



LEAGUE
AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS

PROTECT

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New report highlights how hunting hounds play a major role in spreading disease

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We've helped a lot of animals – but there's a lot more work to do



60 years of sanctuary

Six decades of
protecting animals

WELCOME

Welcome to the summer issue of Protect magazine.

Since the last issue, one of the most exciting things happening at the League has been the impact of our Regional Campaigns Managers. For the last few years, due to income constraints, we simply haven't been able to focus on our Regional Campaigners as much as we would have liked. Despite this, our small but amazing band of supporter groups have continued their fantastic work raising awareness of our work around the country, for which we are extremely grateful.

Last year, as part of an initial trial programme, we recruited three new members of our team to support our campaigns in the North East, the Midlands and the South West. They set about their task and we're now seeing the results - 12 new supporter groups have been created in the last couple of months! This will mean we can reach new people in these areas and let them know who we are and what we are trying to do. We've got a lot more work to do and a lot of areas yet to cover, but it's been a great start! We have updated our events page on the website so do check in there if you would like to get more actively involved - new events are being added all the time.

If we want to make a difference for animals, we need to work locally, nationally, in Parliament, and in the media. This was shown last year - we were one of very few charities able to put together an effective campaign during the short election period. The impact of this is analysed on page three.

There's plenty more to read, so please enjoy!

On a sadder note, we've said farewell to our Chief Executive, Eduardo Goncalves - please see page five. As I write this, preparations are being made to find a replacement. In the meantime, we'll carry on working hard to help animals - all thanks to your support, of course!



Chris Pitt
with Stanley and Doris

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Cover pic:
Baronsdown, by Paul Tillsley



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Political landscape brightens for animals

As opponents of hunting, the League – and you, our supporters – are in a very different place to where we were just over a year ago.

In early 2017, we were facing the very real possibility that a government with a pro-hunt majority would be elected – with a free-vote on repeal of the Hunting Act potentially not far behind. Now, that political landscape has changed dramatically. While we're always wary of nasty surprises, we're now more focussed in England and Wales on getting the Hunting Act strengthened rather than worrying about defending it.

So what happened?

POLITICIANS UNDER PRESSURE

It's an obvious thing to say, but politicians save lives; they can also take them. The decisions they make can have a massive impact, and that is why it is vital that the League and you, our supporters, make sure MPs know what we think. We've certainly done that.

Politicians listen to the public, which can be individuals knocking on their office door, social media campaigns or via the mass media. Politicians have their personal views, but they also want to be re-elected, so if a subject is politically sensitive, they'll be watching.

The League has been building up pressure on hunting over the years and our annual polling has shown the steady increase of public opinion against it. The figure at the end of 2016, which showed that 85% of people want fox hunting to stay illegal, played a crucial role in changing the political landscape.

As we've reported before, hunting became one of the biggest issues in the 2017 General Election. If it wasn't for

the work of our media team, that may never have happened – it was us who asked a journalist to ask Theresa May if she supported fox hunting. She said yes, and the media frenzy started!

Our polling figure featured in many stories, and politicians were realising how important hunting was to the British public. The Labour party has since said that the hunting issue 'helped them enormously' on the doorstep.

“The belief that the Government was anti-animal had come home to roost”

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THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGING

Fast forward a few months and we've seen some significant changes, none of which potentially would have happened if hunting hadn't become such a powerful election issue.

The campaign to ban trail hunting on National Trust land came within a few votes of succeeding. The dedicated and brave work of our League professional investigators at our Baronsdown sanctuary, filming stag hunting on National Trust land, gave us the evidence to present to National Trust bosses back in 2016. Amazing work from the National Dis-Trust campaign group helped bring the campaign to national attention.

A story about animal 'sentience' then became one of the most shared stories on social media. The story suggested that the Government didn't recognise that animals were sentient beings, able to feel. It turned out later that the story wasn't accurate – but the damage had been done. The belief that the Government was 'anti-animal', highlighted during the election campaign, had come home to roost.

