

The Lives - and Deaths - of Dogs Used in Hunting, Season 2025-2026

The following collection of incidents concerning the lives and deaths of dogs used in hunting is a continuation of the misery contained in our previous reports, and is intended to be read in conjunction with these, highlighting the ongoing plight of dogs born into the world of hunting. As with preceding years, the below is the merest snippet: of the many hunt outings per season very few are witnessed.

Hunts will often bristle when their packs are referred to as 'dogs'. They protest that they are 'hounds', as though this changes their category. Not all dogs are hounds, but all hounds are dogs. Their lives are experienced through their [limbic system](#), a system we share, governing their bodily functions, their memories, mood, and emotion. We are separated only by the language we can use to describe these same feelings. They, too, feel fear, sadness, pleasure, anger.

Our previous reports have touched upon kennel life. It is worth reiterating that hunt kennels are not licensed and not externally inspected, despite recent attempts to introduce these with [proposals](#) at the Clause 10 stage of the recent update of the Animal Welfare Act (2026). Instead, they operate under a code of practice composed by the Hunts themselves. We continue to hope that this Government will make good their intention to ban trail hunting.

True gratitude goes to all those groups: saboteurs, monitors, campaigners - as well as members of the public - whose indefatigable commitment to animal welfare and action in the field has provided the reports and material collated below. [This](#), from the 'Locals opposed to the Albrighton and Woodland Hunt' group (12/03/26), seems the perfect lead-in to our Season 2025-26 'Lives - and Deaths - of Dogs Used in Hunting Report':

"Many of our kind supporters/locals have commented the Albrighton hounds have sore and missing tail ends .

We have noticed this , but it seems especially bad at the moment.

With the poor hounds' tails looking extremely raw and painful .

We've also noticed some of the paws look sore too.

The hounds are always nervous and cowering around the hunters , but seem to be more scared this week.

Some have asked what it could be ?

Well, it could be a condition called limp tail , which can be caused from stress, damp and being very over worked.

It could be hounds are so hungry they are chewing each other's tails . We know they are starved before a hunt

It could also be a allergy/skin Problems eg parasites fleas, ticks,bacteria or infection

Injury: A hurt tail can lead to chewing as a response to pain.

Behavioral Issues: Sometimes, tail chewing is due to anxiety, boredom, or a compulsive habit.

Environmental Factors: Irritants in hounds dog's environment.

Whatever the cause it's pretty obvious to ourselves and locals with veterinary knowledge.

These poor dogs need veterinary medical assistance and better care .

They are victims too."

Lost/ Left behind

Hunts continued to lose their dogs, even before the start of the 2025-26 season.

One of the earliest reports was from locals posting on 'Llandrindod Solutions' Facebook page, concerned about a hound that'd been lost for days. The comments mention the heat. [Data](#) for that day (Wed. 13/08/25) shows a high of 30°C. The thread suggests this dog had wandered more than 6 miles over a period of at least 2 days.

This hound, which appears to be limping, was seen heading towards Cefnlllys Castle above the Ithon. Presumably a hunting hound. Ran away before I could get near, photo from security camera. Wednesday morning, 10.45.



- 

Even during hound exercise before the killing begins they STILL lose them. Or has cub hunting already begun does anyone know? I understand some of them are out hunting this year's babies already in England?

2h Like Reply 8 🤔😞😞😞
- 

It was walking down the white line on the A483 between Crossgates and Llandrindod this morning causing chaos. Tried to catch it but it ran away.

1h Sad Reply 1 😞
- 

he's been out at least 24hours. Was reported seen wandering yesterday. Awful in this heat too, poor thing 😞

1h Like Reply 2 👍

View 1 reply...
- 

★ Rising contributor

I also tried to catch it Sunday night, but it wouldn't come to me 😞

46m Sad Reply 1 😞
- 

★ Rising contributor

I looked again today but couldn't find it. Hopefully he's caught soon.

46m Like Reply 1 👍
- 

★ Rising contributor

Someone must know the hunt surely? Can't they get tagged?

24m Like Reply
- 

Author

I think it's been seen around our area for a couple of days and in extreme heat. Also running in the main road so an accident waiting to happen. I wish I could have got near it to catch it and keep it safe, but no chance.
- 

Sightings started near Fforest in Llandgeley forection 2 days ago so travelling far each day on the roads

From 19/08/25, this facebook [post](#) refers to the Derwent Hunt losing both a dog and a horse.

