@wildmail.com.



Cumbria hunt sabs did not get back out onto the fells until mid-January, when we turned up to do the Melbreak. As soon as we turned up, they called their hounds back and called it a day. This day turned out to be the last time the huntsman would see sabs out with him. Two months later Christopher Bland died of cancer, following in the footsteps of his dad (Pritch Bland) who died two years ago. It's a bit of a poison chalice being the huntsman of the Melbreak. This pack's future is uncertain at the time of writing.

On Monday 25th January, sabs turned up in good numbers to do the Ullswater foxhounds (who have not seen sabs in a while). Basically, he caught sight of antis and took refuge in a timber yard for a good six hours then called it a day.

Six days later on the Saturday, three local sabs turned up to do the Ullswater . At first the van was surrounded by support, but we stood our ground and called the police out. This allowed us to monitor the hunt and due to our presence, he was in unfamiliar territory, so he had to call his hounds off a fox.

On the way back we came across the Blencathra foxhounds who had been claiming on their website that they were not out due to the severe weather. Once again they packed up when they realised we where out.

On Saturday 6th Feb, the Blencathra had changed their meet for one reason or another. As soon as we were spotted, Barry called his hounds off a scent then made a getaway on the back of a quad, but we are a hardy lot up here and we don't give in that easy. As soon as we caught up with him we called his pack off him. Then he headed back to the meet. Footage of this meet was passed onto the National Parks Authority and they confirmed what we thought, that supporters of the Blencathra were breaking certain bylaws, as it is an offence to have vehicles on common land, since some parts of the fells are being eroded by quads and 4x4s etc. The NPA can revoke the licence of the Blencathra if they continue to flout the law (we will be paying close attention to this next season).

Tuesday 23rd Feb – this has to be one of the funniest sabs of the year. We had sabs looking for the Cumbria beagles but could not find them at their intended meet, plus there were sabs looking for the Blencathra. When we found Barry, as per normal he scarpered off the fells and proceeded to take us on a magical mystery tour which led us to the Cumbria beagles (thanx Barry), so we dropped sabs off who intervened to save a hare which was being hunted by the beagles. Meanwhile a car made sure Barry headed back home, which he did for another early bath.

Late March saw sabs as well as another well known bunch of hunt monitors have a week of action in the lakes, so this caused total paranoia to the local fell packs. Thursday 11th March then saw us out against the Lunesdale FHS. Footage from this meet can be viewed on youtube. This was a hard slog on the fells but a rewarding one for sabs who took hounds off the scent of a fox.
Saturday 13th March saw us out against the Blenie for the last time this season at their kennels. Frustrations for a bad season on their behalf boiled over with supporters trying to run sabs down and damage caused to the sab van. This was passed on to the police, who seemed to be this season just trying to keep both sides apart (their words). And not investigating illegal hunting.

Well a big thanx to Mother Nature who caused havoc to the fell packs and a huge pat on the back to the local sabs who came out this season and experienced the highs and lows. Finally, those from further afield who put the hours in. cheers xx email vulpuscarlisle@yahoo.co.uk.

Caution - Larsen Traps About



It's not just crows and magpies that end up in Larsen traps

These two little fellas probably ended their life in this one, so please can everyone be aware during Spring and Summer months to look out for these disgusting cages of death.

Sadly, the Larsen trap is legal in this country and is used mainly by gamekeepers on shooting estates. There will be two compartments to the cage and in one side will be the call bird as it is known, usually either a magpie or a crow, rarely a rook. This bird will encourage other corvids down to the cage who will then perch on the next compartment and fall through, making it captive. It will stay there until the gamekeeper arrives when it will either be passed on to another person for their trap or will be killed.

And so this goes on, day after day, week after week until the gamekeeper tires of it or until all the birds have been killed in the area. Sadly most of the birds caught will be feeding their young nestlings or fledglings as the Larsen traps come out at the same time as the nesting season. Entire families can be affected.

What is the law?

There has to be shelter for the call bird from sun, wind and rain and a perch for it, and it needs to be provided with food and water. It has to be checked every 24 hours and should not be used in bad weather conditions. We know that these birds suffer extreme anxiety about being trapped. They desperately try to escape, hurting themselves in the process, and they also have to watch their mates being killed in front of them daily. Birds of prey are also caught in these traps which a gamekeeper will then quickly dispose of.

Where are they?

Normally on the corner of fields, behind hedge lines and near gates. They can often be at the side of a field, but generally are in an open area so that other corvids can see the call bird. Sometimes they can be found near a pheasant pen, but they are more often found in fields than in woodlands.

