



LEAGUE
AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

PROTECT

No22

JANUARY 2019

END CANINE CRUELTY 10

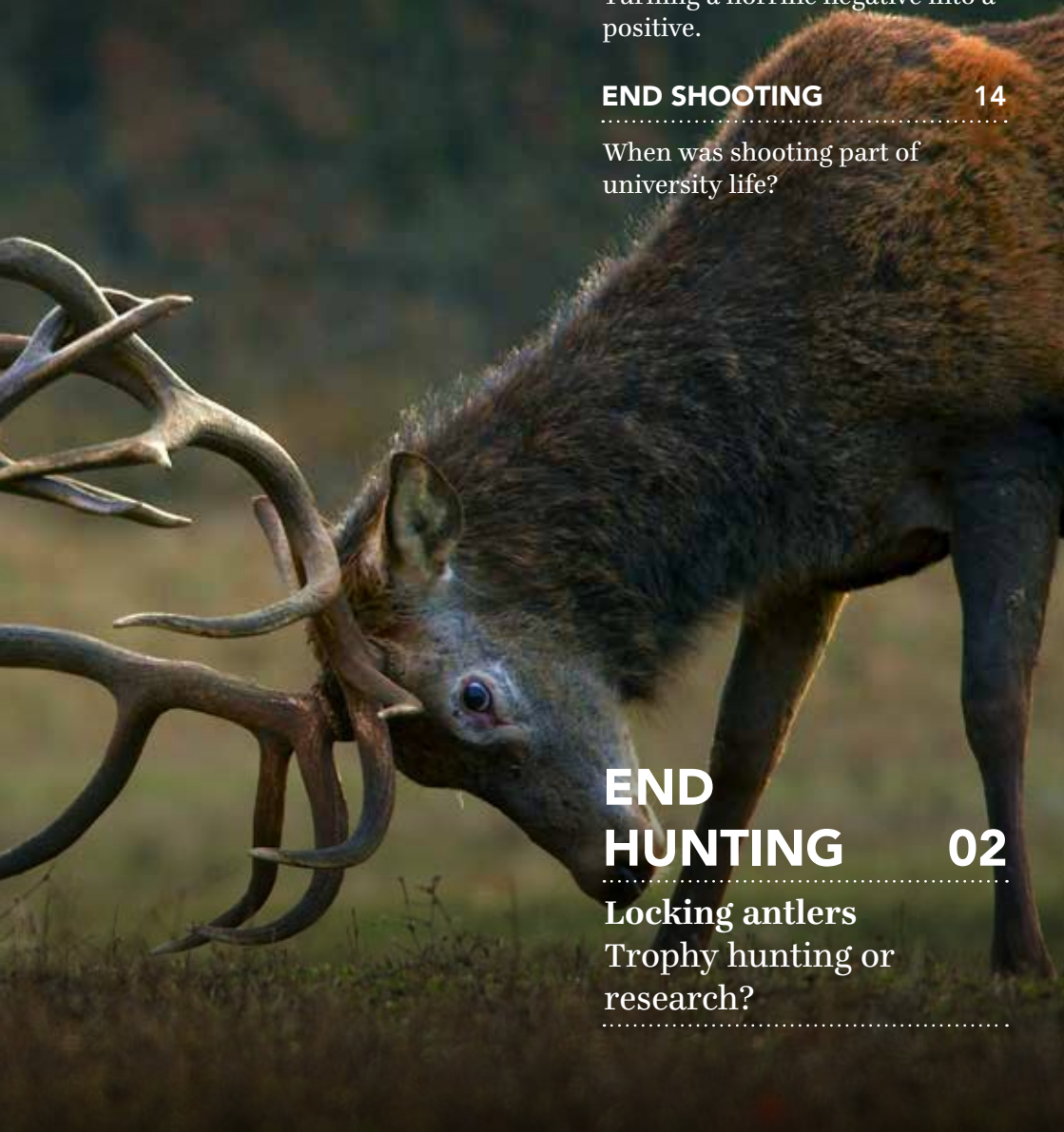
Turning a horrific negative into a positive.

END SHOOTING 14

When was shooting part of university life?

END HUNTING 02

Locking antlers
Trophy hunting or research?