The Government acted. In December, Michael Gove announced a draft Animal Welfare bill which should ensure that animal sentience is taken into account in all government policy. This is a very positive move which could have important implications.

Mr Gove also announced an increase in sentencing for animal cruelty to a maximum of five years in prison, up from six months. The League had been calling for this for a long time and our petition to increase sentences for dog fighters, started back in 2016, has gained over 100,000 signatures.

Then, just before the annual parade of hunts on Boxing Day – Theresa May stunned many when she said: “If I look back at the messages that we got from the election, one of the clear messages we got is that there are a number of areas in which people were concerned about what we were proposing. On this issue of foxhunting, what I can say is that there won't be a vote during this parliament.”

A massive u-turn, which wasn't welcomed favourably by the pro-hunting movement!

Continued on next page...

POLITICAL LANDSCAPE BRIGHTENS FOR ANIMALS (CONTINUED)

MOVING ON UP

Since then, we have seen the Labour Party announce an Animal Welfare plan which – for the first time – features a proposal to strengthen the Hunting Act. The impact of the work of our Public Affairs team has been cited as having had a significant influence on this decision.

And a committee of senior MPs published a report which included proposals to treat cruelty to wild animals in the same way as domestic or farm animals with an increase in prison sentences.

We responded by saying: "We're currently in a situation where someone can abuse their cat and get six months in prison – soon to be increased to a maximum five years – while the Master of a hunt can lead a pack of hounds to chase and illegally rip a fox apart and at most receive a small fine. This inequality is a smack in the face to any claims we have of being a nation of animal lovers."

This was another important step – we need wild animals to be included in wider talks about animal cruelty. As we said, politicians can save lives. A League report last year estimated that the Hunting Act has so far helped over 100,000 animals. But if the Hunting Act had been properly enforced – including cracking down on the lie of "trail hunting" – then that figure would have been nearer 2.8 million animals.

This shows how vital it is to keep the momentum going to get a strengthened Hunting Act, not to mention improving hunting legislation in Scotland, and the introduction of a ban in Northern Ireland. Our mission is to protect animals abused and killed in the name of 'sport'. By continuing to inform politicians – both in public and behind the scenes – we can take another major step towards helping the hundreds of thousands of foxes, deer, hares and other animals who currently suffer at the hands of hunts.



thank you

We were at the frontline of making hunting a big issue during the election, and that action led to positive change. We hope you're as proud as we are to have made such a difference – we couldn't have done it without your ongoing support.

TAKE ACTION!

We want to let our governments know that the British public have had enough of hunting. Our petition, to 'Stop the Killing of Animals by Hunts in the UK' is your chance to show your support

Please sign it if you haven't already, and if you can hand out leaflets telling people about the petition, that would be fantastic!

The petition can be signed at www.league.org.uk/huntingkills

For campaign materials call 01483 524 250 or email campaign@league.org.uk

Top Cop joins the League

The League has a new Director of Investigations – *Martin Sims*, a former Chief Inspector with Sussex Police who for the last three years has been Head of the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU).



Martin has a wealth of experience – 31 years to be precise – of catching criminals, and he'll be bringing that to his work at the League. During his time as head of the NWCU, which was set up to combat illegal wildlife trafficking in the UK, Martin was honoured with the prestigious Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Award for "leadership of one of the world's most outstanding police units dedicated to combating wildlife crime".

How and why did you start to focus on wildlife crime?

I have always had a huge interest in wildlife and prior to my last three years with the NWCU, one of my roles within Sussex Police had been as the force lead on wildlife crime and rural issues. I don't like animal cruelty, full stop. And I don't like people breaking the law, that's what motivates me. While I was at the NWCU you'd see animals on the verge of extinction but people would still try and smuggle them, dead or alive. Wildlife crime is truly depressing when you see how wicked Man can be.

What prompted you to join the League?

Two things I do not like are those who commit animal cruelty and those who break the law – therefore joining the League seemed a good fit.

Why is the League investigation team so important?