Please help!

Act Against Corvid Traps have been inundated with emails about Larsen traps all over the country, and they need to build up a list of people prepared to check out the traps for illegalities.

Please contact them on: act@againstcorvidtraps.co.uk
and look at their website for more information:
www.againstcorvidtraps.co.uk

They would love to hear from you, so please offer them your help wherever you live. Email them your details now!



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.

FEB 10	**P. WIBBERLEY**
	F. FORD
MAR	**L. MARR**
	M. KENNEDY
	G. DAVEY
APRIL	**N. BROOKES**
	M. MASON
	T. DAVIES
MAY	**M. DOOR**
	F. INKLEY
	P.FENN
JUNE	**S. BURGE**
	P. LITTMODEN
	D. DUNBAR



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

A greyhound trainer who kept his dogs in filthy, blood-stained kennels was given a suspended jail sentence on 22/2/10. Wirral Borough Council removed 29 dogs from a farm after earlier warning trainer Ian Street of Bedford Avenue, Rock Ferry, Birkenhead about the welfare of his animals. Many were infested with parasites, some had infected sores and others had broken tails, Wirral magistrates heard. Street, who admitted 11 charges was also banned from keeping animals for life. The court heard that Street's dogs were being kept in damaged, rusty and blood-stained wire kennels, a garden shed and a loose-run compound at the farm on Frankby Road. He was jailed for four months, suspended for one year, ordered to pay £1,000 costs and banned from keeping animals for life.

A lurcher used for illegal hare coursing was so exhausted that it had to be carried off a field, magistrates heard on 2/3/10. Each of the men involved was fined £300, and the driver of the car that brought them to the Fens was banned from driving for six months. All four defendants, Paul Eastwood, 23, Lee Friend, 19, and William Scamp, 31, all of Orpington, and Charles Lee, 26, of Caterham, were also ordered to pay £35 costs and a £15 surcharge. Scamp was banned from driving for six months.

On 24/3/10 it was announced that a prominent West Country huntsman has been charged by police for breaking the Hunting Act. Richard Down, the huntsman of the Quantock Staghounds, is facing one charge under the 2004 Act in a prosecution brought by Avon and Somerset police and the Crown Prosecution Service. The alleged offence took place on what is understood to be National Trust land on the Quantocks in Somerset, next to a sanctuary owned by the League Against Cruel Sports. The prosecution is understood to have been mounted based on video evidence gathered by League monitors at a hunting meet. Down and his whipper-in were fined £500 three years ago for breaking the ban.

A Mr Robinson is being prosecuted for an offence under the Hunting Act for activities in connection with the Ullswater Hunt. The alleged offence took place in October 2009 and the body of a dead fox has since been subject to a post mortem examination.

equine

VERMIN

The boss of an upmarket horse-drawn carriage company must pay £11,000 after admitting animal cruelty. John Wilmot, 68, failed to call a vet after a 10-week-old foal broke its leg. The horse hobbled around its Cheshire paddock for two weeks before the RSPCA intervened, Macclesfield magistrates heard on 16/3/10. It had trapped itself in a gate. Wilmot runs family company Dalmatian Carriages which rents horse-drawn carriages for weddings and special occasions in Prestbury. He pleaded guilty to causing unnecessary suffering to Marleen the foal by not providing veterinary care. Wilmot, of Withinlee Road, was ordered to pay £11,125 in vet and horse boarding fees and legal costs. He was also sentenced to 120 hours of community punishment.



farm animals

VERMIN

A farmer has been ordered to pay £3,000 for causing unnecessary suffering to animals after a court was shown a DVD of his lame cattle. Six heifers were housed in a shed where faeces was piled high and a water trough was full of faeces. There was no dry area or water available. After a DVD showing the extent of lameness in the cattle was shown the defence decided to plead guilty on six counts and the pleas were accepted by the prosecution. At Cardigan magistrates on 7/4/10 Elfan David Rees, 54, of Parc Y Big Farm, Beulah, was given a conditional discharge for two years and ordered to pay £3,000 towards council costs.

A farmer who was twice banned for life from keeping animals after he was discovered causing unnecessary suffering on his farm has failed in his bid to have the ban lifted. David Holmes, 53, could also face more charges for breaching the ban after a Bradford Council animal welfare officer found cows on his Silsden farm two days before his appeal against his disqualification, a court was told on 15/4/10. Dismissing Holmes's appeal at the hearing in Bingley, a judge said a continuation of the ban was "necessary, proportionate and evidently justified". Holmes, of Hen Holme Lane, Silsden, has been jailed and made the subject of the lifetime bans in 1999 and 2000 following a string of offences against animals. The court heard that Holmes had seven convictions for breaching the ban or causing further animal cruelty since the 2000 ban for causing unnecessary suffering to a border collie bitch. Holmes moved to France, so he could keep animals and "evade" the British ban. He also pleaded guilty to being in control of an animal at Skipton livestock market in November last year.