WELCOME

A letter from Andy Knott, CEO

I wanted to start 2019 by thanking you all for your incredible support over the last year, lending your voice to animals so that together we can bring about the end of cruel sports.

What we achieved last year was just a taste of the role we can play in protecting animals.

Our petition against hunting in the UK achieved more than 100,000 signatures and prompted a Labour Party pledge to explore ways to strengthen the Hunting Act (2004).

We played a key role in bringing forth a ban on pheasant and partridge shooting on Welsh public land, while we led a campaign against Yorkshire Water to end grouse shooting on their sites. We also continue to increase awareness about the cruelty of greyhound racing.

Passion drives us to perform. We are doing this because we care so much about the animals we want to help. We continue to ask for your feet on the ground at our protests, your signatures on our petitions and campaigns, and of course your generous donations that fund the considerable ambition we have for the future.

Together, we can make this world a compassionate place for animals.

Thank you again,

Andy Knott MBE
Chief Executive Officer

INVESTIGATE | EDUCATE | PROTECT



LEAGUE
AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

 **END
HUNTING**

LOCKING ANTLERS

We are about investigating wrong doing, educating the public on what is going on and protecting the animals that are being killed unnecessarily, and in many cases illegally, in the name of sport.

Our experienced and skilled investigators, in partnership with the BBC, have revealed the truth behind Trophy Hunting here in the UK. Sparking outrage, the BBC Inside Out programme saw a stag hunted down by hounds and shot.

The facts: Trophy Hunting or Research?

The BBC piece draws attention to the hunt being labelled as forming part of ‘scientific research.’ We say this is not the case, as footage captures a red stag running for nine miles before being shot in an Exmoor river, then being dragged out, and carved for trophies. During the programme, the hunters were asked if this was for scientific purposes – they said no and offered no further explanation; being unable to use ‘scientific research’ as an excuse due to the captured evidence.

We put the case forward that their actions are simply an exploitation of the Hunting Act (2004).

Martin Sims, Director of Investigations here at the League, and a former Head of the police’s National Wildlife Crime Unit, said:

“It is ludicrous that this hunt claims to be undertaking research and observation – it is simply illegal hunting, but with a lame excuse not dissimilar to the Japanese Government’s rationale for butchering whales. Stag hunting is a cruel and unnecessary spectator sport, with wild animals chased down and their severed body parts dished out to bloodthirsty fans as trophies.”

Sir David Amess, MP for Southend West and Patron of the Conservative Animal Welfare Foundation, added:

“I am appalled to see the hunting of deer with hounds still taking place across the British countryside.

The pursuit of deer to exhaustion, ending with a shot to the head and being carved up as trophies, is truly shocking and the public expect such cruel and macabre blood sports to be consigned to the history books. The Hunting Act must be strengthened as a matter of urgency, including by removing the ‘research and observation’ exemption, so that there can be no cover for this cruelty.”

We are saddened to say that this footage is not an isolated incident. Earlier in the month, an exclusive news story published in the Daily Express, disclosed that international tour operators have been offering ‘trophy hunting’ holidays in the heart of the English countryside. Europe Hunts is charging up to £25,000. This follows on from Woburn Deer Park hitting the headlines towards the end of last year, when it was revealed that Danish travel company Limpopo and Diana tours were also offering trophy hunting packages.



Our argument, one based on truth

We are proud that we are in a position to defend persecuted animals against trophy hunting. Chris Luffingham, Director of Policy, Communications and Campaigns took to ITV’s This Morning and Good Morning Britain studios to highlight the injustice of cruel sports in the UK. Opposed by Charlie Jacoby, Chris provided a voice for persecuted stags and deer.

Mr Jacoby defended the need for hunting, insisting that trophy hunting, which isn’t in breach of the Hunting Act (2004), is a genuine hobby for many people and claimed that it supported the need in the UK to ‘cull’ deer. In response, Chris drew attention to the breeding of deer for the sole purpose of being shot for trophies; putting an end to the ‘culling’ excuse. The activities taking place are nothing to do with population control - it is entertainment, plain and simple.

We promise to continue to defend animals from cruel and outdated sports.

Thank You

With momentum growing, we are continuing to apply pressure, calling for the government to strengthen the Hunting Act (2004); eliminating hunting loopholes. Our call has received considerable support, with over 100,000 people signing our ‘Hunting Kills’ petition. Your courage and signatures allow us to be accounted for and listened to – thank you.