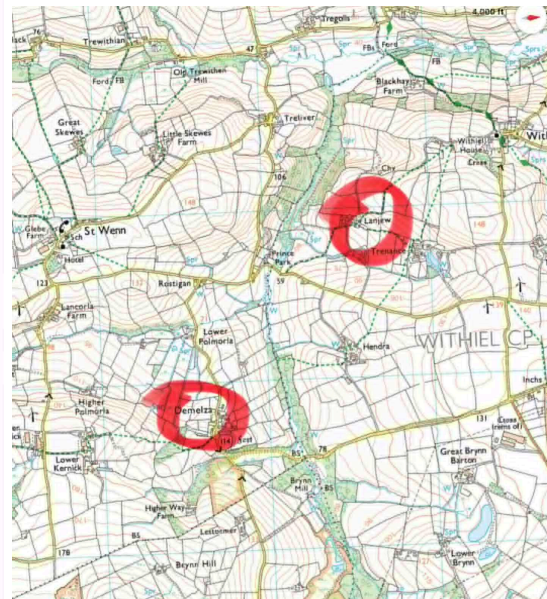
This [report](#) references dogs twice left behind and returned to the Vale of Taunton and Banwell Harriers during their outing on 13/09/25. The day's write-up also references a dog "yelping in pain" and an injury to a horse's ankle which left "bloody tissue in the road".

[Film](#) posted on 'Lost, Stolen or Missing Dogs UK' on 25/09/25 appears to show another dog lost or left behind by a Hunt

[This video](#) shows two lone dogs crying in distress behind a fence, apparently left behind; posted by the Welsh Border Hunt Saboteurs on 27/09/25. Do play with sound on.

People local to St Giles-in-the-Wood near Torrington in Devon were concerned about a [loose dog](#) which appeared to have escaped from nearby Torrington Farmers Hunt kennels, dated 01/10/25.

Another lost dog was reported on 15/10/25, thought to be from the North Cornwall Hunt. The map shows how far the dog was likely to have strayed.



The Dulverton Community Facebook contained a [post](#) on 15/10/25 showing public concern for what appears a young foxhound wandering roads, frightened, in the dark.

Puppy seen along the b3223 heading towards
dulverton, is petrified we have tried to catch but can't
get near. If anyone knows who's this is



Below, it is again locals expressing concern about a hunting dog lost and alone:

 **Porlock** · [Join](#) · 6h ·  ... 

My wife has just returned home to our house in Porlock after hiking in the forest above Hawkcombe, where she encountered a very scared dog which joined her briefly before disappearing. At no point did she see or hear anyone searching or calling for their dog. Without any phone signal she returned home & informed me. Please see pic!



 Been out all day the football stopped play as it was running around the pitch

6h Like Reply

And again a worried member of the public, [posting](#) (08/11/25) in case anyone had lost their dog. Comments suggest he belonged to the Albrighton Hunt



The dog pictured below was likely missing from the Quantock Staghounds; the weather, and the poor dog very wet. She was found in Crowcombe and taken to The Carew Arms.



Another dog left behind (below) and lost, [wandering roads](#) in the dark, understood to be from the Brocklebury Hunt.

Just found a dog walking down Roxton road with no one about has started to walk back to keelby



On 06/01/26, two dogs from the Ludlow Hunt were reported as left behind and [lost](#), in bitterly icy conditions.

Hi everyone- there are 2 of these dogs hunting alone in Mortimer forest at Blackpool car park. They're alone and quite intimidating, chased my little boy terrier - he went back and hid under my car 😬



A member of the public again, [posting about a dog wandering](#) near Abbotsham, Bideford, 16/01/26

Dog running loose without a collar or any sign of an owner at Greencliff just outside Abbotsham. He's being looked after by the builders at South Close currently. Anyone recognise him?



Also posted in mid-January (17/01/26) is [this report](#) with news of “around a third of the pack [from the Spooners & West Dartmoor Hunt] abandoned overnight on the moor [Dartmoor]”.

Another separated from the pack (26/01/26) and lost, [this one](#) from the Blencathra and North Cumberland Hunt. This dog is also skinny and carrying an injury.



