
Action Against Foxhunting

Newsletter: July 2018



Featured Article - CUBBING

By Jane Struver

ACTION AGAINST FOXHUNTING

Imagine the terror of being surrounded by hounds, horses and humans when you are just a small being learning what life as a fox is all about. One minute you're rolling around in the undergrowth with your family, the next minute you're trying to understand what the heck is going on around you. The noise, the chaos, the scent of beings who have no place in your world. Sheer terror grips you, you run but are blocked, shouted at, terrified, nothing makes sense, your heart pounds, your breath heavy, your instincts trying to navigate this new hell.

You know to run or hide, but you are forced out of your home by dogs and spades, and running only gets you so far as you are forced into an ever decreasing circle, until you are trapped, completely trapped. You watch your family being torn apart, or if they're lucky, maybe they haven't been found, maybe it's just you, tiny you, all alone, trembling as the hounds close in and rip you into bloody pieces.

This barbaric practice which starts in August every year is illegal, and yet it happens all over the country, in small woods where foxes make their homes. Why does this brutality happen...well, simply to turn otherwise gentle hounds into blood thirsty killers. These dogs are not born into the world with a desire to tear foxes apart; this has to be taught to them, by humans. Once they have experienced the artificial frenzy, also created by humans, with the subsequent reward of fresh, warm, running blood, there is no turning back. These once gentle dogs are now killers.

No being wins here, the fox or the hounds; they are just players in a game created by humans. Not even the humans win, as they in turn by their own hands slice away a piece of their humanity with every kill. There is no winner and no victory, when you break it down into small pieces and look closely at it parts, what pointless, heartless victory is this practice, laughingly called sport.



ACTION AGAINST FOXHUNTING

When you watch a predator hunt, they do it alone or in packs depending on the animal, they do it out of necessity to eat, to stay alive, it is instinctual. They are natural born predators, with each one having a predator of their own, until we come to the ultimate predator in any environment. Here in the UK the fox has no natural predator, wolves are long gone. So perhaps we need to reduce fox numbers, perhaps we humans need to step up and be the wolves of now.

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EDITORIAL

Passion runs high amongst activist groups, whatever the cause, if it strikes a nerve it has the potential to rankle. Those who choose to see and hear the countless atrocities present in this world, will quite rightly feel the need to act. Action can be the catalyst for change, channelled where needed it can be key to succeeding in eradicating pain, suffering and injustice. Reaction on the other hand can be destructive. Somehow those seeking to protect and save are seen as lunatics, whereas those who murder our wildlife are seen as exemplary citizens and guardians of the countryside.

We need to act smart, we need to make our actions count, to raise the profile of the activist. Action Against Foxhunting chooses to act not react, we educate, we exchange lies for truths, and we do all this in a peaceful manner, even if our passion threatens to spill on occasion. Passion placed well and focused effectively through educating the public about the atrocities carried out to foxes is a powerful weapon in the pursuit of a complete end to foxhunting.

We focus our passion on the atrocities, not on the people who carryout these deeds. Throwing insults at the perpetrators may make us feel better in the short time, but when our goal is to see an end to illegal foxhunting, the smart move is to present ourselves as the loving, caring people we are. We have the law and the majority of the population on our side...one day that will count for something.

Together we can make a difference, Jane



CUBBING (continued from front page)

Maybe this adds weight to the argument that wildlife needs to be managed, but that argument doesn't bear scrutiny. Our website has some very informative information regarding the fox population, <https://www.actionagainstfoxhunting.org/educational-resour/>



Perhaps the most persuasive point against humans becoming the wolves of now and galloping off to kill as many foxes as possible is this;

Hunting with dogs was banned during the foot and mouth outbreak in 2001-2002. The fox population did not increase. (Source AAF website).

Fox hunting is not managing wildlife; it is interfering in a beautifully natural system

that is perfectly designed to take care of itself, if we let it. So why then do we need foxhunting and its evil twin cubbing? Well we don't, and it is illegal, so why does it continue? Because people either don't know that it exists or they believe that tradition is more important than life, or that wildlife needs to be managed.

So we come back to the woods in August and through autumn, with hounds streaked in blood, eyes wild, tails wagging. We come back to humans on horses dressed in tweeds, orchestrating an assault not only on foxes but on nature itself.

Cubbing takes place at dawn or dusk, the times when wildlife is more present and humans are either in bed or settling down for the evening. The natural nature of foxes and other animals makes it much easier for those involved in certain blood sports to go about their murderous activities unnoticed.

There is no sane reason to hunt foxes, so what can we do...well, we can be vigilant as cubbing comes around again. If you see this happening call the police, this is an illegal activity, if you can, video what is happening, but take care as you may well encounter resistance. Keep a note of when you see the hunt, build evidence carefully.