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

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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

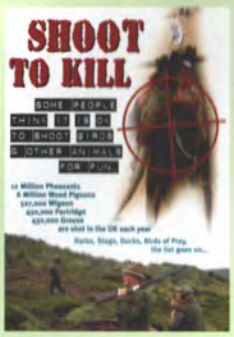
Stop DEathFra Badger Killers
www.badger-killers.co.uk

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

HSA PROMOTIONALS





Full colour A5 'Shoot to Kill' leaflet. Explains what you can do to stop our wildlife being killed and persecuted by shooters.

'Shoot to Kill'
FREE (+p&p +DONATION)



Full colour A5 'It ain't over 'til it's over' leaflet. Explains what sabs do post-ban and why we're needed more than ever to protect wildlife from the hunters.

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



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

Per 1000 'And How to Stop It' leaflets
FREE (+p&p +DONATION)

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



BACK ISSUES OF HOWL
FREE (+p&p +DONATION)

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

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



POSTAGE AND PACKING
To keep promotional material free we would ask you to make a donation to cover postage.1 Howl costs 72p to send as do 5 posters. 250 leaflets cost approx. £3.75, 500 leaflets £4.25 and 1000 leaflets £6.25.



Carl Robinson 06.10.1966 – 18.04.2010

Carl was an active sab in the 90's and early 00's. Many people will remember him for his wicked sense of humour. He was always making people laugh, usually by taking the mickey out of hunt supporters or the police. He was kind and caring, which showed in his love of animals and the fact that he was vegan and threw himself into animal rights for so many years. He was a very loyal friend, and you knew when you were out with Carl, if anyone gave you any trouble he would be right by your side. He didn't like to see his friends picked on any more than he would tolerate cruelty to animals and his dedication to fight injustice landed him in prison a couple of times in the 90's.

He also got involved in other campaigns, and was arrested during the May Day protests in London in 2000. The following day a photo of him being carted off by riot police was all over the papers, he was so proud of that picture; he was always showing off the newspaper cutting to everyone!

Carl had mellowed a lot over the last few years as his illness took its toll. But he still had a wicked sense of humour and a cheeky smile that was never too far from the surface. He always seemed to care more about his friends and family than he did about himself, and in particular for his rescue dog Fern. Fern and Carl meant the world to each other, they were inseparable. He lived for her, and I'm sure she kept him going many times when he was finding things hard.

Fern found herself a fantastic new home by coming along to an animal rights meeting in Bristol a few days after Carl died and making everyone fall in love with her. She is now settling in well with her new mum, dad and jack russell sister who are all totally besotted with her.

THREAT OF REPEAL



Save the Hunting ban

Under a Liberal supported Cameron government, Stag, Fox, Hare and Mink hunting along with Hare Coursing will all become legal and open again. Remember this is 2010 not 1810!!

The Hunting Act is not perfect by a long shot, but it has helped us in curbing the worst excesses of the hunting fraternity, and driven Hare coursing underground. If you study history you will see that all animal and social welfare acts start as being ineffective, but over the years strengthened until they become effective law. This is a first step to stopping hunting for good and we need to do whatever we can to defend it. If the act gets repealed it will be decades before we see another act which works to defend the hunted animal.

The Tories plan a free vote before they try to overturn the ban, but we suspect that to avoid embarrassment and failure that won't happen unless a win is a certainty. We have to act fast, please send the enclosed post-card, write and lobby your MP, Tory or otherwise, every single vote matters.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Sending a postcard is great, but writing a personal letter is much better and will often elicit a response, Ask them to sign EDM 116 - 'Hunting Act 2004' calling for the retention of the ban on hunting with hounds, and the thorough enforcement of the ban. BUT by far the best thing you can do, especially if your MP is undecided (Don't know, ask them!) is go and lobby them at the House of Commons.

- Go to Parliament and lobby your MP
- Contact your MP asking them to vote against any vote to repeal.
- Go to http://www.theyworkforyou.com/ to find your MP, their email or postal address
- Write to your local paper stating your MPs response (or none)
- Encourage your friends and colleagues to do the same
- Raise money for your local hunt sab group
- **Go hunt sabbing**

www.huntsabs.org.uk