



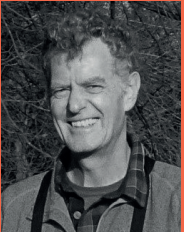
LEAGUE
AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

IMPACT REPORT

2018

A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

Dr Tim Holmes, Chairman



Welcome to the League Against Cruel Sports. In these pages you will see a snapshot of the activities that this remarkable charity

has been engaged in over the last twelve months, my first year as Chair. It is an honour and a privilege to help guide this charity as Chair and to play a part in how we continue the fight to end cruelty to animals in the name of 'sport'.

Whether you are a newcomer to the League or have been one of our thousands of supporters for many years, I hope you will continue to be encouraged by the scope of our work and the progress that we are making.

The strides forward being made in the animal welfare sector continue to be significant. Despite the tumult around us in what is often unprecedented times, one thing is becoming crystal clear – people care about animals. And what is more, they are increasingly willing to place compassion, fairness, and justice for animals on a par with, and often ahead of, other 'political' concerns.

Perhaps, in the chaotic world in which we live, where change and progress is hard to envisage let alone realise, as a society we are paying closer attention to the things we can improve. The welfare of animals is clearly one of these subjects.



“...I hope you will continue to be encouraged by the scope of our work and the progress that we are making...”

2018 marked a step change in the life and wellbeing of the charity. After a year of considerable change and upheaval, we appointed a new Chief Executive Officer. Andy Knott brings to the League a wealth of experience and expertise. He is a former commanding officer in the British Army and Chartered Manager of the Year also having enjoyed a successful period in the commercial sector. His knowledge of systems and leadership skills have brought some much-needed stability and security to the charity, its operations, and activities. Even though he has not been at the helm for very long, the charity is already seeing the benefit of his leadership.

As ever, the work we do has its opponents and as usual it seems that there are no limits that they will not go to in order to undermine us. In reality, this has had very little impact. As you will see in the pages that follow, these past twelve months has seen some of our most significant successes and paves the way for further gains in the future. Never has animal welfare been higher in the public consciousness and you have helped play a major part in this movement for change. Together we can help realise a better future for animals.

Your support has never meant more to us and I want to thank you for your continued commitment and passion.

CREATING A KINDER SOCIETY

Standing on the side of animals, we protect them from being harmed or killed in the name of 'sport'. Aiming to inspire change, our compassion for animals is echoed in everything we set out to achieve.

OUR VISION

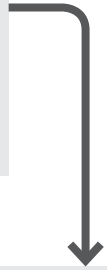
A kinder society where persecuting animals for 'sport' is in the past.



OUR MISSION

Empowered by knowledge and driven by compassion, we protect animals from being persecuted in the name of 'sport'.

United, we aim to redefine what is acceptable and inspire change.



OUR WORKING PRIORITIES



.....
END
HUNTING
.....

End hunting with dogs



.....
END
SHOOTING
.....

End shooting of animals for 'sport'

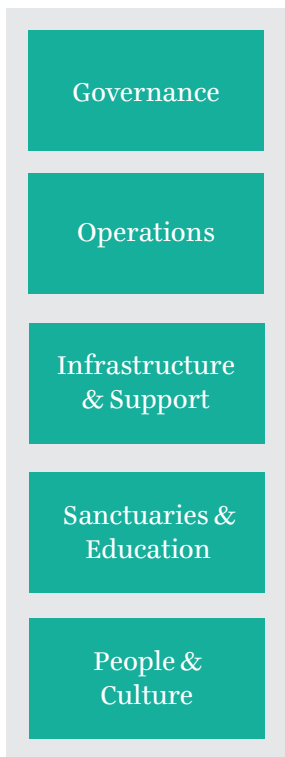


.....
END
FIGHTING
.....

End fighting of animals for 'sport'

OUR VALUES

OUR ENABLERS



We are ethical and committed to creating a world that is caring towards animals and people.



We are law abiding, rely on evidence and have years of expertise.



We have the confidence to challenge those who believe in killing animals for 'sport'.



We unite with others through honesty to achieve a common goal.



We create opportunities to make change happen.

ALL TERRAIN COVERED



The 2017 election saw a seismic shift in the status quo regarding hunting with dogs. As we entered 2018, the League Against Cruel Sports was no longer on the back foot, but better equipped than ever before to go on the offensive. Repeal of the Hunting Act 2004 is no longer on the table, thanks to our 2017 election campaign.

