

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS **ABOUT FOXHUNTING**

AAF are aware that your first Outreach can be quite daunting, So we have come up with some frequently asked questions that are asked by the public and a guide to answering these questions.

It is very short and simple and equips new volunteers to do outreach with some good answers and accurate facts.

The more we do Outreach of course the more our knowledge and confidence grows and other AAF members are always on hand to help out if you don't have the answer.

Good Luck with your first Outreach and remember, If you don't know, ask.

THE HUNTING ACT

Ipsos MORI poll 2017 – 85% are against hunting

Hunting Foxes was made illegal in 2004 and brought in 2005. Hunts said they would not stop hunting, and they have not

Q. Why aren't the police prosecuting them?

A. The police don't have the resources to follow hunts

Monitoring and gathering information is dangerous, Sabs receive insults, intimidation, threats and violence

The hunting act says that 'Intent' must be proven

Proving intent – That the hunter encouraged dogs to chase a wild animal e.g. using hunting horn, allowing dogs to be out of control when they are on the scent of a wild animal

More Research

<https://www.league.org.uk/what-we-do/hunting/hunting-act/>

TRADITION

Q. Tradition is not an excuse for animal cruelty

A. Other traditions are now seen as abhorrent by our society, Child labour, Bear Bating, Foot Binding, FGM. This tradition needs to be in history

A. There are other cruelty free alternatives to watching an animal being torn limb from limb. Eg Drag Hunting

A. Time to move on from using animals as play things

Q. No one has a right to ban a sport, Civil liberties

A. Challenges like this have been thrown out of the ‘Court of Human Rights’ and ‘House of Lords’

A. No human has a right to be cruel to an animal

More Research

<https://www.actionagainstfoxhunting.org/the-illusion-of-tradition/>

TRAIL HUNTING OR FOXHUNTING

Q. I thought fox hunting was banned?

A. Trail Hunting is a smoke screen for Foxhunting

A. A leaked webinar in November 2020 showed senior members of ‘Masters of the Hunt’ and Countryside Alliance admitting that ‘Trail Hunting’ is a smokescreen for Foxhunting. They said ‘If you are laying a trail it is easier to create a smokescreen and that is what it is all about, trying to portray that we are going about our legitimate business

Fox urine is not manufactured in the UK and there is no evidence of where hunts get it

DEFRA have no evidence of imported fox urine

250 hunts a week would need thousands of gallons of fox urine

Why lay a trail where foxes are known to live?

More Research

<https://www.actionagainstfoxhunting.org/how-do-we-know-they-are-foxhunting/>

CHICKENS AND CATS

Q. Foxes are a menace to chicken keepers, They kill the whole lot

A. Foxhunting does not make any difference to fox numbers

A. Fox numbers are down over 40% since the nineties

A. It is the responsibility of the Keeper to keep their chickens safe. Using electric fencing keeps foxes out and is 100% reliable provided it is maintained properly

A. If a food source is out in a foxes territory It will try to eat it. It is after all a wild animal

A. Foxes are opportunist hunters and if they come across a large supply of prey, It is not uncommon for them to kill as much as possible with the intention of storing it later.

Q. Foxes kill cats

A. Cats are about the same size as a fox and have a reputation for self defence, the fox will not take on a cat, but is more likely to run off when challenged

More Research

<https://www.actionagainstfoxhunting.org/do-foxes-attack-cats/>

FOXES ARE VERMIN

Q. Foxes are vermin!

A. DEFRA determines animals which are vermin, Foxes are not on the list

A. There is no evidence that hunting controls the fox population (Westminster enquiry)

A. They are not vermin or pests, They are wild animals. Foxes prey on rats, mice, pigeons, slugs, and rabbits keeping the population down. They are omnivores also eating berries and fruit

More Research

<https://www.actionagainstfoxhunting.org/knowledge-is-power/>

FOX HUNTING IS NATURAL – FOX CONTROL – SHOOTING FOXES

Q. Fox hunting is natural

A. Chasing a fox to exhaustion with a pack of dogs ripping it apart is not natural or humane

A. Nowhere in nature is there a hunting group so large against a small prey animals

A. Foxes hide underground, Hunts dig them out

A Hunts have been bred in captivity to hunt and artificial earths created to have access to foxes

A. The fox suffers extreme stress beyond anything nature does

A. Foxes limit their own population

A. It's natural for foxes to eat rabbits and rats which helps farmers

Q. Foxhunting is a kinder way of killing foxes as they are sometimes not killed outright by a shot

A. The fox is not killed outright by hounds, it is ripped apart suffering enormous pain and stress

A. There is no need to control foxes, Fox numbers have declined by over 40% since the nineties

FOXES ARE DANGEROUS

Q. Foxes are dangerous, they have bitten children in their homes?

A. You are 62 times more likely to be bitten by a human than a fox

A, It is extremely unusual for foxes to attack young children or anyone. It's not typical fox behaviour at all. Foxes will come closer to a house if encouraged, or if there is a food source. Then they become quite bold, But they usually do back off or run away when there are people around

A. Foxes are scavengers

CUB HUNTING – HUNTS DIRTY SECRET

Hunts don't want you to know about cub hunting, They've even renamed it 'Autumn Hunting'

Hunts wear tweed not traditional fancy dress

Mounted hunters and Terriermen surround a copse where they know a fox family lives. They make a lot of noise to frighten the cubs, If cubs do not come out of the den, they are dug out by Terriermen.

Hunts send their young dogs in to kill the cubs

Cub Hunting takes place in August, September and October and is training for the young dogs (hounds) to kill, Young pups are assessed on the hunt, If they do not show killer instinct they are killed

POWA estimate that 7000 dogs (hounds) are shot every year, Some are fed to the pack for their final journey

More Research

<http://www.powa.org.uk/id82.html>