If you haven’t yet signed our online hunting petition, please do.

www.league.org.uk/huntingkills

WINTER AT THE SANCTUARIES

As an animal welfare charity, we take pride in our sanctuaries. Your kind donations allow our sanctuaries, such as Baronsdown, to flourish. Sitting on the edge of Exmoor National Park, Baronsdown is home to an array of wildlife. Paul Tillsley, Head of Conservation shares what winter is like at Baronsdown and how your support provides a haven to hundreds of animals all year round.

“ In towns and cities, the weather is usually just a minor inconvenience as you rush from the car, bus or train to the office, factory or shops and home again. But on the League’s wildlife sanctuaries the weather often dictates what we can do and when we can do it. The heavy snow of last winter made getting around very difficult and things ground to

a virtual halt for a couple of weeks during the worst of it. The heavy rain that heralded the start of this winter has made driving on the sanctuaries treacherous and Shanks’s pony has become the transport method of necessity. It is often said that British people are obsessed with the weather, but I would say that on Exmoor we have good reason!



The wildlife must sit it out, of course, whatever the weather. Red Deer have their thick winter coats for protection and they will shelter from the worst of the weather in the woods or behind hedgebanks. Foxes are looking their best in midwinter in their thick, red coats. No matter what the weather throws at them they have no time to rest, as they must get on with the business of breeding.

The winter influx of Redwings and Fieldfares has arrived from Scandinavia and Russia, together with the elusive Woodcock that mysteriously appears with the November full moon. Whether it is raining or snowing, Exmoor must seem relatively balmy in comparison with their northern breeding grounds. Incredibly, Woodcock are still on the shooting list, despite a dramatic crash in the number breeding in the UK, but I am told that one of the local shoots doesn’t allow its guns to shoot them.

‘...It is often said that British people are obsessed with the weather, but I would say that on Exmoor we have good reason!..’

The long, gloomy Exmoor winter days make spring seem a long way away, but we are already past the shortest day and it won’t be long before snowdrops will begin poking their flowerheads apologetically through the soil. Snowdrops, also known as Candlemas bells, snow piercers and February fairmaids, are one of those familiar species that we treat as our own, but their origins are at best uncertain. The flowers have an association with old monastic sites and with the former St Nicholas Priory just a stone’s throw away, this would explain the impressive display we have at Baronsdown.”



WHERE GAMBLING MATTERS MORE THAN COMPASSION



How many greyhound pups do you see daily?

Greyhound puppies are bred for racing, however many do not make it to the track. We can confirm that six to twelve thousand go missing each year due to not 'meeting racing standards.'



On trial

Young dogs are sent for trials, where only the fastest of dogs are accepted to be trained for the sport. Sadly, many dogs do not make it past this stage and their fate is unknown.



A tough life

The dogs that are selected to become racers live a tough life as most spend 95% of their time in small kennels with no social contact. Many are neglected, suffering from parasites and poor dental health. Those housed in pairs are often kept constantly muzzled.



The cruelty of people

A racing dog's career statistically ends on their third birthday – if they make it to this age. In 2017 industry figures show that more than 1,000 dogs died or were killed, many because they were too ill or deemed unsuitable for rehoming.

How you can help: Animals don't have a voice, you do. Please write to your local MP calling them to back a ban on greyhound racing



OUR COMMUNITY

We would not be able to protect animals if it wasn't for our supporters. Around the country we have League communities whose dedication never fails to inspire us.

Since launching in October 2015, the Cheshire and Merseyside Supporter Group has attracted over 1,000 followers on its Facebook page. League supporter, Shelley, who set up the page and continues to update and maintain its content, said **"As a lifelong supporter of animal welfare, I wanted to highlight the importance of League campaigns... I also wanted to tailor the information to a more local audience and to encourage people within the region to get behind the League on these issues"**.

To celebrate reaching 1,000 followers on their Facebook page, the team recently ran a competition to win a 'Hunting Kills Me' fox T-shirt and tote bag. They asked entrants to comment explaining 'why animal welfare means so much to me'. Answers included:

"They have as much right to be here as we have" and

"All animals in this country need to be able to have a good life, without being hunted to extinction,"

The winning entry wrote **"Because every animal's life is as important to them as ours is to us"**.