The option of a repeal has been dropped from the Conservative Party manifesto; we are now in a safe position to push for a strengthening of the law. 2018 saw a significant victory in this regard, with the Labour Party adopting a policy of strengthening the Act.

In Scotland, the year began with a public consultation on the recommendations made by Lord Bonomy in his review of the effectiveness of the Protection of Wild Animals (Scotland) Act 2002. The League

was directly responsible for this review and we submitted over a hundred hours of footage illustrating why the Scottish fox hunting ban should be strengthened.


While strengthening the law remains the ultimate long-term goal, it does very little to reduce animal suffering in the short to mid-term, which is why we are focusing on 'land denial'. Put simply, if there is no land to hunt on, hunting can't take place.

In 2018, the primary focus of our 'land denial' strategy was the National Trust. Since the narrow defeat of the motion to ban 'trail' hunting at the National Trust's AGM in 2017, increased publicity and pressure generated by the League meant the number of licences applied for in 2018 was down by two-thirds on the previous year, meaning two-thirds less hunting is taking place on National Trust land. Working with grassroots organisations secured the suspension of four hunts licences on Trust land.

Hunting Licence
applications down,
two-thirds in 2018



meaning **two-thirds** less
hunting is taking place on
National Trust land.



Not only is the League appearing in national newspapers that it hasn't before, in 2018 we had three major exposés of hunting on the BBC.

Two of these broadcasts aired on BBC Radio 4's flagship show the Today Programme, one of which brought cub hunting to a mainstream audience, as well as generating evidence strong enough to take the Meynell and South Staffordshire Hunt to court in 2019. The second appearance highlighted hind hunting, the pursuit of female red deer by the Devon and Somerset Staghounds.

The Devon and Somerset Staghounds were also exposed on BBC1 on its magazine show Inside Out, showing the hunt's activities and detailing the problems with the exemptions in the Hunting Act 2004.

NEXT STEPS

Land denial is key to stopping hunting. We aim to end 'trail' hunting licences on National Trust land by October 2020. As well as private land owners, public land is being used for hunting and we will be working with volunteers, supporters and councillors to place bans on 'trail' hunting, exempt hunting and exercising of packs of hounds at a council level.



SHOTS ON TARGET

If you were to take campaigning against cruel 'sports' as a numbers game, then shooting is by far the worst. Millions of birds are killed every year, and let's not forget the thousands of animals that are killed in the name of 'protecting' these birds.

Great strides were made in 2018. Working together with Animal Aid, we have brought an end to shooting on Natural Resources Wales land. This has in turn led to the end of shooting on three land packages owned by the public in Wales, including one used by Bettws Hall, Europe's largest 'game' bird breeder. It is hard to overstate the importance of this ban, which really does mark the beginning of the end of shooting in the UK.

Bettws Hall took another hit when we launched a campaign for the University of Wales to end its lease with the 'game' breeder at Gregynog Hall estate. Thanks to the lobbying efforts of over 8,000 League supporters who agree that an educational establishment is no place for blood 'sports', the lease has not been renewed.

In England we have expanded our 'land denial' strategy beyond just hunting and into shooting. To do so, we have entered into a formal partnership with Ban Bloodsports on Yorkshire's Moors to bring about the end of shooting on land owned by Yorkshire Water. The utilities company leases eleven of its moors for shooting. The campaign launched in the summer of 2018, with an event in Hebden Bridge gaining blanket BBC coverage in the North East. Since the campaign launched Yorkshire Water has already made serious concessions and we are currently expecting it to come to a head as early as 2020.

In Scotland, we are taking a different approach. In November, Revive - the coalition for Grouse moor reform - was launched in Edinburgh by Chris Packham. The League was a driver and founder of this coalition, providing funds for a campaign manager and campaigning resources. Working with Friends of the Earth Scotland, OneKind, Common Weal and Raptor Persecution UK, we helped assemble a rare consortium of welfare, social justice and conservation groups to come together and question why up to 20 per cent of Scotland is a grouse moor.



NEXT STEPS

The Revive coalition has only just launched and will be the driving force as part of the campaign to end grouse shooting in Scotland. In England, the work to gain a commitment to end grouse shooting on Yorkshire Water will be prominent, while we work hard to also ensure that the transport of live 'game' birds and breeding eggs into the UK is brought to an end.


PROTECTING MAN'S BEST FRIEND

Animal cruelty comes in all shapes and sizes. The betrayal of trust for man's best friend might be one of the cruellest, as dog fighters repeatedly exploit their loyalty.

