

The Lives - and Deaths - of Dogs used in Hunting.

Season 2023 - '24 Report

Introduction

AAF concerns itself with all humans and animals who suffer distress as a result of hunt activity, be it the general public, random wildlife, farm animals or domestic animals - as well as the intended prey of a particular hunt.

It is of particular concern that the dogs used by hunts exist in a regulatory vacuum. They don't have the protection afforded to pet dogs, nor do they fall under the regulations which cover livestock, because they're not 'farm' livestock. There are no checks on their welfare by any independent body. Hunts are closed groups; secretive. No one knows what really goes on in hunt kennels except the hunt staff themselves.

There is much about the lives of hunt dogs which AAF has good reason to believe falls well below acceptable standards of care. These poor standards include: their diet and feeding conditions; their kennel environment; the risk to life and injury whilst out hunting; general neglect and cruelty.

As for their deaths, it's estimated between 4,000 - 8,000 (depending on source) are shot per year, when no longer of use. This can be carried out as young as 5 or 6 years old when they inevitably start 'slowing down'

What follows is (largely photographic) evidence, gathered over the six months of the main 2023-24 hunting season, roughly September to March. The photos and reports originate mainly from monitors and saboteurs. These groups are few and far between: most hunts are not watched. The examples below therefore represent only a glimpse of the suffering taking place across the country. Well over 250 hundred hunts (<https://www.wildlifeguardian.co.uk/hunts/>) go out up to four times a week from late August to approximately the end of March each year. At each meet there will be up to 40 hunt dogs ('20 couple') in a pack, with others left back at the kennels. http://www.nwhsa.org.uk/structure_of_a_hunt.html

NEGLECT: underfeeding

Hunt monitors and sabs are often appalled by how thin some of these dogs are, and we are equally appalled, having seen some of the photos they post in their reports. We know dogs are kept hungry before a hunt, but some of these dogs look consistently underfed. Becoming so thin takes time. Some look close to emaciation.

Hunting dogs are generally fed the harvest of 'flesh rounds': the collection of fallen stock from farms. This flesh consists of corpses of farmed animals and horses (often there is no known cause of death), through to aborted fetuses and the bio-matter produced in birthing.

<https://www.facebook.com/derbyhuntsaboteurs/posts/pfbid037uWUnoZA5p8R68GWnZerYof76Q3tHC3bYyf8DtkXMZf4DCnKUs1guU6T9YYZfVR3l>

This practice runs the risk of the passage of a number of diseases (much research attests to this).

<https://theecologist.org/2018/sep/03/hunting-hounds-not-so-secret-reason-farmers-cant-control-disease>

Whilst APHA will run checks on farms supplying the fallen stock, the checks are low in number, infrequent and often only as a direct result of a concern or complaint. The food provided to hunt dogs would certainly be considered legally unfit for the pet-food chain.

We know they are fed in pack groups, and not individually.

https://www.tiktok.com/@lifewithhounds/video/7162469256821542150?_r=1&_t=8j8GotewEVM

https://www.tiktok.com/@lifewithhounds/video/7102483443950406918?_r=1&_t=8j8H4TwMmEj

It seems the dogs live in an environment of competitive survivalism, rather than one of good welfare and nurture. The BHSA (British Hounds Sports Association) advises that 'light' dogs are fed in a separate group. While there may be some hunts who do this, clearly many do not. Members of the public will often comment on how thin some of these dogs are. Some appear to be significantly underfed.

Isle of Wight 'Hounds', looking nigh on emaciated, mid-November 2023

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid0VcNqd76unMX5pW46fVQnRg2ihQEX1HPnJFB5Rd3oGSsSQxeS7VqkEiPSGfzL259yl&id=100066598060986



Also Isle of Wight Hounds, later November '23 (separate occasion to the above)

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid02PXhu21w4WhAjLtcL9dsis9xrohCg5fmbdUnjB9895autJmjeDRo6TKaiK59biK3l&id=100071096827296



South Dorset Hunt 17/10/23

22:48 Wed 18 Oct

...