Accompanied by fellow League supporter, Alex, the two also kindly manage League stands at local fairs such as Live a Better Life and the Chester Vegan Festival. We would like to thank them for all their support!



TAKE ACTION

If you have organised or have taken part in any awareness, campaigning or fundraising activity and would like to share it with the rest of the community, please send your article to supportercare@league.org.uk



TURNING A HORRIFIC NEGATIVE INTO A POSITIVE

Nick Weston, Head of Campaigns here at the League, was invited by the Celia Cross Greyhound Trust to visit Hillside Kennels, which until recently was a functioning and accredited greyhound racing kennel.

Nick witnessed the hidden truth about the treatment of greyhounds at Hillside. It was astonishing and deeply disturbing. In his own words Nick describes the conditions:

“Visiting Hillside was an assault on all the senses...The concrete cinder blocks that the building was built from were worn away. Not from the outside, but the inside, as dogs had clawed and scratched away at the walls from boredom and stress, leaving the blocks with concave surfaces. There were long scratches in the walls three or four feet long and half an inch deep as greyhounds had been begging for attention... The wire mesh windows had been pulled inwards, broken and leaving sharp and dangerous metal wire pointing at both the corridors and into the kennels themselves.”

‘...Visiting Hillside was an assault on all the senses...’



What Nick saw is evidence that the racing dogs are nothing more than commodities. Government regulations were introduced in 2010 to address these problems, but they are woefully inadequate. Speaking against the regulations when they were published, we called them “little more than a crook’s charter”. In 2014 we produced a report demonstrating that, sadly, we were right. Our report *The State of greyhound racing in Great Britain: a mandate for change*, produced in conjunction with GREY2K USA Worldwide, showed that the life of a racing greyhound was still filled with abuse, neglect and early death. Nick’s further investigation demonstrates that this is still the case in 2018 and that the industry remains inadequately self-regulated.

Tasked with eventually ending greyhound racing here in the UK, we strive to increase awareness and industry transparency, exposing places such as Hillside and supporting other charities like Celia Cross Greyhound Trust.



We are delighted to confirm that Celia Cross Greyhound Trust have now bought the Hillside kennels and have undertaken the costly task of turning them into a rehoming centre. Turning what was once a place of nightmares into a positive home with a purpose to care and protect dogs is something we continuously strive to achieve. By working tirelessly with groups across the country we will bring this cruel sport to an end.

If you are interested in witnessing the sheer scope of this problem with your own eyes, you can watch Nick’s visit to Hillside Kennels here:

<http://www.league.org.uk/greyhound-horror>



POET IN RESIDENCE

Ronnie Goodyer, prizewinning poet, has been named our Poet in Residence.

As established poets, both Ronnie and his partner Dawn's passion for writing has been recognised within the industry. He won the Ted Slade Award for Services to Poetry, while Ronnie and Dawn's company, Indigo Dreams Publishing, was named Most Innovative Publisher in 2017.

As proactive League supporters, we are extremely grateful for their input, dedication and help. In support of the League, they are publishing a poetry anthology to raise funds for, and awareness of, the suffering of animals abused in cruel sports. Submissions for the anthology have now closed but there is still time to help.

TAKE ACTION

The anthology gives you two wonderful ways to support the League:

1. Visit indigodreams.co.uk/for-the-silent to buy a copy of the book for £10 plus £2.00 p&p (UK). The League will receive £2 for every book sold
2. Become a Named Supporter and have your name listed in the acknowledgments section of the book by donating £25. You will also receive a free copy of the book. The League will receive a £10 for every Named Supporter

You can also reserve your copy of the book or become a Named Supporter by sending a cheque (made payable to 'IDP') to Indigo Dreams Publishing Ltd, 24 Forest Houses, Halwill, Beaworthy, EX21 5UU.

Closing date to be a Named Supporter in the book is 31st March.