During 2018 we made improvements to our intelligence and investigation function, putting in place new skills, tools and contacts to help identify and expose dog fighters. As a result, the League Against Cruel Sports has delivered around twenty high quality intelligence packages to the police and RSPCA about individuals believed to be involved in dog fighting in the UK. Whilst it is early days in persuading them to act, we have had some initial success in getting them to look at specific people.

A key focus has been building relationships with the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee to gain support for our calls for tougher sentences and a register of disqualification orders. In July, we worked closely with the Committee on the Inquiry into Breed Specific Legislation calling for it to be replaced with more effective legislation that focuses – rightly – on the conduct of the owner.

Our exposé about a dog fighting network from Bulgaria that are breeding and selling dogs to 29 countries around the world to take part in dog fights and connecting with dog fighters in the UK, was broadcast by the BBC in February 2019. This is the culmination of our two-year investigation into the Bulgarians; who we believe are one of the biggest players internationally.

A black and white dog, possibly a pit bull mix, is captured in a dynamic, mid-air running pose. The dog's mouth is open, showing its tongue, and its ears are flapping. The background is a blurred, natural outdoor setting with rocks and vegetation under a clear blue sky.

The exposé ran across News at Six (with an audience of 5.09 million), News at Ten, as well as on Radio 4's flagship news and current affairs PM Programme. It was also picked up by publications overseas, as far away as New Zealand. Media coverage of this scale is unprecedented in the League's history and is testament to the quality of the work done by the team and the strength of the public's feelings about dog fighting.

NEXT STEPS

Despite repeated commitments from the government to extend minimum animal cruelty sentencing from six months to five years, it has still not happened. This is vital to clamping down on illegal animal fighting and we will continue to push for this to become law.



PROTECTING
ANIMALS

OUR SANCTUARIES, A HOME FOR WILDLIFE

The League Against Cruel Sports' wildlife sanctuaries once again provided valuable safe havens for wildlife throughout 2018. Thanks to sensitive management of the sanctuaries and our dedicated staff, we have been able to protect animals that might otherwise be hunted or shot.

During 2018 we carried out a major refit of the old kennels building on Baronsdown, to create a space that can be used for a range of educational and supporter events.

At Cove Down wildlife sanctuary we initiated a 'wilding' project, in partnership with our neighbours and

wildlife organisations, to help increase the wildlife value of the site. Applying the principles of 'wilding' for many years, it has been great to receive so many favourable comments from all sorts of experts.

We started a programme of vaccinating badgers at Cowley Wood wildlife sanctuary in 2018, in conjunction with Somerset Badger Group.

Numerous camera traps were set up in the woods to detect badger movements, then baited cage traps were deployed to catch badgers and enable the vaccine to be administered. The process will be repeated in 2019 and following years to ensure the programme is effective. We plan to extend badger vaccination to other League sanctuaries when resources allow.



Unfortunately, hunting with dogs continues in the areas close to the League wildlife sanctuaries and so we are regularly forced to spend our time keeping an eye on the hunts' activities in case of incursions. Letters were sent by the League's solicitors to the masters of the Tiverton Staghounds to warn them off our land after several incidents. The New Ground, Cove Down and Baronsdown sanctuaries have been particularly effective in saving the lives of hunted deer.

We welcomed League supporters to the Baronsdown sanctuary for two successful events timed to coincide with red deer calving and the red deer rut. It was fantastic to greet friends old and new and for the opportunity to show off the wildlife and facilities that their support helps to finance.

NEXT STEPS

We are looking forward to continued success on our wildlife sanctuaries during 2019. Our focus will again be on protecting the sanctuaries and the animals that live within them. We will also be expanding our educational and volunteer programmes. We hope that many of you will get the chance to visit the sanctuaries at one of the supporter events that are planned.



**ANIMAL
CRIMEWATCH**

DRIVEN BY JUSTICE

Intelligence

The Intelligence team have had an exceptionally busy year, building on the work that our Head of Intelligence started since coming into post in October 2017.

Our management team meets monthly to decide what issues will be developed, based on the League's priorities, which are determined by the intelligence received. This ensures our professional Investigators remain focused on the charity's priorities in support of investigations, media and campaigns.

Our intelligence has seen a

150%

increase in overall content during **2018**.

The Crimewatch hotline goes from strength to strength and 2018 saw a

36%

increase in calls from the public.



Working in partnership with other animal welfare charities and law enforcement also continues. Examples include a closer working relationship with the Heads of Intelligence at the RSPCA and SSPCA. This is essential to maximise the impact generated through our dog fighting campaign. Our Intelligence team assisted the BBC throughout the year, supporting the delivery of our joint exposé on dog fighting, screened by the BBC in February 2019.

Investigations

The team have been busy with investigation work on both fox and deer hunting, together with other work concerning the pheasant shooting industry.

With regards to fox hunting, in October 2018 Investigators filmed the Meynall and South Staffordshire Hunt while in pursuit of a fox. This is scheduled for Court on 19th August 2019.

In June 2018, George and Tom Grant (a father and son and both terriermen of the Belvoir Hunt) appeared at Leicester Crown Court for the vicious attack on two League Investigators. Both men were convicted of grievous bodily harm and received suspended prison sentences and had to pay costs.

Enforcement

2018 was a busy year for our Head of Enforcement and Legal Resources, with the delivery of presentations on the Hunting Act 2004 around England.

This included several police forces, be it individual forces or as training on the National Wildlife Crime Investigation course to Police Wildlife Crime Officers.

There were significant frustrations during the year, as Crown Prosecution Service solicitors in Yorkshire decided not to continue the prosecution of two cases that were heading for court. Identification was cited on both occasions, but at late notice, having not been raised previously even by the defence.

NEXT STEPS

In 2019 we look to develop our intelligence capability due to the volume of information we are receiving.

Through the backing of League supporters, we are able to purchase further technical equipment; adding several tools to the investigators armoury in detecting wildlife crime.

We will also continue our training with police forces across the UK, assisting forces in understanding the Hunting Act 2004, and other wildlife legislation.

FUNDING OUR MISSION

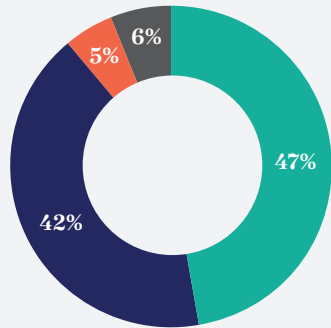
Your support enables us to be a catalyst for change. Receiving no government funding, without your generous donations we would not be able to lead debates, strengthen animal protection laws and investigate those who persecute animals for 'sport'.

United, we can end hunting, shooting and animal fighting. It will take time, but changing the perceptions of the general public, politicians and the generations that follow us is our best route to living in a society where cruelty to animals in the name of 'sport' is a thing of the past.

2018

INCOME

- Legacies
- Donations & Gifts
- Membership
- Other Income

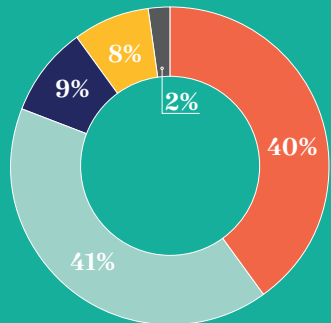


TOTAL INCOME: £2,420,000

2018

EXPENDITURE

- Education
- Research
- Fundraising, publicity & training
- Conservation
- Governance

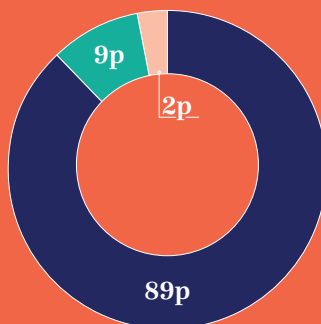


TOTAL EXPENDITURE: £3,404,000

2018

PER £1 SPENT

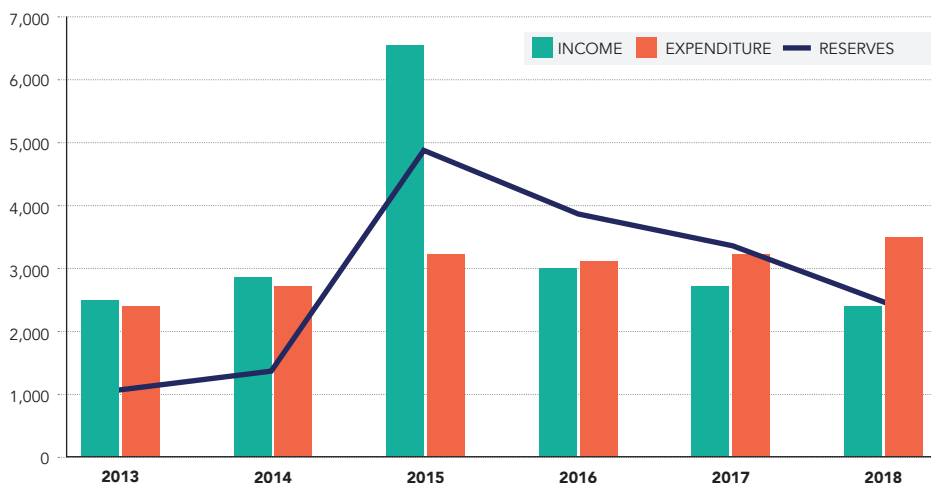
- Charitable Objectives
- Fundraising
- Governance



