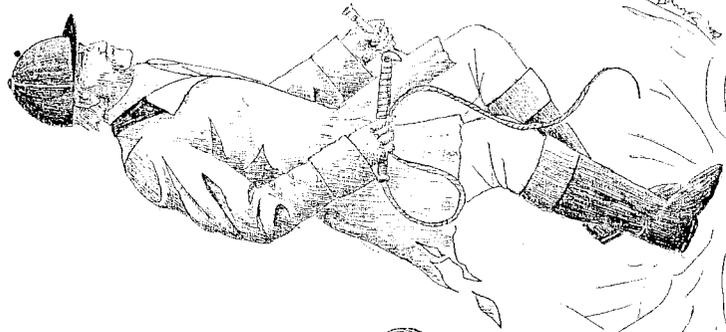


SHEFFIELD HUNT SABOTEURS



... BITING BACK!



What do sabs do now hunting's banned?



What do sabs do now

Sab

Contact List

To come sabbing with Sheffield Hunt Sabs please contact:

sheffanimalaction@yahoo.co.uk

To sab in other parts of the country ask

The Hunt Sabs Association for help,
info@huntsabs.org.uk Post.HSA, BM HSA,
London, WC1N 3XX, Tel, 0845 4500727
www.huntsabs.org.uk

For info on hunt monitoring contact:

The League Against Cruel Sports (LACS)
www.league.uk.com

For more info on sabbing, tactics,
pictures and news see The North West
Hunt Sabs webpage www.nwhsa.org.uk

Citronella Spraying * Gizmo Carrying
Hunt Stopping * Old Bill Avoiding
Landrover Driving * Horn Blowing
Cross Country Running * Map Reading
Whip Cracking * Mobile Phone Carrying
Transit Van Repairing * Animal Loving
Army Surplus Shopping * Houmaus Eating
Horse & Hound Reading * CB Radio Carrying
Gate D-Locking * Punk Rocking

HUNT SABOTEUR

Thank you to those who have contributed photos, cartoons etc. to howl as I have plagiarised them! (well we are all fighting for the same thing so I am sure its not a problem). Cheers for the people who have contributed to this zine and also to everyone who goes out sabbing and protecting wildlife.

For more information about this zine, comments etc please email:
carryonclimbing@gmail.com

Feb 2006

If hunting did end then what would sabs do?

The same as what we do with the rest of our lives!

Sadly hunting is not the only abuse in our society and so most sabs are currently involved in other activism for humans, animals and the environment.

As far as blood sports are concerned more lives are lost in the shooting fields than the hunting ones and animals are killed by sport fishing as well. Sabs will interrupt shoots as we come across them, and will directly protect other non-human animals during the off-season (the summertime when hunts are not hunting). For example many sab groups are involved in stopping badger culls, (see www.badger-killers.co.uk), and animal rescue.

Promotion of a vegan lifestyle has wide reaching affects and saves the maximum number of lives possible, for this reason most sabs are vegan and involved in vegan campaigning.

hunting is banned?

Still



Hello

Thank you for showing an interest in hunt sabbing. Although hunting with hounds is officially illegal it is still continuing. So sabs all over the country are still going out to save lives every week.

This zine aims to explain how hunts hunt in the current legal climate and what can be done to stop them. The aim is not to describe why hunts need to be disrupted, as there is already a large body of info on this, and hunting has already been banned. The focus of the information is related to hunting foxes or hares, as this is where my personal experience lies. Sab groups continue to need support in the form of sabs in the fields, financial assistance and to enforce the hunting act so please help in anyway you think you can.

Thank you from the foxes, hares, mink and deer killed daily for sport.



Please feel free to copy and distribute widely.



"After a successful sab and early pack up of a fox hunt, Nottingham and Sheffield sabs came across a shoot. (Well we tried to persuade each other that they were in fact lifelike scarecrows, as we wanted to get to the end of a vegan fair). The shooters packed up and went back to their vehicle when there were only six of them. They were adamant that they were not packing up, they attempted to become aggressive when their numbers trebled with beaters and other shooters at their van. Sabs diffused the situation as one of us went for our vehicle. The shooters tried to drive away to kill animals where we couldn't see them. But our driver had parked our vehicle blocking the shooters' line of sight onto a busy road, thereby being an effective but highly legal blockade. The shooters waited and swore at us to leave, we drank tea, laughed and ate as we watched the sun descend on their day of murdering. Leaving with the upper hand, to the pub as the sun set."

"I can think of two occasions when sabs have helped animals that would otherwise be seriously injured as a result of the hunt. On one occasion as sabs moved through the mounted field and one of us noticed a horse and rider in distress. The rest of the field did not seem to notice or care about their struggle, the hunt sab approached and held the horse as the rest of the field disappeared after the red coats. The horse was trapped in the fence, with wire around its hoof, without the sab the horse's panicking would probably have caused it to break its leg in panic to get free. The sab then untangled the wire from around the horse's leg and helped the rider back on to the horse. Sabs always try to stay together as hunt supporters can be unpredictable, as the rider got back on her horse the terriermen arrived, their body language was aggressive, and they asserted that the sab shouldn't interfere with the horse. The rider said that the sabs was helping and pleaded with the terriermen to leave the sab. The rider thought twice about the nature of sabs as a result of that day, and continued to point out the nice sab and tell people to be careful not to cause them injury. Another time, hunt supporters couldn't help but conform to their socialised politeness to sabs by thanking us for saving hounds that got caught in the fence during a sab. Maybe some of their supporters realise we are there only to save animals."