If you are not ready to be out in the field, and that's ok, they can be a pretty aggressive bunch, then perhaps you might feel you could help distribute our cubbing leaflets (details at the end of this article). The more we spread the word of what really happens, the more people will become aware and rise up to become the voice for foxes.

Just imagine walking into the supermarket and helping yourself to whatever you fancied, security stops you and you say...I'm not shoplifting, I'm merely getting an idea of the groceries I'd like. Cubbing, or as the hunt prefer 'autumn hunting' (how quaint) is illegal and yet hunts get away with it time and time again. Autumn hunting is purely and simply organised crime in the countryside, and as with all crime, organised or other it comes with intimidation and lies.

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CUBBING (continued from page 3)

Help us to break the lies, help us to restore balance in part to nature, not manage it, but release it from human interference. Every leaflet dropped through a letterbox or pinned to a notice board has the potential to raise awareness. Education is power, let's shift the power away from these thugs and place it in the hands of those who could help to eradicate this barbaric practice. Cubbing has no place and plays no part in the natural evolution of humans and animals, it is a sadistic practice carried out in secret – let's expose the lies, after all a lie is just a truth waiting to be told.

CUB HUNTING LEAFLET CHALLENGE

Leaflets can be ordered from AAF at cost. You will receive: 250 leaflets, wristband and a few stickers for £5, (including postage of £2.95).



To order, use the donate button on our website and message us saying you'd like leaflets, either on our Facebook page, or with your payment (PayPal gives an option for this)

<https://www.actionagainstfoxhunting.org/donate/>

Or download and print your own leaflets here, <https://www.actionagainstfoxhunting.org/new-cub-hunting-leaflet-for-download/>

It is simple and effective, and could prove fun!

We would love to hear how it went, please do email us with your leafleting tales at; actionagainstfoxhunting@mail.com

LEAFLETING UPDATE

AAF volunteers have penetrated deep into hunting country to deliver the cub hunting leaflets. We are reaching out to people who live in the worst areas, object to it, but are silenced by the presence of their intimidating neighbours. We hope that our leaflets will not only inform, but will give a point of contact for isolated objectors.

Pip and the AAF team

CUTTING A DASH - AAF T-SHIRTS

AAF now has its own collection of t-shirts for sale. Sporting the fantastic AAF logo, there is a range to choose from, including unisex, ladies fitted and a rather lovely hoodie. Photos and prices coming soon to our website.

We also have some stunning wristbands, slim yet eye catching, in our orange and black branded colours.

If you donate £5, we'll send you one wristband as a thank you. If you donate £10, we'll send you three. We'll also throw in some of our new stickers.

<https://www.actionagainstfoxhunting.org/donate/>

NEWS FROM OUR GROUPS - AAF DORSET

NEWS IN BRIEF: The Ebony Horse Club in Brixton

In April, the Kimblewick Hunt took their hounds into London, showing them to disadvantaged children who attend The Ebony Horse Club in Brixton. AAF were alerted and the next week, two volunteers visited the stables, taking wristbands, stickers and a letter, explaining why it wasn't a good idea to introduce children to an illegal activity, especially as the aim of the club was to keep the disadvantaged children away from gangs and crime.

Stalls - We have visited Blandford, Shaftesbury (twice), Sherborne, Frome, Poole and Yeovil. In all areas, the response from the public was overwhelmingly positive. Many were glad to see us and thanked us for showing up in the streets to bring the "issue" out into the open. The commonest question is: "I thought fox hunting is illegal" – and our response is, "Yes, it is. But they do it anyway."



Sherborne Petition - On February 10th 2018, the Blackmore and Sparkford Vale Hunt (BSV) met at Sherborne Castle. They went on to pursue and kill a fox, in front of several witnesses.

AAF began a campaign immediately. We contacted the Castle, asking them to explain why they were condoning this illegal activity. We asked everyone we knew to email the Castle and complain. We left reviews on Sherborne Castle's Facebook page, telling people what happened. We posted in Sherborne News and Views and started a debate about the Castle's involvement. We contacted the

local paper, and it became front page news.

We visited Sherborne on the Wednesday following the kill and made certain that everybody knew what had happened. While there, we rang the Castle and asked them to come and speak to us. They did not. Again, we found ourselves in the news. Sherborne Castle, however, has not given any sort of a response at all. They have remained completely silent, not even acknowledging the many emails they received.