In 2018 the Board took the opportunity to use some of our cash reserves to make long-term investments in vital infrastructure projects and much needed improvements including;

- the procurement of a new IT system, and investment in new software applications and technology
- using restricted funding to improve buildings and our sanctuaries
- step change increase in campaign resourcing in England and Scotland
- reorganisation of the charity, with focus on operations and supporter engagement.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE & RESERVES £000



The 2018 figures are provisional, for final, audited figures please refer to our 2018 Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements.



THANK YOU

We are continuously grateful for the support and commitment we receive each year. Your feet on the ground at protests, your signatures on petitions, and of course your generous donations that funds the considerable ambition to end cruel 'sports', makes the League Against Cruel Sports a powerful catalyst for change.

Together we will make this world a compassionate place for animals.

A LEGACY OF KINDNESS

Last year, each of these exceptional supporters showed their courage and compassion for animals by remembering the League Against Cruel Sports in their will. Their significant gesture gives us the strength to protect animals from cruelty for years to come.

Dorothy Barnes
Stephanie Barnes
Walter Barnes
Joan Bayes
Beryl Benjamin
Margaret Bennett
Rodney Bowman
Georgina Bradford
Karen Brownridge
Nick Canever
Florence Claxton
Linda Cooper
Rosemary Costello
Hilda Crook
Sheila Cumber
Avril Devon
June Dodsley
Ida Donsworth
Agnes Dudley
Jenny Echeverria
R Elmer
Frank Ford
Jason Ford

June Fryer
Graham Goodall
Charlotte Goodwin
Annette Hallett
Marion Hammant
Catherine Haworth
Peter Hennessy
Raymond Homer
Rebecca Hood
Margaret Hughes
Cicely Hunter
Phyllis Irving
Alun James
Averil Jones
James Jones
Margaret Lampard
Arnold Lee
Eileen Lewis
George Machin
Marian Mansell
Sheila Mchenry
Alfred Measday
Monica Monteith

Mabel Moorwood
Ann Morrison
Margaret Napier
Annie O'Brien
Sydney Parkes
Helen Perry
Martin Proctor
Jennifer Rawe
Adelaine Rawlings
Sonia Shaw
Shelia Snowden
Victoria Stoe
Dorothy Storey
Vera Struce
Margaret Taylor
Audrey Toms
Joyce Topham
Colin Venn
Beryl Wall
Jay Williams
Marjorie Woodcock

Nine times as many supporters have generously pledged a legacy to the League in 2018 compared to the previous year. We are honoured when our supporters see the value in our work.

A SUMMARY IN NUMBERS



National Trust hunting licence applications reduced by **two-thirds**.

 **2/3** ↓

Three major exposés surrounding hunting featured on the BBC.



Brought an end to shooting on **three** land packages owned by the public in Wales.

8,000 League supporters helped prevent the renewal of the University of Wales' lease with Gregynog Hall's 'game' breeder.



8,000



Delivered over **twenty** intelligence reports to the police and RSPCA about dog fighters in the UK.



5.09 MILLION

Not Born to Fight exposé featured on the News at Six **reaching an audience of 5.09 million**.



An educational and supporter centre has been refurbished.



Held **two** successful supporter events at Baronsdown.



Seen a **150%** intelligence content increase.



The Crimewatch hotlines saw a **36%** increase in calls from the public.





GET IN TOUCH

League Against Cruel Sports

New Sparling House

Godalming

GU7 1QZ

01483 524 250

supportercare@league.org.uk

www.league.org.uk

League Against Cruel Sports is a registered charity in England and Wales (no. 1095234) and Scotland (no. SC045533)



LEAGUE

AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

