

Hunt Havoc published on the web and in the press from Jan 2007 to date

Hunt invades nature reserve - Somerset

9/1/2007 - Western Daily Press - HUNT 'USED NATURE RESERVE'

Anti-hunt protesters in Somerset have called for the prosecutions of huntsmen who they allege illegally charged across a nature reserve with a pack of hounds. Helen Weeks, of West Coker, near Yeovil, said members of the Cattistock Hunt broke the law when they burst on to Hardington Moor nature reserve on December 30.....

Monitor assaulted - Oxfordshire

18.1.07 -Oxford Times- Police investigate hunt assault claim By Hayley Cover - A 60-YEAR-OLD hunt monitor said she was violently knocked to the ground by a supporter as she tried to film a hunt taking place in Oxfordshire. Judy Gilbert, a hunt monitor for Protect Our Wild Animals - an anti-hunt organisation - was filming the Heythrop Hunt in Dean, near Chipping Norton, when she claims a supporter of the hunt attacked her...

Monitors threatened, hunt supporter fined - Somerset

30.1.07 -Western Daily Press- HUNT OFFICIAL IS FINED £80 - A hunt steward has been fined £80 for using threatening behaviour towards two hunt monitors on Boxing Day. Mervyn Dowell, a steward for Cotley Harriers, harassed and threatened League Against Cruel Sports monitor Graham Forsythe and Helen Weeks from Protect Our Wild Animals, as they attempted to video the Harriers near Yeovil....

Hounds scare ponies and invade graveyard – Warwickshire

1/2/2007 – Banbury Guardian – Hounds scare ponies

Hunt hounds tore through a village causing havoc and terrorising ponies, according to residents. A letter was sent to the Warwickshire Hunt registering Milcombe Parish Council's disapproval and disgust at the behaviour of hunt riders and hounds at a meet in the village last month. Villagers claim the hounds were totally out of control, panicking ponies in Low Field which became entangled in fencing....They say the dogs then crossed over the wall into the churchyard and out on the main road, causing an extremely hazardous situation for drivers and pedestrians. Villager Sheils Moore said "I saw them running loose, there was nobody with them....My Dad's buried in that graveyard and I didn't like the thought of the dogs running wild in there". The ponies' owner June Oxley was contacted in Banbury and told what was happening. "I got back there and my ponies were in a terrible state" she said."Their back legs were still shaking about an hour and a half afterwards. The smaller pony was very badly affected....Since then I've been very worried about letting my children ride because she's very nervous...I've sent them off to be looked after and ridden somewhere else...I had to spend several hours clearing up the mess.".....

Note: The Warwickshire hunt killed a pet cat in the village of Milcombe on 5th January 2000

Hounds invade garden - Gloucestershire

2/2/07 - Malvern Gazette - Pregnant woman in fear of hunt dogs -NORTH Ledbury Hunt **says it was following an artificially laid trail when two of its hounds ran into the garden of a home** in Ashperton. Rebecca Cummings, of Haywood Lane, claims she was laughed at by hunt members as she tried to save her two cats from the hounds in her garden.....

Guardians of the Land?!? North Shropshire Hunt Guilty of Polluting waterways - Shropshire

2/2/2007 – Environment Agency – Prosecution, Water Pollution

On 30 January 2007, the North Shropshire Hunt pleaded guilty at Market Drayton Magistrates Court to four charges relating to breaching a discharge consent to the River Roden between May 2005 and December 2005. The North Shropshire Hunt was fined a total of £3,000 and ordered to pay costs of £1,181.10. The Environment Agency brought the charges under the Water Resources Act 1991. For the Environment Agency, Kiran Cassini told the court that the North Shropshire Hunt was allowed to discharge treated sewage effluent into the River Roden from a treatment plant serving the kennels and three dwellings at Lee Brockhurst, Shropshire. Between May 2003 and December 2005 the Environment Agency took regular samples from the discharge to examine the water quality. The samples showed that the effluent had high suspended solids and high biological oxygen demand which means that the discharge would use up valuable oxygen in the river that fish and insects need to survive..... In mitigation, the Court were told that North Shropshire Hunt had acted in good faith having taken advice from experts to put the problem right. They had spent in excess of £32,000 in order to resolve ongoing problems and had now made the decision to move the hounds to another part of the County. This was planned for March 2007.

The Court took four similar offences into consideration. They also gave the company credit for early guilty pleas.

<http://environment.gov.uk/news/1695170?region=Midlands+Region&>

Fox killed by hounds - Wiltshire

3.2.07 -Western Daily Press -BEAUFORT HOUNDS KILL FOX - THEY KILLED FOX IN MY GARDEN - A leading hunt is being investigated by police after its hounds killed a fox in a pensioner's garden. The Beaufort Hunt blamed the killing of a fox in Sherston, Wiltshire, on **strong winds which blew the legal trail scent further away....**

Monitor attacked, hunt supporter cautioned – Gloucestershire/Oxfordshire

8.2.07 -Gloucester Citizen- HUNT SUPPORTER CAUTIONED FOR PLANTING NAIL IN MARS BAR - A Hunt supporter has been cautioned after trying to puncture a tyre with a nail hidden in a Mars bar. The attack on a hunt monitor's car came as the Heythrop Hunt, which meets in Stow-on-the-Wold, was riding on the Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire border in January...."A closer inspection revealed that the woman had placed a two-inch nail, embedded in a Mars bar, in front of one of the tyres," said Powa spokeswoman Penny Little.... The film was given to police and the woman was arrested and cautioned.....

Hunt supporters urged to falsify evidence against monitors – all counties

9.2.07 -Western Daily Press- ANGER AT ALLIANCE CALL TO SABOTAGE ANTI-HUNT VIDEOS - Hunt leaders have urged their supporters to pretend they are being harassed or assaulted by anti-hunt monitors in a bid to sabotage video evidence. **The West's director of the Countryside Alliance said the astonishing tip came from a police officer, who advised the best way to scupper any video evidence taken by monitors was to make up stories about being abused by those doing the filming....** In a leaked email sent in early January and seen by the Western Daily Press, South West regional director Alison Hawes urged Countryside Alliance members, hunt staff and followers to turn the tables on monitors by pretending they have been threatened or attacked....

Monitor assaulted, hunt supporter convicted - Devon

12.2.07 -Western Daily Press- HUNTSMAN ASSAULTED PENSIONER BY TRISTAN CORK - A pensioner said she would continue to monitor hunts despite fearing for her life when she was assaulted by a huntsman. And after the conviction of a West hunt leader, Yvonne Nicola, 66, said hunts should not use violence if they had nothing to hide from monitors. Anthony Allibone, a huntsman with the Dulverton Farmers' Hunt, was convicted of assaulting Ms Nicola by allowing or making his horse push her when the hunt confronted a trio of monitors on Exmoor last year....

Illegal hunting reported - Sussex

15.2.07 -Argus- Have fox hunters broken law? By Katya Mira - A hunt has been accused of fox hunting two years after it was outlawed. The League Against Cruel Sports says its images of Crawley and Horsham Hunt members chasing a fox, cutting off foxes' tails and throwing dead foxes to the hounds show them breaking the law.... But joint hunt master Anthony Sandeman, of Bolney, said he had watched the DVD and denied it showed anything illegal. He said it was heavily edited and patched together from different takes... Chief Inspector Nick May said: "It would be inappropriate for us to comment on the allegations until the material has been viewed and the allegations investigated."

Police not enforcing hunt law – all counties

19.2.07 BBC News Online -Police 'not enforcing hunt law'- Police are adopting a "pick and mix" attitude to the law on hunting and ignoring offences, anti-hunt campaigners say. Marking two years since the introduction of a ban on hunting with dogs, protesters in Parliament Square called for better enforcement. Activists, dressed as bank robbers and gangsters, said hunts were "openly breaking the law".... Spokesman for the protesters John Curtin said: "It is very difficult to get evidence of it, but **everyone in the countryside knows that hunting is going on...**

QC says hunts' use of bird of prey is illegal – all counties

19.2.07 -Guardian- Birds of prey 'loophole' breaks law, claims QC - Steven Morris - **A barrister yesterday claimed hunts using birds of prey to circumvent the ban on hunting with dogs are breaking the law...** In a legal opinion for the League Against Cruel Sports and the International Fund for Animal Welfare Anthony Scrivener QC said this would be against the law as - with the possible exception of golden eagles - birds of prey do not hunt foxes....

Hounds invade animal sanctuary, hunters abuse workers – Norfolk

19/2/2007 - Hunt cause havoc at animal sanctuary - Radio Norfolk - On Monday the West Norfolk Foxhound caused havoc at a Norfolk animal sanctuary. The huntsman lost control of hounds after allegedly following a trail. After sanctuary staff asked the hunt to remove their animals, members of the West Norfolk foxhounds spat and rode at the workers, leaving two of them with injured. Two other workers witnessed the hounds killing something in the field. Staff are convinced it is one of their rescued cats which has failed to return.....

Hounds invade gardens - Dorset

22/2/2007 - Western Gazette - POLICE PROBE HOUNDS IN GARDENS CLAIM
Police are investigating claims a pack of hounds ran through people's gardens in Sturminster Newton on Tuesday and killed a fox. Police were called to the Bath Road area shortly after 4pm and found the dead fox in the garden of a property. Members of the Blackmore and Sparkford Vale Hunt are believed to have been in the area at the time and the hunt has launched its own investigation into the incident.

Fox killed by hounds - Essex

22.2.07 -Herts & Essex Observer- Probe after hunt hounds kill fox - A POLICE investigation is under way after a fox was killed by a pack of hunting hounds. A Puckeridge Hunt spokesman has admitted that 25 dogs chased the animal, but described the killing between Duddenhoe End and Langley Upper Green as an “**accident**”...

Monitor attacked, hunt supporter cautioned – Gloucestershire/Oxfordshire

22.2.07 - Wilts & Glos Standard - Gran’s anger as abusive hunt supporter cautioned By Jenni Silver - A HUNT supporter subjected a grandmother to a torrent of verbal abuse and caused several hundred pounds worth of damage to her car in a bid to stop her monitoring the Vale of the White Horse Hunt. Judy Gilbert, 60, was left shaken by the ordeal as she watched the VWH at Filkins Farm near Lechlade but determined to carry on doing her job. The incident happened on December 2 last year but came to light this week when her attacker was cautioned by Thames Valley Police....

Hounds invade animal sanctuary - Norwich

23.2.07 -Norwich Evening News- Row after hunt spills on to animal sanctuary land - DAVID BALE - A row has broken out after an animal sanctuary volunteer claimed to police she was hurt when a hunt spilled over onto land they should not have been on. Deborah Sparkes, a volunteer at the PACT animal sanctuary in Woodrising, has lodged a complaint to the police about the behaviour of the West Norfolk Foxhounds. She said she and Chris Rockingham, another volunteer at the sanctuary, **suffered a bruised hip when three huntsmen galloped towards her and two others, forcing them to take cover**. But the joint master of the hunt denied any wrongdoing and said he was unaware any hounds or huntsmen trespassed onto land where they should not have been during Monday’s hunt....

Hunts using birds of prey ‘breaking the law’ - Leicestershire

26.2.07 – Leicester Mercury - 'HUNTS USING BIRDS OF PREY BREAKING THE LAW' BY GARY MITCHELL - Hunt leaders today dismissed claims by animal rights campaigners that hounds were still being used illegally to kill foxes. Top barrister Anthony Scrivener, QC, has spoken out on behalf of the League Against Cruel Sports, which says some **hunts are pretending to use birds of prey so they can carry on hunting with dogs**. ... Jane Knight, joint master of the Cottesmore Hunt, which takes a golden eagle out on hunts, said: "We happen to use a golden eagle because they are powerful hunting machines, but the law does not specify which birds of prey can be used.... Joe Cowen, of the Fernie Hunt, which uses a hawk, said: "Quite a lot of hunts use birds of prey.... The Quorn, Belvoir and Atherstone hunts have also turned to birds of prey....

www.thisisleicestershire.co.uk

Fox killed by hounds in garden - Dorset

27/2/2007 North Dorset News,Daily Echo - Fox killed by hounds claim - POLICE have launched an investigation after a pack of hounds allegedly **cornered and killed a fox in a domestic garden**. They are also looking at claims that a pet rabbits and cats were also attacked. Police officers recovered the mutilated body of a fox in a rear garden of a house in Bath Road, Sturminster Newton, last Tuesday at 4.10pm. PC Paul Hollick, of Sturminster Newton police, said: “Alarmed home owners have told us that a number of hunting hounds chased a fox through several private gardens. “Apparently the hounds cornered the fox against a fence before one resident tried to beat back the hounds - fearing that a pet cat had also been caught by the hounds.....

Hound killed on A24 - Sussex

27/2/2007 – HSA - Hound killed as Crawley and Horsham Hunt -....The hunt met at 11am at The Bridge Pub, Copsale near Horsham, West Sussex..... Despite intimidation from the 'hunt stewards' present (employed by the hunt to prevent monitors getting near enough to the action to get video evidence) and tampering with the monitors vehicle by letting a tyre down, monitors remained with the hunt throughout the day. Just before 3pm this afternoon a hound was killed after straying onto the busy A24.....

Hounds invade falconry centre – Gloucestershire

1st March 2007 - Cotswold Journal - Rare breed birds panic as hunt hounds invade NESTING birds at the Falconry Centre at Batsford scattered their eggs and were injured flying around cages in panic **as hounds from the Heythrop Hunt tore through** on Saturday. Families with young children in pushchairs and toddlers screamed in terror as the pack of around 20 hounds bounded through the centre and neighbouring Arboretum Garden Centre. Geoff Dalton, founder of the falconry centre, said staff were now anxiously monitoring birds and their eggs to see if the breeding programme for this year was ruined.....

http://www.cotswoldjournal.co.uk/news/cotsnewsroundup/display.var.1229011.0.rare_breed_birds

Hounds invade nature reserve & tear animal apart - Oxfordshire

5/3/2007 - Claim that hounds tore animal apart - ANTI-hunt activists have called for police action after clashes at an outing of the Old Berkshire Hunt at Uffington. Members of the group Protect Our Wild Animals (Powa) monitoring an all-day meeting of the hunt on Saturday, February 24, claimed the hounds invaded a fenced nature reserve near the village and were filmed "tearing an animal apart". The reserve, Uffington Gorse, is owned by the Woodland Trust, the UK's leading woodland conservation charity, which said it might pursue the illegal invasion of its land.

The Powa supporters said the film was being forwarded to the police. They said a later examination of the wood revealed evidence of "multiple hoofprints" in the mud within Uffington Gorse.....A spokesman for the Woodland Trust, created in the 1920s to protect areas of native woodland as wildlife habitats, insisted **the hunt did not have permission to go into the Gorse** on horseback. "They have permission to go on to our land to retrieve stray hounds with a maximum of three people, but this has to be on foot and not on horseback They have to seek permission each season, and **the last time this particular hunt asked for permission was during 1997-8...**"

http://www.heraldseries.net/news/hswantagenews/display.var.1236476.0.claim_that_hounds_tore_animal_apart.php

Guilty: Hare Chased & Killed - Suffolk

5/3/2007 – East Anglian Daily Times – First Case in Suffolk – The first case in Suffolk to be prosecuted successfully under the Hunting Act 2004.....originally claimed his lurcher type dog had slipped it's lead before chasing and killing a hare but later pleaded guilty to the charge of hunting a wild mammal with a dog on land near Stowmarket.....fined him £500 for the offence.

http://www.league.org.uk/uploads/documents/doc_450.pdf

Intimidation after complaining about hunt – Kent

15/3/2007 – Kent & Sussex Courier – ‘OAP THREATENED’ after complaint about hunt dogs

A Woman from Brasted Chart has been left terrified after receiving a threatening phone call she believes was from hunt supporters.

The 68-year-old, who was too frightened to be named, said she was verbally attacked after complaining about “frenzied, screaming hounds” bursting into her garden in pursuit of a fox. Shaken from the incident, she contacted Chartwell, the former home of Winston Churchill now owned by the National Trust, whose land the Surrey, Burstow and West Kent Hunt was using. Later that day she received the abusive phone call.

“After speaking to Chartwell, I was told they had contacted someone from the hunt,” she said. “That evening the phone rang and straight away a man started swearing and said if I complained about the hunt he would come and mess my garden up. I was so shocked I had an angina attack. It was just so unnerving, so we called the police.” Police have launched a probe into the phone call.....

<http://www.thisiskentandeastsussex.co.uk/displayNode.jsp?nodeId=142759&command=displayContent&sourceNode=142742&contentPK=16875860&moduleName=InternalSearch&formname=sidebarsearch>

Illegal Hunting costs £6000 – Chester

27/3/2007 – Times Online – Man to pay £6,000 for Hunting - A man has been ordered to pay almost £6,000 after being found guilty of hunting a fox with dogs. Paul McMullan, 36, who was convicted of using a dog to flush out a fox from a badger sett in January 2006, was fined £750 by Chester magistrates, and ordered to pay £5,000 costs and to forfeit his terrier and lurcher dogs into RSPCA care. Two other men and a youth were sentenced last year after admitting their role. It was the first prosecution brought by the RSPCA under the Hunting Act 2004.

The court was told that the three men and the youth put two dogs into the sett to flush out a fox which they allowed their dogs to kill. Police were alerted by a member of the public, and a dead vixen was found nearby by. RSPCA chief inspector Ian Briggs said later: “The ability to make animals suffer for sport is barbaric and we are glad to see the court has given a very clear judgment on this”.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/crime/article1573470.ece>

Guilty of hunting deer with hounds - Exmoor

7/6/2007 – BBC News Online - Pair guilty of hunting with dogs - Two men have been found guilty of illegally hunting deer with hounds. Huntsman Richard Down, 44, and whipper-in Adrian Pillivant, 36 of the Quantock Staghounds were convicted at Bristol Magistrates' Court.

Anti-hunt campaigners filmed two hounds chasing deer on Exmoor. The League Against Cruel Sports (LACS) said the deer were chased for more than an hour. Both men had denied contravening the Hunting Act, which came into force in February 2005.

Down, 44, of Bagborough, Somerset, and Pillivant, 36, of Willand, Devon had argued throughout the trial that they had been hunting the deer within the law. **District Judge David Parsons said their argument was "disingenuous"** and fined both men £500 and ordered them to pay £1,000 each as a contribution towards costs.

He said: "Neither defendant has established on the balance of probability that he reasonably believed the hunting was exempt. **The defendants were hunting for sport and recreation to continue their way of life and are disingenuous in attempting to deceive me into believing that they were exempt from hunting.**"

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/somerset/6729983.stm>

Hunter fined for hare coursing - Northamptonshire

4/7/2007 – Northampton Chronicle - First successful prosecution (for Hare Coursing) - THE first person to be successfully prosecuted under the Hunting Act for hare coursing in Britain has been fined by magistrates in Northampton. James Rooney appeared for trial yesterday after denying illegally hunting hares in the county, but changed his plea to guilty moments before the hearing, at Northampton Magistrates Court...

Handing the father-of-four a £200 fine plus £250 for court costs, presiding magistrate Marion Oliver made him the first person ever to be successfully prosecuted for the offence under the act, which came into force in February last year. Spokesman for the League Against Cruel Sports, Barry Hugill, welcomed the conviction. He said: "We are delighted that Northamptonshire Police brought this prosecution to court."

<http://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/news?articleid=3001750>

Flint and Denbigh Hunt terrier man guilty of illegal hunting - Wales

30/7/2007 – BBC News Online - Man fined in Hunting Act 'first' -

A 69-year-old has been fined £200 after what is believed to be the first case in Wales under the Hunting Act 2004.

William Francis Armstrong from near St Asaph, Denbighshire, admitted hunting a wild animal with a dog after he was seen putting a terrier into a hole. The terrier man, who was not at the hearing at Prestatyn Magistrates' Court, was ordered to pay £60 costs.....

The charge was brought against Armstrong after he was spotted by an off-duty police officer on the Clwydian Hills above Llangwyfan, Denbighshire on 2 January. Gareth Preston, prosecuting, said the sergeant had been out walking and noticed sheep running ahead of the Flint and Denbigh Hunt.

From a distance, he watched the hunt close in on a fox hole and saw Armstrong, the terrier man, bring a terrier dog to the hole and send it down the hole. Armstrong was then seen using a spade to dig down after the dog towards the fox, the court heard.....

A case against landowner Peter Rowley Williams, 48, of Llangwyfan, for permitting land to be used for hunting on the same day, was dropped by the prosecution.....

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/north_east/6922427.stm

Gang Arrested and Cautioned for hunting with dogs - Kent

25/9/07 - Kent Messenger - Hunting with dogs gang arrested - POLICE chased and arrested five men for hunting a wild animal with dogs. Officers were called to a farm in Minster on Friday night after receiving reports that the hunt was happening. The men tried to escape but police caught up with them in a 4x4 vehicle. All five were given cautions.

Ch Insp Mark Chambers said: "These arrests send out a clear message that the hunting of wild mammals with dogs is not acceptable."

Huntsman guilty of interference with badger sett - Northamptonshire

25/9/2007 – Badger Trust - Huntsman arrested for interference with badger sett

On the 7th of August 2007 a **huntsman for the Duke of Northumberland's Percy Hunt**, Robert McCarthy, appeared at South East Northumberland Magistrates Court and pleaded guilty to two offences of Badger Sett Interference, Contrary to Section 3 (1) (b) of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992. He was given a Conditional Discharge for 9 months and costs of £43.

The arrest was a result of Intelligence, a joint Operation (code named "Operation Newark") between Northumbria Police, The RSPCA Special Operations Unit and the Northumberland Wildlife Trust Badger group. Robert McCarthy was observed attacking a sett with spades and were subsequently apprehended and arrested for Badger Sett interference and thereafter it was confirmed that two badger setts had been attacked and the entrances all filled with soil.

P.C Andy Swinburne said " This was from the onset a potentially high profile politically sensitive case, but **with excellent collaboration of all agencies involved and strong evidence gained which incorporated the use of the Wildlife Forensic Services Badger DNA Database, Video and Digital images (which included aerial images taken by the North East Air Support Unit), it has resulted in a quick and swift guilty plea**, despite Mr McCarthy during interview being adamant that the setts were in fact fox earths".

“The illegal blocking of badger setts by fox hunts is still widespread, despite having serious welfare implications for badgers. This conviction is an excellent result and should send a clear message to hunts that illegal blocking of badger setts is wholly unacceptable”.....

http://www.nfbg.org.uk/_Attachments/Resources/135_S4.pdf

Charges of illegal hare coursing - Yorkshire

26/09/2007 – Daily Mirror - Fat lady Clarissa on hunt charges

Celebrity chef Clarissa Dickson Wright and racehorse trainer Sir Mark Prescott face charges of hunting hares with dogs. Dickson Wright, of TV's Two Fat Ladies, and Sir Mark are alleged to have taken part in the banned activity - known as hare coursing - in a private International Fund for Animal Welfare prosecution. They are accused of hare coursing at two events near Malton, North Yorks.

Dickson Wright, 60, was a barrister before she shot to fame in the hit 1990s BBC2 food show, while baronet Sir Mark, 59, has trained more than 1,200 winners at his Newmarket stables. They are due before Scarborough magistrates on November 9.

Another trainer, Peter Easterby, faces public prosecution at the same court on November 19 for allegedly allowing his land to be used for hare coursing. He is on bail with four other defendants.

Hare coursing was outlawed with fox hunting in 2005.

HOUNDS SAVAGE PET TERRIER - Somerset

4.10.07 – Western Gazette - HORROR AS HOUNDS SAVAGE PET TERRIER –

The heartbroken owners of a pet dog have spoken of their devastation after it was mauled in an attack by hounds last week.