Personal accounts of sabs

I have been involved in animal rights campaigns for a long time, but sabbing, is important as we directly save the lives of countless foxes. There is nothing comparable to the smug feeling of warmth and success as you see a fox leave a covert, unnoticed, and escape to safety. I hate being in the van as I find it incredibly frustrating not to be able to get between the fox and the hounds. That said, good sabbing watched from a distance is amazing, a true inspiration. Hunt sabs work together as a proper affinity group, and when things go wrong, we stick together which is important, and makes leaving your bed on a Saturday morning so much easier.

I got into Sabbing through a friend who does animal rights stalls in Sheffield. She was the first active person I'd met into animal rights and went sabbing every weekend. I had never seen a hunt in real life but the idea of a group of blood thirsty riders chasing an animal with a pack of dogs tearing it to pieces, for something to do over the weekend, got me wanting to get involved.

One time this season (2006) the Coppers turned up and we were chased across the fields, when they eventually caught up a police dog was set one on of us and we were put on our knees with our hands above our heads. A Sab was getting punched by some support on the road but the police were more interested in searching us. They arrested one of us for carrying a whip and had arrested our driver for the same thing earlier on. They didn't tell us how long it would be before those arrested would be released. We stopped the night with a local sab, as they ended up being held 22hrs. SAB

When a hunt supporter decide to block a country road, using his young family as a blockade. A Downe's Syndrome child decided that she would rather be in the arms of the reasonable hunt sab who was trying to negotiate a way past, rather than be in the arms of her aggressive father.

Sabbing/Hunting terms

Sabs name of the saboteurs, people who disrupt hunts with the intent of stopping animals being killed for 'sport'

Citronella an essential oil which sabs spray to mask the scent of the fox so that the hounds can't give chase

Covert a wood, disused railway, hedge or kale field, which could be home to a quarry species, where hunts put hounds to pick up a scent

Field the hunt supporters on horses

Gizmo An amplified tape player with a recording of hounds in cry. It is used in conjunction with a horn and voice calls to encourage hounds out of the control of the hunts master and away from the quarry.

Going to ground when a fox hides underground, usually terrier men will then attempt to dig it out so it can be killed

Hounds the dogs used by hunts to chase quarry.

Slightly different breeds are used for each sort of quarry

Hunt monitors League Against Cruel Sports (LACS) term.

People who film hunts and try to get prosecutions

In cry hounds are said to be in cry when they bark together in an excited manner when they are on the scent of their prey quarry or artificial scent

Meet the advertised meeting point. Illegal hunts often don't advertise publicly hoping to put off sabs from attending

On point riders on point stand at the outer edge of a hunted area so that they can look out for foxes leaving a covert and attract the hounds to it.

Putting up Hounds causing their quarry to run away, the beginning of a chase

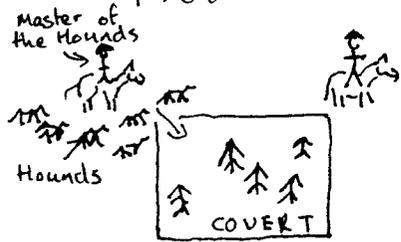
Quarry The species that is being hunted

Rating the hounds using whip crack to stop the hounds, telling them what they are doing is wrong. Used by both sabs and huntsmen

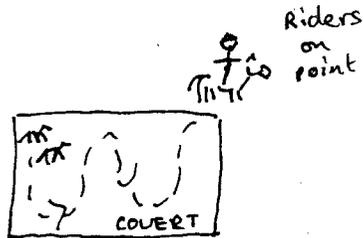
Red coats paid workers of the hunt and people who have hunted with a particular hunt for a long period of time. There are a few different roles of red coats

Terrier men working class men who use terriers to attack foxes underground with the intent of killing them

① How do hunts hunt?

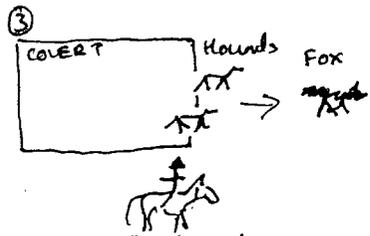


②



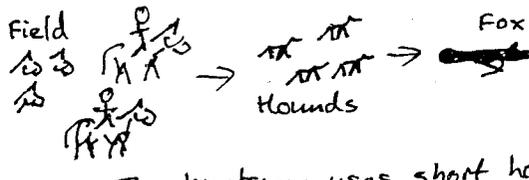
The master of the hounds puts the hounds into the covert (area to be hunted)

The hounds spread out across the covert trying to find the scent of a fox.



When a fox breaks cover the riders on point attract hounds attention and hounds give chase.

④



The huntsman uses short horn blasts to encourage hounds to chase the fox. The huntsman and mounted support give chase.

As hounds are slower than the fox, but have more stamina, they eventually run down the fox and tear it to pieces.