Another post, below, from a member of the public, here about a lost Staghound, made to the Swimbridge village forum Facebook page.



Swimbridge village forum · [Join](#)

4d · 

...

Just to let anybody who it may concern know. A deer hound type dog has just ran past my house on its own and headed up Dennington.

 5  4  1  

Most relevant ▾



4d

Oh, i thought i saw a lone dog run past mine on station hill at lunchtime, i assumed i had missed the owner walking ahead or behind. However, i did hear a hunt horn around the same time 🤔

Reply  



4d

There was a hunt horse and rider going up and down the road at lunch time. He must of been looking for the hound.

Reply  



4d

I believe there is one living in the cottages opposite the road leading down to the children's park.

Reply  



4d

The hunt was in the village around lunch time, it may of got separated from the pack and is trying to get back

Reply  1  

Film [here](#) from 20/03/26 of another Albrighton and Woodland Hunt dog as it becomes separated after running through gardens, and realises it has become lost.

Again, the public posting, concerned for a lost hunt dog, below:

 **Fenny Compton Village** · [Join](#) · 3h · 

Today I saw a dog running near the A423, at the Fenny Compton exit. Medium-sized, brown and black, it looked like it was unattended and may have run away from someone.



<  **Fenny Compton Village** · [Join](#) · 3h · 

 3h
it's a fox hound
Reply  16 

 3h
I would say maybe the hunt are about
Reply  9 

 3h
The hunt is in Wormleighton
Reply  9 

 3h · [Author](#)
I also saw this dog running between cars, so someone might not see it.
Reply  3 

 2h
It's warwickshire hunts dog. Kineton there out today.
Reply  11 

 2h
Th hunt will kill it when they get it back because it left the pack ,:-(
Reply  26 

 1h
[West Midlands Hunt Saboteurs](#)
Reply  

This [post](#) from 15/02/26 contains film from DogLost Cornwall UK of a number of dogs apparently lost in woodland overnight, after the East Cornwall Hunt, out the previous day,

left dogs behind in the Minions area. These dogs were also spotted running loose around Tremar on the morning of the 15th.

“...the usual scenario of a completely lost hound, nose down, trying to find its pack” is described [here](#), where “The hunt [the Thurlow] carried on with their activities, seeming to not notice, or indeed, care.” This report continues: “As always, the hunt carry on, those poor dogs deserve better treatment.” (dated 26/02/26)

Cruelty/ Neglect

Dogs seen ‘marking’ from the South Dorset Hunt on 16/09/25, one of which [appears overly thin](#)



Another Dorset Hunt, here the Blackmore and Sparkford Vale with a dog [looking thin](#), dated 08/01/26. Note, too, the account of hunt activity on a busy A-road. It is thought this dog had recently pupped.



A [post](#) from 04/10/25 shows a dog from the Cottesmore Hunt being dragged by the scruff of its neck into a vehicle. The RSPCA specifically mentions scruffing [dogs into vehicles](#) as a method which should never be done (their underscore). Scruffing is [recognised to be cruel](#), especially for large dogs.



A [clear example of scruffing](#) a dog was on display during the same 26/01/26 Blencathra and North Cumberland Hunt outing as above



Below, a dog from the Seavington Hunt [filmed with a raw red growth](#) on its upper left thigh (outing dated 11/10.25).



[An eyewitness account](#) here given by an ex-National Trust volunteer who “heard the most appalling screams from one of the hounds [from The Stowe School Hunt] which went on for around 20 minutes” and “saw a chained up hound being viciously beaten with a whip while the pack watched from a cage”.

[This clip](#) shows Field Master Mark Pearson for the South Dorset Hunt whipping a dog that’d been petted by a saboteur. The write-up from 17/09/25 acknowledges the strong language used by the saboteur as she is shocked by this cruelty.

[More whipping caught on film](#) (posted on 30/10/25), as dogs from the Holderness Hunt are seen whipped and afraid.

The Portman Hunt, [filmed having lost control](#) of its pack (03/01/26), saw ‘whipper in Henry Marshall filmed [holding a dog by the scruff and beating them with his whip handle](#), then lashing out at another’.