On Monday morning John Pettinger was walking his nine-month-old Jack Russell called Spike on its lead when it was pounced on by a 30-strong pack belonging to the Blackmore and Sparkford Vale Hunt.

Mr Pettinger, aged 60, managed to break them free but only after Spike suffered serious injuries and "will never be the same again."

His wife Julie, 59, said: "John was stuck in one corner and the hounds came flooding through the gate 300 yards away. There were 20-30 of them and they went straight for Spike. But by the time John got them away the damage was already done."

Spike was taken straight to the vets in Wincanton and is now recovering from his injuries at their home in Charlton Horethorne. She said: "They tore all his tummy and a lot of skin off his leg, narrowly missing vital organs."

A spokesman for the hunt said they had permission from the farm owner to be on the land but Mrs Pettinger said more controls needed to be introduced as it is a popular walking spot for dog owners.

She said: "They had no whistle or horn and nothing to control them and how can they be free to do something like this with no provocation? Everyone here is very concerned. It has always been a safe place to walk dogs. If he had not been on a lead, they would have killed him. It could have been a child, God knows what would have happened."

A spokesman for the Blackmore and Sparkford Vale hunt said: "The staff of the hunt were very concerned for the terrier's welfare after this accident happened. Hunt staff have a wealth of experience with dogs and hounds and wanted to help as much as they could. We have a very good relationship with the farmer whose land it is and have permission to use all the land."

Hunter convicted of GBH on monitor - Sussex

11/10/2007 – Brighton Argus - Hunt supporter guilty of attack on protester - A 69-year-old hunt supporter has been found guilty of GBH after he broke a protester's arm with his walking stick. John Hawkins, of Singers Farm, Henfield Road, Cowfold, denied causing grievous bodily harm to Lynn Phillips but **today a jury at Brighton Crown Court returned a majority guilty verdict.**

During the trial the court heard violence had flared at the end of a meeting of the Crawley and Horsham Hunt on January 29 2005. Hawkins hit Ms Phillips once on the head and again on the arm with his walking stick as groups of pro and anti-hunt supporters gathered on Spear Hill, at Shipley, near Horsham.

Ms Phillips told the court she was left screaming in pain by the attack.

She said: "I thought I was going to die. I was hysterical."

http://www.theargus.co.uk/news/localnews/display.var.1754675.0.hunt_supporter_guilty_of_attack_on_protester.php

Monitors assaulted, violent hunt linked to Cameron – Oxfordshire

18.10.07 – Daily Mirror - David Cameron link to violent hunt - Violent huntsmen who attacked elderly protesters helped propel Tory leader David Cameron to power, the Mirror can reveal today. Members of the Heythrop Hunt have been captured on video roughing up demonstrators and damaging their cars. But they helped Mr Cameron get elected as an MP in 2001 by canvassing votes for him. **Mr Cameron openly supports hunting and pledges to end the ban on using hounds if elected.** He has ridden with the Heythrop, has friends who work for it and its members work as Tory activists to help him in election campaigns. But leaked documents reveal the sickening violence behind this hunt.

Police have repeatedly investigated it over allegations that members hunted foxes illegally.....(story)

31.10.07 – Daily Mirror - Anti-hunt Mirror is praised By Graham Brough - The Daily Mirror's expose of the violent conduct by supporters of Tory leader David Cameron's local hunt has been praised in Parliament. An all party group of MPs, including Tory veteran Ann Widdecombe and left-wing actress Glenda Jackson, signed an Early Day Motion congratulating the Mirror for our work protecting animals. We revealed supporters of Heythrop Hunt, which operates near Mr Cameron's constituency in Witney, Oxon, used violence, bad language, criminal damage and intimidation to stop monitors observing them hunt.... (story)

POLICE FIND RESOURCES.....to descend on rat catchers

15/10/2007 - Liverpool Echo - Gang fined for setting dogs on rats

DETECTIVES trapped a Liverpool gang who dug up rats and then watched them being ripped apart by a pack of dogs. Seven men were caught taking part in the hunt on private farm land in St Helens....Armed with spades they pinpointed rat runs and pulled up sods of earth to expose the rodents.

A police helicopter monitored the gang from above as the spaniels and terriers ripped the rats to pieces.

When police arrived on February 28 they found around 30 animal carcasses strewn across the ground.

The men were arrested and charged after police took their registration numbers. They were **convicted of hunting a wild mammal with dogs** and each fined £400 and ordered to pay £65 court costs at St Helens magistrates court.....were all issued with Section 59 orders which prevents them driving on to private land. They also received a harassment notice.....

MP Calls for Licensed Hunt Monitors – all counties

1/11/2007 – BBC News Online - Are licensed hunting monitors needed?

As hunts across the country mark the first day of the season, are licensed monitors needed to stop the fox hunting ban being broken? Tory MP Anne Widdecombe said on Thursday that there was a "widespread ignoring" of the hunting ban and that monitors, who film hunts, should be licensed. Under the 2004 Hunting Act - introduced in February 2005 - packs of dogs can no longer be used to chase wild foxes.

Hunts must now use techniques such as drag hunting, where dogs follow a trail laid in advance by a runner or rider dragging a lure. Miss Widdecombe said some hunts were flouting the act by chasing

foxes with dogs, but that it was not practical to deploy police "in large numbers throughout the countryside".

"What is happening is widespread ignoring of the ban - it's a nonsense to suppose people are out there faithfully adhering to the law and just jumping through the odd loophole," she said.

She added: "There are people called hunt monitors who film and then produce evidence of illegal hunting which they send to the police. "My view is what we should do is license monitors and then make it an offence to obstruct them."

Barry Hugill, spokesman for the league, said Miss Widdecombe's comments reflected its concerns about "threats" made to monitors by people on hunts. This ranged from "verbal abuse to physical assault", he said.

He said monitors had done a valuable job in helping the league to succeed in three private prosecutions relating to breaches of the Hunting Act. There had also been a further 20 convictions brought under the act, he added. Some hunts were "determined to break the law," he said. Mr Hugill also alleged that hunts were using underhand tactics to get around the ban.

"It's not illegal to go out with a pack of hounds so they will hunt a scent. **Then, surprise, surprise, the hounds will come across a real fox** and the hunters will say that, despite their best efforts, they can't control their hounds." Mr Hugill said that before the ban, hunts took great pride in the control of hounds.

"We would say that any hunt that can't control its hounds should not be out," Mr Hugill added.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7073229.stm>

Police risk being accused of bias – Avon & Somerset

1/11/2007 – Bristol Evening Post - Police must crack down on hunters who flout the law - to protect the force from accusations that it is biased, claims MP Dan Norris. The Wansdyke Labour MP wants Avon and Somerset Constabulary to push the hunting ban up its list of priorities.

He says the law should be applied **"without fear or favour"** in rural parts of the region as well as urban centres.

Mr Norris was speaking after a meeting in the Commons on the difficulties of enforcing the controversial Hunting Act. Police chiefs, representatives of the Crown Prosecution Service and politicians were told there have only been three successful prosecutions, which have all been brought privately.....Mr Norris said: "There is very real frustration that [successful] private prosecutions have been brought in the Avon and Somerset that hadn't been brought forward by the police. Whatever people's views, there can't be 'no-go areas' in terms of the law. I will be talking to the chief constable about this. I want to see the Avon and Somerset force, without fear or favour, applying the laws of the land across urban and rural areas.

"The proof of the pudding is in the eating. No one is above the law. **The police are leaving themselves open to claims, in my opinion unfounded, that they act in a biased way.**"

<http://www.thisisbristol.co.uk/displayNode.jsp?nodeId=145365&command=displayContent&sourceNo=145191&contentPK=18838239&folderPk=83726&pNodeId=144922>

Dunston Harriers – Hounds Invade Wildlife Trust reserve - Norfolk

10/11/2007 – Video footage on YouTube – Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Aswellthorpe, Norfolk

Investigations by officers from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust confirmed that hounds from the Dunston Harriers did enter the nature reserve on 10th November. Norfolk Wildlife Trust has a “no dogs” policy and owns the sporting rights to Lower Wood, Aswellthorpe but at no time has NWT granted permission for the hunt to enter the site. The hunt was invited by the neighbouring landowner. NWT have asked both the Dunston Harriers and the neighbour to ensure that controls are put in place to avoid hounds straying into the wood requesting that any ‘scented trail’ is placed with a sufficient margin from the wood.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ArypSkys4k>

Hounds chase fox - Essex

16/11/2007 – Western Gazette - Hunters deny chasing fox - Police were called to an alleged fox hunt in Friday Woods, Colchester. A Berechurch resident called officers after spotting about 10 riders and about 30 hounds racing through the woods at noon on Wednesday. The caller claimed they had heard someone shout: "The fox went this way."

The Hunting Act 2004, which came into force in February 2005, makes it an offence to hunt a wild mammal with a dog. Under the legislation, hunting foxes with dogs is illegal, but hounds can be used to follow a pre-laid scent.

The man said that the hunt may have disturbed a fox en route, but insisted they were carrying out a legal drag hunt only.

http://www.gazette-news.co.uk/news/local/display.var.1838291.0.colchester_hunters_deny_chasing_fox.php

ASBO for Cotswold Hunt - Gloucestershire

18/11/2007 – Independent on Sunday - How Denise Ward served an Asbo warning on her local hunt

After her village was terrorised by a pack of rampaging hounds, and their equally aggressive owners, Denise Ward decided to fight back....

The first time it happened was around two years ago, in mid-November. It was a beautiful day and a small group of us had got together in the hamlet. I was chatting to my elderly neighbour when we all heard a terrible noise. It was a bloodcurdling, snarling uproar – as if some wild animals were smashing about in the undergrowth.

A deer came crashing down through all the gardens in the hamlet, pursued by baying hounds. It leapt along the lane past a resident it was too terrified to notice, and back up again into the woods just behind my neighbours' house, where it ran frantically up and down the slope, crashing noisily around with the hounds close behind.

As we stood there helplessly, they caught it. It screamed piteously and we could hear the hounds savaging it in loud and hideous detail. It was horrific. It was so sudden and so violent it was like a car crash. No one knew what to do; we all just stood there.....

http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/this_britain/article3167759.ece

Monitor harassed, hunt steward warned by police - Sussex

18/11/2007 - Hunt steward receives a warning under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997.

Police have issued a warning to Christopher Curtis, a hunt steward with the Crawley and Horsham after harassing a hunt monitor.

Sergeant Philip of Sussex police wrote to say: *"I am of the opinion having viewed the footage that you were subject to harassment by way of Mr Curtis blocking you from carrying out lawful activity, in this case filming, in a public place. I have personally issued a harassment warning to him of which he has accepted."*

Landowner revokes hunt's permission - And in a separate incident involving Curtis, a landowner has revoked the Crawley and Horsham hunt's permission to go on their land. The incident arose from the harassment tactics of Curtis on a public bridleway at Partridge Green, Horsham last season. Curtis claimed to be acting "for the landowner". However, following complaints to the West Sussex County Council's Rights of Way officer, the council warned the landowner and provided a video of the behaviour. This resulted in the landowner revoking the hunts permission.....

Monitors assaulted, camcorder stolen - Wiltshire

21/11/2007 – Western Daily Press - HUNT PAIR ADMIT THEFT

The leader of a group of anti-hunt monitors has questioned the motives of two hunt supporters who stole a video camera from a woman during a confrontation at a meet. Malcolm Scobie, 41, and David Gibbons, 52, were due to stand trial for robbery after a meet of the Avon Vale hunt near Melksham in October 2005.

But at Swindon Crown Court this week, the pair admitted a lesser charge of theft, and were ordered to pay £175 compensation to anti-hunt monitor Melanie Bates. Judge Douglas Field gave the pair a one-year conditional discharge.