22:48



North Dorset Hunt Saboteurs's post



dogs looking thinner than ever

🙄🙄 You and 3 others

1 comment



07/01/24 Left behind after the hunt, in the dark

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=779929444175983&set=pcb.779929714175956>



Blackmore and Sparkford Vale (previous year, from Oct '22)



02/02/27 Quantock staghound

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=796168195882340&set=pcb.796177562548070>



Dogs from this same hunt outing can be seen being roughly handled and cowering as they're boxed up at the end of the day:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=796167455882414&set=pcb.796177562548070>

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=796167409215752&set=pcb.796177562548070>

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=796167575882402&set=pcb.796177562548070>

Kent Hounds dog, lost & underfed

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=814375950732141&id=100064792296684

NEGLECT: untreated medical needs

Hunting dogs are often observed carrying injuries, many are scarred, especially around the head, face, and neck. AAF recognises that some Hunts will be better than others in ensuring their dogs get proper veterinary care. Clearly, those 'others' are a concern. We know that often vets are not called, and treatments are carried out by hunt-staff. It is understood that an attack on South Tetcott huntsman Tim Ingram by his own 'hounds' which left him hospitalised for some time last September ('23), was because a dog he was injecting gave out a yelp, upon which others in the pack came to that dog's defence. Whatever the cause, something happened to distress those dogs into such an attack.

Far too often, dogs are seen out with what look like untreated tumours or abscesses. It can be difficult in the hunting environment to capture footage of these. Here are a few examples captured by quick witted saboteurs and monitors.

Blackmore & Sparkford Vale: large tumour/ abscess from early Oct. 23 (and missing tail?)



Also the BSV, 13/11/23

tumour/ abscess hanging from chest

<https://www.facebook.com/WeymouthAnimalRights/posts/pfbid0jnWRL9GbfzRkbUgJ7eYMVoJr3VGgrwcKHGnQHpp24y3PCCPCwKx46BNgYAPnbFbUI>



Cheshire hound with tumour/ abscess? (from a post 08/11/23)

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid0je6WotgFJupGQvS2JFfQb9dXrHkyFRxRiPyDVwSSR1MtFqnfp9SR5sN8LLT22niRI&id=100066598060986



NEGLECT/ CRUELTY: beatings, whippings

We know that these dogs are trained using fear-based techniques and pack peer pressure. We know these dogs get beaten and whipped. The way they frequently cower in the presence of hunt staff, or exhibit anxious behaviours such as lowered heads and tucked tails, suggests an environment of dominance and fear.

12/11/23 Essex and Suffolk Hunt

Dog whipped with sufficient force as to knock it down

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=6661900787272470>

20/11/23 Isle of Wight

Played with sound, the whipped dog's yelp can be heard

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=305244319053992>

(Previous season, Feb '23)

Mendip Farmers Master caught beating a dog

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=laNesj78GLo>

18/10/23 Video showing a dog very fearful at being taken by hunt staff (Holderness Hunt)

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/660338289568438>

Holderness pack exhibiting anxious behaviours, fearful of new staff (Sept. 23)

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/Cx0yPtvqVar/?igsh=OWI3TZyZG1xYm91>

Reports began to appear on 19/10/23 of a dog beaten "almost to death" as it was punished by (then) Kimblewick huntsman, Guy Fitzearle. Below (*italics*) is one of those posts.

This method of punishment, where a dog is raised by its tail and beaten, is common enough to be given a name: "Sterning". (The tail of a foxhound is known as a 'stern'.)

It was later reported that this dog died from this beating:-

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=696164595892607&set=a.461656882676714>

"Guy Fitzearle has been sacked from the Kimblewick Hunt for beating a hound almost to death. He then turned on his horse.

*Previously huntsman of the Cotswold Hunt, remember the bagged fox incident that was reported on both BBC and ITV News? Well Fitzearle was the huntsman of the Cotswold Hunt when the bagged fox was found. <https://www.huntsabs.org.uk/cotswold-hunt-keep-bagged.../> 2 weeks ago we hit the Puckeridge & Essex Union with [Three Counties Hunt Saboteurs](#) and monitors who were hunting Kimblewick turf and we questioned the field on their huntsman. They were all very tight lipped and edgy! Well the truth is out. **The hound wasn't doing as it was told so he grabbed it by the tail, beat it around the head until it was covered in blood and the screams and howls were heard by all of the field riders.** He apparently then turned on his horse.*

*These are the actions of a despicable brutal person that shouldn't have anything to do with any animals, but then again we know of a number of hunt masters and huntsmen whose actions to their horses and hounds are pretty disgusting and questionable. **Only the other week we watched as one of the Puck and Essex hounds cowered and urinated when the whipper-in went towards it.***

We have heard conflicting stories about whether the hound survived the ordeal and we're sure the BHSA are likely to cover up the truth if the hound did die from injuries.