If a fox manages to escape and hide in an earth, underground, the terrier men are called in. Terriers are then encouraged after the fox into the earth where they fight and the fox is dug up.

How can I help?

Do you have Saturdays free?

Yes

Do you want to directly stop hunts or go for legal prosecution?

Directly stop hunts
- contact your local group. See page

- Legal prosecution
Talk to LACS

No

Could you support the HSA financially?

No

Can you organise a gig, cake stall, or any other event for HSA?

Yes

Please send cheques to:
HSA, 8M HSA
London, WC1N 3XX

No

Do you have other skills?

- Could you work bar shifts at Summer Festivals to raise sab funds?
- Contact Sheffield Sabs
- sheffanimalaction@yahoo.co.uk

- Vehicle mechanics
- Dog sitting
- Legal support

Then Please contact HSA page



- Write to local newspapers in opposition to pro-hunting or anti-sab articles
- give info to HSA about illegal hunts, future meets or shoots etc.

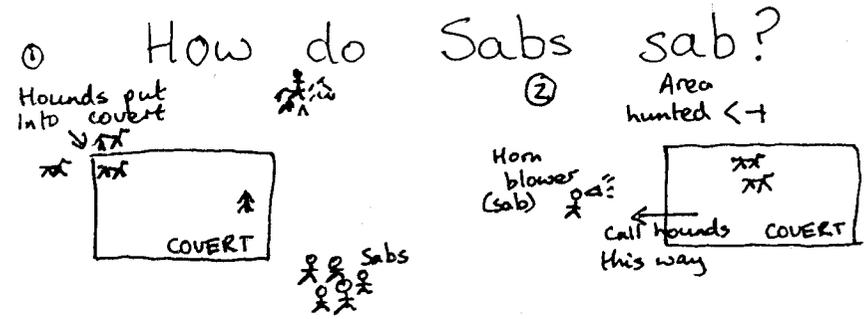
I want to sab, what more do I need to know?

Sabs in field, must be reasonably fit.
 Each group needs a:
 Horn blower
 Map reader
 Video camera user
 Additional people to rate hounds, use voice calls, spray citronella etc.

Sabbing a hunt effectively is a team activity and so no member is expected to have all the required skills. Good hunt sabs often don't feel they have any particular skills, when they begin, but the tactics aren't that complex, though only ever really learnt by experience.

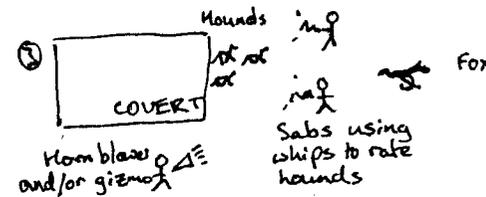
This sab is appropriately dressed for sabbing. Walking boots protect ankles when running over rough, wet ground. Thick trousers with pockets rip less easily + help carrying sprays, whips, maps. etc. Hat, gloves + scarf help on cold days. Sabs try to wear black or camouflage as it makes us harder to spot and looking all the same can stop hunt supporters targeting individuals.

Bring lunch, beer money, water, dry socks and a thermos!
 Please read the tactics that are briefly outlined in this book. For more info please look at the North West Hunt Sab Association web pages on the contacts page. The theory and the practice can sometimes be very different, the best way to learn is to come along, and see how the experienced sabs do it.

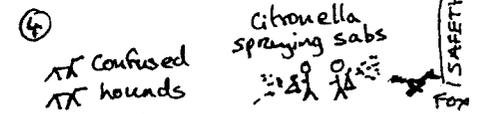


As the hounds enter a covert sabs stand so they can see if foxes leave the area.

As the hounds search a covert sabs may use a hunting horn to call hounds back the way they have come + away from the fox.



If a fox breaks over sabs run in to rate the hounds and use voice calls to tell them not to chase the fox. Use of a hunting horn and gizmo can split the hounds so they hunt less effectively.



Sabs spray harmless citronella along the route the fox took to mask the scent. Sabs buy the fox extra time enabling it to escape.

The mere presence of hunt sabs can save lives as hunts move between coverts faster and so hunt less thoroughly. The timing and location of horn blowers, the gizmo and sabs using whips and sprays is crucial and something sabs learn with experience.

If a hunt chases a fox which then goes underground, sabs have been known to sit in the entrance to the earth to obstruct the terriermen.

So what are the 'loop holes' in the law that hunts are exploiting?

Basically there are still a few ways by which hunts can continue without breaking the law. These methods also double up as helpful excuses to give to police with no knowledge of hunting, then hunting continues as it did before the ban.

The Countryside Alliance and the Council of Hunting Associations produced a booklet for hunters, 'Hunting Handbook 2005.' It explains potential ways around the ban, and as such is a useful reference for sabs as to what hunts may try and do and gives an incite into the pro-hunt lobbies attitude to the ban.

"You [hunters] will need to **use your imagination** so that supporters feel fully engaged, and can enjoy themselves within the boundaries of the law. There are also opportunities to use 2 dogs "*in connection with the observation or study*" of wild mammals which may help us in our role of monitoring the size and health of populations."
Page 18 '**Hunting Handbook 2005.**'

"After the 18th of February hunting activity might include:

- Trail hunting
- Hound exercise
- Using no more than 2 dogs to flush to a gun
- Rabbit hunting
- Rat hunting
- Hunting hares which have been shot
- Flushing to birds of prey
- Research and observation of the various quarry species"

page 9

I want to become a hunt sab. What can I do?