The Huntsman Wants to Kill

The golfer wants a hole in one
The cricketer to score a ton
The sprinter to be number one
The huntsman wants to kill

The footballer to win the league
The cyclist to avoid fatigue
But the huntsman wants none of these
The huntsman wants to kill

Ignore the child-on-pony pose
For cameras at country shows
Beneath the pomp and pompous clothes
The huntsman wants to kill

Called from the Field, the vilest trade
Is carried out by those with spades
Their presence proves this grim charade
The huntsman wants to kill

The hounds are seen to run in packs
On busy roads and railway tracks
There's no 'trail' here – it's just a fact
The huntsman wants to kill

To flush a fox and watch it run
Is their idea of perfect fun
Content when violent death has come
The huntsman's had his kill

We'd educate him if we could
No sport should ever call for blood
Enforce the Ban so that, for good –
The huntsman cannot kill

Ronnie Goodyer
Poet-in-Residence



Join us at the launch

'For the Silent' anthology is being launched at the Cheltenham Poetry Festival, 2nd May, 8.30 – 10pm. It would be wonderful to have as many League supporters as possible attend, for more details email: anthology@indigodreams.co.uk.

 @Poet4TheSilent

WHEN WAS SHOOTING BIRDS FOR SPORT PART OF UNIVERSITY LIFE?

As a result of your dedicated support, in 2018 Natural Resources Wales agreed to end pheasant shooting on Welsh public land. The announcement came off the back of a three-year campaign by us, along with Animal Aid, which included over 12,500 of our wonderful supporters signing a petition to the government agency. Building on this success, we now look to our next mission.

Over 57,000 factory-farmed pheasants have been released to be shot for 'sport' onto the University of Wales' Gregynog Hall site in Powys in the past five years. This previously unpublished figure was uncovered by us under the Freedom Of Information law.

Twenty-five pheasant shoots are held on the university's grounds each year with a significant negative impact on wildlife and the environment. The university's present lease with controversial game bird shooting organisation Bettws Hall, is set to expire in February 2019. We are asking for it not to be renewed and to end pheasant shooting on on University of Wales' land.

Chris Luffingham, Director of Campaigns at the League explains the importance of this campaign alongside the sheer scale of the cruelty of this matter:

"Whilst any degree of shooting birds for 'sport' doesn't sit well with the public, the sheer scale of pheasant shooting uncovered at the University of Wales' Gregynog Hall campus is shocking. Pheasants are literally being factory farmed on an industrial scale and released in their tens of thousands into the university's grounds, where they are being used as feathered targets..."



Opening the cage

Breeding game birds on Bettws Hall's industrial farming facility, located just three miles from Gregynog, are incarcerated in bleak wire-mesh cages. The pheasants often exhibit abnormal behaviours, including tearing out their own and other birds' feathers, fighting with 'cage mates' and repetitive jumping at cage walls. Offspring of these birds are shipped to shooting estates, such as Gregynog Hall, where they are gunned down by the thousands in the name of 'sport'.

A targeted strategy

To end pheasant shooting on the University's private land is a big task, but together we can bring about this ban. Andy Knott MBE, CEO of the League and University of Wales alumni, has written to the Vice Chancellor, Medwin Hughes. He said:

"The University of Wales is blessed with a beautiful campus and fantastic students. It's a real shame that they are continuing to associate themselves with birds being blasted out of the sky for fun, which most people want to see stopped. Universities should be forward-thinking, not dragged backwards by cruel traditions."



In the face of growing controversy surrounding its pheasant shooting lease, the University of Wales has written to the League to confirm a formal review into arrangements at Gregynog Hall. It is believed concerns relating to negative impacts on animal welfare and the environment at the campus – which is widely promoted as a nature reserve and visitor attraction – has resulted in the announcement.

Looking ahead, we will defend our win and will continue to campaign to end shooting at the University of Wales, and elsewhere.

TAKE ACTION

You can help us stop shooting by donating today; allowing us to raise awareness, through campaigning, of the cruelty inflicted on pheasants by University of Wales.



LEAGUE IN ACTION

AND THE WINNER IS...

On the last day of the grouse-shooting season, we held lit-up letters spelling out the message ‘Yorkshire Water stop shooting’ as 1,400 guests arrived for the Utility Week Awards ceremony at Grosvenor House on Park Lane, London. Presenting the company with our ‘Wildlife Destruction Award’ Yorkshire Water’s peers and competitors greeted us with smiles and handshakes, before taking campaign material into the event; informing them about the damage that was taking place on the company’s grouse shooting moors.

This is one of many awareness actions we have undertaken in the last year. It forms part of our joint-campaign with Ban Bloodsports on Yorkshire’s Moors, which urges the company to become the environmental champion it aspires to be.