The Thurlow Hunt was seen out on 10/01/26 with a dog (below) who [looked “clearly unwell with a distended abdomen”](#), and who was nonetheless forced to hunt for circa 5 hours in icy conditions.



The Four Burrows met with [this dog filmed drooling, and looking both ill and stressed](#), dated 31/01/26.

This dog, filmed approaching sabs, from the 24/01/26 joint meet on Dartmoor of the South Devon Hunt and the Curre Llangibby Hunt is [clearly lame](#), unable to place its front left paw upon the ground.

Endangered on roads/ rail

This [post](#) from 28/08/25 refers to locals reporting dogs (from the Shropshire Hunt) out on roads and almost hit. Given the date and the hour referenced of 6:20am, it’s likely this Hunt was out ‘cubbing’ at this time.



I could have easily hit a large number of the dogs (+8) in the car this morning at ~6:20am. They ran out from a side road at pace straight onto the Newport road totally uncontrolled (riders well behind them). Exceptionally dangerous.

Dogs from the Portman Hunt were filmed [running dangerously all over what is known to be a busy road](#) at 8:35am on 11/09/25.

This Facebook [page](#) records local concern about a hunting dog running onto and up a Shropshire railway line (27/09/25)



Not road or rail this time, but [a swamp in which this dog from the Chiddingfold, Leconfield & Cowdray Hunt \(below\) became stuck](#), from a post made on 08/11/25.



This dog was left behind by the Blackmore and Sparkford Vale Hunt on 02/12/25. It was [dangerously close to being hit by this lorry](#):-



Below, [another nearly hit by lorry](#), this time from the Cottesmore Hunt, 13/01/2



This [dog from the Fitzwilliam Hunt was hit by a car](#) (below). The dog's fate was unknown, but the car was damaged. Posted on 31/01



A dog from the Blackmore and Sparkford Vale Hunt was filmed [on the Waterloo railway line](#) shortly after a train had passed through on 14/02/26. Four BSV dogs were killed near this spot in 2022.



In dreadful weather on 14/03/26, this is a horribly [near miss](#) as a dog from the Cury Hunt ran out onto a 60mph road.

The Devon and Somerset Staghounds were filmed [here](#) on 14/03/26 swapping out for fresh dogs in a mere nod to the two dog rule. As they do so, one dog is dragged out of the car and into moving traffic.

Harmed while hunting

Below, a dog with the Vale of Taunton & Banwell Harriers, [scratched and blooded](#) from running through maize fields, 17/09/25



This Stevenstone Hunt dog (below) got her [paw badly twisted in barbed wire](#) on 13/09/25. She “had clearly been stuck for a while, so her paw was quite swollen. She also had a chunk of her tail missing.”. She limped badly on release.



Photos on this [post](#) shows a Cattistock Hunt dog falling badly at a gate and landing awkwardly on another, dated 06/09/25

This Cottesmore Hunt dog (below), out on 09/10/25, has [a bloodied mouth; its head already showing multiple, deep scars](#)



Film here showing [a scared dog with a cut, bleeding tongue](#), out with the Cury Hunt on 11/10/25

From 25/10/25, a report of “the [cries of an incredibly distressed hound](#)” [being heard, followed by news of a dog having been “been trodden on by a horse”](#). The South Dorset Hunt dog, limping and bleeding was taken away in a quad

Another report of a dog [caught on barbed wire and howling in a lot of pain](#) (pictured below), this time from the Cottesmore Hunt, on 04/11/25. As is often the case, saboteurs freed it, with no hunt member in sight. This same report says, of dogs on the road, that “How one or more of their hounds were not killed today on a road is a miracle.”



Below, a dog from the Grove and Rufford Hunt, [cut by elephant grass](#) on 08/11/25



From the Cottesmore Hunt and Berkeley Hunt joint meet of 25/11/25, a [bloodied dog](#). As there is no blood around its mouth and muzzle, the blood appears to be its own



Pictured below, hunting with a large, open wound to its back - likely from barbed wire (November 2015)



Two dogs were [caught up and bloodied on wire](#) (02/12/25) whilst hunting with the Heythrop Hunt, joined that day by the North Cotswold Hunt. A dog was also recorded as having "...cut their ear badly". Additionally, their dogs ran into a shoot that day.