To add to this, we've since been advised that Fitzearle didn't leave the Kimblewick empty handed either but took 30 hounds to the Thurlow Hunt. Of course, these hounds could have just been being returned but the most important question is did the hound survive?"

Protect The Wild also covered this:

<https://protectthewild.org.uk/news/hunt-sabs-say-huntman-sacked-for-beating-a-hound-almost-to-death/>

Dog at Stevenstone kennels can be heard yelping from being whipped

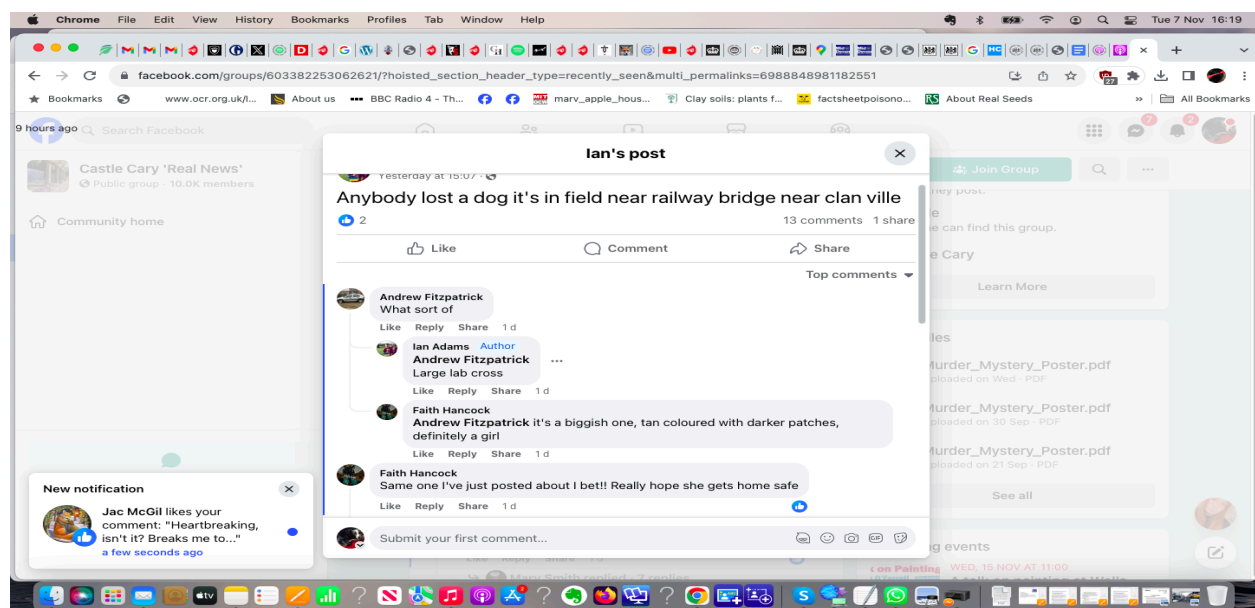
<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1170258410605324>