After the case, anti-hunt campaigner Aubrey Burge said: "These two consistently denied doing this, right up until the day they stood in court. We think the sentence is far too lenient, and the question remains, **if the Avon Vale hunt is doing everything legally, why did they have to steal a video camera?"**

<http://www.westpress.co.uk/displayNode.jsp?nodeId=146238&command=displayContent&sourceNode=146064&contentPK=19025868&folderPk=100268&pNodeId=145795>

Protestors assaulted, fox chased - Suffolk

24/11/2007 – HSA - PROTESTORS ATTACKEDAt the Essex and Suffolk Hunt, held at Bluegate Farm, Wherstead today (Sat 24th November) a hunt rider was seen to ride his horse over a female protester repeatedly, causing significant injuries to her legs and back.

While the hunt were in the vicinity of Freston Church, it is alleged that the hounds were chasing a fox over a road after emerging from a wood in pursuit. It is claimed that the huntsman was closeby and was doing nothing to prevent the hounds from chasing the live quarry....

Monitors Assaulted – Gloucestershire

27/11/2007 – Mirror – Ferry son arrested

Pro-hunting campaigner Otis Ferry has been arrested after an incident in which two women claim they were attacked. Ferry, 25 - son of Roxy Music singer Bryan - was riding with the Heythrop Hunt in Tory leader David Cameron's constituency when he allegedly confronted two women in a car who were monitoring the hunt.

Afterwards both women saw a doctor. And they claimed that their video camera and satellite navigation system had been stolen.

A police spokesman said: "A man has been arrested in connection with this incident for offensive robbery and is currently on police bail until January 8."

A month ago the Mirror revealed a catalogue of violence and abuse by the Heythrop Hunt against pensioners and female monitors. The latest incident will embarrass David Cameron, who has ridden with the hunt and is friends with the secretary. Members even helped him into the Commons by canvassing for him when he stood as an MP.

The latest violence erupted as the hunt was finishing for the day in Chipping Norton in Mr Cameron's Oxfordshire constituency. Ferry and another man, who has not yet been arrested, allegedly went towards the women in their car to stop them filming the hunt. The other man is said to have ripped out a window and hit a woman with a CB radio antenna he had broken off the roof. She was bruised and severely shocked.

Ferry allegedly grabbed a video camera from the footwell and **wrestled the keys** from one woman, bruising her arms and shoulder. The men rode off as the women called the police. Police arrested Ferry at his home the following day.

Hunt protester Penny Little said: "Both women had to have treatment for bruising and shock.

"All they were trying to do was film hunting, which the Heythrop claims is legal and which we are suspicious of."

Ferry gained notoriety in 2004 as one of eight pro-hunting activists who showered flour on MPs in the House of Commons. He was fined 350 and given an 18-month conditional discharge.

Note: Earlier incident involving Ferry

27/11/2007 – BBC Online - Singer's son 'grabbed car's keys'

A paparazzi photographer has told a court he and a colleague were stuck on a road for hours when Otis Ferry snatched their car's ignition keys. Charles Pycraft and Ben Brett were trailing actress Sienna Miller in February when the incident happened, West London Magistrates' Court heard. Mr Pycraft said Mr Ferry, 25, of Cross Houses, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, snatched and then discarded the keys. Mr Ferry, son of singer Bryan Ferry, denies two charges of criminal damage...

Fox killed by hounds in garden in front of child - Worcestershire

29/11/2007 – Worcester News - Grandson watched as hounds ripped fox apart

A WOMAN and her grandson have been left traumatised after a fox was torn to shreds by hunting hounds in their Worcestershire garden. Elizabeth Cash was with her five-year-old grandson at her home in Upton Snodsbury when the hounds entered her garden.

"We were suddenly surrounded by a pack of very noisy and excited fox hounds tearing around our garden, trampling over flower beds, pushing through fencing and terrorising my grandson who was lost among the pack of hounds," she said.

The incident happened last Saturday when the pack was flushing out a fox, which the hunt later planned to kill using a bird of prey - a practice still legal in Britain. But instead the hounds got hold of the fox and killed it, although **the hunt has since said it was an accident.**

"The hounds dragged it (the fox) out in our full view to be torn apart before our eyes," Mrs Cash said. "I felt physically sick and could do nothing apart from try to shield my small grandson from the horror he was witnessing. This to me is totally unacceptable."

Chairman of Upton Snodsbury Parish Council Terry Eagle said members would be discussing the incident at their next meeting in January.

Mike Foster, MP for Worcester, who initiated the fox hunting ban in a Private Members Bill in 1997, urged Mrs Cash to contact the police. "What has happened is exactly what the whole process to stop it was about," he said. "It is to protect people from having to witness what she did. So if they have broken the law they can be prosecuted for it."

Penny Little, a spokesman for Protect our Wild Animals, called for the law to be tightened.

"Every time this happens it is said to be an accident," she said. "This is not acceptable and there needs to be a tightening of the law."

A police spokesman said officers would now investigate the matter by speaking to Mrs Cash. He said: "Fox-hunting is illegal and we respond positively to reports that it is taking place, from whatever the source."

He added that anyone with information should contact 08457 444 888.

http://www.worcesternews.co.uk/display.var.1867704.0.grandson_watched_as_hounds_ripped_fox_apart.php

POLICE FIND RESOURCES....to descend on hare coursers - Oxfordshire

3/12/2007 – Oxford Mail - Crackdown on Hare Coursing - Police are cracking down on hare coursing in Oxfordshire following concerns from local people. Officers said there had been a recent increase in complaints from landowners and farmers in Wantage about the damage hare coursing was doing to their crops and farmland.

And they said they were **taking a zero tolerance approach to those taking part in the activity** - making seven arrests in the past week..... Pc Darren James, neighbourhood specialist officer for Wantage East, added: **"Where at all possible we are arresting the people who take part in the sport. In the last week we have arrested seven people for these offences and enquiries continue into other incidents."**

http://www.oxfordmail.net/news/headlines/display.var.1876730.0.crack_down_on_hare_coursing.php

Terrierman fined for abuse - Sussex

18/12/2007 – HuntWatch - Hunt terrierman fined £80 fixed penalty for abusive behaviour

Jeremy Charman, a hunt terrier-man of the notorious Crawley and Horsham hunt based in Sussex has been fined £80.00 by police after throwing a dead rabbit at hunt monitors in November 07. Hunt monitors attending the hunt near Shipley, W. Sussex were followed by "hunt stewards" to a veterinary practice when they found a rabbit suffering from myxomatosis. In an attempt to mock this humanitarian assistance for a sick animal, Charman was later videoed throwing a dead rabbit at monitors, shouting :**"Try to revive this f*cker."**

In Nov. 06 Charman was videoed digging into a badger sett at the Heaselands estate, W. Sussex after the Crawley and Horsham hunt had chased a fox to ground. As a result, Sussex police have issued new guidelines to police and are determined not to allow hunts to dig out badger setts in future.

Forestry Commission and North Wales Police clamp down on illegal hunting - Wales

20/12/2007 - Daily Post - Hunters warned to mind the law – or face prosecution

POLICE and foresters are joining forces to clamp down on illegal hunting. Forestry Commission Wales warned fox control groups that “appropriate legal action” will be taken if they hunt in woodlands without licences. Forest district manager Ruth Jenkins said some groups also appeared to be ignoring the two-hound limit when flushing foxes.

In a letter to control societies, she wrote: “Please understand that hunting without a licence is against the law, and further action will be taken in the event of FC Wales becoming aware of illegal activity on its land.”

The message, described as a reminder, was issued at the start of the new hunting season. North Wales Police said it would prosecute offenders. Wildlife and environmental crime officer Sgt Pete Charleston, who is due to retire next month, said: “Our investigations would look not only at the liability of individuals but also that of hunt organisers and landowners.”

When the Hunting Act became law in February 2005, it banned the hunting of animals other than to protect livestock, game birds or wild birds. No more than two hounds may be used at any one time. Ruth said: “The law is clear but there still seems to be some confusion about the legislation among some groups who appear to think that our permission allows them to hunt with more than two dogs. This is not the case. **Our staff will monitor the manner in which the exempt hunting is being carried out and will work closely with the police to ensure any breaches of the law in Assembly woodlands are dealt with appropriately.**”

<http://www.dailypost.co.uk/farming-north-wales/farming-news/2007/12/20/hunters-warned-to-mind-the-law-or-face-prosecution-55578-20271148/>

Fox hunted by hounds across golf course, police disinterested - Wales

21/12/2007 – Tenby Observer - Fox shock for golfer

A local golfer who was enjoying an afternoon round of his favourite pastime was alarmed to have his game interrupted by a fox being chased by hounds. Peter Scrivens, of East Williamston, was playing on the Treyfloyne Golf Course last week when at around 1.30 pm on a quiet Wednesday afternoon he was amazed to see a fox being pursued across the green by the dogs. “They must have been on land to the rear of the golf club and, although the horses never came onto the course, I couldn’t believe what I was seeing, a fox being chased across the fifth green while I was enjoying a quiet round of golf with a friend,” explained Mr. Scrivens. **“I thought a law had been passed to put a stop to this kind of thing happening to certain animals, but obviously some are choosing to ignore it and are carrying on doing what they feel like,”** he continued. **Mr. Scrivens contacted the Police authorities, but their response left the golfer even more infuriated. “The police said that there was nothing they could do about it unless they had seen it for themselves which was extremely infuriating and makes a mockery of the ban on this kind of activity,”** he said. **“Surely if you report a criminal act it’s up to the police to act on it, but these people will continue to do what they feel like if they can get away with it.”**

<http://www.tenby-today.co.uk/today/options/news/newsdetail.cfm?id=50668>

Hunt spoils countryside for everyone else - Northumberland

21/12/2007 – Hexham Courant – Letter to Editor

"ONCE again we have been blessed by a visit from the Tynedale Hunt and once again our footpaths (to which horse riders have no right of access) have been destroyed.

When will these arrogant people spare a thought for other users of the countryside?

Their half day jaunt has seriously compromised many people's daily dog walk for the rest of this winter.

<http://www.hexham-courant.co.uk/letters/viewarticle.aspx?id=576726>

Police Blast Chaotic Boxing Day Hunt but noone charged - Sussex

27/12/2007 - Hastings Observer - Three escape injury after horse wrecks car at hunt meet

Police blast chaotic Boxing Day event - Three people were lucky to escape unharmed after a horse kicked it's hooves through a car windscreen at the annual Boxing Day drag hunt meet in Battle....The horse rider and the two people in the car were not injured but an ambulance was called and all were treated at the scene for shock. It's believed the horse sustained a cut leg in the incident.

Meanwhile, **police have branded the Boxing Day meet as 'chaotic' and accused some riders of ignoring traffic regulations. Several riders ignored 'one way' signs and animals were allowed to block the High Street.**

A pensioner had to be pulled out of the way of an oncoming horse after a rider ignored the man as he used the zebra crossing. The man was shaken, but uninjured. Meanwhile another horse blocked the same zebra crossing after it's owner left the animal tied up outside the 1066 pub as he called in for a drink.

Sgt Chris Russell said: "I have got no issues against the event itself, but they have got to take some responsibility as they are using a public road and have to abide by the same rules as everyone else.

"Some of them acted irresponsibly and did not have due consideration for other people and vehicles using the High Street."

Police did not hand out any cautions or make any arrests.....

MP on Quad bike tows children in trailer on highway - Sussex

3/1/2008 – Mirror – Quad an Idiot - Safety campaigners blast Tory MP for risking kids' lives in danger road stunt

Tory buffoon Nicholas Soames rides a quad bike with a youngster perched dangerously behind - days after a girl was killed on one of the four-wheelers. The child had to balance on a pallet wedged behind the Mid Sussex MP as he illegally towed two more children in a trailer.

None of the youngsters was strapped in or wearing a crash helmet for the perilous journey along a country lane. Police are now deciding whether to charge Mr Soames, 59, for traffic offences.