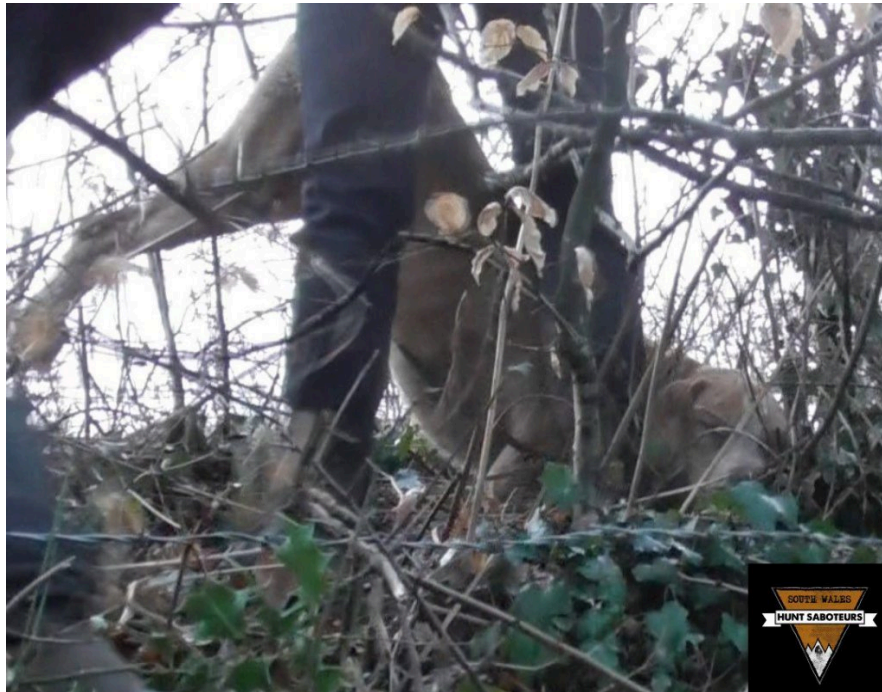


From circa 14/12/25, film of a distressed [Heythrop Hunt dog trapped under fence](#). Play with sound to hear its cries.

Film of a [Grafton Hunt dog, left caught up in barbed wire](#) (21/12/25). Again, discovered by saboteurs.

Again, rescued by hunt sabs, this dog (below) from the Curre & Llangibby Hunt was found trapped in barbed wire by both back feet (31/01/26). From the [report](#): "...sabs found a hound badly tangled in a barbed wire fence with no hunt staff anywhere to be seen. The hound was suspended in the fence by both his back legs and was not able to move at all. He

looked as though he'd given up. Sabs climbed the bank and lifted the hound to take the weight off him and prevent the barbs digging in further, whilst others ran to find wire cutters to release him. Eventually one of the riders provided cutters but the hunt support then became aggressive with sabs, instead of helping or thanking them”.



DEATHS

On 08/01/26, the Lincolnshire Police published [this appeal](#) for information after the death of certainly one, and possibly two dogs hit by a train on 03/12/25 in Saxilby. The post describes “around 20 dogs, maybe more running back and forth across the tracks.”.

In early January, 2026, a dog from the Blackmore and Sparkford Vale Hunt “[drowned in a slurry pit](#)”. Several dogs fell into the pit during a chase that occurred after the dogs were entered into a locked quarry.”

This Zetland foxhound was reported as having been [hit and killed by a car](#) on the 28th of January at approx 9am. It appears likely it had been left behind after a hunting day, and been out all night.



Video showing dogs from the Flint & Denbigh running into 70mph traffic on the A55. One [appears to have been 'clipped' by a fast-moving lorry](#). It is unlikely this dog would have survived if so.

On 12/02/26, two dogs from the Cheshire Forest Hunt died after [one was shot and another was hit by a train](#). A third dog was also shot.

A dog from the Vale of Taunton and Banwell Harriers was [reported killed on the road](#) near Milverton on 11/02/26.

This same report contains the following: "...the drone filmed (James Parish) unloading his terrier and spade from his quad. The poor terrier had been knocking around in a box with no air holes as he was charging around the fields for the day."

It is, of course, not only foxhounds and staghounds who suffer, but terriers, too. This [injured terrier](#) was left behind by Cottesmore terriermen caught digging at a badger sett on 20/01/26.



Every one of these dogs deserved better.