Yorkshire Water currently leases 13 sections of moorland across North, South and West Yorkshire for grouse shooting to the detriment of wildlife, habitat and the economy of local communities. Our campaign comes as the utility company launches its five-year plan, which sets out a roadmap for enhancing the environment, conserving habitats and protecting native wild animals.

We say that grouse shooting is incompatible with Yorkshire Water’s environmental policies and customer expectations.



A massive thank you to all our dedicated supporters who campaigned with us outside Grosvenor House and to the 7,000 people who have contacted Yorkshire Water’s CEO to call on him to end grouse-shooting.

If you would like to support us, please join the 7,000 who have already emailed
Richard.flint@yorkshirewater.co.uk



National
Trust

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

Campaigning to stop hunting on National Trust land is something we have been continuously working towards. Your support allowed us to create a louder voice that others can now no longer ignore. We are pleased to announce that 2018’s Polesden Lacey’s Hunt was cancelled after the National Trust and Surrey Union Hunt bowed to public pressure. In a letter to the management of the park, we urged the conservation body to block those seeking to hunt wildlife on its land. Chris Luffingham, Director of Campaigns here at the League communicates our response:

“The cancellation of hunting at National Trust Polesden Lacey is welcomed. This outcome reflects the strong public opposition to the practice – with 85% of people opposed to hunting foxes with hounds – and provides foxes on the estate with the protection they deserve.”

We would like to take this opportunity to say a big Thank You to you for your endless support. This is just one example out of numerous hunts that have been and will be cancelled as a direct result of your dedication. We will endeavour to continue our successes.





LEAGUE IN ACTION

PACKHAM IN SCOTLAND

In partnership with Chris Packham and other social, environmental and animal welfare charities, Revive, a coalition campaign to reform Scotland's grouse moors, was launched on 6th November in Edinburgh.

Chris Packham reveals the importance of this partnership and the united goal we all share:

“The desire for urgent reform, fuelled by a horrible cascade of outrageous revelations in the media, grows daily. There is no doubt that we all deserve, need, better uplands, a prosperous place for wildlife and people - and that is far from impossible. But making that turn will need a suite of skills and energies and that's why I am keen to help inaugurate this partnership.”



Revive is a ground-breaking initiative created to challenge the running of Scotland's uplands, as the land is intensively managed to create a habitat suitable for grouse hunting.

According to industry statistics an estimated 700,000 grouse are shot every year in Britain for 'sport'. It is no surprise that hundreds of thousands of grouse are shot in the short space of four months every year.

It is estimated that around a fifth of Scotland's land is managed to rear grouse for sport. The harsh reality of this sport is that 'land management' involves wire snares alongside the setting of traps. Due to the indiscriminate nature of these devices, many non-targeted protected and endangered species such as badgers and hares get caught. Gamekeepers on grouse moors also cull mountain hares due to unwarranted fears they carry a tick-borne virus that kills grouse chicks and are therefore seen as a threat to the grouse shooting industry. The Hare Preservation Trust believes that anecdotal evidence of Mountain Hare culling levels strongly suggests that the European Habitats Directive is being broken in Scotland.



OUR MAN ON THE GROUND

Max Wiszniewski, Scotland's Senior Campaigner for the League provides an update:

“Just two months after launching, Revive: The coalition for grouse moor reform has already set the agenda in Scotland. The League Against Cruel Sports was the founding member.

The coalition launch in November featured broadcaster and naturalist Chris Packham and received coverage in all serious newspapers in Scotland as well as broadcast media. Our newly commissioned reports have been viewed thousands of times by members of the public while the Revive pledge has been signed by over 10,000 of you since the launch.



This is a remarkable achievement for the League to have built a strong coalition who can tackle this problem from so many angles and our ability to do that is down to your support and enthusiasm for the animals we are trying to protect.”

Together, as part of Revive, we aim to embark on a long-term campaign to convince Scottish ministers of the need for reform. To coincide with this, a new report has put forth the case for changing the way grouse shooting estates are run, in order to benefit communities, wildlife and the environment. A Scottish Government commission has been set up to examine the environmental impacts of grouse shooting and is due to report back next spring. The review was set up after a Scottish Natural Heritage report showed that almost a third of golden eagles in a satellite-tracking project had disappeared in suspicious circumstances.