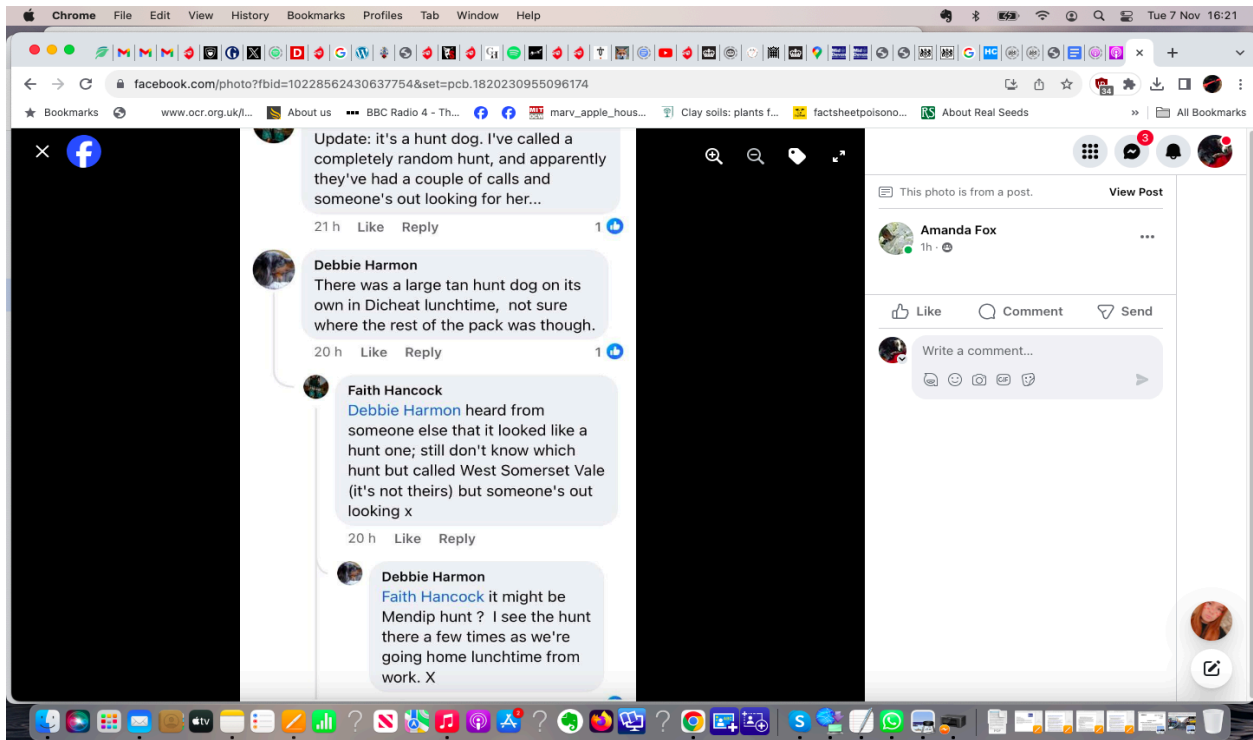
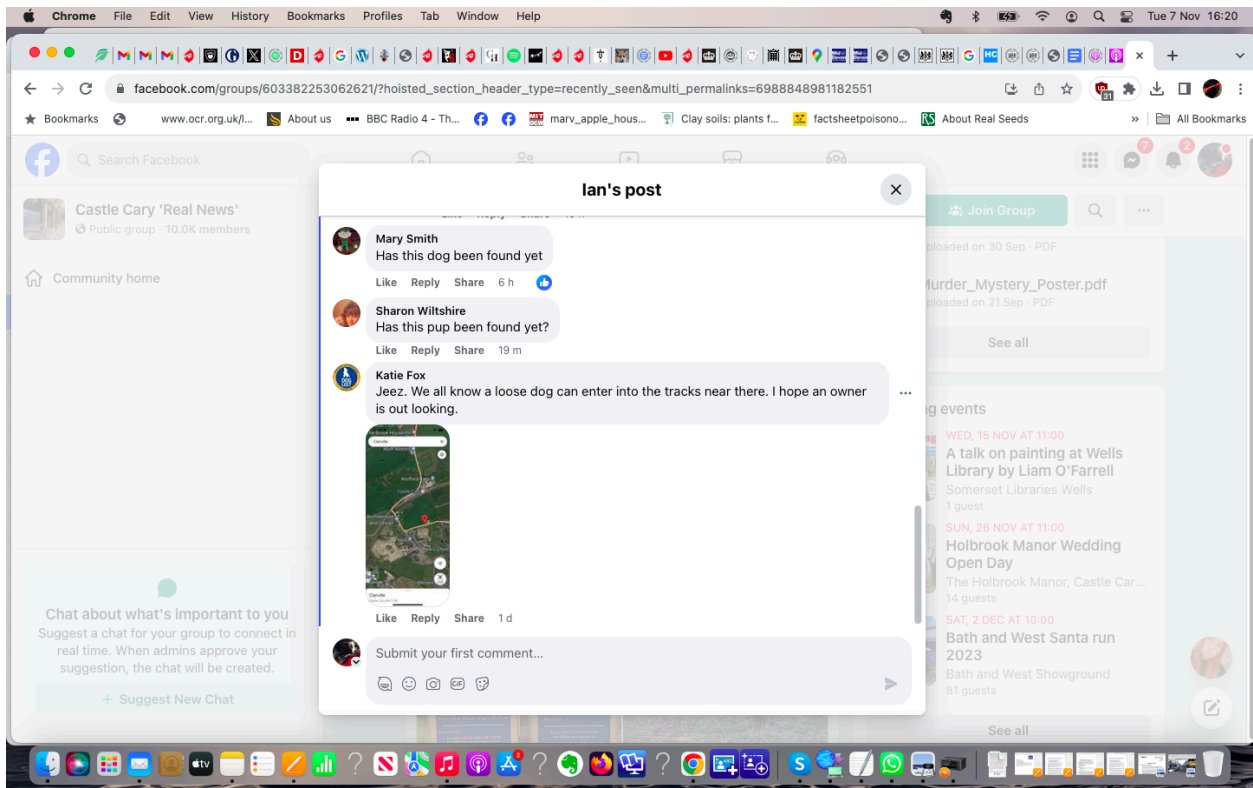
NEGLECT: lost dogs

Hunts often lose control of their dogs. It's alarmingly commonplace that dogs will go missing and become lost, sometimes for days in all terrain and weather. For all that get found, we can only imagine that there is a number who are never retrieved.

