

Many people still think hunting with dogs has already been banned. Yes, it was (in 2005) but the Hunting Act just didn't do the job. Hunts continued to chase wild mammals and kill them despite the ban, and by and large, they got away with it. The main reason they got away with it was because the hunts called themselves 'trail hunts' rather than fox hunts, and made out that they were trail hunting (following an artificially laid trail) and not fox hunting. Of course, all of that was a lie.

It is universally acknowledged that hunts are hunting wild mammals, as if the Hunting Act didn't exist. However, things are changing.

Now, the Government has promised to strengthen the Hunting Act, and they are sticking by that promise. They are starting a consultation later this year.

But, what we really need is a total ban on FOX HUNTING.

Any new law must have no loopholes at all, and no opportunity whatsoever for the hunts to disregard for the law as easily as they have done for the last twenty years.

It is also important not to forget the stags. Banning trail hunting will not put a stop to stag hunting in Devon and Somerset. Stag hunts are openly chasing and killing several stags a week by taking advantage of the many other loopholes in the Hunting Act. There are nine exemptions to the Hunting Act, and all of them must be removed.

Hares and minks are also being illegally hunted. These activities must also be included.

We need proper policing of the hunts, and real sanctions that will actually make the hunters think twice before offending.

This ban will bring about a kinder world for all animals, not least for the hounds used in hunting and the horses.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely