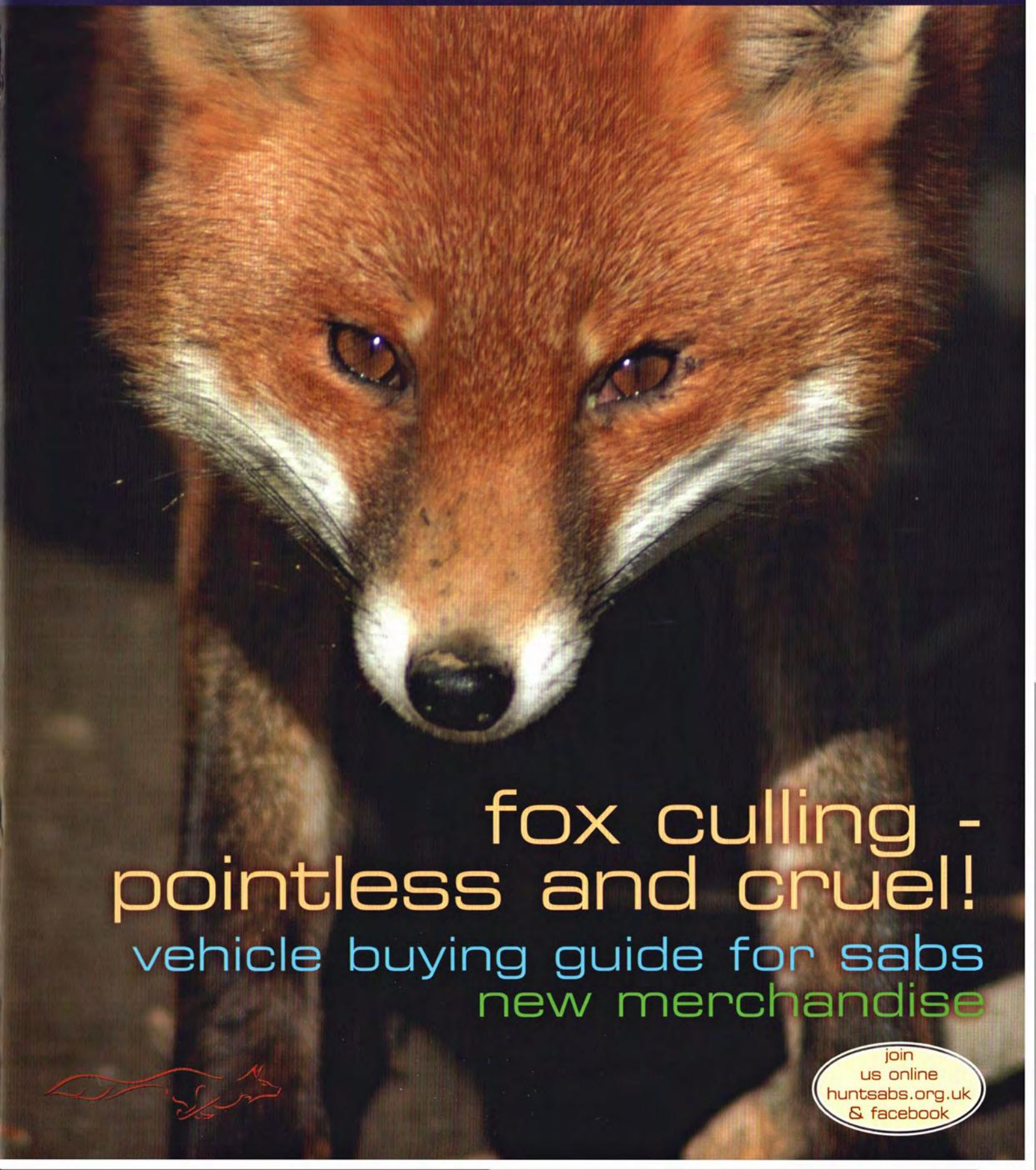
Direct Action Against All Bloodsports

winter 2010

# HOWL 96

The Magazine of The Hunt Saboteurs Association



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# HOWL 96

Cover image - rescued fox courtesy of Imageriot

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

# EDITORIAL

Many people feared that the Hunting Act could have been repealed by this season but certainly, for the moment, it doesn't look like a repeal is about to happen. There is no clear majority of MPs who would vote for repeal so a vote is unlikely. Equally of course, there is zero chance of getting the coalition government to tighten up the hunting Act so that it actually stops hunting! David Cameron remains committed to repealing the act and we can be sure that he will do so at the first opportunity. So for now as far as we are concerned, nothing much is changing. The season has got off to an impressive start with groups all over the country throwing lots of energy and enthusiasm into sabbing their local hunts. It appears that many hunts are going to continue to hunt illegally to fulfill their unnatural desire to see animals ripped apart.

2011 is also going to be an important year for badgers. Despite previous government trials which showed the culling of badgers to be ineffective in the control of bovine TB, the Tories and Lib Dems are still devoted to the killing of badgers. Also, the Welsh Assembly Government is determined to have another go after their embarrassing failure in the courts in 2010. The National Trust giving permission for the culling of badgers on its land has been a devastating blow for English badgers.

Mel

Ps There is going to be a book produced to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the HSA. It would be great if people could send in any sabbing stories, memories, photos etc. to be included.

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

## BEATERS FROM ESSEX SHOOT HOSPITALISED



At least 13 beaters from a game shoot were injured when the trailer they were being transported in overturned. The incident happened at Lodge farm in Great Bentley, Essex. All 13 of the beaters, whose job is to scare game birds out of undergrowth or woodland to then be shot, needed hospital treatment. Four of the injured were airlifted to hospital; at least one of the beaters was thought to be seriously injured. This incident has now been referred to the Health and Safety Executive.

Vgm@dreamstime

## ANIMAL AID REVEALS THE TRUTH ABOUT BRITISH ABATTOIRS



Undercover footage taken in British abattoirs has shown animals being kicked, stamped on and being cruelly and inappropriately stunned. An investigator for Animal Aid installed secret cameras in the 7 abattoirs, footage shows 'serious systemic problems' in 6 of them. Following the release of the footage, Sainsbury's suspended a contract with an abattoir but has since resumed supplies claiming that they were "working with all suppliers across all species with a view to them all installing CCTV."

5 of the slaughterhouses have since been investigated by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) but an attempt to prosecute one of the slaughterhouses was dropped due to potential problems with the admissibility of evidence. The undercover investigator is alleged to have trespassed on private property to conceal a camera and obtain footage.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has called on all 370 UK abattoirs to install CCTV and while it cannot force them to do so, proposals for encouraging camera installation such as additional inspection costs for those who don't have it are being discussed.

Animal Aid is now campaigning to encourage supermarkets to only buy meat from animals killed in slaughterhouses fitted with CCTV cameras. It is urging its supporters to lobby retailers in a postcard campaign.

## LEAGUE EXPAND BARONSDOWN SANCTUARY



The League Against Cruel Sports have purchased Brockhole Woods at Brompton Regis. The land lies to the north of the existing 200-acre Baronsdown sanctuary owned by the League since the late 1960s.

The League announced this year that it would be selling some of its land in Devon and Somerset to help fund a £1m campaign against the repeal of the Hunting Act. But chief executive of the League, Douglas Batchelor, described the acquisition of Brockhole Woods as 'strategic'.

"Our plan to sell land to finance our biggest ever campaign on hunting has been an enormous success. The purchase of this important woodland is a significant step forward in our wider plan to rationalise our land holdings," said Mr Batchelor.

## HUNT CHAIRPERSON FOUND DEAD

Chairperson of the Worcestershire hunt Michael Skuse has committed suicide after falling into debt and being unable to make mortgage payments. He also owed a large sum of money to a friend. He was found dead in his car. He had been chairperson of the hunt for 5 years and Joint hunt master David Palmer when paying tribute to Mr Skuse commented how he loved the countryside and his hunting. A Worcestershire coroner was satisfied Mr Skuse had intended to take his own life and recorded a verdict that he killed himself.



## SQUIRREL HUNTER KILLED

A man reportedly hunting squirrels on his employer's ranch north of Chico, California was killed when he fired a shotgun shell that hit a large oak limb, causing it to fall onto his head, according to the Butte County Sheriff's Office. The body of Joaquin Medina was discovered by co-workers. The California Highway Patrol responded to the accident initially, then turned the investigation over to the Coroner's Office.

## BULLFIGHT CHAOS

40 people were injured, 3 of them fatally, when spectators at a Colombian bullfight decided to leap into the ring. The event happened in the Andean community of Sabanalarga, and the town's mayor claimed that public drunkenness led to the spectators leaping into the ring where they were gored. One man died instantly, two other men died later and many of the other injuries are thought to be serious.



## ZOO EXPOSED BY CAPS IS TO CLOSE

A County Durham zoo exposed by the Captive Animal Protection Society for leaving sick animals untreated and corpses to rot has withdrawn its application for a zoo licence. Tweddle Farm, at Blackhall Colliery, had recently applied for a licence – three years after CAPS first informed the local authority it was operating illegally.

An undercover researcher from the charity worked at the farm for over a month, recording poor conditions for the animals and breaches of public health and safety. The council has confirmed that some animals have already been removed from the site and others are currently 'off display'. Unfortunately it is likely that the premises will remain as a petting zoo with farmed and domestic animals despite evidence presented by CAPS.

Craig Redmond, Campaigns Director at CAPS said: "We are delighted that Tweddle Farm has now withdrawn its application for a zoo licence and we expect that it finally realised it could not meet the conditions required, both in terms of providing for the proper welfare of animals and ensuring the safety of the public. Our investigation revealed that sick animals were left untreated and some animals fed on junk food. This had all been allowed to continue because of the failure of the local authorities to act since we first alerted them in 2007 to Tweddle Farm operating without a licence".

"However, there was a happy ending for some animals, including the capuchin monkey Josh, who was rehomed to the Wild Futures monkey sanctuary in Cornwall following our expose, where he now has the company of other capuchins and a proper diet. Three rabbits we rescued were successfully treated for diseases and abscesses and have found caring homes".



# give us on yer w

## WHERE THERE'S A WILL THERE'S A WAY... HOW TO KEEP FIGHTING HUNT THUGS AFTER YOU'VE GONE

**Wills. Boring, boring, boring...I know. But you really need to consider them. Think of it like you think of car insurance, getting birthday presents for elderly relatives or even going to work – you don't want to spend your time doing it but you accept you have to.**

**I remember 15 or so years ago the animal rights campaigner and vegetarian Tony Benn silenced a predominantly Conservative House of Commons by telling them that one of his elderly constituents had written to him telling him she was leaving money to the H.S.A.!**

Of course, there are plenty of excuses to do the easy thing which is...nothing.

**"I haven't got a pot to piss in..."**

Many people think they have nothing of value but they forget the value of property they may own, your mortgage will be paid off one day. There is also the possibility you may inherit in years to come and then be in a position to pass assets on. You might even win the lottery, recover damages from the Police or get a job at the League, who knows? You can make a Will that will allow for changes in your financial state.

**"What's the point in making a Will?"**

1. Keep on opposing animal abusers well after you have gone

This inspires me. Your death does not need to be the end to what you can achieve, you can really help animals after your death through your Will. The hunting mob don't expect us to be organised enough to pass on financial support when we are dead, they would just be pleased there is one less anti alive. They would be surprised and saddened to think there are some of us organised enough to plan ahead. You can still actively oppose their disgusting activities long after you have left the field.

2. Think of your family – don't leave a mess behind

If no Will is made then rules known as "intestacy provisions" come into play. This can make things worse for your family at a time that is very difficult anyway. For example if you are not married and have children, your children (or their children if yours have died) may inherit everything. Believe it or not, the rules do not recognise

unmarried common law partners. Your spouse could perhaps make a claim against your Estate but it could be costly and take time.

Your property might have to be sold in order to distribute your Estate under the rules of intestacy, think of the disruption this could cause to your family. Even if you are married, it is far better to be in control of what happens to your property and money after you die.

If you do have property/assets now then you really should make a Will because some simple tax planning can avoid monies going to the Government in inheritance tax when you would prefer it go to your family and/or campaigning organisations.

3. Help make the H.S.A of the future stronger

The H.S.A has developed over the last 40 years and is well known by our friends and enemies as non compromising, direct and effective in the field.

We want the H.S.A of the future to grow and be out challenging every hunt, shoot or other organised persecution of animals. A day when hunting and shooting becomes impossible.

The H.S.A is run by volunteers. However money is and always will be needed for vehicles and equipment. The opposition have huge support from wealthy and influential supporters, many are the "idle rich" who hunt/shoot midweek, others can be found employed within the media, Police and Judiciary. The H.S.A will never be intimidated by this but financial assistance can make the difference between a group's vehicle being roadworthy enabling them to get out, or the hunt going out for weeks unchallenged.

Your gift can help the next generation of Hunt Saboteurs help future generations of hunted animals.

**"I don't know what to leave"**

Your legal advisor will help. You can give a gift in different ways. Briefly,

(i) A specific legacy is a gift of a specific item, such as property/vehicle, hunting horn, barrels of citronella etc that you may already have.

(ii) A pecuniary legacy is a gift of a specific amount of money eg £1000 to the H.S.A.

(iii) A residuary legacy leaves whatever is left in your Estate after payment of your outstanding debts/tax/other gifts, to the beneficiary. So if you have nothing now but still make a Will leaving the residuary of your Estate to the H.S.A , then go on to make your fortune and die, the H.S.A still benefits!

(iv) A gift for life. You could even arrange to leave your assets to a loved one for the rest of their life and for what remains after they die to then pass on to a beneficiary on their death. Speak to your legal advisor.

If you already have a Will that you are happy with but want to add the H.S.A, or anyone/ organisation, as a beneficiary simply ask your legal advisor to draw up a codicil, this is a simple addendum to the Will, this should not be as expensive as a Will.

**"I don't know where to find a Solicitor"**

Unfortunately this is not a phrase often heard by sabs in the field! But for a Will you could look through yellow pages/the internet or phone the Law Society for a Solicitor (ask for one dealing with probate ) local to you, 0207 242 1222. The Law Society have a "find a Solicitor" function on their internet site where you can tap in your postcode.

# a shout way out!

**"What happens to my property and money if I don't make a Will"**

It depends on your circumstances but your money could end up going to relatives you might not have chosen to give it to, lets face it some of them may use it to eat/abuse animals themselves, it could even end up going to the Government! Making a Will ensures that you are in control and can direct where your money and property goes, it is probably the most important document you will sign.

**"It sounds a lot of aggro, how do you make a Will anyway?"**

We would recommend you go to a solicitor to make your will. It is not particularly expensive, sometimes under £100. You can buy DIY kits but if you mess up there is nothing those who you wanted to benefit can do. If a Solicitor messes up, your beneficiaries (those you wanted to benefit from your Will) can sue and they have insurance cover!

Solicitor's fees are generally reasonable for making Wills (compared to their usual fees) because they hope clients will make them Executor of the Will when you die. An Executor is the person/organisation who winds up/administers the Estate after the person has died. That's when the solicitors make their money, they see Wills as an investment in future work. However, you have no obligation to make them Executor of your Will.

It is important that you ask your legal advisor to ensure your Will refers to the Hunt Saboteurs Association of BM H.S.A, London, WC1N 3XX.



# Do Foxes need Culling?

**With the recent media attention on urban foxes the question has once again been raised about the need to cull foxes. The fox hunting community has always claimed that one of their raisons d'être is to control the numbers of foxes in the countryside. So does this argument hold any water?**



Germany banned fox hunting in 1934 and ironically, in 1947 rabies arrived. The German state attempted to solve the rabies problem by reducing the fox density below a certain threshold. This included attempts to hormonally sterilize foxes, distribution of poison baits, trapping, digging and destroying fox cubs in earths, general earth gassing and intensive general culling. None of these methods were successful in reducing and maintaining the fox population. The solution they now use is an oral vaccination which has successfully reduced numbers and controlled rabies.

**killing foxes in the winter actually leads to a higher population in the spring**

So why do none of the 'traditional' methods outlined above work? A study of different culling practices on fox numbers in a large region (1,600 $km^2$) including hunting with hounds, winter shooting, culling at the den and fertility control, showed that the most effective at reducing fox populations was culling at the den, which eliminates the mother with her cubs and winter shooting, which removes dispersing individuals. However, none of the methods was very effective at reducing overall fox numbers because immigrating foxes from other areas quickly replaced dead foxes. Two British studies that have looked at the impact of culling on fox numbers have both found that killing foxes in the winter actually leads to a higher population in the spring when they start breeding because more foxes move in to contest the vacant space than were there originally.

**Fox litter sizes increase in direct proportion to food supply and availability of territory. According to Kolb (Country Foxes, 1996)**

Foxes are territorial animals, and the size of their territory is related to food availability. This is further complicated by factoring in the dispersal of the food and time to gather such food. Depending on these factors and seasonal variation, territory can vary between 0.1 $km^2$ in urban environments to 40 $km^2$ in the countryside. So the local fox population is therefore regulated by the amount and availability of the food supply.

The estimated fox population in the UK in 2001 was 225,000 with 33,000 of those living in an urban environment. It was estimated the fox hunts were killing about 5% of the countryside population. During the ban on hunting due to the foot and mouth epidemic there was no overall change in the fox population. Why is this? Fox litter sizes increase in direct proportion to food supply and availability of territory. According to Kolb (Country Foxes, 1996) the average litter of a vixen in the countryside where no fox control takes place is four to five cubs, but where extensive fox control has happened, such as on shooting estates,



then the litter size increases to six or seven cubs. So the culling may reduce the fox population for a short space of time but the increase in litter sizes soon replaces the numbers killed. Add to this the fact that by freeing up territorial space, foxes from outside the culled area will move in to take over the now freed food supply. Kolb (Country Foxes) claims that mathematical models show that, to make a reduction in the number of foxes, you would need to kill over 75% of the current population. This would be impossible unless the breeding rates of gamekeepers and terrier men increase substantially! Of course if we had a massive decrease in country foxes we would likely see urban foxes migrating out to the countryside as territory is freed up, so such culling measures would need to cover urban population centres as well. The reality is that this is not feasible.

## Average Rural Diet of adult foxes




So as we have seen the general control methods used in this country will not control fox numbers. But this leaves the question; should we be using a more efficient method to reduce the fox population, such as in Germany? Leaving aside the ethical issues of any cull or population control method, what harm do foxes actually do?

There have been various studies on what foxes eat and results vary wildly between country and urban foxes as is to be expected. But there is also a massive variation in eating patterns between different areas of the countryside as well. Foxes are classified as carnivores, but in practice they will eat almost anything; they are, in effect omnivorous. The most current data comes from Baker and Harris (Urban Foxes). Country foxes' diet consist mainly of lagomorphs (rabbits and hares) to the extent of 50-75%. What proportion of each species it is hard to tell as the diet information is gleaned by droppings and stomach contents, and the difference between hare and rabbit is extremely had to distinguish in this form. However, as it is clear that the population of rabbits far outweighs that of the hare, it is a safe assumption to make that the majority of foxes live mainly on a diet of rabbit. The next largest food source is birds, 10-25%, followed by small mammals 7-11%, large mammals 5-9%, with the remainder being taken up by insects, earthworms and fruit. There are a very small amount of birds' eggs eaten, but less then .02 of a percentage. Roughly averaged out we get a diet as displayed in the diagram.

**Chickens can be protected from foxes with a little hard work by the farmer**

So using this data the only logical reason to cull foxes would be because of two areas of foxes' food supply, which interfere with human industry, large mammals and birds. But what exactly is included in these figures and from which source do they come? Foxes will eat carrion and it is a fair assumption that a fair proportion of the large mammal percentage is taken up by animals that had been found dead by the fox. Foxes do not have the physical capabilities to take on anything larger than a cat. So although many farmers and countryside 'experts' claim that foxes kill new born lambs, the likelihood is that these are still-born or otherwise ill or weak animals abandoned by the ewe. If there is any killing it is a very small number. Foxes do, of course kill chickens and young game birds such as pheasant and partridge, which are included in the 15% of birds in the diet. There is no way of knowing how much of this is poultry, game birds or other wild birds, so let us assume it is an easy 5% each. Chickens can be protected from foxes with a little hard work by the farmer using deterrents and fences, and most free range farms have little problem with foxes. Game birds are not such an easy bird to protect and I will expend no effort discussing the need to protect an artificially reared bird purely for the pleasure of shooting it at a later date.



Calculations on the effects foxes have on agriculture, as a whole, have shown that due to their effect on the rabbit population, the balance is a gain of a few hundred pounds per fox so they are economically beneficial overall.

So to return to the main point of this article; do foxes need culling? Without a countrywide campaign the effects of any such localised culling is extremely limited and only lasts for a short period of time, so is in itself fairly pointless. The real argument comes down to whether or not the fox is doing any real damage. It is clearly seen from the proportions of the fox's diet that, with good poultry management the only people who suffer from fox predation to any real detriment are game estates. To cull a species because of a mere 5% of its diet, and then only so that the birds upon which it is feeding can be slaughtered for pleasure is perverse, to say the least. So the science is clear; there is no need to reduce fox numbers, and left to its own devices the fox population will stabilise and control itself.

**So the science is clear; there is no need to reduce fox numbers**

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# HUNTING ACT CONVICTIONS

In July Alistair Robinson, a terrier man with the Ullswater Foxhounds in Cumbria, was convicted of hunting a fox at Penrith Magistrate's court. Robinson was filmed by League monitors entering two terriers into a hole after the Ullswater hounds had marked to ground. After a twenty minute dig out he pulled a fox out by its tail and beat it to death with a stick. Robinson then removed the body and hid it. All of this occurred on National Trust land. The carcass was subsequently retrieved and a post mortem examination was carried out, revealing a partially crushed skull and bite wounds to the face. In court Robinson claimed that the first terrier had slipped its lead and run underground and that he then sent the second terrier underground in order to help locate and bring out the first. The District Judge rejected his story and found Robinson guilty. He was fined £250 and ordered to pay £900 court costs and £15 victim surcharge. It is noteworthy that there were no representatives of the CA or the Ullswater hunt at the trial. As usual the hunting community let a terrierman take the blame and then hung him out to dry.

Two Coniston hunt supporters have been cautioned following an attack on two League monitors in March. Joint master of the hunt, Mr Westmorland was cautioned for an offence under S4 Public Order Act. Another supporter was cautioned for common assault. The monitors were ambushed by hunt supporters as they returned to their vehicle. Mr Westmorland was filmed as he threatened one monitor verbally. The other hunt supporter was filmed as he drove his quad bike up to a monitor and pushed him off a wall. A third hunt supporter was arrested at the scene and held overnight, but no charges were brought as there were no independent witnesses to his alleged assault.

Richard Down, huntsman of the Quantock Staghounds, is due to stand trial for an offence under the Hunting Act. The alleged incident occurred in September 2009 on National Trust land on the Quantock Hills. Film of the incident was taken by LACS monitors; the League owns a sanctuary in the same area. Down was previously convicted of hunting deer in 2007, and subsequently lost his appeal of that conviction.

Fernie huntsman Derek Hopkins and terrierman Kevin Allen have both been charged under the Hunting Act and the Protection of Badgers Act. The alleged offence took place on 27th January 2010 at Thorpe Langton. They face a four day trial at Leicester Magistrates Court in December 2010.

Three members of the Sinnington Hunt in North Yorkshire, Huntsman Anthony Winter, whipper-in Caroline Scott and Wilfred Gamble, have been charged with offences under the Hunting Act. The alleged offence took place on the 16th December 2009. There will be a two day trial in December 2010 at Scarborough magistrates.

A hunt terrierman is being prosecuted for an offence under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 following an incident on 7th April 2010. League investigators were monitoring the South Devon Foxhounds when Andrew Bellamy was spotted allegedly interfering with a badger sett. Bellamy – whose wife is the master and huntswoman of the Spooner's & West Dartmoor Foxhounds – has been bailed until a provisional trial date in January 2011.



# Legal News

## Vicious attack on anti-hunt protesters

On Sat 16th October 2010 members of the South West hunt saboteurs were out monitoring the Chilmark and Clifton Foot beagle hunt at Emborough, near Midsomer Norton, Somerset. They were present at the hunt to monitor for evidence of illegal hunting and to present any such evidence to the police.

Whilst standing on a public footpath watching the hunt, the group of eight anti-hunt protesters, made up of men and women, were approached by five vehicles whose number plates had been obscured with mud. Approximately a dozen men jumped out of the vehicles and proceeded to attack the hunt saboteurs shouting "get the cameras". People were punched in the face and one man had his leg repeatedly stamped on. The attackers did not stop until they had stolen 3 video cameras and one digital camera. Members of the anti-hunt group were left severely battered and shocked by this un-provoked and brutal attack and robbery. The incident has been reported to the police who are currently making enquiries.

The Chilmark and Clifton foot beagles are closely linked with the Mendip Farmers Foxhunt (MFFH) and several of the attackers were wearing Mendip Farmers FH rugby shirts. Whilst there is no suggestion that the Mendip Farmers officially sanctioned this attack it seems certain that some of their supporters were involved. For several years the MFFH have been involved in a high profile battle with local residents to move to new Kennels at Chewton Mendip in Somerset. The local residents do not want them as they feel they will bring increased traffic, noise and disruption to the community but despite vociferous local protests the hunt seem determined to go ahead, painting themselves as an upright, integral part of the local community. Is today's attack the true face of the Mendip Farmers Foxhunt?

Lee Moon, spokesperson for the Hunt Saboteurs Association stated: "We are sick and tired of seeing hunts trying to portray themselves as part of the tradition and fabric of this country. If our traditions include violence, intimidation and robbery then perhaps they are. It is time the police showed these people that the countryside is not their own private playground and prosecute them for the crimes they commit against animals and people."

## Possible ban on hunting animals in Israel

An amendment to the existing Willife Preservation Law, if it succeeds in becoming law, will outlaw hunting for sport and only limited instances of hunting will be allowed to prevent ecological damage or a threat to people. The modification to the bill would also include harsher penalties for illegal hunting and would outlaw the selling of animal furs and laying any poison on the ground.

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel commended the bill. "We praise the advancement of the bill, which includes banning sport hunting in Israel," the SPNI said. "Development pressures already do a lot of damage to nature and therefore there isn't room anymore for sport hunting. There is a unique and rich biodiversity in Israel and it is our responsibility to protect it rather than damage it through unnecessary activities."

## Ward Union Hunt will continue despite ban

Ireland's only stag hunt has pledged to survive using any loophole available in recent legislation banning stag hunting. The hunt has issued a list of hunt fixtures for the coming season, and Ronan Griffin, the hunt's spokesman, said "We have no intention to break the law but we want the hunt to continue".

Bernie Wright of the Association of Hunt Saboteurs Ireland, claimed she had learned from sources in the hunt that it was planning to hunt stags again and she was seeking a Garda investigation. If the hunt is found to be in breach of the law it could face fines from €500 to €1,000 for a first offence, from €1,000 to €2,000 for a second offence, and from €1,500 to €5,000 for a third or subsequent offence. The maximum fine for conviction on indictment was increased to €100,000 in the controversial legislation driven by the Green Party.

## SHAC campaigners sentenced to prison

Six anti-vivisection campaigners have been sentenced for their involvement in the SHAC (Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty) campaign during the period 2001 – 2008. SHAC is committed to closing down Huntingdon Life Sciences which kills 500 animals every day and has been repeatedly exposed for its brutal treatment of animals including punching a beagle puppy in the face. Sentences ranged from a 12 month suspended sentence with 100 hours community service to 6 years in prison.

One campaigner speaking outside the court after the sentencing said he blamed the Government for "failing to prosecute HLS for the animal cruelty which has gone on. As has been seen in the past with the suffragettes and the anti-apartheid movement, people are bound to take the law into their own hands."



# GROUP NEWS

Well, the start of the season was not looking good for **Devon hunt sabs** as when we went to check out the South Devon Foxhounds kennels they had obviously come into some money. The kennels have been revamped and they had painted the old hound truck. But of course having money it seems does not help you improve on your hunting skills or bring out the field and support to join in with you.

Even their whip Paul Grady had not been out and as time went by we found out why. He has had a stroke which I guess was a stroke of bad luck for him and the hunt! He will not be riding at least for the rest of this season, if ever again.

And another problem for them is that their cocky part time terrier man has been charged with interfering with a badger sett. He's been told by the hunt to keep clear of them at least until after his trial which has been listed for January 18th-20th so he'll be out of it for some time as well.

We have had a good cubbing season and are hoping this will continue through the rest of the hunting season. It is important to sab a hunt at this early stage in the season whilst the huntsman is training his hounds. Hampering hound training means a less efficient pack for the rest of the season. It means an early start to the day - but it pays great dividends.

The South Devon Hunt had their first hunt (cubbing) of the season on Friday the 13th of August. Unlucky for some eh!, as the sabs were there ready and waiting. They are concerned how we are getting our info but that will remain our secret.

We have also done the East Cornwall Hunt's opening meet which was on the 9th October, much earlier than most. They as usual were not happy to see us and did not have a good day. They always seem to spend their time running when we visit. The only time they spent in an area for very long was when the pack had split and they spent a long time gathering them back up. They had not even got on to a fox. They spent some time babbling in a valley but that was the best they had all day and was only at the end of the day. They had no kills. Their terrier man decided he would follow us home so to see just how stupid he was we decided to drive to Liskeard police station and the idiot followed only to be told by the local police he would have to move on.

We are looking forward to a good sabbing season especially with our friends from up country who come down here to join us. Thank you guys.

As usual, **South Wales sabs** spent the summer recruiting and fundraising. Some people have been spectacularly generous – you know who you are and THANK YOU.

We've got ourselves some lovely new recruits to add to the dedicated team. And dedicated is the right word – one of our sabs has been regularly walking up to 18 miles to his pick up point, because public transport doesn't operate at that hour in his remote, rural location (yes, some of us really do live in the country – well, those city squats are so overcrowded!).

We started the season with a visit to the Berkeley, where our very own pied piper took the hounds (who were in cry) from under the nose of the humiliated huntsman. The huntsman tried in vain to call the hounds back – but they preferred our guy, and you can't blame 'em. By now the huntsman was bouncing in his saddle, and eventually the whip was dispatched to collect the hounds from half a mile away. They packed up once they'd retrieved the hounds. Result.

Since then we've been out every week, joining with our friends in the South West for some life-saving sabbing. Thankfully the early mornings are now over, the new sabs nicely settled in and we're ready for the season ahead.