Who else is out there looking at whether hunts are being compliant with the law other than us and the volunteer monitor groups? The Police have no resources to do it, so it is important that someone keeps the pressure on compliance and reports criminality when it is found. It's not just hunting though: our investigation team has produced evidence of cruelty across other so-called sports too, such as revealing the conditions in which 'game' birds are kept. With regards to dog fighting, the intelligence team are doing some really effective work which will help us track down and investigate the people involved.

What are your main goals for the investigation team?

It's vital that if we're going to punish those responsible for wildlife crime, we need to produce evidence packages which will stand up in court. Policing has its serious challenges across the whole spectrum of investigating crime, and wildlife crime in the scheme of things is seen as a lower priority.

Welcome to the League, Martin!

Happy to be here! Really enjoying it, great people. I've been in the police for 31 years so you wonder what you're going into but I'm working with really passionate people which is a real plus but while trying to stop wildlife and other animal crime taking place.

Goodbye to Eduardo

Statement from Iain Blake-Lawson, Chair, League Against Cruel Sports Board of Trustees

"I regret to announce that Eduardo Goncalves is stepping down as CEO of the League Against Cruel Sports. Eduardo was diagnosed with a serious condition last year, and has been courageously battling his illness with the determination and good humour we have come to expect of him. This is the same determination that we saw him put into all his work, helping to see off multiple attempts to repeal the hunting ban and to force the government to abandon plans to hold a vote to bring back this archaic sport topping the list. He has worked tirelessly to fight the powerful interests of those who wish to persecute animals. Eduardo has been a loud and passionate voice for animals, and we expect him to remain so in the future. We wish him and his family well."

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Hunting hounds are ‘major health risk’

Yet another blow to hunting came earlier this year in a report which showed that hunting hounds play a major role in spreading diseases to farm animals – and humans.



An independent report, written by hunting expert Professor Stephen Harris and commissioned by the League, is an analysis of over a thousand published pieces of evidence in the public domain. Key findings included:

- Hounds used for hunting carry numerous infectious diseases which can be spread to humans, particularly children, at events such as country shows. These diseases are known to hospitalise people and can be fatal for some.
- Hunting hounds are fed hundreds of thousands of carcasses of farm animals every year, even though a significant proportion of these will be diseased.
- Diseases spread by hunting hounds to farm animals contribute to a substantial number of infections each year, costing the livestock and farming industries millions, as hunts regularly ignore

biosecurity measures which are designed to prevent disease spreading.

We commissioned the report after the outbreak of bovine TB at the Kimblewick Hunt kennels was discovered at the start of 2017. The results were shocking and show that the problem is far wider than just bTB. We said:

“The problem is not with dogs generally, because while all dogs can potentially spread disease, the way hunting hounds are looked after means they are a particular risk for several reasons.

They are fed raw and potentially diseased carcasses of fallen livestock, they regularly travel across farmland where they can pick up and spread disease, and they are often not given the same level of veterinary treatment that pet dogs will get. The result is that these dogs are suffering, and in turn they can cause illness and suffering to other animals and people.”

thank you

Your ongoing support made it possible for us to commission this report which has highlighted yet another reason why hunting in the UK should be banned.

TAKE ACTION!

Are you a farmer or do you know one?

The report can be viewed at www.league.org.uk

For campaign materials call **01483 524 250** or email campaign@league.org.uk

HOW HUNTS SPREAD DISEASE

HUNTING HOUNDS



- Hounds contract parasites and disease from eating raw animal carcasses supplied by farms
- Hounds are confined in large numbers with inadequate ventilation and poor hygiene
- Lack of standard veterinary care allows disease to grow and spread
- Hunts kill at least 4,000 hunting hounds each year. Post mortems are extremely rare but available evidence suggests hundreds per year carry infectious diseases

1.

- County shows and hunt parades lead to hounds spreading disease to other packs and livestock – these animals take the disease home, and the cycle continues
- A smaller but significant risk is the spread of disease to humans, particularly children and older people who have weaker immune systems

5.