Get in touch with the hunt saboteurs association, contact details on contacts page. Most sab groups really need additional sabs and there are a number of roles to play.

Driver, must have a full driving licence and be able to produce documents when asked to by police. Most sab groups own multi-driver insured vehicles, but some drivers may need their own insurance. Drivers are not required to run anywhere so this is a really useful way for less fit people to become involved. The sab van is used to get sabs to meets and to transport them around the countryside when the hunt gets away - saves lots of running. Lack of drivers can often prevent groups from going out at all, so people who can drive are really needed.

Map-reader, needs to be able to confidently get us places. Like the driver this person stays in the vehicle and does not need to be physically fit. Again people who are only prepared to map read, and don't want to leave the vehicle are really useful as they free up sabs who want to be in the field.



How violent are hunts?

The chase and murder of innocent animals is exceptionally violent. Pretending that it is a family sport is shameful and dangerous. There are numerous accounts of the links between violence towards, and abuse of animals with physical, psychological and sexual abuse of humans.

Members of the hunt almost always outnumber Hunts sabs. Many sabs sab as they disagree with violence and exploitation; for these reasons sabs are not aggressive. However, a violent reaction from hunt supporters can be seen as a sign that an intervention was successful. Hunters are aggressive and may retaliate against the disruption of their cruel, and now illegal 'sport' with violence against sabs. Hunt sabs are prepared to put their lives in the way of hunters to save foxes and other animals so confrontations do occur. Sabs try to keep them to a minimum in order to successfully protect wildlife and then go home. Sadly violence against sabs does occur, each hunt is different and some are much more aggressive than others. There have been serious incidents against sabs in the past, but the police rarely take any actions against the perpetrators of physical assaults.

“Drag hunting

Alternative hunting measures will not be drag hunting. The term drag hunting is to remain the property of the Masters of Drag and Bloodhounds Association...”

Drag hunting involves hounds following a scent that has been laid in advance. No animals are killed, the emphasis is on providing a challenging ride for the mounted followers, not a blood sport. This sport has been in existence for a long time, and shows that riders can get enjoyment without killing wildlife.

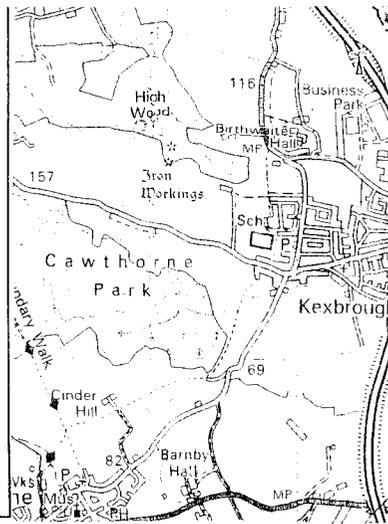
“Trail hunting

Any form of trail, stimulated or mock hunting should be promoted and seen as a measure to provide temporary activity for hounds and their followers. Trail hunting is the hunting of an artificial scent and we recommend that you use the scent of a fox, hare, deer or mink as appropriate. Do not assume that your hounds will hunt a substitute trail immediately – they will have to be gradually introduced to it. Full advice on the preparation of trail scent and methods of application is being prepared by the CHA and will be circulated to hunts as soon as tests are complete. There is no reason why huntsman or followers should know in advance the route hounds will take when following a trail, thus closely matching hunting in its current form.”



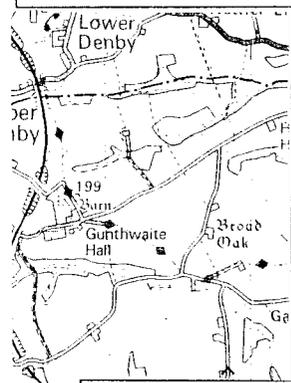
“Flushing

Two hounds can be used to flush quarry from covert (which could be undergrowth or woodland). The quarry must then be shot dead as soon as possible by a “competent person”. The Hunting Act doesn’t specify what a competent person is but it is likely a court would expect them to (a) have an appropriate licensed weapon and (b) be able to prove that they have competently shot and killed the quarry species in the past.”



“Hound Exercising

Any number of hounds can be exercised at the same time but landowners must give permission for this to take place. Anyone carrying a hunting horn or whip should understand that they are doing so for the purpose of controlling hounds rather than hunting.”



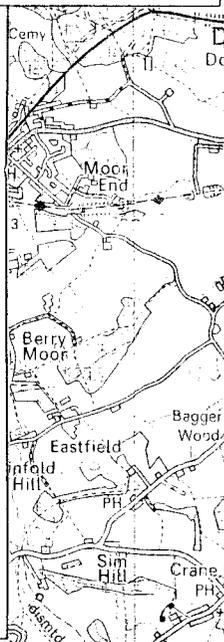
“Flushing to a bird of prey

Under the Hunting Act it is legal to use any number of dogs to flush any wild mammal from cover so that a bird of prey can hunt it. Given the skills and experience required for falconry this should not be considered lightly but if you would like more information please contact the Hawk Board.”