**Bristol sabs** have been doing the usual things with the usual people and going to the usual hunts to find them, hunting as usual. Usually we now rant on about lack of law enforcement, hunt violence, etc. etc., blah blah blah, but there is no point in crying over spilt cider so rather un-usually we won't and just get on with it, as usual!

On the 2nd October **Bath sabs** joined up with Bristol, South Wales & Ross Sabs, going up to play with Ledbury fox hounds 'Cubbing'. We split the pack a couple of times, having the Huntsman greeting us with the age old welcome of 'you blow that fucking horn again and I'll shove it up your



arse' so of course no more horn blowing for us!!! yer right. We continued to keep playing with the hounds until they packed up, great result. On the way home we bumped into some shooters which we closed down for a couple of hours until Plod arrived so we returned home.

The following week, once again Bath joined up with Bristol & South Wales Sabs to visit the Monmouth Foxhounds, who started hunting like there was no Ban!! With the hounds in 'cry' in a covert sabs go in. With a mixture of horn, voice calls and whistles, hounds are called off. With the hounds scattered the huntsman takes some time gathering and settling the hounds. Soon 'Plod' arrive, stopping the Sab landy, declaring they know nothing...about hunting and were only there to prevent 'a breach of the peace'. With that a 'Sock on a String' appears and a trail hunt begins straight into a maize field, soon putting up a fox. Huntsman, hounds and support miss it, but sabs are in there covering the scent. Another fox is put up and goes back into the maize field, luckily the hunt miss this one too. Not long after they get bored and go home. On getting home, while walking the dogs, a sab manages to do a minor angling sab by removing the position marks for tomorrow's match. It won't stop them, but it'll piss them off a little and ends a pretty perfect days sabbing!!!

The next week as usual we meet up with Bristol & South Wales, and set off to a meet for the Chilmark and Clifton Foot Beagles, who haven't been sabbed for years, if at all since they joined, the Mendip Farmer's Foxhounds whom they share kennels with.

We get to the meet, the hunt are spouting their usual propaganda, then move off, we follow, getting the normal abuse, think nothing of it. A 'terrier' quad bike turns up, terriers on a hare hunt! There is more abuse, a bit of pushing and shoving, we move away to get in front of the hunt, along a footpath, a great position. Next thing we know a little orange hatchback is screaming through the field towards us, more abuse, over a fence, still on the footpath, up with the Beagles, on sabbing, just a little filming. 6 cars drive into the field about 15 boys get out, more abuse,



arguments about footpaths, we're surrounded, a shout goes out to get the cameras.

I'm punched, a couple of guys laying into me. I see others getting the same treatment, face, chest, kicked, I go down. Try to get up, more punches, kicks to my head, shoulders, arms protecting my head, more kicks. I get to my feet, they back off for a second, one of them shouts 'they've still got cameras'. I see 2 boys jump a female sab attempting to get her camcorder. Some more come for me, I'm in a hedge, more punches, on the ground again my glasses go, kicks to the head and shoulders, I see my glasses, grab them, they stamp on my hand, more kicks. Sod this it's only a camcorder, I give it up, they seem to back off, one more kick and it's stopped, I get up, the boys are running back to their cars, other sabs are recovering. The car drives off, we check each other, no serious injuries, we memorize reg. numbers and regroup. Mendip Farmers logos were spotted on the boys' sweatshirts.

We call the police and over an hour later we get a call to say the police are close, two cars drive passed, we inform dispatch, 20 minutes later they return.

Female cop seems to take an interest, male cop totally uninterested. We are told that that they would report the incident, but it would take weeks, maybe months to investigate, and because we were wearing combats, it could be difficult to prove. So I think we know what that means.

The Mendip Farmers were thugs, in the '90s when they were last sabbed, and it seems they're still thugs. One more thing, when does it become right, as a sab you get beaten up and you know the police won't do a thing about and we just have to walk away, at least we could walk away. Sorry if this is a downer, but I needed to get it off my chest, head and the rest of my broken body.

The following week, we are off to the Cotswolds Vale. At the meet there's a little pushing, shoving and shouting. Three quads, with 6 'boys' on board turn up, the nerves start a little. The quads start blocking the 'foot' sabs & landy. More pushing and shoving, sabs return to Landy. Quads surround us, nerves pick up a gear. This continues for some time before we manage to get away and head for the motorway with Quad still following. We turn on to the motorway and head back to a drop off point. We hang around a little too long chatting, 'Plod' turn up, 'West Mercia's finest, including a nice man from the 'Armed Response Unit' with his Ray gun on the ready. 'Ray gun' cop suggests 'if everyone gives their details we'll be able to leave sooner' and of course everyone queues up to give their details... yer right. More standing around...1st cop comes over, we're free to go. That's it, nothing more - we're free to go!

On the 30th October, the Monmouth foxhounds are pretty well closed down with excellent use of Gismo and 4 way Horn

Duelling. Then Gwent police turn up, with accusations of children being singled out for videoing! As if! Threats of arrest, if we trespassed, caused a nuisance or breathed in the wrong way. When it was suggested that the hunt was hunting illegally this was slammed down with more threat of arrest!

Soon they're as good as their word, 1 sab rugby tackled to the ground and arrested, accused of firearms offences, maybe double barrelled citronella or even a sawn off Gismo. Not long after another arrest for refusing to submit to an illegal search. Let's hope Gwent police have plenty of cash for the compensation!

Meanwhile out in the field a fox is spotted by a group of Sabs. They wait, to let it pass, leap into action, covering the fox's scent, getting ready for the oncoming hounds, with whips at the ready sabs cover the hunt line, hounds appear and with a few cracks of the whips and 'rating' of the hounds, soon they turn back! A 'textbook' bit of sabbing. The huntsman spends the next hour or so trying to gather the hounds.

Next we hear over the radio 'huntsman fallen from his horse' no sabs witness the accident, shame. More police harassment, the hunt packs up. We recover our missing sabs, apart from the arrests a brilliant day's sabbing.

**Pewsey Vale sabs'** summer (well not all of it) was spent doing some much needed fund raising in the form of car boot type events. Some of these start nearly as early as cubbing and are just as scary, but we raised a good amount of money.

The start of cubbing was late for us this season as our landrover was in for repairs and MOT. Our first outing was to our local fox hunt, the Tedworth. We were joined by sabs from Cirencester. The meet was on Salisbury Plain just a couple of hundred yards from the Royal Artillery hunt kennels. Our first thoughts were that it was to be a joint meet - not good as we had low numbers. The Tedworth stood around for what seemed like forever, looking at us and scratching their heads, then eventually they moved off while the R.A hounds could be heard in their kennels, which was quite surreal. Sabs followed on foot. The huntsman tried to lose us but we kept them in sight or earshot at all times. After just ONE hour huntman and hounds were heading back to the meet followed by sabs. We think the original plan had been for a joint meet but this was thwarted when we showed up - amazing what a bunch of strange looking characters in a beaten up landrover can do!

On our next visit we were joined by Reading sabs to kennel watch the Vine & Craven foxhounds. After a 3.15am start and a lot of waiting around for us the hunt didn't go out, isn't cubbing lovely.

The next week we were back at the Tedworth, joined by Cirencester and Reading sabs. After kennel watching and nearly an hour long drive following the hound van to the meet they only stayed out just over an hour which was mostly spent running from sabs. The Tedworth's new huntsman (who must be all of 12) is playing it very cautiously at present while sabs are about, long may it last.

We joined up with Cirencester and Reading for the Garth's final cubbing meet on 30th October. The hunt were not at all pleased to see us, bet they thought it would be a sab free day with us all away doing opening meets. They were out of luck. At the start of the meet the huntman broadcast for all to hear (especially sabs) that an official trail would be laid (much better than any old random one then!). Also if any riders or supporters were to see a fox "holloaing" was not permitted. Five years after a hunt ban and they still don't know the rules! The hunt moved off and proceeded to hunt as normal, good job the ground rules were laid down then. Sabs kept on the huntsman's every move. Hounds put up two foxes from thick brambles (that would be the official trail then) right in front of sabs. One fox crossed a road and was away, its scent was sprayed out by sabs, the second laid up in the brambles but the hounds were called off due to our presence. If we had not been there the foxes outcome would have been very different. The huntsman could not lose us even despite our landrover breaking down and sabs having to follow on foot. They packed up at 1.30 pm with no kills. As the day was still young we sped back to Wiltshire to catch the Tedworth at their opening meet. We very soon found them and within 20 minutes of arriving we were pulling hounds off a scent, that was the end of their 'sport' for the day. Two hunts sabbed in one day and no kills, a good start to the season for us.

**Reading sabs** had a cracking start to the season, meeting up with sabs from **Pewsey and Cirencester**. We have visited the Tedworth, Vine and Craven and the VAGSB (now the Kimblewick). All of our days have been successful, especially a trip to the VAGSB where two terrified foxes were saved from the repulsive hunt scum. To join us contact readinghuntsabs@hotmail.com or 07984977603

**South Coast hunt sabs** (formally Hastings and Eastbourne) were watching the South Down and Eridge fox hunt during cubbing, who were elusive, not appearing on Saturdays. We linked up with Croydon, Brighton and Guildford groups to visit the Crawley and Horsham, who packed up as soon as we arrived not wanting to play and the Surrey Union. We finished cubbing by following the South Down hound van to a new meet on the far East of Brighton. We followed them for most of the day to their annoyance. Went to the opening meet of the South Down and Eridge FH at the site of last year's violent attack on two sabs. Although there were only a small number of us, we had a successful day keeping tabs on them below and over the South Downs. The group now has the funds to purchase a land rover thanks to generous help from the HSA and from some anonymous donations. Many thanks to all.