Witnesses were "gobsmacked" when the MP drove past with a trailer full of people chasing a New Year's Day hunt. Hunt monitor Maz Martins, 44, said: "The bikes can go fast. He must have been doing

about 20mph. If he'd had to brake fast someone would have been badly hurt. There was nothing to keep those children safe."

It came less than a week after Elizabeth Cooke, seven, was killed riding a quad bike near her home in Essex. She died after being hit by a Range Rover.

But Mr Soames yesterday laughed at claims he put the children at risk as he chased the Crawley and Horsham hunt on Hampshire Hill in Horsham. He said: "Come on, we were following the hounds. What was I supposed to do? I don't accept the children were at risk...."

"Those f*****s the hunt monitors are always out to get us in any way possible - and it's a coup to get a Tory MP."

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents slammed Mr Soames' actions.

Head of road safety Kevin Clinton said: "All those children and adults are in danger. Even a minor collision would send them flying all over the road, with the possibility of injury or worse."

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/topstories/2008/01/03/quad-an-idiot-89520-20273237/>

Guilty Hunters admit encouraging hounds to pursue fox - Devon

8/1/2008 – Western Daily Press – Guilty Pleas after Hunt Pair do deal with League

Two huntsmen yesterday became the first in the country to plead guilty to breaking the hunt ban after an unprecedented deal between the two sides. William Goffe and Gary Bradley admitted breaching the ban while out on an organised hunt with the Minehead Harriers in February last year.

Their guilty pleas were the first by huntsmen in the short history of the hunt ban in England, and were welcomed by the League Against Cruel Sports which brought the private prosecution. But in a deal between the hunt's lawyers and the League, charges against the Harriers' hunt master Sydney Westcott and Gary Bradley relating to an earlier allegation of illegal hunting in January 2007 were dropped by the League in return for the guilty pleas.

Bridgwater Magistrates heard how anti-hunt monitors, including League employee Graham Floyd, filmed the Minehead Harriers riding out near Alcombe, near Minehead on February 2 last year.

The court was told the Harriers had laid a trail for the hounds to follow legally, but some hounds disturbed a fox in a gorse patch and set after it. Goffe, the Harriers' huntsman and Bradley, the whipper-in, **admitted encouraging the hounds to continue their pursuit**, instead of trying to call them off. Bradley also pleaded guilty to a public order offence after he rode his horse at one of the two League monitors.

The pair were fined £300 each for breaching the hunt ban, Bradley was fined £100 for the public order offence and both were ordered to pay £500 of the League's costs.

The League's sanctuary manager Paul Tillesley said: "Hopefully this will send a message to the other hunts that if they break the law and allow or encourage hounds to chase foxes, they are likely to end up in court."

<http://www.westpress.co.uk>

Civil rights of hunt monitors could be impinged by 'heavy-handed' response from police - Derbyshire

8/1/2008 – Evening Telegraph - SABOTEURS' ARRESTS ARE UNDER FIRE

The leader of Derby City Council has written to Derbyshire's Chief Constable to complain about the arrests of 11 hunt saboteurs. Councillor Chris Williamson, a former hunt saboteur, sent an e-mail to Mick Creedon following the arrests on Saturday, describing the police response as "heavy-handed".

Officers were called at 1pm to a farm in Somersal Herbert, where a Meynell and South Staffordshire drag hunt was taking place. Officers arrested the saboteurs following reports of "a disturbance" and kept them in custody overnight at St Mary's Wharf police station, in Derby, before interviewing them on Sunday. They were released on police bail pending further inquiries.

In the e-mail, Mr Williamson said: "On the face of it, this seems to be an incredibly heavy-handed response by the police. People do have a right to monitor the activities of hunts." He wrote that, since the 2004 Hunting Act was passed, banning hunting with hounds, there had been a number of incidents around the country where hunts had been convicted of breaching the legislation.

The e-mail continued: "These cases were only brought after evidence was gathered by monitors."

Mr Williamson said that he was concerned that the civil rights of hunt monitors could be impinged unless Mr Creedon gave the force guidance on "an appropriate police response to a lawful activity". A police spokeswoman said that the e-mail had been received and that Mr Creedon was not in his office to respond but would do as soon as possible.

www.thisisderbyshire.co.uk

Reporter 'tipped the wink' fox was killed at a Boxing Day hunt meet - Essex

9/1/2008 - HUNT DISMISSES 'FOX KILLED 'CLAIM – Essex Gazette

Hunt masters have dismissed suggestions made in an online article that a fox was killed at the Matching Green hunt on Boxing Day. In an article for the Scotsman newspaper, Dan Buglass outlined a visit to the hunt with his grandson, who took part in the event, and said: "I cannot say whether a fox was killed during the chase, but an indiscreet wink from Fraser (grandson) suggested much."

It is not illegal for a fox to be killed as part of a hunt, unless it is killed by a hound. However one of the Essex Hunt masters, Dawn Trembath said no foxes were even involved on the day. She said: "We were following trails and flushing out birds of prey. The police were with us all day and as far as I am aware, no fox was hunted at all."

<http://www.thisistotalessex.co.uk/displayNode.jsp?nodeId=170532&command=displayContent&sourceNode=170515&contentPK=19488847>

Bicester hunt ‘frenzied dogs’ riot in private garden - Northamptonshire

10/1/2008 - Northampton Chronicle & Echo – Rampaging hunt hounds cause £4,000 damage to garden - Stray hunting hounds that rampaged through a Northamptonshire garden have caused up to £4,000 in damage. Sonia Hawes, who lives in High Street, Eydon, **says now she can never leave her home for the weekend for fear the dogs will destroy her garden again.**

The 51-year-old artist was finishing her lunch when she saw around 20 hunting dogs from the Bicester Hunt enter her garden, damaging her pond, swimming pool and woodpile.

She said: "The dogs ploughed straight through the fence and wrecked two fencing panels. I've got quite a large pond and at one point there were 12 hounds in it. **They've pierced the liner and our swimming pool cover has been wrecked because it has been stretched.**

"I went out into the road to see if there was anyone there because these dogs have no collars, so there's nothing to grab them with. It wasn't until 10 to 15 minutes later that the hunt got into the village.

"The master apologised and agreed to pay for the damage. It's all very well paying for the physical damage but it doesn't cover the stress of that afternoon. I've got an elderly dog and the shock if nothing else could have killed it. They looked like **frenzied dogs that were totally out of control,**" she said.....

<http://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/news/Rampaging-hunt-hounds-cause-4000.3658458.jp>

Rise in Illegal Hare Coursing – Oxfordshire/Bedfordshire

13/01/2008 – Telegraph - Rise in illegal hare coursing - Hare coursing is on the rise, according to police and animal welfare charities. The increase in illegal hunts over recent months has sparked claims that Labour's anti-hunting legislation is proving ineffective. Coursing involves hares being chased down by lurchers and other dogs. The activity was banned under the 2004 Hunting Act.

However, Thames Valley Police said it had made seven arrests in the past two weeks, after reports of hunts in seven Oxfordshire villages. Six men were released without charge, one was freed on police bail. Villagers in Beeston, Bedfordshire, reported gangs setting dogs loose on hares around the village last month.

A spokesman for the League Against Cruel Sports said: "There has been a recent spate of hare coursing, and the number of cases does appear to be rising." Under the Hunting Act, dogs may be used to flush a hare from undergrowth only if it is shot immediately.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/main.jhtml?xml=/earth/2008/01/13/eacountry213.xml>

Hunt supporter arrested following attack on anti-hunt monitors - Cumbria

13/1/2008 – NWHSA - A supporter of the Coniston Foxhounds was arrested on 10th January 2008 after allegedly smashing the window of a vehicle containing anti-hunt monitors. The three anti-hunt monitors were on their way to a meet of the Coniston Foxhounds to gather evidence of any illegal hunting when their vehicle was attacked near Ambleside, which resulted in them being covered with glass splinters.

During the alleged attack the hunt supporter climbed onto the bonnet of their car and tried to smash their windscreen. Failing to break the windscreen he then tried to enter the vehicle by the drivers side door. Finding the door locked he then smashed the window to try and grab the driver.

The monitors then managed to drive off and report the incident to the police at Ambleside where they made statements.

North West Hunt Saboteurs Association (NWHSA) spokesperson Paul Timpson stated 'It is clear that this hunts has something to hide or they would not have attacked the monitors. Violence and intimidation is a tactic used to try to prevent monitors from recording hunts that are breaking the law. **The police need to take action when these incidents are reported to them.'**

He added 'Members of the NWHSA have been attending various hunts in Cumbria this season and have often seen illegal hunting. **Hunt saboteurs have switched to monitoring hunts in order to provide evidence for prosecutions under the Hunting Act. However, if the Crown Prosecution Service and police allow hunts to ride roughshod over the law, the HSA's members will have to return their tried and tested tactics that have saved the lives of 1000's of animals over the years.'**

<http://www.nwhsa.org.uk>

Fox killed by hounds on village green - Surrey

14.1.08 – HSA - Death on the Village green; How the law isn't working and the Police don't care
Remember that hunting ban? The Surrey Union foxhunt managed to kill yet again in public last Saturday 5th January. For the second year running they allowed their hounds to pursue and kill a fox in open view. Last year it was after trespassing on a golf course at Newdigate.. This time it was in Ockley, Surrey. The hounds chased a fox into the middle of the village and caught and disembowelled it in the centre of the cricket pitch. The police eventually turned up after a 999 call and took a statement from a bystander who witnessed the horrific scenes as the animal was ripped apart by a full pack of hounds..... Based on the previous treatment of numerous submissions of video evidence, **the police investigation will lack the gravitas and scrutiny it deserves.**

Lee Moon, spokesman for the Hunt Saboteurs Association said: **“Foxes are hunted and killed as if the ban never came into effect. By laying a trail through fox habitat, or having an owl in a box, the hunts can kill with impunity.** We have tried to let the law work, but with the police not interested, and a paltry number of cases brought to court, it has to be the time for a return to direct intervention; to no longer put up with the cosy relationship the hunts seem to have with the local constabularies; to make sure the wildlife of this country is safe from the barbarous practices of the past.

Animals are protected from hunts by law, but if the law won't help them then hunt sabs will have to.”

www.huntsabs.org.uk

Dismay at law being flouted as hounds hunt fox - Wiltshire

17.1.08 - North Wiltshire Gazette & Herald, letters - HUNT BATTLE NOT OVER

Driving through Poulshot on the afternoon of January 5, I was alarmed to see vehicles blocking the road and what was clearly the activity of a local hunt underway. The large pack of hounds were crossing the road and onto a fox. Leaving the main throng behind we saw the poor bedraggled fox they were pursuing, and the huntsman directing the hounds towards the creature, just yards away.

Many caring and dedicated people fought long and hard to see this kind of activity outlawed. I was dismayed to see the law being flouted and ask other members of the public to make it known to the police when they witness the same activity.

In the same week two members of a West Country hunt were prosecuted for breaking the law in this way.

The battle to remove this barbarism from our beautiful countryside is not yet won but relies on those of us with compassion for wildlife to bring pressure to bear for further prosecutions.....

Hounds Hunt Fox through Village – South Wales

30th January 2008 – South Wales Guardian - 'Horror hounds' terrorise street

GLANAMAN residents have spoken of their anger and fear after their street was invaded by a pack of foxhounds on Saturday morning.

People living in Llwyncelyn Road say the peace of their "quiet, country road" was shattered by a pack of around 30 dogs and followers of what they claim was an **illegal hunt pursuing a fox**.

They say the marauding dogs were out of control and forced residents to keep their frightened children and pet dogs indoors. My mum was coming home from shopping when all of a sudden these hounds came running down the hill," mum-of-three Jen Morris-Benedek told the Guardian.

She described how neighbours tried to coax the fox into a garage for its own protection, but the terrified animal still managed to bolt to freedom.

"The dogs were out of control and we could hear the hunters two fields up the mountain," said Ms Morris-Benedek. "No-one was near those dogs. The noise they were making was absolutely horrific. At one point we could tell they'd got something because of the din they were making."