Page 19

“Anyone killing a hare by flushing to guns with two dogs must be in possession of a Game Licence – these are available from Post Offices.”

Page 21



The day after I wrote the above, I was sabbing a hunt that we have visited a number of times this season. The hunt is hunting illegally as they have riders on point and use a whole pack of hounds to flush out foxes. The hunt does own a bird of prey, but I have never seen it in flight or in the vicinity of the hounds, and therefore is an excuse for illegal hunting.

During the day sabs enabled a fox to escape a covert that the hunt was hunting in. After this piece of life saving sabbing police took names and addresses of sabs, 3 were arrested. I was attacked by a police dog and bitten without pre-warning from the dog handler. As I was being arrested another sab was being attacked by hunt support and the police refused to turn around and witness the attack, intent on only arresting sabs. The 3 of us were arrested for ‘Possession of Offensive Weapons’ and then arrested a second time whilst in custody for Section 68. CJA 1994 Aggravated trespass! So apparently stopping an illegal hunt is also illegal. The case is on going and I will let people know the outcome in my zine when it goes to print!



Hunts master rating hounds. Sabs sometimes get hassel from police because of our whips, hunt followers seem to be immune to this law

HELP US WIPE THE GRIN OFF HIS FACE!

While others talk...
...sabs save lives

HSA
BM HSA
London
WC1N 3XX

0845
4500
727

www.huntsabs.org.uk



If hunting is banned is sabbing still illegal?

The Hunting Act 2005 was written to outlaw hunting with hounds. The hunting fraternity have invented hunting with a pack of hounds to a bird of prey, as a way around the law. Hunting in this manner is against the ethic of the law, but it does not contravene the letter of the law.

S. 68 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 made sabbing illegal. The act defines the offence as; 'A person commits aggravated trespass if he trespasses on land with the intention of disrupting, or intimidating those taking part in, lawful activity taking place on that or adjacent land.'

This should no longer apply to hunt sabs as we intervene with hunts that are trying to kill their quarry, thereby breaking the Hunting Act 2004. So S. 68 won't apply.

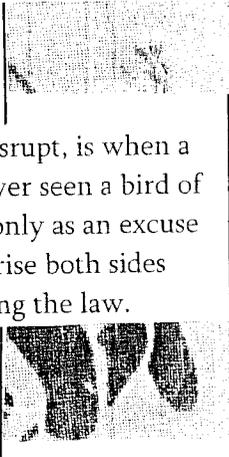
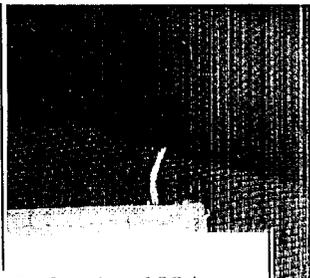
The only legal hunting, which sabs will disrupt, is when a hunt is using a hawk. However, I have never seen a bird of prey at a hunt being used to kill animals, only as an excuse for illegal hunting. Should this situation arise both sides would have to prove the other was breaking the law.

S. 68 does not apply if a hunt is breaking the law. Sabs are careful not to intervene until it is evident that the law is going to be broken, or animals are going to be harmed.

Trespass (none S. 68) is a civil offence and as such sabs on land that they do not have access to can be removed from that property using reasonable force. To become a criminal matter an injunction must be in place on specific land and then sabs return, breaking the injunction. I have no knowledge of this ever happening.

Sabs intention is not to break the law, it is to save lives, however I cannot say that sabs wont break the law, as in the past, to uphold moral laws against murder of innocents.

Hunt sabs sometimes get prosecuted for other laws, these may still apply. Examples include affray and breach of the peace, or carrying an offensive weapon (hunt whips) these charges are often dropped, or just used to remove sabs from an area to enable the hunt to continue to hunt.



“Chasing Away”

You may be aware that DEFRA has recently endorsed another form of hunting which they term “chasing away”, whereby dogs can legally chase animals away from an area of land for purposes of dispersal. The Countryside Alliance’s legal team believe that DEFRA is in fact incorrect and such an activity would be breaking the hunting law.”

“Terrier Work and Earth stopping

One dog at a time can be used to flush foxes from below the ground on the condition that it *“is undertaken for the purpose of preventing or reducing serious damage to game or wild birds...which a person is keeping or preserving for the purpose of their being shot”*. A hunt terrier work service for the benefit of those landowners who shoot will be welcomed by landowners in those many parts of the country where game or wild birds are kept or preserved for shooting.”

“Some hare hunting packs and clubs may want to consider changing to hunting rabbits as an option. Rabbit burrows can legally be stopped.

