



**LEAGUE**  
AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

Northern Ireland's  
**Hunting Shame**



# **League Against Cruel Sports Northern Ireland**

Northern Ireland Assembly Elections **2022**

Vision for the future



The League has a long history of campaigning on behalf of animals in Northern Ireland. Our supporters care deeply about animal welfare and show time and again that they are willing to demonstrate that care by taking political action. This election we are asking you to take a stand against animal cruelty. By adopting and championing our policies as your own, together we can make a real difference for animals.

## Hunting of wild mammals with dogs

Northern Ireland is the only place in the UK where hunting with dogs is still legal. This includes fox hunting, hare hunting and stag hunting, by both mounted hunts and foot packs. This puts Northern Ireland significantly behind its UK counterparts when it comes to legislating to protect animals from cruelty. There have been two attempts to introduce legislation to end the cruelty of hunting with dogs in recent years, both unsuccessful. Northern Ireland is a progressive nation with overwhelming public support to end hunting wild mammals with dogs.

**79%\*** of Northern Irish people think using dogs to hunt deer should be illegal.

**73%\*** of Northern Irish people think using dogs to hunt foxes should be illegal.

**76%\*** of Northern Irish people think it should be illegal to use dogs to hunt hares.

**71%\*** of Northern Irish people think it should be illegal to use dogs to hunt rabbits.

\*Polling carried out by Survation on behalf of the League Against Cruel Sports. Fieldwork conducted between 4th - 15th February 2022, sample size of 1,010 of 18+ adults living in Northern Ireland.

As we approach the sixth mandate of the Assembly, now is the time to listen to the electorate and afford wild mammals the protection they need and deserve. **We are calling on the next Executive to introduce, or support, legislation that ends hunting wild mammals with dogs in Northern Ireland.**

## Snaring

The League believes snaring is a cruel, indiscriminate, ineffective and outdated method of predator control. Measures to regulate snaring are not working and are ineffective in addressing animal welfare concerns. Northern Ireland has the opportunity to lead the way in the UK by legislating to end the cruelty of snaring. **We are calling on the next Executive to introduce a full ban on the possession, sale, manufacture, and use of snares in Northern Ireland.**

## Hare coursing

In August 2011, legislation came into effect imposing a permanent ban on hare coursing. The law, which was part of the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Northern Ireland) Act 2011, made it an offence to organise, participate or attend a hare coursing event. However, this only extends to organised events, rather than a complete ban on all hare coursing. **We are calling on the next Executive to amend the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Northern Ireland) Act 2011 to extend the ban to cover all hare coursing activity, and end this barbaric pastime once and for all.**





## Get in touch

We'd be delighted to talk to you in more detail about our work. Contact our Senior Public Affairs Officer in Northern Ireland to arrange a meeting or informal chat.

### **Janice Watt**

Senior Public Affairs Officer, League Against Cruel Sports

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