SPREAD OF DISEASE

FALLEN LIVESTOCK



- Hunts collect the fallen livestock. Transporting carcasses poses severe contamination risks if not done properly, which it generally isn't
- Carcasses are fed to the hounds
- Since fallen stock is not tested for cause of death, inevitably a lot of diseased animals are fed to hounds

4.

CONTAMINATION



- Hunts, their hounds, vehicles & followers cross multiple farms in a single day, spreading contamination
- Hounds defecate and urinate where they want, and have access to water troughs and other water sources – all of which help spread disease

2.

FARM BIOSECURITY



- Hunts ignore the basic biosecurity measures recommended by all farming organisations
- Farm animals therefore pick up parasites and disease through contaminated water and faeces
- Increased level of disease leads to increased costs due to reduced yields and carcasses rejected by slaughterhouses
- Many animals also die of disease

3.



Cruel Sports – the Sc

Millions of animals each year are killed, suffer cruelty, are neglected or disturbed by cruel sports. Thanks to your support, we are proud of what we have achieved together - but these fi



Hunting

Foxes, hares, deer and mink killed or disturbed by hunts:

260,000

Victims of hunting in Scotland every year:

10,000

The number of dogs that are victims of hunting each year:

8,500

Victims of hunting in Northern Ireland every year:

12,000

Sh

Bird victim

35.4

Snared, k or poison shooting

850,

Why it's vital to strengthen the Hunting Act

- Animals helped so far by the Hunting Act 2004:

100,000

- Animals the Hunting Act would have helped since 2004 if it had been properly enforced:

2.8 million

40,000

Estimated number of ani

Trophy Hunting

Animals killed or disturbed by trophy hunters:

1.5 million



Bullfighting

Bulls used in bullfighting:

180,000



Thank you

We are achieving a lot, but there's so much more to do. *All figures are based on League and other research, including s be 100% accurate. But we doubt that we're far off.

Scale of the Problem

The League has continuously, and successfully, helped these animals. Figures show the scale of the problem we continue to face.

Shooting

Animals of the shooting industry:

4 million

Animals killed, culled or disturbed by the shooting industry:

1,000,000



Dogfighting

Potential victims of dog fighting in the UK:

2,000



1,000,000

Animals killed or disturbed by cruel sports every year

Bullfighting



Greyhound Racing

The number of racing dogs killed each year:

1,000



Horse Racing

The number of racing horses killed each year:

200



With your on-going support we can make sure that more animals are protected. Figures are provided by the relevant 'sports' bodies and industries. Many are, by necessity, estimates, and may not

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60 years of sanctuary

When the League Against Cruel Sports adopted a policy of buying land ‘to establish as sanctuaries for wild animals, in particular those that are hunted in the area’, it is doubtful that it could have been predicted that 60 years later the sanctuaries would be more valuable to wildlife than ever.

Our first land acquisition was on 21st March 1958, when the freehold on 165 acres of Slowley Wood and Side Wood was purchased from the Nettlecombe Estate in West Somerset. This was followed shortly afterwards by the purchase of Barlynch Wood, which now forms part of the League’s 250 acre Baronsdown wildlife sanctuary. Baronsdown was once the centre of a hunting and shooting estate and at one point was home to the North Devon Staghounds, as well as hosting meets for the foxhounds and otterhounds.

The League continued to buy land and sporting rights throughout the 1960s, 70s, 80s, 90s and right up to 2010, when the League outbid the local pheasant shoot to add Brockhole Wood to the Baronsdown wildlife sanctuary. The League currently owns nine wildlife sanctuaries in Devon and Somerset, totalling 550 acres and a further 2,500 acres of sporting rights.

“Even today, hunts trespass onto land where they are not welcome.”

In 1985, the League set a legal precedent when it took the masters of the Devon & Somerset Staghounds to court to gain an injunction, after the hunt had repeatedly allowed their hounds to trespass on the League’s wildlife sanctuaries. This led to a number of other successful court cases against hunts across the country, taken by landowners who had suffered similar problems. Even today, hunts continue to trespass onto private land where they are not welcome and landowners are forced to take action.