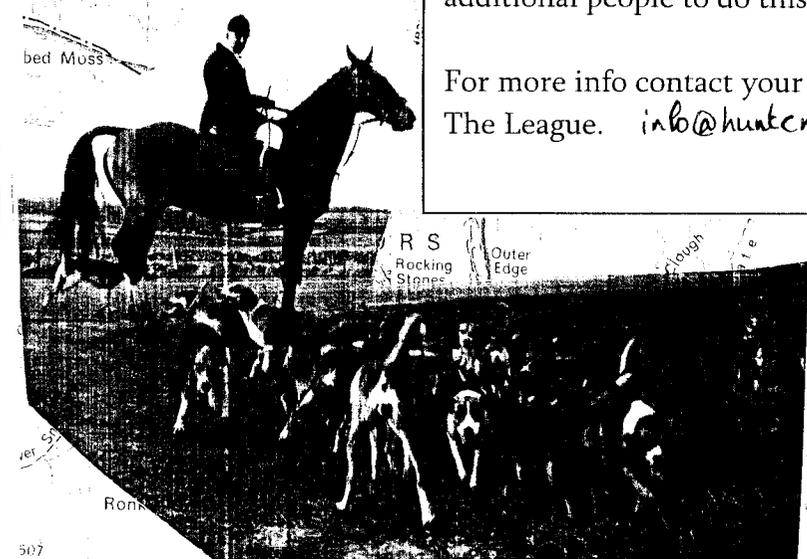
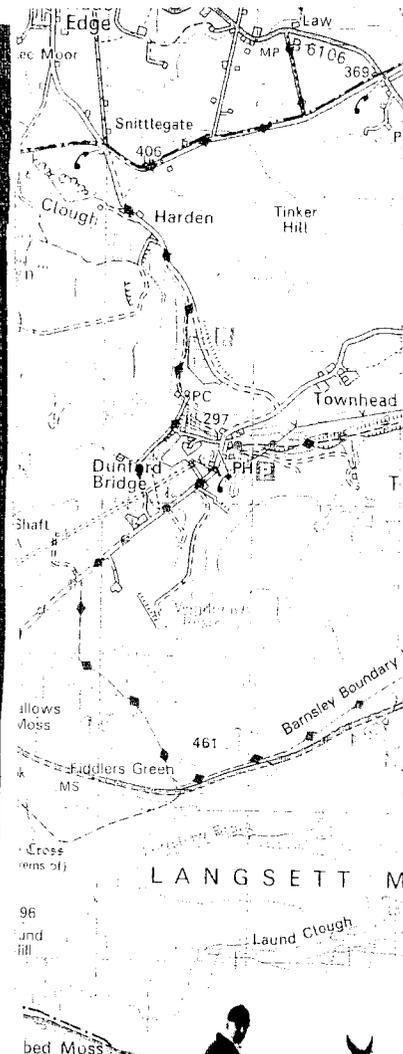
A hare can be hunted with any number of hounds for search and despatch purposes if it has been shot. In areas where hare shoots take place hunts can liase with shoot organisers and after the shoot use hounds to hunt and despatch any hares which have been shot.

Note: It is illegal to shoot hares for the purpose of then hunting them.”



As you can see there is a variety of 'games with lives' hunters can legally play. Sheffield Sabs have seen hunts trying to validate their illegal hunting by both running a dragline and having a bird of prey. Thus claiming to have no intent of killing an animal (by following a scent) and to be flushing to a bird of prey at the same time! They don't seem to realize that these two methods cancel each other out!

Hounds that have hunted live quarry for the past seasons, and are now asked to chase an artificial scent lack the inclination to do so. When the opportunity to hunt live quarry arises they choose that instead. When sabs are about, hunts have been seen to stop the hounds following an animal. However the attitudes of the hunters leave us to expect that when we are not around they would let the hounds kill the quarry, satisfying the hunter's blood lust. Hunters claim that they can control their hounds, however they evidently cannot, otherwise countless lives would not have been lost as hounds are killed on roads, or as they kill other domesticated animals. In each pack of hounds there are dogs that have a tendency to break away from the main pack and get lost, these can chase quarry or domesticated animals and are not being restrained by the huntsman.



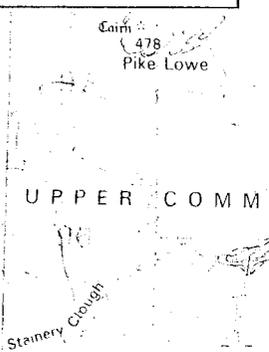
Hunt Monitors

The League Against Cruel Sports (LACS) train and support hunt observers to attend hunts in order to check the activity of the hunts and record when the Hunting Act is broken. They maintain a completely legal position on roads and footpaths in their attempt to get video footage so that prosecutions may occur.

Our sab group is also into teaching people what to look for as a sign that hunts are breaking the law. We then would want individuals to attend hunts like pro-hunt vehicle supporter and attempt to film hounds actually chasing foxes.

As hunt saboteurs have often spent years directly saving the lives of quarry species most sabs don't feel comfortable to film a chase and kill, therefore we would like additional people to do this important work.

