

# ATTENTION ALL FARMERS: NEOSPORA

## NEOSPORA AND HUNTING HOUNDS

### These are the facts:

Tests have shown:

- 12% of hunting hounds are infected with neospora.
- 51% of hunting hounds have antibodies to neospora. This means that they have been infected with it but have not developed it. Pregnancy can reactivate the disease and the puppies can be infected.
- Hounds contract neospora by eating raw meat from an infected animal (fallen stock) or through the placenta.
- Farm animals contract neospora by ingesting food contaminated with infected hound faeces. Hounds with neospora can shed eggs in their faeces for 10 weeks.

Neospora is not easily treated in hounds. It requires either a four week course, or eight week course of costly medication. Hounds do not show symptoms, so a blood test is required.

The Hunting Office advises hunts to “pick up faeces from cattle pastures (not very practical).”

**Allowing hunting hounds on farmland is risking a neospora shower. Neospora causes abortion and stillbirth in cattle, sheep and horses. The average loss to a farmer from neospora is £3000 a year.**

**ACTION AGAINST FOXHUNTING** wants to alert farmers to the dangers of allowing hunts access to farmland.

**HOUNDS OFF** will help you keep them away.

Please contact us for more details  
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