**Southampton sabs** have had a very good start to cubbing, doing the New Forest fox hounds and a trip to the New Forest beagles with the odd stall on a Sunday for good measure. Our first day out was a very short one, we turned up to the meet, they looked pissed off. They hacked off and we found them thirty minutes later so they packed up and we were home by 7.30am. The next week they looked a poor excuse for a hunt with both masters not even leaving the meet, and no field riders whatsoever. We kept on the

huntsman and his pack all morning; they even tried to hide in some private land they were not supposed to be on. We just stood at the gate and watched them standing looking lost, they soon packed up after that. The next couple of weeks saw them step up their game by having out numerous spotters and riders to tell them where we are at all times. However, we have had good numbers out so far this season so we have been able to split into smaller groups, allowing most of us to carry on unhindered. The following week the group was tailed all day by the Forest's very own solicitor /steward/ tosser but all his efforts didn't make much difference as our lot were never far away from the hounds. The next Saturday we decided to do two hunts as the New Forest beagles were meeting two hours before the foxhounds. After a bit of searching, two of the group found them in a small wood on full cry, however, the sight of us was enough to make them panic and call the hounds off. This resulted in them losing a couple of hounds. After that they tried to make a show of it for the police by trying to do a bit of trail hunting. This was a disaster for them as the hounds lost the trail and went on to a real scent in front of us and the local wildlife police. Shortly after that they packed up and we headed off to the foxhounds. Again we come across the hounds in full cry and the hunt looking very upset to see us. Their even more elaborate network of spotters which now consists of people on push bikes, horse back, in cars, on foot, local kids with radios, and brain dead stewards was still not enough to keep us away from the hounds which resulted in them having another crap day out cubbing and a good day out for us. The way it's going, our new sabs will be nice and ready for the main season but can't really say the same for their young hounds.

**Bournemouth group** had ourselves a very successful cubbing season in which we had the chance to train a few new recruits whilst denying the hunt that same pleasure.

A joint effort with Southampton ensured that the New Forest foxhounds behaved themselves despite doing everything they could to get away from us. This season also saw a few successful sabs of the New Forest Beagles, who were mighty surprised to start their day greeted by us for the first time in a few seasons. So surprised were they that they completely forgot how to put on a convincing act and even the usually apathetic local plod were convinced they were up to no good!

I'm writing this after a well deserved lie in, recovering from the opening meet of the Monmouthshire Hunt where we teamed up with groups from Southampton, Bath, Bristol and a few others and wow, what a day had by all (except the hunt)! Covered many miles getting to, around and back from the hunt and spirits were high every step of the way.

Our day started off with us following them from the meet until we lost them, but fortunately there were other groups in the area so as soon as we lost them, they just ran into the other lot. Perfect. It wasn't long before we caught them on a live scent, but fortunately with a fully charged Gizmo on hand we soon split the pack 3 ways causing chaos and most importantly costing them time which they would otherwise be spending illegally hunting. Clearly this left the hunt none too pleased, which we could tell by the sudden decision of the plods to search us all for whips and sprays. Not being content with being schooled on the laws they're meant to enforce, they decided to rugby tackle one sab to the ground and nick him for 'Suspicion of carrying a firearm'. Considering how many of us there were, this did nothing to hamper us, but instead gave us a good laugh at the inevitable compensation & complaint that will result from such ridiculous abuse of the law on behalf of the hunt.

Our luck took a slight turn for the worse around 1pm when a mechanical problem with the landy left us stuck half way up a hill. Fortunately this caused massive inconvenience to the local bumpkins in their weekly search for a gruesome spectacle, and the AA got us back on the road in no time (worth every penny!). Our mid-hill breakdown wasn't without its own drama of course, and a few select words exchanged with a less than friendly member of support resulted in the police attending the scene and rather than dealing with our reports of threats of violence, decided instead to search us for whips and sprays, resulting in another of our lot getting nicked for refusing to submit to an illegal search.

While the vehicle was being sorted out, a few of our sabs split off to join up with the other group and it wasn't long before we were right back with the hunt, and having a good old game of ping-pong with the hounds across a field using voice and horn calls. With the light starting to fade the day was nearly up at this point and by the time the huntsman had gathered the hounds, they had little chance to do much other than return to the meet with their tails between their legs, in full knowledge that despite having overwhelming numbers of support and Gwent Constabulary fully on their side, it was no match for the dedication and skills of the sabs in the field.

We finished our day dodging the two riot vans the coppers thought fit to harass us with, and when they finally gave up we regrouped, split off and made our ways home. On our way home we swung by the cop shop to pick up





our two sabs who were wrongfully arrested. They were, unsurprisingly released without any charges whatsoever. Well, we've got video evidence and witness statements of the whole thing, so their abduction by the state goons working for the hunt will not go unchallenged!

**Croydon sabs** kept busy through the summer with many of the group staffing stalls in Croydon. The reaction from the public was very positive and we recruited several new sabs. The start of cubbing saw the group out in force and linking up with Brighton, Hastings, Guildford and Worthing sabs on the C and H and Surrey Union hunts to great effect.
Find us on Facebook 'Croydon Huntsabs'

**North and East London sabs (NELS)** began our cubbing season by joining our colleagues from the South East sab group (SES) in good time to follow the Essex and Suffolk hunt out of the meet North of Baylham. Despite the usual sab dodging by the huntsman Gary, our SES colleagues still found them at the meet. After that the two groups of sabs and vehicles kept finding them though they kept trying to shake us off. Gary lost control of the hounds at times during the day in spite of his boasting. Two weeks later we found the Essex and Suffolk hunt at Coles Green near Chattisham. Gary and the hunt put the sham in Chattisham with the poor owl released from its box on cue to flap its strapped wings as if that covered their illegitimate hunting activity. The scum support were out in numbers glowering but surprisingly muted and when later a sab was visited at home by police regarding the use of swear words, the new tight lipped act was revealed as possibly a strategy on their part. So now they know we will defend ourselves effectively, is it possible they may have been told to tone down and cut out their violent and abusive behaviour as it's counter productive and they hope to pretend they are the victims. This is in contrast to the obstructive response from police only a few weeks ago when an assault, criminal damage and theft (we had evidence) was reported – serious robbery - and no such proactive action was taken by Suffolk police.

Finally, NELS and SES attended Margaretting Tye in time to see the Cambridge drag hounds join the farmers and head into some strips of wood to the South. Dougie Hill seemed too quiet but Purser was making some noise. I think he believes it to be called speech but as we've come a few evolutionary steps since then, we will call it grunting. Other support capable of modern speech were bristling and aggressive. Purser did what he thinks he's good at and made an attack on a sab without warning and only cameras and opposition put him off attempting worse.

With vehicle problems sorted (for now!), and a sudden influx of new members, **East Kent sabs** set their alarm clocks, and took to the kennels again....Our old and dear friends the East Kent foxhounds just don't want to play this year though, swapping their meets from early to late every other week...Doesn't mean we didn't find you a couple of times though old chaps. But you are favouring the "hide in giant woods" trick thus far.....and still calling the police on us, even though you're not even out!!

The Wye beagles are also equally camera shy. We followed them from the kennels one morning, only for them to spend all the time on the road "exercising" the hounds - what an easy sab! The next week however they went out hours early, and were nowhere to be seen....Another local pack that hadn't seen sabs for years, also got a visit. Sadly it took us until they had packed up to find them!!

So, with the hunts doing everything they can to avoid us, a quiet start to the season, but many miles travelled! On to the opening meets - try and hide then!

The season for the **Norfolk & Suffolk sabs** started with the hunt waving a white flag. There we were getting all excited at the prospect of the hunt surrendering but alas, no, it was the sign of the hunt using a flag to beat the hares onto the dogs. It looked like someone had a guilty conscience as 10 minutes after they were spotted in the act, they packed up for the day. Most people would wonder what a hunt is doing going out drag hunting at the crack of dawn. Of course every sab in the country knows that the answer to this is that they are not drag hunting at all but continuing to hunt a live quarry. If only the supposed enforcers of the law were intelligent enough to see this.

The opening meet of our season was pretty frustrating for the hunt as they were contained in a small area and not able to hunt on open ground at all. One whipper-in took his obvious frustration out on a sab by riding into him. This only serves to make us more determined to continue to save precious lives.

Already this season we have been lucky enough to be joined by the Essex & Suffolk sabs, which provoked quite a response. We had the benefit of 5 police vehicles in attendance for just 8 of us. The Police made it very clear which side they are on when they said "Hope you're not interfering with the hunt." There was little old us thinking hunting was illegal. Stay safe everyone.

**Hereford and Worcester hunt sab group** has just formally started. The sabs are some old uns, come out of retirement....but mostly people who are new to sabbing, but keen to help wipe the smiles off the bastards faces. Our first formal day out together was joining Sabs from South Wales, Gloucester, Bristol, Bath and Southampton to do a pack on the Welsh borders.

An interesting day, no kills, but some exceptionally idiotic filth, throwing their substantial weight around. Stay off the pies ya fat psycho bastard. Only four of us made it out on this occasion, but we learnt a lot and are ready for more. Won't be as regular as some for now, but hope to pick up as time goes on. Luckily we have a vehicle, but we rely on the driver being available.

The group is largely made up of members of the Hereford Solidarity League, who produce the "Hereford Heckler", a radical Anarchist newssheet, we have a safe mail :h-w-huntsabs@safe-mail.net and phone number: 07748245977

Feel free to get in touch!

**Birmingham Hunt Saboteurs** have been busy during the cubbing season. We've joined up with local groups in the South West and have been out every week stopping hunts killing foxes. On Saturday 30th October we had a stall at the West Midlands Vegan Festival in Wolverhampton. People came up to our stall all day. We had many donations, some offers of help and a couple of free spicy bean wraps. We are looking forward to the main season (getting out of bed later) and visiting some more hunts to save lives... PS If anyone from the West Midlands is interested in coming sabbing with us, or helping out with demos etc. then email us: birmingham-huntsabs@hotmail.co.uk

**Nottingham and Sheffield hunt sabs** had a generally positive cubbing period despite some worse than usual policing that shocked even this bunch of cynics, yes, take a bow North Yorkshire, we mean you!

We had a good day at the Bramham and Badsworth Moor in early September, actively sabbing them all morning and packing them up early. We returned to the same hunt for the next 2 weeks, which is when North Yorkshire's finest decided to get involved and act as the hunt's own private security guards. They decided it would be fun to arrest 2 sabs for various made up offences such as allowing yourself to be driven at by an angry farmer in a tractor and walking along a public road! They also thought it would be nice to CS gas a sab whilst pinning him down in a field full of human waste. Fortunately he's a big, strong lad and seems to have enjoyed the whole experience! The police turned up in force both weeks, sending up to 15 vehicles and armed response units!! In this time of cut backs we look forward to seeing them on a dole queue near us soon!!