Unfortunately, despite 13 years elapsing since the introduction of the Hunting Act, the staghounds, foxhounds, beagles and minkhounds continue to chase and kill wild animals in the area around the

League’s wildlife sanctuaries. In addition, in recent years the growth of commercial pheasant shooting, with its associated activities, has piled extra pressure on the local wildlife. As a result, the role that the League’s wildlife sanctuaries play in protecting wild animals from harm is now even greater than ever.

Sensitive management of the League’s wildlife sanctuaries over the past 60 years has also seen them develop into much more than was originally envisaged. The use of wildlife-friendly practices and minimal use of agrichemicals over this period means that the sanctuaries have escaped the intensification seen elsewhere. Insects thrive in the woodlands and grasslands, which in turn feed birds, reptiles, amphibians, bats and other mammals. Grass isn’t cut until late in the summer to allow wildlife to utilise it for shelter, breeding and food. Nest boxes give birds and dormice a helping hand too. Thanks to the foresight of the League 60 years ago, the wildlife sanctuaries are now an oasis for a whole host of wild animals and plants.

thank you

We recently asked you to help us support Baronsdown Wildlife Sanctuary by donating to our Keep Out The Hunters appeal.

You responded magnificently, and we raised £49,384 which will help to keep out trespassers, capture evidence of criminal hunts and make this beautiful refuge an even better, safer place for animals.





Threats to animals near Baronsdown Wildlife Sanctuary



Hunting and shooting is rife all around Baronsdown Sanctuary, it's SO important we protect this land!

LEAGUE IN ACTION



HARE 'CULL' FOOTAGE PROVOKES ANGER

Action could be taken by the Scottish Government to ban hare shooting after extraordinary footage revealed the brutal, military-style mass killing of Scotland's mountain hares on grouse moors.

Minister Nicola Sturgeon said that the killing was "not acceptable" and her government would explore all options to stop the mass culls.

The footage was taken after an investigation carried out by OneKind, the League and Lush. Campaigners, supported by Chris Packham, called on the Scottish Government to take immediate action and end the killing.

Mountain hare shooting is one of many country sports offered by Scottish game estates, and grouse moor managers also organise culls of hares in an effort to protect red grouse for sport shooting. Mass killing of mountain hares is just one part of the unacceptable intensification of grouse moor management in Scotland.

1,000 RACING GREYHOUNDS DIE LAST YEAR

Over 1,000 racing greyhounds die or are killed each year, according to new figures from the greyhound racing industry. This includes over 250 euthanised at the racetrack.

The figures also reveal that racing dogs suffer a total of almost 5,000 injuries a year – suggesting that either one in every three racing dogs is injured per year, or some dogs are suffering multiple injuries.

The League, which wants to see a phased closure of all greyhound tracks, said:

"The language used by the greyhound racing industry shows they believe that over 1,000 dead dogs every year is an acceptable number. They claim they are showing 'care and attention' to greyhounds, so it is deeply concerning to consider what they would consider negligent."

LEAGUE EXPOSES HUNT 'CARVE UP'

Disturbing footage of a West Country hunt ritually carving up a stag that it had chased and then shot has been captured by a League professional investigator.

The carve up, by the Devon and Somerset Stagghounds, was witnessed by Paul Tillsley, the League Against Cruel Sports' Head of Conservation and Education. He managed to film the ritual carving of the stag by the hunt after the young stag had been killed. According to hunt traditions, the hooves, known as 'slots' and the teeth are given out or sold as 'trophies' to hunt supporters. The heart is normally given to the landowners of the land where the stag was killed; the head with its antlers is given to the Masters of the hunt as a trophy. The footage helped us expose this continuing practice in the media.



PLASTIC PERIL

This heart-breaking photo of a stag with plastic strewn around its antlers captured the attention of the British public when it appeared on the front page of the Daily Mail as part of their Great Plastic Pick Up campaign.