On 07/11/23, the 'Castle Cary Real News' facebook page contained the following.

Locals were concerned that this dog was lost and wandering around a railway.





Post describing a “Stray hound on the outskirts of my town today, looking old, cold, tired, and shockingly thin.” (09/12/23)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1497207804402786/posts/1517061089084124>

It is thought this dog had been lost and wandering for four days. (17/01/24)

<https://www.facebook.com/HerefordshireHuntSabs/posts/pfbid0GGskbBrBTwoveLVpAX7TmSUEJC3jbzSZuoUVxpSH1Ymf7aokQYNcXK3He8o35rNwI>

Found this dog at knightwick anyone know who she may belong to? Very thin and sad



"Lost hound reported four days after hunt meet

A missing hound was first reported at 7pm on Saturday on a Suckley fb group. The Herefordshire and Clifton hunt met in Suckley on Saturday. This might just be a Worcestershire hound, reported found in Knightwick this morning, but we note Tom Hadley, H and C joint master, is asking to be contacted (screenshot in comments).

This hound has been left to wander for four days, a danger to wild, farm and domestic animals, and at risk of being involved in a road traffic accident.

This isn't a one off incident. Two lost hounds were killed on a busy road in Devon recently. On Saturday night we were contacted about a loose hound on the road at Little Hereford (Ludlow Hunt). The Ludlow in particular are repeat offenders at leaving hounds behind."

24/01/24 Lost dog found crying 24 hours after the Stevenstone Hunt had passed through
<https://www.facebook.com/greattorringtonetvents/posts/pfbid02kkgTXCS4Lfa4nQp8c958cPTMFUABuWHWuCJcWcaFvjGoGc1K6tiFnSEqM3F9yjNql>

27/01/24 Public fearful concern for apparent lost hunt dogs near a busy road
<https://www.facebook.com/NorthHW/posts/pfbid02sSvb8d5G3zWCikjcDJaSYH7QgP7aFqisUkTHhxkUYggSNifdtid9dwZnzaYoEcR7I>

03/02/24 Lost in the dark - found by public - note scars on face
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/PUKPLAF/posts/7249661535081528>

12/02/24 Member of the public reports a lost and "visibly distressed" (hunt) dog
<https://www.facebook.com/sheila.wise.31/posts/pfbid0atS2QZ9nwe8XhvHB6QUJhCtMdgzZRYGxwwZ7PUvyFqVtWxMLozueqcDZtss3jVEI>

28/02/24 member of public reports lost dog, in woods overnight

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1497207804402786/posts/1563403837783182>

02/03/24 South Dorset dog clearly distressed at being lost from the pack

<https://twitter.com/DorsetMonitor/status/1764008230881997133>

ENDANGERED/ PUT AT RISK/ DEATHS: roads, rail

Hunt dogs are consistently put at risk on our roads and even railways. We often see reports of dogs loose on country roads with blind bends and even running about on A-roads. Unlike last year, and previous years, we have not (yet) had a report of any hit by trains. However, even in the short period this report covers, dogs have lost their lives on our roads.

2023 ended with two dogs dead after being hit by multiple cars on the busy A30 near Okehampton 30/12/23. (This is the incident referred to, *above*)

<https://www.facebook.com/devoncountyhuntsaboteurs/posts/pfbid029MxtqyKMzHQjhaZ6ZFUe5pgy8AS2R6c5fEz1Bs5N9jxinkmZuPosg8Xcl1Zx8nMal>

Members of the public found one still alive and took it to the vets. It had to be euthanised with a broken back.



The second dog was found by Saboteurs who had been with a different Hunt, and who responded to a radio report of a (second) dog being hit.



Some dogs hit by cars will get up and run off.

The extent of their injuries will never be known.