Ms Morris-Benedek said she then received "a load of abuse" from a hunt follower. "He said he'd kill as many foxes as he liked and he didn't care for my children," she said. "My eight-year-old daughter isn't stupid but why should I have to lie to her when she asks me what those dogs were doing?"

Another resident, Greg Rickard, said he was "absolutely disgusted" by what happened.

"They were like maniacs, shouting and screaming - there were dogs all over the road and through our gardens," he said. "I've got dogs of my own but I was too frightened to let them out. **I thought it was an offence not to control dogs**. The law is an ass if you ask me and these huntsmen are getting away with murder. Once they have killed off all the foxes and other wildlife what will they start on next?"

A spokesman for Ammanford **police confirmed a complaint was received but no arrests had been made**.

http://www.southwalesguardian.co.uk/news/latestnews/display.var.2004295.0.horror_hounds_terrorise_street.php

Hare Hunters Fined - Lincolnshire

01 February 2008 – Scunthorpe Telegraph - MEN ADMIT ILLEGAL HUNTING

Two owners of lurcher dogs have admitted hunting hares on a farm in the Isle of Axholme. Debbie Sanders, prosecuting at North Lincolnshire Magistrates' Court, said police were called to a farmer's field at about 9.45am on December 8.....
Smith (43) told District Judge Daniel Curtis he lived at Histon, Cambridgeshire, and he had come to the area to buy a working terrier. He went with some men to see the animal hunting rats and rabbits. But, when getting some more nets, one of the men let his dog out of the vehicle and it then ran off.

"I couldn't get her back. I was running across the fields looking for her. All I was concerned about was finding my dog. If I wanted to course hares I could do it in my own back garden," he said. Watson (38), of Chequer Avenue, Doncaster, pointed out: "The policeman came to me and I was on the road and the dog was on a lead."

District Judge Curtis told them: "I have to accept this was an accidental offence rather than a deliberate offence."

The defendants, who both admitted hunting with dogs, were each fined £100, with £60 costs.

<http://www.thisisscunthorpe.co.uk/displayNode.jsp?nodeId=153005&command=displayContent&sourceNode=152831&contentPK=19737957&folderPk=86735&pNodeId=152562>

Hunt Supporter Cautioned for Threatening Behaviour - Somerset

02 February 2008 – Western Daily Press – Coming Face to Face with the Other Side

.....Hunt supporter Paul Martin's spat with anti-hunt monitors Helen Weeks and Graham Forsyth led to police giving Mr Martin a formal caution for threatening behaviour, after they judged that the strained relationship between the two sides out in the field had reached breaking point.....

Police acted after two similar incidents in November and December last year involving the Cattistock Hunt in South Somerset and Dorset.

The two hunt monitors filmed the hunt and its followers, and were approached by one follower on a quad bike, Paul Martin. Both times, they filmed him shouting and threatening the monitors about their filming.

"He dismounted the quad bike to shout abuse in Mr Forsyth's face," said Ms Weeks. "Mr Martin had lost his temper at the sight of us, and I was afraid Graham was about to be assaulted. We have reported Mr Martin several times since the ban. This is why it is important for the safety of monitors not to monitor hunts alone."

The hunt monitors said a second hunt follower had also been cautioned by police for attacking Mr Forsyth.

Mr Forsyth said: "The risk of physical assault and injury is a growing menace to monitors as hunt supporters seem intent on making the Hunting Act unworkable by obstructing our work.

"We are the only people trying to enforce the law, as the police have made it clear to us that hunting is a low priority with them and they will not respond to calls of illegal hunting. The authorities must become more proactive and properly uphold the law; otherwise anarchy will be rife in the countryside"....

<http://www.westerndailypress.co.uk/displayNode.jsp?nodeId=145809&command=displayContent&sourceNode=145792&contentPK=19748779#commentform>

Hare Coursing Horror - Lancashire

7th February – Formby Times - Hare coursing horror at Formby

GREYHOUNDS are being let loose in fields around Formby to illegally course hares. A local wildlife enthusiast, who did not wish to be named for fear of reprisals, was disgusted when he saw a group of seven men pile out of a van with a dog each – and a child.

The group let the dogs free in the field to course hares. They were seen lifting them above their heads before discarding the carcasses into a ditch.....A police spokeswoman said: “We have had a few calls about the situation. The neighbourhood team will be dealing with this. They are monitoring the situation. If any member of the public comes forward with information it will be acted upon.”

Wildlife Crime Officer Steve Harris added: **“It is important to the police and public that wildlife crime is treated seriously.** Merseyside Police will take robust action against people who use dogs to savagely attack wild animals that are protected by law.....”

<http://icseftonandwestlancs.icnetwork.co.uk>

“Cruel enjoyment” from dogs attacking the wild animals - Liverpool

7th February 2008 – Liverpool Echo - Hunters set their dogs on badgers and foxes

A JUDGE condemned four men for the **“wicked” act of illegally hunting badgers and foxes with dogs.** Sentencing them at Liverpool magistrates’ court, **district judge Michael Abelson said the men took “cruel enjoyment” from their dogs attacking the wild animals.**

The court heard how four men and a 17-year-old were stopped by police in their Land Rover in Islington last August on their way back from a hunting expedition. They had dogs, nets and other equipment used for illegal hunting.....

The judge fined the three men £250 each with £80 costs, and ordered the immediate forfeiture of the Land Rover and the hunting equipment. The teenager was given a conditional discharge for 12 months with £80 costs.

<http://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/liverpool-news/local-news/2008/02/07/hunters-set-their-dogs-on-badgers-and-foxes-100252-20446460/>

Hounds Struck by Car – West Sussex

12th February 2008 – NWHS – Hounds Hit chasing fox over A281

Crawley and Horsham hounds chased a fox over the road just north of Shermanburry, Partridge Green, W. Sussex, which resulted in two hounds being struck by a woman motorist.... **Although the car was badly damaged the woman driver claimed a huntsman shouted "its not damaged, just drive on."**

Hunt master Anthony Sandeman, who was on foot and was not a witness but arrived later, told hunt monitors, the "driver was going too fast".

Hunt monitors from West Sussex Wildlife Protection, said: The Crawley and Horsham hunt are entering their hounds in the most dense woodland undergrowth in a deliberate attempt to chase foxes. Occasionally they play a charade with riders having new dusters on the end of a whip who run wildly around when monitors turn up.....This incident reveals the truth, with hounds crossing a busy road at least twice in full cry and running from dense woodland when no trail could ever be laid.”

<http://www.nwhsa.org.uk>

Grafton Hunt Hounds Kill Fox in House - Northamptonshire

13th February 2008 – Northampton Chronicle - Hunt 'chased fox into empty village house'

Hounds chased a fox into an empty house in a Northamptonshire village **before cornering and killing the animal in the bathroom.**

Villagers said dogs from the Grafton Hunt gained access to the house in Chapel Lane, Maidford, near Towcester, through an open backdoor before pursuing the fox inside and then killing it, leaving behind what one called a "bit of a bloodbath".....

A Chapel Lane resident, who did not want to be named, added: "I saw the hounds coming down the road and thought they were going to the farm."

Another villager said: **"The hounds pursued the fox into the house and it was a bit of a bloodbath. I saw the fox being chased across a field."**

The incident happened on Saturday, February 2, but was not reported to Northamptonshire Police.

Colin Richmond-Watson, **huntmaster of the Grafton Hunt, said:** "I don't know the details because I wasn't hunting that day, but I think it did happen. We regret it, if it did. **It's just one of those things** unfortunately."

Mr Richmond-Watson said **there had been a "big clean-up" following the killing of the fox....**

<http://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/news/Hunt-39chased-fox-into-empty.3772091.jp>

Hounds Invade Airfield - Lincolnshire

14th February 2008 – Hunt Watch - HUNT INVASION OF AIRFIELD

A member of the public was passing Sturgate Airfield, near Gainsborough, Lincolnshire at approx 3pm on Wednesday February 6th 2008. They noticed some very large dogs bounding down the runway and realised there were two horsemen accompanying them. They then saw the full hunt - about 20 riders in dark blue velvet jackets.

A spokesman from the airfield has confirmed that they did not give permission for the hunt to use their land.

A spokeman for Eastern Air Executive Limited, said, *"It was a great shock to us to see the hunt ride across the airfield, it could have caused a serious problem, there could have been aircraft using the runway at the time and this could have caused a serious incident."*.....

www.huntwatch.info

Hunt hounds 'must have leads' - Shropshire

15th February 2008 – Shropshire Star - Hunt hounds 'must have leads'

Hounds being used on hunts in Shrewsbury will have to be kept on leads when they are on public highways, councillors have confirmed.

The issue was raised by Labour group leader Danny Moore at last night's full meeting of Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council.

Councillor Moore had tabled a question raising the issue of dogs crossing main roads near Shrewsbury Livestock Market on the traditional Boxing Day hunt, to seek clarification over how the rules of the new dog control orders were being enforced.

Portfolio holder Councillor Judith Williams last night confirmed **hounds were not exempt from the rules.....**

Councillor Williams said: **“Under the order, dogs used in hound and equestrian activities are not exempt. They should be kept on a lead on all public roads, carriageways, adjoining pavements and verges managed by a highway authority, local authority or a housing association.”**

Meanwhile, borough councillors are investigating the use of the livestock market after a row broke out over whether county hunts should be able to meet at the venue.

Councillor David Roberts, portfolio holder for investments, said under the terms of the site lease the livestock market could not be used as a gathering point for a hunt.

He added there were several other aspects of the lease with auctioneers Halls which were being looked into by council officials.

Councillor Moore had tabled the question.

<http://www.shropshirestar.com/2008/02/hunt-hounds-must-have-leads/>

Cameron calls hunting law 'idiotic' because it's being broken! – Wales

19th February 2008 – Western Mail - Cameron to allow free vote on ending 'idiotic' hunting law

A TORY Government would give MPs a free vote on reversing the hunting ban, David Cameron said last night. **The current law had been made to look “idiotic” due to the number of people breaking it, he suggested.**

In an exclusive interview with the Western Mail, three years to the day since the ban became law, Mr Cameron said, “We have a very clear position on this, there will be a free vote, and if there is a vote to repeal the hunting ban there will be a government Bill in government time. “It's quite clear it isn't working, there are more people hunting than ever before. The law is being made to look an idiot, and that isn't a good situation to be in.”

The Countryside Alliance, which last year failed in its attempts to have the ban overturned in the High Court, is planning to take the issue to the European Court of Human Rights – although the case may not be heard for several years.....

One Welsh Labour MP said last Mr Cameron's plan was “utterly ridiculous”, with the ban having been widely debated in the last Parliament.....

<http://icwales.icnetwork.co.uk/news/wales-news/2008/02/19/cameron-to-allow-free-vote-on-ending-idiotic-hunting-law-91466-20492071/>

Huntsman Guilty of Criminal Damage – Lake District

21st February 2008 – North West Evening Mail - FOX HUNTSMAN SMASHED SABOTEUR'S CAR WINDOW

UMBRELLA ATTACK: Huntsman Michael Nicholson, of Coniston Foxhounds, pleaded guilty to criminal damage after attacking a saboteur's car

A HUNTSMAN smashed the window of a hunt saboteur's car. Michael Gerald Nicholson, who works for Coniston Foxhounds, smashed the window of a Ford Escort with three saboteurs inside.

Nicholson, 40, pleaded guilty to criminal damage when he appeared before South Lakeland Magistrates' Court on Tuesday.

Prosecuting, Mr David Dunk told the court that a group of anti-hunt activists met in Grasmere on the morning of January 10 to monitor Coniston Foxhounds.

They told police that they were aiming to film illegal activity if they saw it taking place and then call the police.

The planned hunt meeting was cancelled due to bad weather and the saboteurs headed to Ambleside in an attempt to find Coniston Foxhounds' kennels.

They were spotted on Nook Lane, near to the kennels, by Nicholson and he recognised them from Grasmere earlier in the morning.