We decided to take a break from North Yorks so went to have a look at the lesser sabbed Grove and Rufford the following week. The huntsman took one look at our brave crew and went and hid in a big wood and packed up after only a couple of hours. We then had two good days in Lincolnshire sabbing the Blankney and the Burton. Both hunts move really fast but excellent tactics and tag teaming meant we stayed with them all day.

We finished cubbing at a more civilised hour with a visit to the High Peak Harriers who trail hunt when we're there and, almost certainly, hunt hares when we're not. Very short gallops after the trail were interspersed with lots of hanging around and the hunt packed up after a couple of hours. In the huntsman's own words it was like watching paint dry.

So now the hideous early mornings are behind us for another year. Numbers are up, morale is high and we're raring to go get 'em as the main season starts.

Many thanks to all the comrades we've been out with. You know who you are.

Notts sabs:
http://nottinghamhuntsabs.weebly.com

Sheffield sabs: sheffieldsaboteurs@live.co.uk

A first for **Cumbria hunt sabs**, we attended the Bencathra's cubbing meets as we have people near to Keswick (Threlkeld). They turned up on the summer evening meets to train the cameras on Barry.

One Saturday evening, we turned up at a country fair in Caldbeck to see if the hunt were there, they had been earlier in the day but had left, so we went to check one of their meets. Whilst driving by we could not see them at first, but we received a message on our CB to keep driving on and not stop. We are not very good at being told what to do, so we went onto the fells and half of the country fair were in the valley waiting on Barry to provide some so called sport. The hounds were in the bracken beds and in cry so we proceeded to call his hounds off the line of the fox. Then the CB kicked back into life, Barry was being rather charming telling us to give his hounds back. We told him he could if he behaved himself and stayed within the law. This footage can be viewed on youtube cumcar1.

The main season has started now for the Blencathra. We obtained footage of the hounds marking to ground on National Trust land on their first Saturday out. It took the huntsman an hour and a half to get his hounds back as they were interested in the fox that they had ran to ground. Once he got them back, he moved off, only to meet more of us in the next valley, so he packed in.

On the Wednesday, we attended the opening meet at the kennels. The weather was on our side, a right old pea souper. They had a large



turnout, sabs had to intervene to rate one hound off a fox which jumped in front of them and made its get away. Barry's pack was split and his hounds were hunting another fox. With us close by, he tried to leg it, but we had sabs who stuck to him like glue. The support now are at breaking point with sabs turning up at most meets and the prospect of having us out seems to affect their behaviour with sabs being pushed about and verbally abused. But hey we are thick skinned up here!



A week later saw two sabs attend the Blencathra FHS meet at Carrock Fell. We turned up a bit later knowing full well that he would be hunting, and yes he was. We stood with our video cameras rolling, at the foot of the fell. The hounds were onto a fox, it came off the fell and ran by us so we sprayed and rated the pack off, right in full view of support. Five minutes later Barry for show made a lame attempt to call his hounds off. The fox made its escape. Later in the day, we viewed hounds on the line of a fox and they followed it over into the next valley. However, our presence was causing them problems every time we got near to the hounds.

The following Saturday we had five out, which is good for us! Sabs had to call hounds off a fox, and the pack descended a thousand feet to the calls of sabs. Barry got his hounds back and went back to the same area but the fox had got away!

The last Saturday in October saw us out again at Souther Fell. Barry spotted the police out, so legged it from sabs and the police, yes the police! Relations between the hunt and Cumbria constabulary have cooled – there are no inspectors at the moment who follow hounds! After an hour sabs did find the hunt, they tried to disappear, but one dim-witted supporter gave the game away so we drove up the valley, and called hounds off a fox. This did not go down well and support came driving down, nearly knocking a sab over. They started to shove us about, we got all this and the death threats down on video.

Later on in the day a fox was ran to ground. When we came to the area we spotted one of their terrier boys with a shovel, but when he saw us he quickly got rid of it. This has been passed to the police. Cumbria hunt sabs can be contacted on facebook and twitter and on youtube cumcar1 if anyone wants to come to Cumbria to boost the numbers please get in touch via facebook. Ta



**West Yorkshire sabs** had a busy summer of fundraising and were delighted when we could finally afford a vehicle, which we named 'Suzy The Sab Van' after one of our supporters. Having our own transport has been great for morale and we finally feel like a proper crew. We have some enthusiastic new sabs and loads of support, nationally from facecrap and locally too (our supporters are even making us a packed lunch every week - how lucky are we!). We are still teaming up with our old friends but they like us much more now we come with a Landrover full of pies and don't need to sit on their knees.

We had our first arrest when an over-zealous copper from an armed response unit decided to pick on one of our new sabs. No doubt they could see it was her first time out and thought the short sharp shock of a day in the cells would put her off, but they messed with the wrong Granarchist. Having been released the same day without charge she was straight back in the field the week after.



Bouncing from hunt to hunt we are working our way around the North, and with some textbook sabbing and a good chunk of luck have prevented the weekly wildlife massacre we know would take place without us. There are still a few spaces in the van for new recruits so get in touch if you want to come out or join our fundraising crew or supporters whose energy is keeping our spirits high and whose cash is filling the fuel tank - we



couldn't do it without you. A million thanks. To find out more or donate please visit westyorkshirehuntsabs.wordpress.com

The **NWHSA (Manchester division)** started early this season (for us anyway), and we have been over to join up with colleagues on the other (less credible) side of the Pennines several times during the cubbing season. We have already visited the Badsworth and Bramham Moor Hunt, The Grove and Rufford Hunt and we have been keeping an eye on those trail-following, non-law breakers (when sabs are there), High Peak Hunt. It's been a pretty decent October, truth be told.

We are well pleased that we have made an early commitment to going out more regularly and in larger numbers than normal. We're in the process of getting a vehicle and as well as new sabs, and are very keen to hear from 'retired' sabs or sabs that have moved up to our area who fancy joining up with us – with increasing interest from new sabs, a few old hands would be very welcome.

Please send an email to nwhuntsabs@hotmail.co.uk if you want to go out sabbing.

Many thanks to the HSA and Lush for providing a fair lump of the capital to buy a new vehicle for the **Derby sab group**. This new vehicle has been used to good effect as it isn't known yet in the region. The group has had a shaky start during the cubbing season with only a small number of visits to the Meynell and South Staffordshire Hunt. When finally the hunt worked out that maybe we weren't one of their "ever growing support" they went into panic mode, and tried to keep a fix on our location and keep us away from the hunt. They failed abysmally at this and members got some good footage of the hunt drawing coverts just like in the bad old days. As punishment the gizmo was used to help in a little "hound exercise"! The group showed the film "A Minority Pastime" prior to the main season and this has resulted in some more potential sabs. Things are looking rosy... but not for the local hunts. The group goes out both weekdays and weekends. If you would like to get involved please ring 07754 524661.

Most people in Scotland believe that fox hunts are banned. Well, no, not really! Today, there are more Hunts than there were before the new Law (the Protection of Wild Mammals Act 2002). More foxes are killed now by hunts than before the new law came into force. In Scotland, there are ten mounted fox hunts. And there are two new hunts (mink and rabbit) who are on foot. And so, the **Central Scotland Hunt Saboteurs** have started up to try and save foxes at all of the hunts in Scotland. Unfortunately there are no other anti-hunt groups in Scotland that we know of. We are it!

On Saturday the 30th of October, six members of our new group sabbed the opening meet of the Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire Foxhounds. Five were new to sabbing. Without a mini-bus, we followed the hunt on foot all day, and kept up with them. After half an hour, we saved our first fox. We heard one of the two shooters radio his contact in the hunt to say that he could not shoot the fox below him, "as antis were everywhere!" Near the end of the day a fox crisscrossed the woods ahead of the hounds. Eventually its scent was discovered and hounds hunted the fox which doubled back through the edge of a wood towards us. Two of us prepared to take pictures or cine film. The others shouted, "Ware Riot" after the fox had passed. Ten yards behind, the first hounds ran past us. We also blew the "discord" on the horn. Hounds were slowed down enough to allow the fox to escape.

Only three cases against hunts in Scotland have come to court since the new law. In the most famous, the charges against Adams of the Duke of Buccleuch Hunt were instigated by an ex-hunt person. The hunts in Scotland believe that dig-outs are legal. The LACS and the HSA believe that they are not legal.

We aim to save foxes and to show the people of Scotland that hunting still goes on. Eventually we may be able to gather enough evidence to instigate legal action. We are a new group of people who are learning how to sab, but want really hard to save foxes' lives. If you live in Scotland and are against hunting, please come out with us. We especially need a permanent mini-bus driver for the group.

Contact us at: scotlandhuntsabs@lists.riseup.net



# VERMIN PATROL

## CRUELTY CASES IN THE COURTS

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

bloodsports
VERMIN

Three men have been handed suspended jail terms for interfering with a badger's sett near Withernsea. Terrance Murry, 47, of Ottringham, Shaun Chapman, 29, of Hull city centre, and Gary Douglas, 40, of Railway Cottages, Great Bridgeford, Staffordshire, were discovered digging up the sett. They said they were "bushing" for foxes and rabbits and denied knowing they were interfering with a badger's sett. Chapman, of Trinity Wharf, said his dog, a black Patterdale terrier, had gone into one of the holes of the sett after a fox. He said he used a digital locator to follow his dog and the men used two spades to dig above the sett. Douglas threw one of the spades away before the men left the area. A Humberside Police helicopter arrived at the scene and officers on the ground arrested the three defendants. Murry, Chapman and Douglas were found guilty at Hull magistrates in September. Following the compiling of probation reports, Murry, Chapman and Douglas were each sentenced to 12 weeks' imprisonment, suspended for 12 months, and 200 hours of community service on 1/11/10



William Burrell, 50, of Short Street, Stapenhill, Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire, trapped a fox in his garden before throwing it into a pen so that his Staffordshire Bull Terrier could tear it apart. Burrell was found guilty of causing unnecessary suffering to a fox at Burton magistrates. The court heard how Burrell trapped the creature in a large cage in his garden, he then tied a rope around the animal's neck and slung it into a large kennel with his dog. Burrell stood nearby as the Staffordshire Bull Terrier ripped into the fox "like a rag doll" for 15 minutes. Burrell finally killed the animal by bludgeoning it over the head with a piece of wood. In police statements read to the court Burrell said: "I wanted to get rid of the fox as it had been plaguing me and my pigeons for three weeks. "I caught it and killed it by hitting it over the head. Its eyes had glazed over. Putting its dead body in the dog run was a big mistake." But a vet proved that the creature had been bitten by the dog while it was alive. At Burton magistrates on 27/8/10 he was sent to prison for five months and banned from keeping dogs for life.