<https://www.facebook.com/NorthantsHuntSaboteurs/posts/pfbid0TfGaQijMKRiDApBDjhTPyuAuvZTrquBstPZNrp9q2pHZJLvqgfMaY377ZuzNUTwpl>

Dogs had to be gathered after some became separated and spilled onto the busy B3232
(Torrington Farmers Hunt)

<https://www.facebook.com/devoncountyhuntsaboteurs/posts/pfbid022nVc9Hfh2ufaLmmVw>



Another report containing a reference to a dog hit by a car, the Kent Hounds, 03/12/23

<https://www.facebook.com/westkenthuntsabs/posts/pfbid0UbrBhwid8LhHiqveVFZwVuWKtGo4qnJ6rp3K9wvyGv84hx23EXx9gKXZkfYpXJ2VI>

And

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid0i2BEmmoa7P2aTvJrF7xmw4Md5Fm85ncQQJMRKLSjd5Rge5t3LYHMFd7ZRerRQuwLI&id=100083074050754

The footage below is a common scene - so many near misses. These are not dogs with road sense. (Eggesford Hunt, early November '23):

<https://www.facebook.com/watch?v=848469096978325>

Hunt dogs out on the roads are put at extra risk in the dark (21/11/23, South Dorset Hunt)

<https://twitter.com/Weymouthanimalr/status/1727802783208808500>

<https://www.facebook.com/westkenthuntsabs/videos/6769974459766787/>

17/02/24 Blackford and Sparkford Vale dogs running into traffic on A352

This link particularly illustrates the nationwide issue of dogs on the road.

At the time this video was taken, this Hunt was supposedly on its best behaviour (under the watch of the BHSA) following a Channel 4 news item on 25/1/24 which clearly showed them illegally hunting a fox.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch?v=355542607441844>

25/02/24 BSV again risking dogs in busy traffic

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=376403418661369>

29/02/24 At least three dogs from the Pytchley Hunt known to have been killed on A43

This same Hunt had dogs killed on the same road in 2019

<https://www.northants.police.uk/news/northants/news/appeals/2024/february/appeal-for-witnesses-after-hounds-killed-on-the-a43-near-hannington-crossroads/>



Mawsley For All

Emily Tauchert · 1 m ·



Anyone going on the A43 try to avoid, it's at a stand still both sides. There was a load of hunting dogs dead in the road and some running in the road and into the bushes. Was not a nice sight and very upsetting for some people.

28/02/24 Portman Hunt endangering dogs all over misty road

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=813464540819372&set=pcb.813469567485536>

Endangered on railways, when taken close enough to follow foxes onto railway lines.

(Blackmore & Sparkford Vale 25/11/23). These dogs are on the same line close to where four hunt dogs were killed by a train the previous year (01/01/22).

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=752238766941950&set=pcb.752248160274344>

<https://www.itv.com/news/2022-01-05/four-hunting-hounds-killed-after-running-onto-railway-track>



INJURIES AND DEATHS WHILST HUNTING (other than road/ rail)

As well as road deaths over this hunting season, dogs have suffered a variety of injuries, and have died, as a result of their use whilst out on hunts. Some of these have been encouraged (onto a line) through barbed wire, or sharp gorse, through brambles or elephant grass. Sometimes they simply collapse through dehydration, overheating, or sheer exhaustion.

A Staghound collapses and dies (from 3 minutes in). We don't know whether this was exhaustion or a goring. It is clear, though, that this is a third dog (staghunts are allowed to be out with two) which appears to have been separated or lost. The film was taken on 07/09/23, which was, unseasonably, one of the hottest days of the year.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vHVmL2yMTOk>

This Dartmoor Hunt dog was found collapsed after the pack rampaged through an animal sanctuary, 21/10/23. The owner of the sanctuary tried contacting the Hunt on several occasions afterwards to ask after this dog, but had no reply.

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/708302930765781>



Injuries from barbed wire, brambles, grasses, fences are common.

Below, a selection from these past few months:-

Caught on fencing wire 18/11/23 (Spooners & West Dartmoor Hunt/Torrington Farmers Hunt joint meet)

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid0soXanz3mPDwpBEgkAvivKyCoipEbDCCUZDgib6YwCXhPp68dqc5GW98A4BjYLqBcl&id=100087081292820



Film of a South Tetcott dog getting caught by leg on barbed wire (01/01/24):

<https://www.facebook.com/watch?v=881250676641839>

25/11/23 Blackmore and Sparkford Vale

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=752242590274901&set=pcb.752248160274344>



26/10/23 The Wynnstay left behind this dog,"injured...shaking, exhausted, petrified and alone."