For more info contact your local sab group or The League. info@huntcrimewatch.com



- The Countryside Alliance lodged a separate challenge to the Hunting Act 2004, claiming it was in breach of the European Convention of Human Rights. This was rejected in July.
- The League has retained the eminent silk, David Pannick, QC as its barrister and Collyer- Bristow as solicitors.
- John Cooper is an 'A list' prosecutor for the Attorney General. One of the leading barristers in London, his extensive practice has covered some of the most important cases in the criminal human rights field, and has represented families in the Deepcut litigation. His most recent book, Cruelty, an Analysis of Article 3, deals with the law of torture, inhuman and degrading treatment. John Cooper sits on the Bar Council and is one of its spokesmen.

http://www.league.uk.com/news/media_briefings/2005/oct2005/Law_Lords_rule_Parliament_Act_valid_Hunting_ban_remains.htm

Friday, 29 July 2005

No human right to be cruel

The League Against Cruel Sports today welcomed the ruling by Lord Justice May and Mr Justice Moses on the claims brought by hunters that the Hunting Act breaches the European Convention on Human Rights and the freedom of movement of goods and services within the European Union. The case was rejected on the grounds that the courts felt that the ban was rational, necessary and proportionate.

League Chairman and leading barrister John Cooper said:

"We welcome this recognition that there is no human right to be cruel. The hunting fraternity has consistently challenged the Hunting Act and thrown good money after bad in an attempt to frustrate the will of the people and of the elected House of Commons. The Hunting Act is a popular act, the ban is being enforced and, most importantly, animals are no longer able to be abused in the name of this barbaric bloodsport.

"What part of 'no' does the hunting fraternity not understand? This is a resounding defeat for the hunters, who need to move forward and accept the democratic will of Parliament and the majority of the general public, and learn to take no for an answer. Just to make it crystal clear to the hunters: that is 'no' to chasing animals to the point of exhaustion, 'no' to the abuse of our wildlife, and 'no' to cruelty to animals in the name of 'sport'.

"Hunting in Britain is now dead - it is time that its supporters accepted that."

http://www.league.uk.com/news/media_briefings/2005/july2005/no_human_right_to_be_cruel.htm

The use of birds of prey is farcical. Many hunts have acquired a bird as pretence of staying within the law. These unfortunate animals are often seen in rough hands, hanging from leather straps beneath their handler's hand. In the CAs manual they advise hunts to contact the Hawk Board about handling of birds of prey. Recently the Hawk Board has voiced opposition to hunts using birds of prey as they lack the expertise to keep the animals. See later article.

Despite the advice of the 'Hunting Handbook 2005' one of our local hunts claims that it will be going out on the day prior to a hunt with the intention of shooting to injure hares, which they will chase and kill the next day. The hunt supporters are desperate to continue their sickening blood sports and so hunt sabs still have an important part to play.

Wanna come sabbing/monitoring?
or
Start your own group?

Contact the HSA

We'll be happy to put you in touch with your nearest local group and/or arrange an informal tactics talk.

We can supply you with free posters, leaflets, and provide limited financial support to new groups.

Get in touch - You know it makes sense!



The Use of birds of prey in hunting

Prior to The Hunting Act 2004 there was no such thing as hunting with hounds and a hawk. The method was introduced as a way around the act to enable hunts to continue to use a whole pack of hounds to raise and chase a fox. The only difference from normal, now illegal hunting is that the bird of prey is supposed to kill the fox or hare not the hounds.

The Countryside alliance 'Hunting Handbook 2005' suggests the use of hawks, but warns that 'Given the skills and experience required for falconry this should not be considered lightly.' Instead of alleviating the suffering of animals, hunting by this manner increases the numbers of animals involved in hunting, including domesticated animals that also suffer, all in the name of a blood sport. The CA also suggests that hunts considering this method contact the Hawk Board.

However the Hawk Board are no longer happy to be associated with this blood sport.

If you suspect illegal hunting is happening in your area please contact hunt watch at www.huntwatch.info
This info can save lives

The hunters used to claim that we were paid by the Kremlin, £1 a day plus all your sandwiches. Then the Berlin Wall came down and it was supposed to be Linda McCartney who bought the sandwiches! They definitely couldn't believe that anybody would go sabbing for free'. (Dave Wetton, as quoted in 'Animal Century' by Mark Gold, 1998)

The hunting fraternity have challenged the legality of The Hunting Act 2004 in two ways. Through challenging the use of The Parliament Act (1949) to ban hunting in the first place, and by claiming that the Hunting Ban contravenes The European Convention of Human Rights.

Hunting was banned as The Parliament Act was used to by pass the House of Lords, who did not back the bill, and the act was agreed with Royal assent.

Both cases have been lost, though the hunters are expected to appeal the Human Rights case. There is no further line to pursue with the challenge to the use of the Parliament Act.

Further explanation is given by The League in their press releases as follows:

Thursday 13th October 2005

Law Lords rule Parliament Act valid - Hunting ban remains

The League Against Cruel Sports today welcomed the rejection by the House of Lords of the hunters' challenge to the Parliament Act. This is the third time that the courts have confirmed the Parliament Act (1949) and with it the Hunting Act 2004. The League Against Cruel Sports has been represented throughout the hearings and defended the challenge on behalf of its supporters and members.

John Cooper, leading London barrister and Chairman of the League Against Cruel Sports said:

"This is a triumph for democracy, for all those who abhor cruelty and most of all for English and Welsh wildlife. The League is delighted that the House of Lords has reached this decision and that the cruelty and barbarity of hunting remain banned. We hope that the hunters will now realise that their attempts to frustrate the will of the majority of the people have been definitively quashed.