Mr Dunk said: "Mr Nicholson walked towards the car and according to the driver, Mr Cain, he was shouting.

"He banged with the umbrella on the windscreen then turned his attention to the driver's side window. He hit it a number of times, causing it to smash."

The driver, Dean Cain, suffered a minor cut to his face. After the incident was reported to the police, Nicholson was arrested and interviewed. He admitted to being the man involved in the incident.....

<http://www.nwemail.co.uk/news/viewarticle.aspx?id=795328>

Police Investigate Reports of Illegal Hunting - Cumbria

22/02/2008 – News & Star - 'Foxhunting continuing'

POLICE in Cockermouth and Keswick are investigating reports of illegal foxhunting taking place in the area. Inspector Martin Connolly said inquiries were taking place into "several reports" of illegal hunts.

He said complaints had been received recently from various sources and he had appointed hunt liaison officers to look into them.

Those officers will look at possible offences being committed under the Hunting Act 2004 – hunting a wild mammal with a dog, permitting a dog to be used for such an offence, or permitting land to be used for hunting a wild mammal with a dog.

Landowners are being approached by the police to canvass opinion about hunt activity.....

<http://www.newsandstar.co.uk/news/viewarticle.aspx?id=795929>

Urban Yobs copy Countryside Yobs – Liverpool

25.2.2008 – Liverpool Echo – Gangs with Guns Hunting in Merseyside Parks

THE ECHO can today reveal the shocking extent of illegal hunting in Merseyside's parks.

Gun-toting gangs are **setting their dogs on defenceless wild animals and watching as they are ripped to shreds. And anyone who challenges their sickening hobby is threatened with violence.**

One Merseyside councillor was knocked unconscious in front of his terrified 11-year-old son after confronting a gang.

A laughing mob pointed a rifle at a 48-year-old mother before threatening to kill her pet cats.

And another woman watched in horror as two hunting dogs ripped off part of her mongrel's ear as they walked in the park.

Foxes and other wild animals used to be a common sight in Huyton's 220-acre Stadt Moers Park. But their numbers have dropped significantly over the past 12 months.

Last week police swooped on the Knowsley common as part of a two-night crackdown on illegal hunters. Undercover officers hid in the undergrowth to catch those involved.....

Wildlife police said the pastime appeals to all age groups with **men taking their teenage sons along on hunts to "blood" them.....**

Kicked in face by yobs

A KNOWSLEY councillor today told how he was beaten unconscious by a hunting gang.

Mike Currie, 58, Lib Dem ward member for the St Gabriel's area of Huyton, said he was attacked while walking through Stadt Moers.

"I went out with my 11-year-old son to feed the foxes when I saw a lad who looked like he was up to no good. I was very polite and said 'I hope you're not here to hunt foxes'.

"The next minute he's telling me he's got a knife and he's going to stab me as my son is standing next to me. Then he made a call on his mobile phone and two other blokes came down and attacked me.

"They beat me to the ground and kicked me in the face until I lost consciousness. The situation is horrendous. I have seen nine foxes in one day in the past. Now I never see any....."

Shining light on night terror

HUNTING at night with the aid of powerful lamps and either guns or dogs is known as lamping.

Animals associated with this form of hunting include deer, fox, rabbit, hare and badger.

In day hunting, terriers are sent into tunnels and spades and nets are used to trap the prey.

Dogs can be fitted with electronic tracker devices and when the alarm signals a trapped prey the gang digs out the cornered animal.

An iron bar is used to knock the animal unconscious before it is thrown to the pack of dogs.

Sometimes, to make sure the dogs are not injured, the animal is stabbed or its legs broken so it cannot fight back.

http://icliverpool.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0100regionalnews/tm_headline=gangs-with-guns-hunting-in-merseyside-parks&method=full&objectid=20521210&siteid=50061-name_page.html

Hounds Run Riot across Road - Gloucestershire

26.2.08 – Hunt Watch – “ANOTHER HUNT ENDANGERS PUBLIC, AGAIN”.

At 12:47 on Thursday, February 13th, Lee Russell was driving his car from Birdlip to Gloucester along the Buckholt road - running from the B4070 westwards to the A46. When suddenly a hound ran across the road causing him to perform an emergency stop. His brakes locked.

He narrowly missed the animal by only feet. A pack of approximately 40-50 hounds from the Cotswold Hunt then ran onto the road in front of him, causing havoc.

Lee Russell said "There was no one in the area in charge of the pack, I could see for about 50 yards on the right side of the road and about 25 yards on the left side." He continued "The dogs were running from right to left across the road and were obviously in a state of excitement. It seemed to me that the hound were clearly not under control."

Andrea Hill of Huntwatch say, "Are we meant to believe that the Cotswold hunt laid a trail over a public road, or is it more likely that they were hunting a live fox? We have lost count of the number of times that we have both witnessed and heard of hunts endangering the public, themselves and, not least, their hounds....".

www.huntwatch.info

Hounds run riot on main road - Derbyshire

1.3.2008 – NWHSa - Chaos in Monyash - 01/03/2008

On Saturday the 1st March the High Peak Hunt meet at 11.30am at the Bulls Head Inn at Monyash, Derbyshire.

During the course of the next three hours the huntsman lost control of his pack on numerous occasions. This resulted in them causing chaos on the roads and in the fields around the area.

The footage below shows one event where the pack can be seen running back and forth across a main road. Also during this clip you can see the pack looking for the scent of a hare they had been chasing, all this without the huntsman in the area.

Sabs where the only ones present where they proceeded to slow down the cars driving along the road, thus preventing any loss of life. They also made sure the hunt did not chase any hares they were after.

30 minutes later the same occurred again, with the same result. This time one of the hounds went astray.

When the hunt finally called it a day they were still missing a hound, which eventually came running down the road to the meet 20 minutes after the huntsman had put away the rest of his pack....

<http://nwhsa.redblackandgreen.net/monyash.html>

Hunt banned from Forestry Commission land – Isle of Wight

6.3.2008 – LACS - Isle of Wight Hunt lied to Commission officials

The Isle of Wight Hunt has been banned from land owned by the Forestry Commission. The Hunt is already the subject of a police investigation and facing a criminal prosecution.

The Commission took its unprecedented action following evidence from the League showing a fox being pursued across its land. Further film showed the hunt, with hounds, present at a badger set. Both actions could lead to prosecution.

The Hunt had been granted a licence by the Commission to drag hunt across its land. Drag hunting involves the following of a scent, not a live fox, and is legal. Following the initial complaints from the League the Commission launched an investigation and was given an assurance by the Hunt that it would stay off its land pending an outcome.

The Hunt was subsequently filmed by the League blatantly disregarding the assurance it had given.

It is inconceivable that the Hunt will be ever allowed back on FC land. It also faces the possibility of an action for trespass.

Matt Fox, League campaigner said: 'The Isle of Wight Hunt has long behaved as though it owned the entire island. I am delighted the Forestry Commission has taken decisive action.' He added: 'We believe that other hunts are also abusing their FC licences and we have been asked by the Commission to provide it with the evidence. The Commission is sending a clear message to all hunts it will not tolerate breaches of license.'

www.league.org.uk

Hounds run into Home - Lincolnshire

7.3.2008 – Stamford Mercury - Anger as hunting dogs run into home

A VILLAGER is furious after two hunting hounds ran into his home during a meet, he claims....He went to investigate the noise and found a pack of hounds running with the Cottesmore Hunt.

Mr Holcombe, a cabinet and furniture maker, said: "**The hunting dogs came through the village and were completely out of control.** There was a pack of about 20 waist-high hounds – they were scattered across the village, rampaging and barging through my neighbours' hedges." Moments later Mr Holcombe says he found two dogs in his house. He said: "They entered through the patio doors lathered-up in mud. I managed to usher them out the house and they went off."

Mr Holcombe says he spoke to someone on the hunt immediately afterwards to express his disgust and was told the hunters had laid a drag scent which had gone off line. But Mr Holcombe is not satisfied with the explanation. He said: "**We've got three cats and it is a wonder none of them were killed.** This should be re-dressed and there should be some responsibility. In the future, inadvertently is a child going to be injured?"

Jane Knight, who led the Cottesmore Hunt on the day, said she had been to visit Mr Holcombe to try and allay concerns. She said: "We are looking at ways of improving communications and in the future we will try and talk to people about the hunts. We hope this issue can be put to rest."

Superintendent Kieran English, of Lincolnshire **Police**, said a call about the hunt had been received **but no action was taken**. He said: "The police do understand residents' concerns about the disturbance the hunt can cause and recommend the hunt master is contacted to raise concerns directly."

<http://www.stamfordmercury.co.uk/news/Anger-as-hunting-dogs-run.3855358.jp>

Hound Killed on Dual Carriageway – Devon

10.3.2008 – Western Morning News - HUNTING HOUND KILLED ON ROAD

A pack of fox hounds caused traffic chaos as they ran across a busy dual carriageway on Saturday. One dog was hit by a vehicle and killed in the incident, which happened at about 1pm, on the A380 at Ideford Dip, near Newton Abbot, South Devon.

The dogs, which form part of the Britannia Beagles in South Devon, broke away from a trail hunt and ran across both sides of the carriageway into the path of moving traffic. It was 40 minutes before they were herded into a nearby field.

A Britannia Beagles spokesman said: "The hounds were following a trail when a handful broke away from the hunt and ran towards the road. We tried to stop them before they reached the carriageway but some made it on to the road."

<http://www.thisiswesternmorningnews.co.uk/displayNode.jsp?nodeId=247715&command=displayContent&sourceNode=247705&contentPK=20106813&moduleName=InternalSearch&formname=sidebarsearch#views>

Helicopters target Hare Coursers - Cambridgeshire

17.3.2008 – Herts Advertiser - Helicopters used to catch suspected hare coursers

A GANG of suspected hare coursers were trapped today (Monday) after a high-speed police chase involving two helicopters across two counties.

Cambridgeshire police requested assistance after a tip-off that hare-coursing was taking place in Ashwell, a village near Royston.

The men made their get-away in a grey estate car and were followed by police patrol cars and the helicopters from the two forces.

But the offenders were eventually forced to stop after a dramatic cross-county chase by Herts police in Marford Road, Wheathampstead, near The Nelson pub. Four men were arrested in connection with the alleged offence.

<http://www.herts24.co.uk/content/herts/news/story.aspx?brand=HADOnline&category=News&tBrand=herts24&tCategory=newshadnew&itemid=WEED17%20Mar%202008%2016%3A08%3A37%3A617>

Hunts warned to obey the law - Cumbria

14.3.2008 – Cumberland News - Carlisle MP Eric Martlew told hunters to abide by the law

CUMBRIAN hunts have been warned to stay within the law when on Forestry Commission land. The warning follows the suspension of hunting on the Isle of Wight by the Forestry Commission as it investigates allegations made by the League Against Cruel Sports.

Now Carlisle MP Eric Martlew has warned Cumbrian hunters that they must obey laws when hunting with hounds on Forestry Commission land. Mr Martlew said: "I think the hunts have to abide by the conditions set down in the Act. If they were found to be breaking these conditions then the landowners, who would be open to prosecution for allowing illegal hunts to go ahead, should stop them hunting. As long as they drag hunt there is no problem but as soon as they start chasing foxes then the landowners should take action. **What has happened on the Isle of Wight should send a message to Cumbrian fell packs that the Forestry Commission means business.**"

John Lowthian, master of Ullswater Fox Hunt, said: “We try to be desperately careful but when you have hunts going out many times a week as we do then who knows what can happen. The hunt works as well as can be expected under the new rules. Obviously it is not ideal but we do the best we can without being totally free.”

Elaine Milbourn, a member of the League Against Cruel Sports, said: “We do know that there are things happening on Forestry Commission land but we have problems gathering evidence. The Forestry Commission monitor hunts as best they can but they do not have the resources to do it round the clock. We urge all the three major landowners in Cumbria to keep a close eye on the activities of hunts. The Forestry Commission, National Trust, and United Utilities all monitor the hunts as much as they can. I know that these people are doing their best.”