<https://www.facebook.com/cheshiremonitors/posts/pfbid02E8seLqKe9CAC8A3JzmF3qF1UuGFL6sfD9AtHQHEsHgeZ51bNiv5odsdAgudXCdTsl>



Caught on wire 12/23 (Melbreak Hounds)

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=378592441498414&set=pcb.378603104830681>



18/11/23 South Tetcott Hunt

Dog badly gashed, likely barbed wire



More barbed wire- this happens prolifically, nationwide -

North Wales, (12/12/23)

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=764211202414474&set=pcb.764212785747649>



06/02/24 Flint & Denbigh - probable barbed wire/ gorse injuries

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid0Z2JxWoD1JXbW7eGVNZ5mNmyzvAgoojMPcfqZC99Pbji7Nh3dxgNL5W3ekwfD448wl&id=100066598060986

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=764792089007992&set=pcb.764792265674641>

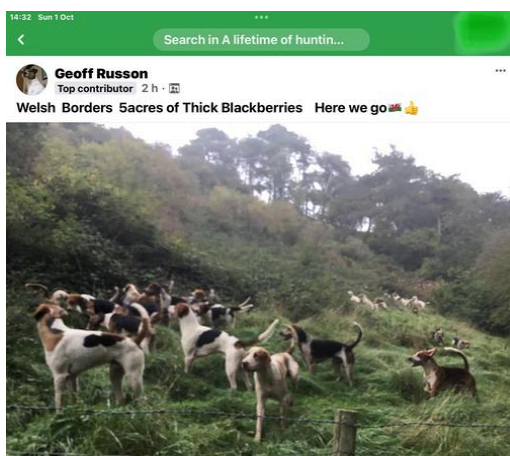
Dogs used in hunting are often deliberately sent through barbed wire, or forced through it without option

https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=807101271168997&extid=NS-UNK-UNK-UNK-IOS_GK0T-GK1C&ref=sharing

https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=3668556850069327&extid=CL-UNK-UNK-UNK-AN_GK0T-GK1C&ref=sharing

... or brambles.

These are caught between barbed wire and thick brambles. No wonder there are so many injuries:



We have also seen injuries this half season from being cast into elephant grass, 20/11/23

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid02hemvdBNb7cxoiEU8aMU8VZKerGYLs3GM58HBseZWqw8zzrEgCX1CYx3bCJ7kkTVSI&id=100066598060986



<https://www.facebook.com/nottssabs/posts/pfbid02QWXYSZYauyXyQecUfkVESjW3WFzRP5pr6yFLb7nbkgQemQnCfMV9Egmwk4D5ZkRGI>



Particularly heavy rainfall has seen this winter end with lots of groundwater, water-filled ditches, and fast-flowing streams and rivers. This has been an additional danger for hunt dogs this season.

10/02/24 Oakley Hunt dog struggling in flooded ditch with fast-running water

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=405839295170469&set=pcb.405839458503786>

02/03/24 Isle of Wight Hunt abandons dog in a stream it can't scramble out of.. (Sabs rescue it)
Note also the scarring.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch?v=812679674026838>

<https://www.facebook.com/IWSabs/posts/pfbid02DDYS7hzxtxxWkNNZ9BWFPUYQmCxNcyaha535t6AVw2G8p9gD81zM4urHB3HH6HCrl>



05/03/24 South Dorset Hunt

“One poor dog was marooned in the overflowing river getting tangled up in reeds as they tried to get to dry land. Sabs entered the water up to their chests in an attempt to reach the dog, but had to retreat as conditions got more hazardous. When the dog finally found their way to dry land the hunt were miles away. The poor hound was in a panic running up and down the road and taking a tumble over a cattle grid which could easily have resulted in broken legs. The dog was last seen heading off across Winfrith Nature Reserve.’ (North Dorset Hunt Sabs)

<https://www.facebook.com/NorthDorsetSabs/posts/pfbid02p3vxJmWsFX6h9KdkZ9twcGiLKapadrGLSoC7RBNwMkELqgzweif1oLYhpFUS4MyYGI>



Hunting dogs suffer injuries besides those on roads, railways, beatings, barbed wire and knife-like grasses.