"There can be no clearer message than the highest courts and the highest judges in the land confirming the Parliament Act (1949). Hunting wild mammals with packs of dogs is a crime. Those who have been counting on the hunting ban being overturned must now realise that they have lost the argument in parliament, they have lost the argument in court and long ago they lost the argument in the country. Our message to the hunters is this - if you break the law, you will be prosecuted."

For further information contact Wanda Wyporska, Press Officer, League Against Cruel Sports on 020 7403 6155

Notes to editors:

- Immediately the Hunting Act was given Royal Assent in November 2004, John Jackson, Chairman of the Countryside Alliance and others filed challenges on the allegations that the Parliament Act was invalid. The Government vigorously opposed the challenge to the Parliament Act, but declined to oppose an injunction challenging the commencement clause of the Hunting Act. The League Against Cruel Sports originally intervened in the case to secure the February 18 commencement date.

Legal Challenges to The Hunting Act 2004

However, hunters are often people with power, I have sabbed when there are magistrates, judges and police officers hunting. They never restrained huntsmen from attacking sabs, and even have been known for being violent themselves. One of the hunts we have frequently sabbed, has a member of the field who claims to be 'The superintendent of South Yorkshire Police'. Ignoring the fact that there is more than one superintendent, she does not know the law, as she believes that murder could be constituted as reasonable force to evict a trespasser from the property they are trespassing on!

Towards the end of last year there was a female hunt follower arrested for drunk driving during a hunt that we were sabbing. She had been using her 4x4 to block one of the sabs vehicles to stop us accessing the hunt they claimed to be drag hunting. So maybe there are fair police out there, but without training as to what is and what isn't a hunt, prosecutions are unlikely.

Prior to the hunting ban hunts were easier to find than they are now as they published where meets were in the media and produced hunt cards listing a seasons meeting points. As hunts are often breaking the law they no longer do so making finding hunts difficult. If you can get hold of meet cards please send them to the HSA or contact local sabs. This is really helpful info.

*Prior to The Hunting Act 2004
hunts frequently broke the law
and bresspassed. So it isn't
supnsing that they continue to do so.*



Jim Chick [I kid you not]- Chairman of the Hawk Board in BBC news 17/9/2005. 'This [hunters flushing their quarry to birds of prey] is bringing the sport [falconry] into disrepute. Many hunts are using people to handle the birds who have just been on a short [falconry] course. You are not competent to handle a large bird of prey after a short course.'

'Secondly, a fox is not a recognised quarry for a bird of prey. It is a large animal and cannot be easily subdued so there is a big ethical issues over whether it should be used.'

'An eagle is possessive and once it has caught a fox it will not let go. If the hounds are then brought in they could attack the eagle and a hound could be blinded or killed.'

He added that it was dangerous to have an eagle with a mounted hunt, as it could lead to a horse throwing its rider.'

'A small number of hunts are behaving irresponsibly.' He said. 'We felt very let down, we supported them and waked the marches and raised funds for them and now this is a slap in the face.'

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/ak.politics/4255614.stm>



A European eagle owl

Falconry is not itself an ethical sport. Animals are enclosed and managed in abnormal ways in order to provide entertainment for their handlers and owners. Frequently nocturnal birds are kept awake in the daylight and none are given a natural environment. It is interesting however, to see previous allies turn on one another as they attempt to cling onto archaic traditions.

In order to use a bird of prey, as a legal way to get around the Hunting Act, the bird would need to be in the air above the hounds all the time they are working. Riders on point would not be necessary as the hawk would be capable of spotting quarry, much more accurately. The hunts I have seen using a hunt do not fly the bird frequently enough, and continue to have redcoats on point, showing that this is a farce and that the police could and should be able to stop illegal hunting.

Sadly there has been at least two cases where the hounds have been chasing a fox, allegedly to a bird of prey. The bird has then gone in to try and kill the quarry and the hounds have killed both the bird of prey and the fox!

Hunt sab using
a gizmo to
pull hounds
out of a
covert.



So don't the police make sure that hunts don't break the law?

I'd love to think that there are police out there who are 'just doing my job' and arresting and prosecuting hunters with the same enthusiasm as they used to arrest and prosecute hunt sabs. Sadly I have seen no evidence that this is happening.

The police do have the resources to uphold this law if they choose to do so. They do have the manpower, they can pull together and infiltrate animal rights organisations and deal with huge numbers of people at protests. Before Feb 18th 2005 they managed to arrest hunt sabs.

At present hunts are pretending to follow a scent, but to experienced sabs it isn't hard to see when this is a front to illegal killing. When following a drag the riders or quad with the scent dragging behind, the hounds, followed by the body of the hunt then pass by the same direction a while later. The hounds are in cry as they follow the scent. When a hunt is hunting with intent to kill there are red coats, (or people who used to wear red coats, but now also wear dark colours so not to stick out.) stand on the corners of woods or other coverts and look out for foxes fleeing a covert. This tell tale sign is not noticed by untrained police

An illegal roadblock



advertisement
"People say I'm a twat, but meeting up with the hunt, people I want to be like, to help a group of inbred halfwits tear a fox apart and act as their personal bodyguard for the day at the taxpayers expense... Or abuse any law I can think of to arrest anyone who stops the hunt and help them

kill wildlife for fun...

I'm not sure I could do that...

nah, actually I could!"



COULD YOU?