



Hounding Out The Hunt

When fox hunting was banned in 2004, its supporters loudly declared that they would never stop.

Over the sixteen years since, hunt saboteurs have been forced to take to the fields to put ourselves between wild animals and hounds who have been illegal trained to kill them.

Supported by politicians, judges, and senior police officers, hunts have got away with pretending they follow artificial scent trails.

However, in November 2020, the Hunt Saboteurs Association released a series of leaked webinars, which exposed prominent hunt masters from across the country admitting the truth that trail hunting is a 'smokescreen'.

Devon and Cornwall police have launched an investigation into the videos, but with keen hunters include the serving Prime Minister, and the royal family we doubt we will see justice.

It is however an incredible opportunity, which sabs are seizing on. Allowing someone to illegal hunt on your land is a criminal offence, and many major landowners have suspended,

or even cancelled their hunting licenses. WAR played a key role in convincing Forestry England to take a stand.

The South Dorset Hunt's 'Red Book' has also been leaked, which reveals the companies who sponsor their fundraising events. With your help, in just one day WAR convinced Volvo to cut their links with the hunt, and we are now working our way through the list to defund the South Dorset Hunt completely.

What Can I Do?

- Contact the Ministry of Defence and ask them to suspend trail hunting licences:
Graham Dalton:
diosec-parli@mod.gov.uk
- Ask Forestry England to make their temporary ban on trail hunting permanent:
Michael Seddon:
michael.seddon@forestryengland.uk
- Take part in our action alerts on **Facebook**

Animal Liberation In The Age Of Pandemics

It is - or it should be - impossible to talk about Covid-19 without also discussing animal liberation.

As with three quarters of all new diseases, this virus was caused by our toxic relationship with non-human animals. Whether you believe it came from a meat market or an animal testing laboratory, the simple fact is that if we didn't exploit animals this would never have happened.

Other 'zoonotic' diseases which have come from our unhealthy interactions with non-human animals include Swine Flu, SARS, HIV, Ebola, and BSE.

Over the last few months, hundreds of thousands of animals have been killed en masse across the UK and Europe in fur farms and factory farms to stop the spread of new strains of Covid-19 as well as other diseases including Bird Flu.

While the media and government focus on how to stop this virus, they are loudly ignoring the simple step that we all need to take to prevent the next one: veganism.

If we didn't eat animal products, carry out perverse tests on them, or wear their fur, we would live not only in a more just world, but also a far safer one.

In the course of finding a vaccine, millions of animals have been killed in cruel experiments, which could and should have been replaced many years ago. More animals are killed to provide ingredients for the vaccines, and with new vaccines being promised annually for Covid-19, the non-human death toll will continue to rack up long after the rest of us have returned to 'normality'.

It is important that we take this time to spread the message to those around us that now is the time to go vegan. If not for the animals, our own health, or the planet, then at the very least to prevent more lockdowns and everything that has come with them.



What Can I Do?

As with most situations, there are good things and bad things to come from this for animal liberation activism.

Hunting has been suspended, and possibly ended completely for the season, plant-based eating remains on the rise, and police forces who have long tried to stop activists from wearing masks are now insisting that we don't take them off.

However, activities which involve contact with others, such as protests and street level outreach have become all but impossible, leaving many people feeling helpless.

Never fear! There is always something you can do to help.

Check out our website for posters and stickers that you can print off from the comfort of your own home to use to spread the animal liberation message during your daily exercise.



You can also make banners using old sheets and paint to hang in visible places.

If you prefer to keep your activism online, please be sure to follow our Facebook page and Instagram account for regular urgent action alerts.

Spread this newsletter far and wide, and don't forget to take part in the email campaigns scattered throughout it!

From The Fields And The Frontlines

WAR hunt saboteurs were out regularly throught the unusually short 2020 hunting season taking action.

Due to the pandemic, the season began in December rather than November, and unlike the hunts, we were ready and raring to go.

The 'cub hunting' season - when hounds are trained - had been disrupted by lockdown, so poorly trained packs rampaging across the countryside and busy roads became a common sight.

From our first visit to the Portman Hunt on December 2nd, the effects were clear. Combined with their recent ban from hunting on Forestry England land, they were visibly miserable.

It was a theme that continued throughout December and into the first days of January as we visited the Blackmore and Sparkford Vale Hunt, the South Dorset Hunt, and the Cattistock Hunt. Even the South Dorset's Boxing Day Meet - the most anticipated event for their diary - turned out to be an unusually subdued affair with barely 20 riders showing up.

Hunt supporters tried their best to prevent us being effective by assaulting saboteurs, smashing our cameras, slashing our tyres, and riding down and smashing the windows of the hunt monitors we work alongside.

It would take a lot more than that to stop us. Over the four week season, over a dozen foxes were directly saved by quick-thinking sabs. We saw one fox killed, which is one too many, and we hope you will help us ensure it doesn't happen again.



What Can I Do?

- If you would like to join us in the fields, directly saving wildlife, please let us know, everyone is welcome!
- If you aren't able to come out as an active sab, please consider making a donation towards our work.



Stop The Cull

In January 2021, the government announced that they are considering phasing out the horrific badger cull from next year.

The cull has been happening for several years, and is based upon sketchy science which suggests that badgers pass TB to cows.

Unfortunately, this latest news appears to have been created simply to distract from last year's kill figures, which were released on the same day. Over 38,000 badgers were killed across the UK in 2020, 1,222 of those in Dorset.

In our county alone, £273,121 of tax payers money was wasted on policing the cull.

Until this vile, unscientific cull ends once and for all, we will continue to fight it online, on the streets, and in the fields.

Fur Free Dorset

When we aren't in lockdown, WAR carries out protests against fur retailers across Dorset.

The captivity of animals such as foxes, mink, and chinchillas on fur farms often drives them to insanity. Cannibalism and self harm are common. The filthy and intensive conditions mean they are a breeding ground for zoonotic diseases, including dangerous new strains of Covid-19.

The animals are killed either by gassing, or anal electrocution, before their skin is ripped from their bodies.

There could be good news on the horizon however. The British government announced they were considering a ban on the sale of fur. It is vital that we take this opportunity to ensure that fur sales are banned in the UK for good.

We mustn't get complacent however, and until a ban is enacted our protests will continue.

What Can I Do?

- Contact the Environment Minister and let him know you support his plan to ban fur:
Zac Goldsmith:
zac@zacgoldsmith.com
- Let us know if you see fur for sale in Dorset.
- Get in touch to join us on a protest, or check out our website for tips on how to organise your own.



**WEYMOUTH
ANIMAL RIGHTS**

Help Us

WAR believe in putting ourselves between non-human animals, and those who would harm them. We can't do this alone. From protests and hunt sabotage, to design and social media there's a role for everyone. Please let us know if you would like to help.

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