What follows is a miscellany of injuries or maltreatment, bearing in mind that many will not receive proper veterinary care:-

Kent Hounds' terriermen used superglue to treat dogs' horrific injuries

Robert Mills and Jack Mills banned from keeping animals and dogs confiscated

ELIZA EGRET
28 DEC 2023



Neglect - left out in wind & rain. Crying, (13/11/23)

<https://www.facebook.com/watch?v=595600959307598>

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=595600959307598&ref=sharing>

Struggling, some whining, under fence in brambles Kent Hounds (11/11/23)

<https://www.facebook.com/watch?v=311072685049761>

At risk in river, Kent Hounds (11/11/23)

<https://www.facebook.com/EastSurreySabs/posts/pfbid027tdh9kwRDE4BRKabpcVrEuYxEdzLcYdAhXVeokBdT6Hh1AHKoxXW3SnyR3KLZ5ynl>

Injured dog being loaded/ Crawley and Horsham (02/12/23)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1313716989034707/posts/1607403619666041>

Dog separated, choker lead, bundled into car. Cottesmore Hunt (26/11/23) - fate to be surmised

<https://www.facebook.com/HertfordshireHuntSaboteurs/videos/235675856046588>

York South Hunt (01/01/24)

<https://www.facebook.com/yorkantihuntleague/posts/pfbid0Sisyj9Pt7Nh1aWBuGLp9sAM96PcJwyr79GrdywM3ojR2tmG1YvjsYkwz5hE9mV5FI>



North Staffs Hunt (16/12/23)

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=704402798461711&set=pcb.704403421794982>



<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=704403241795000&set=pcb.704403421794982>



20/01/24 Hosed down in kennels in freezing conditions.

Dogs can be seen trying to escape the cold water.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch?v=774424127349906>

10/02/24 Middleton Hunt dog began the day with a limp. Couldn't keep up by the end

<https://www.facebook.com/watch?v=765846065002436>

We were heartbroken to see an injured hound limping around the meet and the start of the day and even more heartbroken to see the same limping hound at the end of the day, understandably unable to keep up with the rest of the pack. Yet the huntsmen trotted on ahead and left the poor hound swerving in and out of traffic looking pained and confused. We dread to think the fate of that poor hound tonight. Anyone who says they love their hounds are very mistaken. (Jorvik Hunt Sabs:

<https://www.facebook.com/jorvikhuntsabs/posts/pfbid0mggyBFZ9XUsJ6C1gs1ycL7EYZpYUru6H5buMBnsxMtocESo1saJs9SWBd3rWFnZQyl>)

Dog training, Hunt (Quorn) style - chained together by the neck



The Quorn Hunt

4 d · 🌐

...

Young Meerkat taking a break in the sunshine with mentor Bitter.

#quornhunt #teamwork #houndsofinstagram
#foxhound #happyhounds #hounds
#followhounds #huntinglife #trailhunting
#countrysports



Conclusion

Please bear in mind the short time-frame over which these references have been collected and how few hunts are monitored. This is only a tiny glimpse into the problem.

By and large, people give little thought to these dogs. They might go along to Boxing Day or New Years Day parades and be taken in by the romantic ideal in front of them. The truth hidden behind these jolly displays is truly horrible. If the public at these events look closer at these dogs they will see many of them are scarred, especially around the head and face, yet this seems to be brushed to one side, no questions asked.

Occasionally, bigger stories will hit the news - such as this from January '23:

<https://www.itv.com/news/2023-01-22/six-men-arrested-and-22-dogs-seized-in-largest-ever-fox-hunting-related-raid>, but it appears these are quickly forgotten.

And, as mentioned in our introduction, the brutal lives of these dogs often lead to a brutal end - they are shot in the head around half way through their natural life . The Countryside Alliance has claimed in the past that these dogs cannot be homed. The British Hound Sports Association appears ambivalent about it. This does not appear to be true. Ex-hunting dogs do, occasionally, appear in rescue centres and we have recently seen some looking for homes via the RSPCA. It would seem shooting them once they are past their best is the easiest solution. They are mere commodities.

There is no need for this:-

https://www.facebook.com/watch/?extid=NS-UNK-UNK-UNK-AN_GK0T-GK1C&v=271175688194245

It is not acceptable that any dog should suffer or die due to their use in any claimed “traditional sport”.

They deserve better.

Sarah Little

with Jac McGill (IMDTB Canine Behaviourist; IMDT Accredited Dog Trainer; Gold Member Of The Pet Professional Network; CPD Level 3 Higher Distinction In Pet Care/Dog Walking; K9 First Aid Certificate)