The wild stag – photographed by our Graham Floyd at our Baronsdown sanctuary in Somerset – was caught up in plastic that is believed to be waste silage wrap from a neighbouring farm.

UNITED AGAINST BULLFIGHTING



40,000 people took part in a mass rally against bullfighting in Madrid.

The League's Luis Calvo, a Spaniard who attended the event, said: "This was a chance to show that opposition to bullfighting is stronger than ever. Now more people in Spain oppose bullfighting than support it."

We take your personal information very seriously and as the law regarding data use has now changed, we need you to give us your permission if you want to continue hearing from us via email, phone or text.

The League is arguably the best placed of all the animal welfare charities to be the voice of animals, leading the debate, influencing outcomes and changing minds. You are the heart and soul of our work and your support really does matter. It's really simple to do and will only take you a minute. Just visit www.league.org.uk/TickForAnimals and say 'yes' to continue hearing from us. If you don't respond we won't be able to contact you to continue hearing about all these fantastic things you're helping us achieve for animals, and ways that you can keep helping us work towards ending cruel sports. So please tick to protect animals!



News in brief

NATIONAL TRUST PROTEST CONTINUES

Protests have been held outside more than 20 National Trust properties to highlight that hunts are still illegally chasing and killing British wildlife on the organisation's lands. Anger at the charity has continued to grow, with many people furious that hunts with a history of killing animals are still being allowed on Trust land.

The protests were arranged by campaigning group National Dis-Trust and supported by the League.

GROUSE SAFE ON ILKLEY MOOR

Bradford councillors voted to end grouse shooting on Ilkley Moor following a four year campaign by the Ban Bloodsports on Ilkley Moor group.

The shooting ban will not only protect the grouse but will also have a positive impact on other native species and the environment. Over half of breeding bird species on Ilkley Moor have declined or become extinct locally while extensive heather burning, carried out to encourage grouse breeding, is believed to have led to flooding in urban areas. The League said: "This is a landmark moment in the campaign to end shooting in the UK. We are developing tactics to build on this good work and get many more councils to ban shooting."

IVORY PROGRESS

Michael Gove has announced plans for a total ban on sales of ivory of any age – with some limited exceptions – after a consultation received overwhelming support for a complete ban.

The League said: "We really don't want to be the generation that's known for the extinction of elephants, so we're thrilled the Government has decided to toughen its stance on ivory sales and help ensure these majestic animals get the help they so desperately need."

RACE HORSE DEATHS

Horses continue to die after taking part in 'popular' racing events. Six horses died at Cheltenham and one at Aintree this year alone, as well as more at other tracks.

The League believes that if horses are to be raced, this should only be in races and events that are well within their capacity and that of their riders. We are calling for the number of horses in key races like Cheltenham to be reduced, fences made more manageable for tiring horses and the length of the races shortened.

LEAGUE IN COURT



HUNT SUPPORTERS GIVEN SUSPENDED PRISON SENTENCES FOR BRUTAL ATTACK

Two men received suspended prison sentences for seriously assaulting two League professional investigators who were attacked whilst monitoring a fox hunt on behalf of the animal welfare charity.

One of the investigators, former policeman Darryl Cunningham, had his neck broken in three places during the assault, which took place as they monitored the activities of the Belvoir Hunt.

Martin Sims, League Against Cruel Sports Director of Investigations, said: “The people who are employed by or support hunts often act like gangsters and this case illustrates what a dark and menacing blight they are on the countryside. The hunts are a barbaric throwback to crueller times and should have no place in a modern, compassionate society.

DISAPPEARING FOX

Nigel Smith, head gamekeeper of the Buckminster Estate, was found guilty of charges brought under Section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act after keeping a fox in cruel conditions in a disused building.

The League believes the fox was being held so it could be chased and killed by the local Belvoir Hunt.

He was caught on camera by investigators from the League, with a bag and net outside the disused building the day of the Belvoir Hunt meet. This followed a successful League operation during which investigators had found the fox, safely recovered it and taken it to a local vet for treatment, before releasing it back into the countryside. The fox had been found in appalling conditions and in a terrified state.