Hence the petition. AAF has now begun a petition demanding that Sherborne Castle stop hosting hunt meets. The petition is both on-line and on paper. We have taken it to Sherborne, Yeovil and Salisbury and intend on taking it with us wherever we go. It has been very well received and we have almost 2000 signatures so far. Please sign the petition. You can find it here: <https://www.thepetitionsite.com/en-gb/879/401/780/demand-and-end-to-foxhunt-meets-at-sherborne-castle/>

Pip and the AAF team

EDUCATING HUMANITY

www.actionagainstfoxhunting.org

<https://twitter.com/ActionAgainstF>

https://www.facebook.com/ACTIONAGAINSTFOXHUNTING/?ref=br_tf#

NEWS FROM OUR GROUPS

AAF CORNWALL

Hi, we're AAF Cornwall and we mainly concentrate on the West Cornwall area from Truro down. We started the group about 3 months ago; the main AAF group was exceptionally supportive, helping to make setting up a new group very easy.



Stalls

So far we have held 2 outreach stalls with another one planned in the next couple of weeks. People are grateful to us for being there and are eager to sign the national LACS petition which we also promote.

Many understand that the hunts are illegally hunting and are opposed and disgusted, but there are some who are still shocked as they think the ban stopped this.

Petition

We are currently running a local paper petition and are also considering setting up an on-line petition to protest the presence of local dignitaries in St Ives (including The Western Hunt) in the annual Feast Event. These dignitaries are invited to parade with the hounds and take the Stirrup Cup from the Mayor, they then proceed to hunt. We plan to present the petition to them in the autumn and hopefully get the local press on our side to document this. We've been taking the petition onto the streets of St Ives every week for the last 3 weeks and plan to do this throughout the summer. We've had an excellent response so far from locals who have spoken about their knowledge of the hunt.

National Dis-trust

We have been invited twice on top of our usual activism to take part in the regular National Trust Protests by the National Dis-Trust who again have been very supportive and provided us with leaflets and advertising on their platform. We are holding our protests at **St Michaels Mount Marazion, 29th July**.

Join Us!

If there is anyone out there who is in the Cornwall area above Truro and can cover this we would encourage you to consider joining us with your own group. We do get the occasional pro hunt person passing by but they usually just sprint past making remarks.

Deborah and the AAF Cornwall team

AAF Cornwall on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/actionagainstfoxhuntingcornwall/>

NEWS FROM OUR GROUPS (continued from page 5)

AFF WILTSHIRE

AAF Wiltshire was formed at the end of April, after a meeting with the founders. Initially a core of 4 we are growing, with others joining us and a lot of interest. So far we have had 2 successful stalls in Salisbury the first was held in the High Street with a good footfall due to the amount of people making their way to watch a Royal wedding that was being broadcast in the Close. Both these have been supported by AAF founders. We have also attended Stourhead National Dis-Trust demos with other groups and travelled to Sherborne to help with the AAF petition.

Our **Salisbury stall** will now be held by the library next to the market square. A good position with plenty of passers by now that the Maltings is open again, after its little incident (Schipol). We have had a really good response, many are shocked that hunting still goes on and keen to sign our petition, horse owners and riders included people that #LoveHorses, #HateHunting.



Our tabards and banner have arrived, which meant on Saturday 30 June we were flying solo with a stall for a couple of hours. In addition, we hope to soon have a car boot sale at the Fire station.

AAF Wiltshire is setting up a Facebook page that will be live soon, so keep a look out; a link will be posted on the main page.

Join Us!

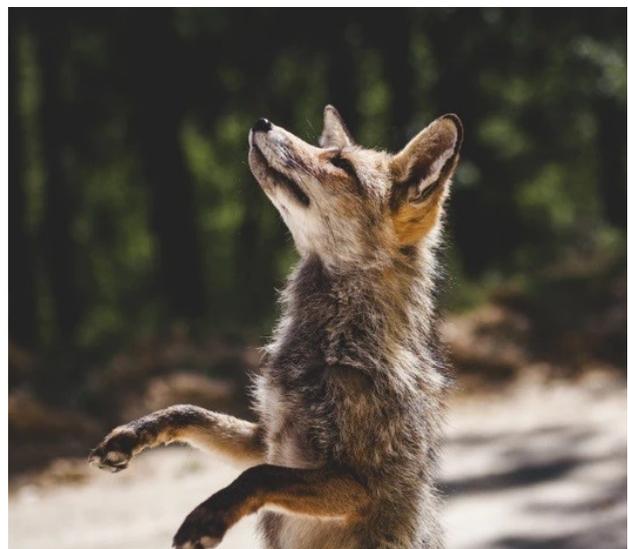
If you live in Wiltshire, more help is always welcome so please come along. We will be having our Salisbury stall at regular intervals and when we get our numbers up, we hope to do more stalls in other towns. Devizes? If interested and you want to help locally let us know.