LEAGUE ON TOUR



With over 100,000 petition signatures calling for the government to end hunting, League CEO proudly stands outside Number 10 with League President Bill Oddie

If you haven't yet signed our petition please do, www.league.org.uk/huntingkills



Along with us, around 10,000 people took to the streets of London for Chris Packham's People's Walk For Wildlife



The League's stand at last years London Vet Show



Thanks to League supporter Dan Davies, we had the honour of presenting the League's views on licencing and the crucial need for stronger legislation at the 2018 Institute of Licensing Conference



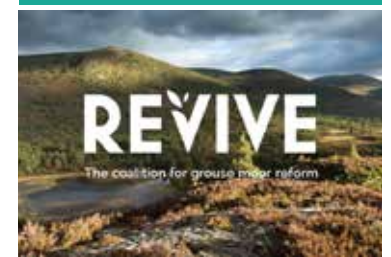
Our dedicated supporters helping us protest the licencing of so called 'trial hunts' outside the headquarters of the National Trust as they held their AGM



Chris Luffingham (on the left), Director of Policy, Communications and Campaigns defends persecuted stags on This Morning



Together with your support, well over 700 people signed our Yorkshire Water postcards to call on them to end grouse shooting on their land



We are extremely proud to be part of the Revive collaboration to reform Scotland's grouse moors



Some supporters who enjoyed last year's rutting event at Baronsdown

ANIMAL ADVOCATES

Without your continuous support we would not be able to protect animals from being persecuted in the name of sport. This section is dedicated to letting you know how you can get involved. We appreciate every action, as this takes us one step closer to achieving our mission.

Your signature is priceless

www.league.org.uk/huntingkills

Help us end hunting by simply signing our online petition. Please share it on social media to encourage your friends and family to sign it too. Over the last year, your actions have made our voice stronger. Your signature really is priceless.



Like us

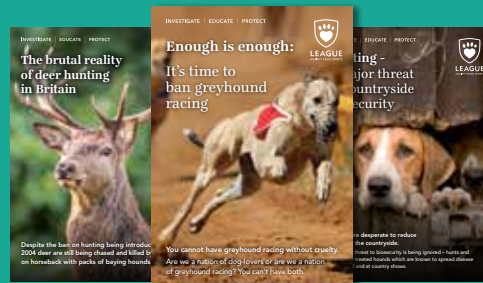
'Follow' us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for us to keep you updated on all of the work you have helped us to achieve, as well as news about our future campaigns and appeals. Don't forget to share our posts to help spread the word about animal cruelty.



Help us educate others

campaign@league.org.uk

To help educate others about our campaigns and increase awareness of our mission to protect animals from being harmed or killed in the name of sport, please order our series of leaflets.



Challenge accepted

fundraising@league.org.uk

Whether you are running a marathon, hosting a bake sale or organising a quiz to fundraise in aid of animals, get in touch with our fundraising team who will provide you with all the support, ideas and motivation you will need!

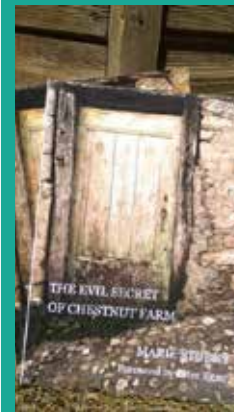


Meet like-minded individuals

www.league.org.uk/supporter-groups

If you are interested in meeting other League supporters and are looking to actively campaign in your region then why not join one of our Supporter Groups?

A book you don't want to miss



The Evil Secret of Chestnut Farm is a children's book (aged 8+) by Marie Stubbs, which aims to educate the next generation about thousands of puppy farms and dog fighting here in the UK. Told sensitively, this story is about a group of canine friends who try to escape their horrendous circumstances. If you are interested in discovering more and would like to order the book, then please visit:

www.evilscretofchestnutfarm.wordpress.com

And the lucky number is...

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has entered our Winter raffle.

We are delighted to announce that the £1,000 winning ticket is: 105369.

Included within this magazine are 12 tickets for the next raffle draw. If you would like to order more tickets, please do not hesitate to ask. Simply email your request to: supportercare@league.org.uk

GET IN TOUCH

League Against Cruel Sports

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www.league.org.uk

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



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