Mr Smith has since passed away.



NORTHERN IRELAND IS 'SAFE HAVEN FOR ANIMAL ABUSERS'

Neil Pinkerton from Belfast was found not guilty of two offences of causing unnecessary suffering to an animal – a dog and a fox – and one offence of failing to get adequate veterinary treatment for an animal.

The League's Janice Watt, said: “The defence claimed that, rather than animal fighting, this was terrier work – a part of hunting. This case is therefore a grim reminder that as long as hunting with dogs is legal in Northern Ireland, the country will remain a safe-haven for animal abusers.”

THREE-QUARTERS OF WELSH OPPOSE BIRD SHOOTING

A YouGov poll, commissioned by Animal Aid and the League, found 74 per cent of people in Wales thought that shooting birds should be made illegal.

The poll was published to coincide with a consultation on whether to allow shooting on public land by Natural Resources Wales.

FALCONRY EXEMPTION 'A SMOKESCREEN'

George Adams, the retired Fitzwilliam huntsman, was convicted at Peterborough Magistrates Court, and fined for breaching the Hunting Act.

The Fitzwilliam Hunt had been using a 'falconry exemption', a loophole in the law which several fox hunts try to take advantage of by taking out a bird of prey when hunting with a pack of hounds.

The Fitzwilliam Hunt took a Golden Eagle when out hunting but prosecutor Joe Bird described its use as a 'smokescreen' to allow it to continue as it had done so before the hunting ban was introduced.

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ANIMAL CRIMEWATCH

going from strength to strength

Animal Crimewatch is the League Against Cruel Sports' confidential reporting system.

On a daily basis Crimewatch receives a variety of calls from hunt havoc to wildlife crime, and from unrelated animal cruelty to requesting legal advice on shooting and trespass.

The information we receive is important because it provides our professional investigators with helpful insights into illegal hunting activities. It can also be the starting point to launch a dog fighting investigation or can support our campaigns team when engaging with national governments and assemblies. Sometimes we also ask for the caller's permission to use their information to pass to our media team to publish and highlight our work.

CRIMEWATCH FACT

Intelligence is information that has been assessed and enhanced with some added value.

CRIMEWATCH FACT

The League's intelligence team of five people has a combined Law Enforcement service of over 120 years' experience.

CRIMEWATCH FACT

A recent review has been completed of over 40 UK animal related charities and only five others have some kind of reporting process, making the League's Crimewatch service an essential aspect of our charity.

CRIMEWATCH FIGURES

Number of reports to Crimewatch:

First quarter 2017:

147

First quarter 2018:

236

In the first quarter of this year, the top three subjects Crimewatch received information on were:

Fox Hunting

55%

131 reports



Dog Fighting

17%

40 reports



Shooting

8%

18 reports



TAKE ACTION!

Cub hunting

– hunting's dirtiest secret?

Every September and October, hunts around the country take part in what they call 'Autumn' hunting or 'exercising the hounds'. But in reality, this is 'cub' hunting – the deliberate targeting and killing of fox cubs in order to train young hounds to kill.

We need your eyes!

Do you know of any hunts that go out regularly at that time of year? Have you heard hunt members talking about Autumn hunting? Please tell us!

What to look out for:

- Cub hunting normally takes place in the early morning and late evening
- Hunt staff wearing tweeds – not red coats or bright colours
- As there is no real chase, these hunts can often appear quite static and may take place in crop fields or surrounding small areas of woodland, in which the cubs are trapped.

You can contact Animal Crimewatch on **01483 361 108** (Monday to Friday) or at www.league.org.uk

Animal Crimewatch cards

Could you hand these out in your area if you have a hunt nearby? Please get in touch!

In general terms we would say that for every Crimewatch report recorded, our Intelligence Team would enhance the information with research, adding a further three to four reports – all of which could lead to the exposure and potential prosecution of people abusing and killing animals through cruel sports. Our message is – See it, Report it.

League Against Cruel Sports

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