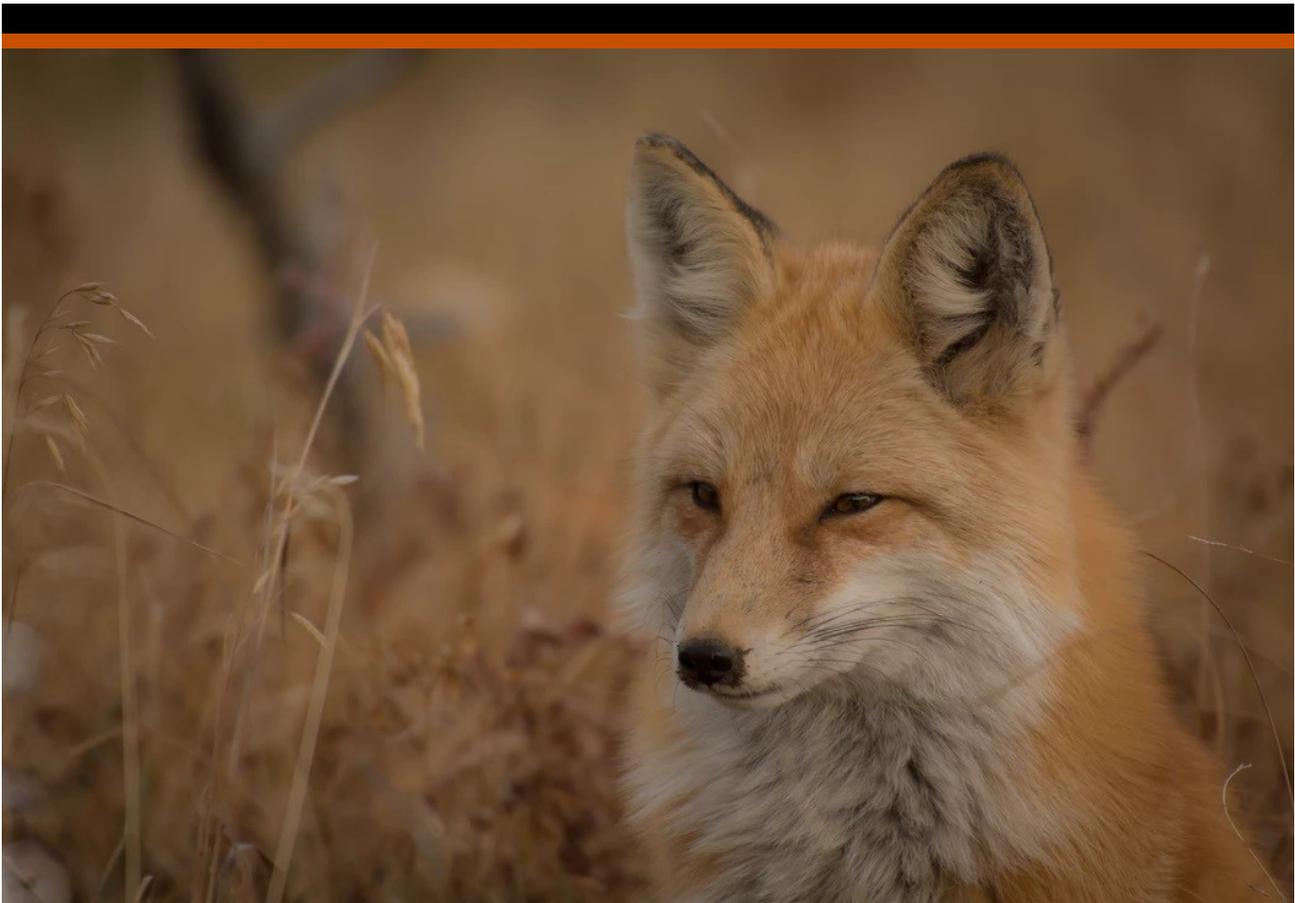
Pete and the AAF Wiltshire team

SETTING UP A NEW GROUP

This is a much easier process than might be imagined, for details of how to set up a group please see our website;

<https://www.actionagainstfoxhunting.org/local-groups-1/>





Our Mission

Hunting with dogs was banned by law in 2005, but the 180 fox hunts still go out several times a week, with the intention of pursuing and killing foxes. They show no pity, no humanity, no regard for the law and they bully and intimidate any person who stands in their way. However, if it was just a matter of numbers and the "ANTI" army (us) actually stood facing the "PRO" army, ours would be more than five times as big as theirs. Humanity and mercy would easily win and our foxes would not have to face a cruel and terrifying death. AAF's mission is to arm the merciful majority with information, encouraging more people to take action with us, in any way they can.

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