Two South Wales men caught poaching in the Cotswolds during a hare-coursing alert were fined when they appeared in court in Gloucestershire on 25/8/10. Saley Price, 25, of Heol Pentwyn, Caerphilly, South Glamorgan, and Joseph Smith, 21, of Cwm Crachen, Nant-y-glo, Gwent, each admitted daytime trespass in pursuit of poaching gamebirds. Stroud magistrates were told that Smith had appeared in court on a charge of night-time poaching less than a month before the latest offence was committed. The court was told that Smith had a previous conviction for night-time trespass in pursuit of poaching after appearing at court in Hereford on 1/4/10. The judge fined both men for the offence. She gave Price credit for his guilty plea and fined him £50 and ordered him to pay a £15 victim surcharge and £42.50 prosecution costs. The judge gave Smith credit for his plea, but fined him £75 as he had appeared in court for a similar offence. He was also ordered to pay a £15 victim surcharge and £42.50 prosecution costs

On 8/10/10 police charged three men with poaching offences after they were tipped off by a member of the public. The police arrested the three men and recovered six hares and one rabbit as well as seizing their vehicle. The three men - all from Carlisle, were charged with offences of poaching. They are Andrew Boswell, 25, Richard Todd, 32, and Robert Dixon, 43.

Two council workers who killed almost 100 wild birds for fun were jailed on 18/10/10. Terrence Webb, 28, of Peregrine Road, Ilford and Mark Page, 35, of White Hart Lane, Romford intentionally poisoned wildlife at Wanstead Flats, killing 90 birds including geese, moorhens, ducks and coot. The pair were working for Newham Council as pest controllers and they used bread laced with poison to carry out the crime. Snaresbrook Crown Court heard

that during their lunch breaks the men drove to Alexandra Lake at Wanstead Flats and baited bread with a strong pesticide. They later boasted of what they had done, describing how crows had taken the bait and they had watched them die. A German shepherd which was the only companion of an elderly woman was also killed by the poison. The popular beauty spot had to be cordoned off to the public for more than three weeks as a result of the incident. Webb and Page were sacked by Newham Council following the investigation into the incident. The pair admitted two counts of misuse of pesticides and two counts of theft of pesticides. The pair were fined £7,000 each and jailed for four months.



On 25/10/10 a father and son were given jail sentences for hunting wild animals with a crossbow. Robert Mepham, 50, and Sam Mepham, 22, hunted deer and ducks using the deadly weapon and then stashed their illegal kills at the family home. The two men, from Lakedown House, Broad Oak, Heathfield, were arrested alongside three other men. Police found severed heads of deer and dead pheasants and ducks hanging in lock-up facilities during the raids. Sam Mepham was jailed for 150 hours and ordered to forfeit firearms, crossbows and ammunition after being found guilty of killing a deer with a crossbow. His father was found guilty of four counts of using a crossbow to kill a wild animal, possession of a dead mandarin duck and possession of ammunition without a certificate. He was sentenced to 90 days imprisonment, suspended for two years, 150 hours of unpaid work and ordered to forfeit the duck. A third man Glyn Carley, 48, of Standard Hill Close, Ninfield, pleaded guilty to possessing ammunition for a firearm without a certificate, failing to comply with a condition of a firearm certificate (poor storage of ammunition) and possessing five mandarin ducks. He was sentenced to two terms of 30 days' imprisonment to run concurrently suspended for two years, 200 hours of unpaid work, £150 costs and ordered to forfeit ammunitions and the ducks. The two other men arrested on the same day on suspicion of offences under the Deer Act, a 63-year-old from Brightling and a 74-year-old from Mountfield, both received cautions.

A Birmingham man was jailed on 20/10/10 and banned from keeping animals for life after he admitted taking part in organised dog fighting. RSPCA inspectors and West Midlands Police officers discovered two pitbull type dogs and one bull terrier type in a dawn raid at the home of Mohammed Nasir. All of the dogs found in the back yard of his home on St Benedicts Road, Small Heath, were heavily scarred with injuries to their heads and legs. Nasir, 29, appeared at Birmingham magistrates when he was sentenced to three months in custody and given the lifetime ban on keeping all animals. He will not be able to appeal against the ban for five years. At an earlier hearing he admitted 11 charges including training dogs for fighting, causing the animals unnecessary suffering, failing to provide them with proper veterinary care and possession of items used to train dogs for fighting. He also admitted one charge of causing unnecessary suffering to a cockerel, also discovered at St Benedicts Road, by failing to provide the animal with proper veterinary attention. All of the dogs discovered at the address on St Benedicts Road showed injuries consistent with fighting, and some of the wounds were clearly fresh. Nasir openly admitted to the court that he had kept the dogs for the purpose of fighting

*pet animals*

**VERMIN**

A pet shop boss who admitted failing to protect 27 diseased reptiles from pain and suffering was given a suspended prison sentence and banned from keeping animals for the rest of his life. David Luther, 66, who had the reptiles for sale at Harton Aquatics in Moor Lane, South Shields, admitted eight offences at South Tyneside magistrates. On 21/10/10 magistrates gave him a 12-week prison sentence, suspended with supervision for two years, banned him for life from keeping animals, withdrew his pet shop licence and banned him from ever having another. The magistrates also ordered him to pay costs of £549 – rejecting a prosecution claim for costs totalling more than £11,000.



*Badger*

**VERMIN**

A former High Sheriff and magistrate was fined for trapping and shooting a badger which dug up his garden. The former High Sheriff of Dyfed Richard Harold James, 77, caught the badger in a snare near his Pembrokeshire home and blasted it to death at close range with a shotgun. The ex-JP was given fines and costs totalling almost £3,000 by Swansea magistrates 15/6/10 for killing a protected animal and using a snare to trap it. He shot the animal twice near his home at Home Farm on the Stackpole Estate in Pembrokeshire. James then threw the animal onto a slope leading on to National Trust land. It was witnessed by National Trust worker David Jarman who works on land near Home Farm. He went back to his office and called in the RSPCA. Magistrates imposed the full amount of costs £1,461.21 (including two vets' post mortem examinations) and fined James £1,000 for killing a protected animal and £500 for using a snare to trap it. After hearing that James got £3,000 a month from his role as consultant in his family dairy farming concern, the magistrates gave him 28 days to pay the £2,961.21 fines and costs.






# MORE THAN JUST A SAB LIMO?

**Land Rovers look meaner when dirty. Apart from that, what has the Land Rover got that other vehicles lack?**

### Landy Advantages

With the increased allocation of funds for vehicles from the HSA to local groups there's been a vogue for purchasing Land Rovers. Land Rover in fact manufactured a Vogue Range Rover model in the affluent nineties. It was a hunt scum show off vehicle if ever there was one – didn't it have gold taps and a swimming pool? Sabs prefer the workhorses, the nondescript type II and III long wheelbases and 110 defenders. These look meaner when dirty. Apart from that, what has the Land Rover got that other vehicles lack? One thing that Land Rovers (Landys) have over other vehicles is that the hunts don't seem to like us using them. Ours look more fit for purpose than theirs and what could be worse for them – maybe turning up with better redcoats than them instead of camo, or jumping out of and into pimped up horseboxes which we've turned into day spas for getting us clean and chilling out in on the way home.

Seriously, what are the benefits of Land Rovers over other vehicles - surely much more than preferring seeing a convoy of khaki, camo and black sab Landys to a mix of cars and minivans in primary colours whenever sabs go tracking hunts through this island's countryside? There have to be practical advantages and I can only make suggestions - there are no definitive answers without market research. The cost of insurance is one - that the costs of insuring a Landy with a classic car company through a local Land Rover club can be cheaper than a car is a key factor. When compared to the increased cost of minibus insurance, Landy costs are substantially better. So the Landy comes out on top. If minibus purchase prices had come down then maybe the depreciation and disposability of a minibus might offset the additional insurance costs. However, Landy prices have remained fairly stable - another Landy advantage.

The stable market price for secondhand Land Rovers and the burgeoning after market - for example, there are at least three Land Rover monthly magazines (Landy porn to the initiates) - means a good vehicle in good condition, if bought at a good price and well-maintained, will not depreciate rapidly and can have added value if improvements are made. There is not a similar potential with minibuses or cars. The after market also means that second hand parts and new parts can be found at reasonable costs. There are a lot of enthusiasts keeping old Land Rovers on the road. This includes body damage - working Landys don't look so bad with a few dings and gouges as other vehicles so it's not a big worry losing value through body work damage.

So I haven't mentioned four wheel drive and the advantage that can only be felt when there is slush and mud, rutted tracks and off-roading to be done. So we can see the advantages.

### Landy Disadvantages and purchasing advice

The disadvantage is the cost of mechanics – mechanic time on a Land Rover engine and, say, a transit, are the same but expect that clutch and gearbox are heavier and wheel and steering work take longer. Unless you have access to a sab-friendly mechanic you have a greater cost implication. Also local small garages don't see so many Landys so they might not want to work on one and may charge more and take longer and not be so successful. So finding a sab-friendly mechanic who likes Landys as well is needed before purchasing a Landy.

The model to look for is a 110 Defender (refers to length of chassis so is a Long Wheel Base -LWB) or a good Type III LWB – there are various models but a four door with back bench seats is probably the best to look for but is also the most expensive second-hand.

The 110 hard top panel Defender 110 is the best balance of price and seating space. If there are no seats, these can be cheaply purchased and installed. Also there are fewer windows that need to get grilled up. There is loss in mobile visibility – portholes can be installed cheaply.

A diesel model is the advisable engine option; the V8 petrol is just too thirsty and consumption is far too degraded and variable on an old engine. Forget LPG – the tank takes up sab seating and it is too great a distance between LPG garages and they aren't always in stock.



*So what to look for at purchasing –*

- Firstly consult a magazine with a guide price listing and go on e-bay or other Landy selling sites and check comparison prices for that model. If you are near a Landy owners' club give them a call in case there is a recommendation for that dealer/owner/vehicle.
- If you haven't got your sab-friendly mechanic with you at first, take them before you hand over the money and if you have to pay them to check out the vehicle. The priorities are the chassis, electrics and engine, not the bodywork.
- For other people tatty bodywork might be a problem; for a sab vehicle purchase it's an advantage because it means a lower asking price is likely. If there is damage which will let in water or is near a wheel which might mean rod, bearing or suspension damage then forget it unless there's a trustworthy receipt for that repair or get it checked and take that off the price.
- Check the electrics work, preferably on a rainy day! If they don't work - guess what – don't buy it!
- See the Landy started from cold. Feel the engine first – it helps to worry the seller that you know what you are doing as well. Check the colour of the first exhaust – if you have a Haynes manual or a mechanic they'll tell you if there's any problem. If there's a doubt because of the smoke colour or quality - guess what – don't buy it! If there's any suspicious oil leak trails or spots below the vehicle ask why, and if it doesn't run rhythmically but if the answer from the seller runs too rhythmically - guess what – don't buy it!
- Look under the chassis for rust and holes – if it's too muddy and just been treated ask for those trustworthy receipts again and if the answers don't ring true - guess what – don't buy it!
- Check the play in the steering and then take the landy for a drive – if anything worries you and the mechanic can't reassure you - guess what – don't buy it!
- Check the wear on the tyres – negotiate on the price if they are going to need replacing soon after purchase.



So £2,500 should be enough for a late 80s or older Landy with an MOT and a fair amount of life left in it. The value is in the five plus seasons the Landy serves without major repairs which means it will have done its job for the money paid. Anything else is a sab bonus.

kap

# Save us some dosh!

# if you're 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.

| | |
|---|---|
| **JULY 10** | **P. Mc Cohan** |
| | **B. DICKENSON** |
| | **S. PRESCOTT** |
| **AUG** | **N. BROOKES** |
| | **J. CLOSE** |
| | **T. DAVIES** |
| **SEP** | **P. FENN** |
| | **S. THORNTON** |
| | **K. JOHNSON** |
| **OCT** | **G. BALLENTER** |
| | **E. MILES** |
| | **M. MEED** |



## 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.....

# SUPPORT ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS



**GERRAH SELBY (A2014AD)**
Birthday: 26th February
HMP Downview, Sutton Lane, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5PD
In January 2009 Gerrah was sentenced to 4 years for charges in relation to Huntingdon Life Sciences. (One of UK SHAC 7).
What you can send: Cheques, postal orders made out to "the Governor" with Gerrah's name/number on reverse. Cash can also be sent, as well as stamps, writing paper, envelopes and paperbacks.

**JASON MULLAN (A8076AX)**
Birthday: 1st May
HMP Winchester, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hampshire, SO22 5DF
Jason (JJ) is one of the second UK SHAC 6 trial campaigners and was sentenced on 25-10-10 at Winchester Crown Court to 3 years under a pro-vivisection law "Interfering with contractual relationships so as to harm an animal research organisation, Section 145 SOCPA". Please write letters of support to him.

**MEL BROUGHTON (A3892AE)**
BIRTHDAY: 5TH JULY
HMP Bullingdon, P.O.Box 50, Bicester, Oxon. OX25 1PZ.
Remanded on 14 Dec 2007 and sentenced on 13th Feb 2009 to 10 years. Mel was found guilty again (following a successful second appeal) for animal rights related offences against Oxford University animal experiment lab.

**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
Sarah is one of the second UK SHAC 6 sentenced at Winchester Crown Court to 6 years on 25-10-10 for conspiracy to blackmail HLS and other companies involved with HLS. She has been in prison since 30th June 2008, after being sentenced previously to two years for removing a beagle from a garden where it was kept muzzled in a wooden cage and regularly beaten.

**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.
What you can send: stamps (12 in letter); Self-addressed envelopes, cheques/postal orders made out to 'HMP Headquarters' with Gregg's name and number and sender's details on reverse.

**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.

**TOM HARRIS (A8086AX)**
Birthday: 21st May
HMP Winchester, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hampshire, SO22 5DF
Tom is one of the second UK SHAC 6 and has been sentenced at Winchester Crown Court to 4 years on 25-10-10 for conspiracy to blackmail HLS and other companies involved with HLS.
Only stamps and cheques/postal orders made out to 'HMP Services' with Tom's name and number and the sender's details on reverse.

**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.

**NICOLA TAPPING (HK9804)**
Birthday: 9th May
HMP Bronzefield, Woodthorpe Road, Ashford, Middx. TW15 3JZ
Nicola is one of the second UK SHAC 6 sentenced on 25-10-10 at Winchester Crown Court to 15 months under a pro-vivisection law "Interfering with contractual relationships so as to harm an animal research organisation, Section 145 SOCPA". Please write letters of support to her.

**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 is one of the second UK SHAC 6 trial campaigners and has been sentenced at Winchester Crown Court to 3 years and 6 months on 25-10-10 for conspiracy to blackmail HLS and other companies involved with HLS.
Nicole should be released on 13th December 2010

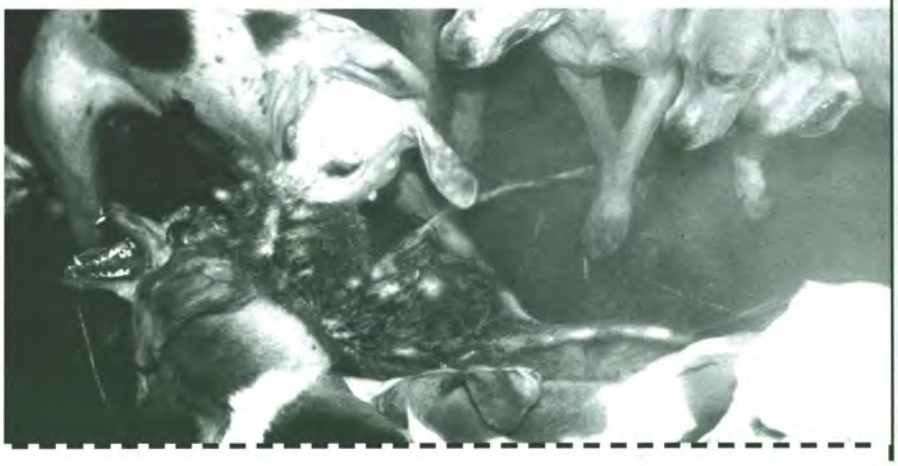
# HOW YOU CAN HELP END BLOODSPORTS

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

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

There are several ways you can help the HSA.

- Get in touch with your local sab group (details from the office) and either go sabbing yourself or help in other ways such as fundraising or mechanics.
- If you are not already a member of the HSA, please join now by using the form below - it only takes a few minutes to fill in and return to us.
- If you are already a HSA member then please photocopy the form and pass it on to someone else you think may like to join us.
- Ask the office for back copies of HOWL to leave in places where they can be read by members of the public (ie. doctors waiting rooms). If you are still at school or college why not leave a copy in the library reference section?
- Support us by buying HSA T-shirts and other merchandise. Contact us if you don't already have a salesgoods order form, page 2.
- Let the hunters know what you think! Write to your local newspaper's letters page and write to your MP to let them know your views on Government plans either regarding hunting or hunt saboteurs. Your MP's address will be House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA



## HSA MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION FORM

**PHOTOCOPIES WELCOME**

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

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

❒ £15 waged ❒ £100 life membership

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

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

Address .....

.....

..... Postcode .....

Telephone Number.....

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

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

For a standing order form, to pay via Paypal or for more information phone 0845 450 0727
or email us - info@huntsabs.org.uk

# USEFUL ADDRESSES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**The Fox Project**
The Lodge, Kings Toll Road, Pembury, Kent, TN2 4BE
01892 842111 mon-fri 9am-3pm
fox@foxproject.org.uk www.foxproject.org.uk

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

**League Against Cruel Sports (LACS)**
New Sparling House , Holloway Hill
Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1QZ
0845 330 8486 info@league.org.uk www.league.org.uk

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

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

**POWA (Protect Our Wild Animals)**
www.powa.org.uk

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

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

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

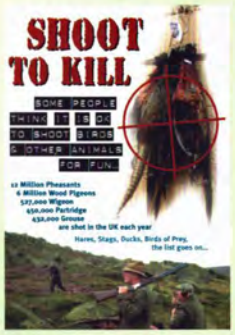
**Stop DEathFra Badger Killers**
www.badger-killers.co.uk

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

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

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

# 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.



**Nick Beal - 27th July 1967- 21st April 2010.**

I first met Nick in London at a Damned gig in 1986, at Finsbury Park. Despite us both being born and bred in Carlisle, that was the first time we had met, I'd never set eyes on him in the streets of Carlisle. Shortly after, we bumped into each other quite a lot; we shared the same interests in music i.e. crass and conflict (not much has changed there!).

We also shared a dislike of bloodsports and other forms of animal abuse. This was the mid 80s and animal rights was really high profile, a bit like Mexico is now, with direct action everywhere you looked. Nick helped to bring like minded individuals together and started Carlisle/Cumbria hunt sabs in about 1987. We attended the mounted packs just outside Carlisle, then got a bit brave and went out upon the fells around Keswick. To raise money we held fundraisers etc in a night club in Carlisle, any excuse for Nick to taste the beer, plus to share his passion in the Damned and punk rock!

Nick moved away from Carlisle in the early Nineties , he moved down to Leeds, (he went to follow Leeds Utd after suffering for so long watching Carlisle Utd!) where he took up residency i.e. squatted with Yorkshire hunt sabs, and put down roots in Leeds for the next thirteen years or so.

Nick did not waste a minute of his life, he travelled all over the globe, had an open mind and a smile and a confidence which did not understand the meaning of can't do, everything was possible with Nick.

In about 2005 Nick moved back to Carlisle with Ruth and was soon married and starting a family.

About three years ago Nick was diagnosed with cancer and in April of this year passed away leaving a huge gap in the life of all who knew him.

I will miss him badly, for his sense of humour and determination and fortitude. During his illness he did not complain about himself, he was still concerned for his family and friends.

My heart goes out to Ruth and his son and daughter, who only had a brief time with their dad, but he would not have wasted a minute of that time.

Rest in peace Nick. *(ph Cumbria hunt sabs Oct 2010)*

# 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 postcard, 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