A spokesman for the Forestry Commission said: “We agreed with the Isle of Wight hunt last month that no hunting would take place on the island. We came to this agreement after we received two separate sets of filmed evidence from the League Against Cruel Sports. We are currently making investigations into these allegations and we will come to a conclusion during the close season. There are a number of hunts that go on our land and they are a legal activity that go on with our permission – as long as they operate within the law.”

<http://www.cumberland-news.co.uk/news/viewarticle.aspx?id=805295>

BBC Inside Out program exposes Cameron’s favourite hunt – Gloucestershire/Oxfordshire

21.3.2008 – Western Daily Press - POLICE CLOSING IN ON TORY LEADER'S FAVOURITE HUNT

Police are probing David Cameron's favourite fox hunt amid claims it was **exposed illegally hunting foxes** by an undercover BBC team. They are also looking into allegations that **hunt monitors were attacked and intimidated** while filming in the Cotswolds.

One man has been arrested and may face prosecution next week, and police are viewing footage filmed by the BBC programme, which is being broadcast across the region tonight.

Police chiefs also took part in the programme, which was filmed over a month earlier this year.

Film-makers shadowed hunt monitors in the Cotswolds as they followed a number of different hunts. But the most explosive footage they and the hunt monitors captured involved the Heythrop Hunt, which includes a large swathe of rural Gloucestershire in its territory.

That includes much of the constituency of Tory leader David Cameron, who has ridden to the hounds on numerous occasions before becoming party leader.

Viewers of the Inside Out programme tonight will see hunt monitor Penny Little trying to film what is claimed are hounds making a kill in a copse near a lane. As she sits in her car filming, a quad bike approaches at speed and one hunt follower kicks her door closed and threatens her.

It is understood one man has been arrested in relation to this particular incident, and was released on police bail until next Tuesday, after the programme goes out. It is believed the man, who has not yet been named by police, is not an employee of the Heythrop Hunt although he was riding an official hunt vehicle.

Other evidence of alleged incidents, including those of claimed illegal hunting, are currently being looked at by police officers in Gloucestershire.

Inside Out producer Robert Murray spent four weekends with hunt monitors Ms Little and Judy Gilbert. "In one incident, Robert stopped to film on a public road where Heythrop supporters had gathered to watch the hunt," said a BBC spokesman. "He saw a fox running across a field and the hounds changing direction to give chase. Then a Heythrop hunter is caught on camera asking 'where did it go back in?'"

The Heythrop Hunt has consistently denied illegal hunting, and conducted a robust defence of its actions in the programme. Joint Master Liz Wills watched footage of that incident and others, and denied that her colleagues were deliberately hunting foxes. She said: "They were hunting a trail and then they would have crossed on to the fox. There was no intent meant by that at all... that's what we try to avoid but it does happen."

Ms Wills refused to even view any footage captured by hunt monitors rather than the BBC, and said the monitors were an unnecessary irritant. "We find it very, very intrusive and I'm not at all surprised that temperatures do get raised sometimes," she said. "I'm sorry if anything untoward happens but it does."

Yesterday, Detective Constable Chris Edgell, of Gloucestershire police, confirmed detectives were looking into the activities of the Heythrop, both in terms of the behaviour of its followers and of allegations of illegal hunting.

He said: "The person responsible for the incident that I understand will be shown in the programme has been identified and has been arrested. He was released on police bail pending further investigations until next Tuesday. We are carrying out a separate investigation into the allegations we received that the Heythrop Hunt carried out illegal hunting."

Cotswold hunt monitor Gill Purser welcomed the programme. "It is only 12 minutes long so it only touches the surface, but it should give viewers **a good idea of the appalling behaviour that the monitors are witnessing and experiencing every time they monitor a hunt,**" she said.

Senior officers took part in the programme to explain the delicate position the police found themselves in. Gloucestershire's wildlife crime liaison officer Jon Palfrey said the police often had higher priorities when they received calls about hunting incidents. "It would be wrong of us to pull away from an incident of higher priority but that is sometimes very hard for us to get across to the individual, who, understandably, if they're upset by it, feels that we're not interested because we didn't turn up," he said.

<http://www.westpress.co.uk/displayNode.jsp?nodeId=145809&command=displayContent&sourceNode=145792&contentPK=20204511&moduleName=InternalSearch&formname=sidebarch>

Maltreatment of Fox during Fell Packs visit – Ireland/Cumbria

1.4.2008 - Irish Masters of Foxhounds Association suspends two hunts

THE Irish Masters of Foxhounds Association (IMFHA) has suspended the Avondhu Foxhounds of Co Cork and the Ormond, of Co Tipperary after allegations of maltreatment of a fox.

Hunting bosses met at the weekend to discuss the alleged behaviour of members of the Avondhu Foxhounds **during a joint meet with the Coniston, a Fell pack visiting from Cumbria,** and the Ormond at Fermoy on 8 March.

But no decision over disciplinary action had been made as H&H went to press on Monday.

Brian Munn, spokesman for the IMFHA, told H&H: "The committee has met but the issue is not entirely resolved."

Mr Munn said the allegations had come from within the Avondhu Hunt.

"We were informed by a member of the hunt that other members of the hunt did something they disapproved of," said Mr Munn. He would not elaborate further on the allegations, except to say that he believes only the Avondhu was involved in the alleged cruelty.

He said the IMFHA took the allegations very seriously and would punish those involved if they were proved to be true.

"Both hunts are suspended from any hunting activity for the duration of the investigation — although the hunting season is due to end this weekend," he said.

"But the suspension could take them into the new season, there could be fines and people could be expelled."

No one was available for comment from the Avondhu.

Stephen Lambert, director of the MFHA in the UK said although the Coniston was not involved in the alleged misbehaviour his organisation and the IMFHA would draw up a protocol to cover the behaviour of packs while visiting abroad.

Mr Munn said they welcomed the initiative.

<http://www.horseandhound.co.uk/competitionnews/392/224719.html>

Same Experience as Monitors Across the Country but Hunt Supporters Cleared - Hampshire

3.4.2008 - Hampshire Chronicle - Hunt trio cleared of robbery

THREE hunt supporters have been cleared of robbing two "saboteurs" of their camcorders at a meet near Alresford. A four-week trial at Winchester Crown Court, which ended today (April 3), saw Peter Bogris, 30, of Petersfield, George Juer, 26, of Alton, and Wayne Spencer, 40, Billingshurst, West Sussex, all accused of robbery and affray.

They were said to have attacked "hunt monitors" Iris Luppia and Stella Hardy, both from the Reading area, at a meet of the Hampshire Hunt on February 24 last year. The prosecution alleged that the trio took the cameras by force as the two women were "surrounded" by hunt followers on a path in countryside near Preston Candover.

Mr Bogris, Mr Juer and Mr Spencer denied the allegations and a jury took an hour-and-a-half to find them not guilty of all charges.

Giving evidence, Miss Hardy, 34, said: "The first male, who drove the quad, tried to get my camera out of my hand and the second male had me by my hair. I was forced to the ground by both of these men."

Miss Hardy said the man on the quad bike was Mr Bogris and he was aided by an unknown man.

Miss Luppia said it was Mr Spencer who grabbed her camera and that she was then attacked from behind by Mr Juer.

Labelling the alleged victims as "hunt saboteurs", the defence on behalf of Mr Bogris and Mr Juer said that the pair were on the path at the time and that an argument erupted over Miss Hardy filming children, but said the women fabricated what happened.

Mr Bogris, a farmer, said he was looking after a three-year-old boy for the day as he drove around on his quad bike.

"She (Stella Hardy) did approach me directly, she was making an attempt to video the boy sat on my lap. He said she said she was **"only interested in filming the kiddies"**, a comment which caused a lot of offence. Mr Bogris added: "It ended up in a bit of pushing and shoving, a woman got involved.

"The boy got quite upset by this stage, so I got back on the quad and continued on for a little while."

Mr Juer, a gun dealer, said he told Miss Hardy to stop filming the youngsters and that during the "pushing and shoving" on the path, Miss Luppia was pushed into him and they both fell over.

He said Miss Hardy ran up to him and shouted abuse, pointing her finger at him. He pointed back and she grabbed his finger and bent it down hard, before hitting him on the chin.

Mr Spencer's counsel said he was at least 40 yards away from the scuffle when it happened.

The pig farmer said he saw screaming and shouting further down the path, but did not get involved - he was wary having been previously convicted of common assault after an incident at a past hunt.

"I knew not to go down there," he said.

http://www.thisishampshire.net/news/hampshirechroniclenews/display.var.2170261.0.hunt_trio_cleared_of_robbery.php

Heythrop Hunt may be prosecuted - Gloucestershire

3.4.2008 – HUNT MAY BE PROSECUTED – Cotswold Journal

POLICE and prosecutors will decide next week whether to take action against a Cotswold hunt accused of breaching the anti-hunting laws. The Heythrop Hunt has denied accusations by anti-hunting campaigners who claimed foxes had been killed during its hunts.

Detectives and officials from the Crown Prosecution Service are to meet and Det Con Chris Edgell said that so far no decision had been taken about whether to investigate further complaints against the hunt. Previous investigations over the past few months had not resulted in any arrests, he said.

"A decision will be taken about taking this matter further and if this happens we may interview a number of people in connection with the allegations."

Heythrop joint master, Liz Wills, insisted the Heythrop only undertakes trail hunting, in which a fox-based scent is laid across countryside for the hunt's dog pack to follow. She explained that only the person laying the trail knows where it leads, the huntsmen and women do not, and so have no way of knowing if their pack has veered off to follow the scent of a real fox that crossed the trail.

She said the hunt's outriders usually stop the pack if they see a fox but sometimes are unable to stop the hounds before the dogs make a kill. She added: "Accidents do happen. I speak to the police a lot about it and we keep them informed. We do try to do everything within the law."

Penny Little, of the Protect Our Wild Animals (POWA) anti-hunting group, labelled this explanation as "nonsense".

She said: "Foxes are not on a suicide mission. They are not kamikaze creatures who throw themselves into the path of the hounds."

Gill Purser, who ran the Cotswold Support Group for the Abolition of Hunting before hunting became illegal in 2005, said: "They have had three years to re-train the packs. The dogs are not usually kept over the age of four or five, so they have a pack that should be used to following a trail."

Ms Little also claimed someone could be seriously hurt because of the aggressive way Heythrop members and supporters obstruct anti-hunt monitors who follow and film hunts. She said: "Two monitors have been injured during the current investigation. I've had cars swerve at me. What would happen if they failed to stop in time?"

"If they have nothing to hide, what's all this about?"

Liz Wills shared these concerns but added there were never problems when the monitors were not present. She said: "There's no reason for them to be filming just members of our hunt all the time, it's extremely intrusive. I try to keep our followers from obstructing the monitors but I'm afraid they get very frustrated by this constant attention."

http://www.cotswoldjournal.co.uk/news/cotsnewsroundup/display.var.2168830.0.hunt_may_be_prosecuted.php

Intimidation of Hunt Monitor - Somerset

14 April 2008 – Western Daily Press - HUNTERS' SICK STUNT IS MEANT TO SCARE ME OFF

An anti hunt campaigner has accused pro-hunt supporters of intimidation tactics after a dead fox was dumped on the roof of her car this weekend.

Hunt monitor Helen Weeks, from West Coker, near Yeovil, was left shaken and distressed when she and husband Paul discovered the creature's bloody corpse outside her house yesterday morning. Mrs Weeks explained: "My husband was in the kitchen and from the window, you can see part of the car. He noticed there was something on the roof so he went out to have a look. Then he came back and told me what he'd found and we both went out."

The body of the male fox, believed to be about a year old, had been dumped on the car in what Mrs Weeks says is a clear message from the hunting fraternity, warning her against continuing her campaign to ensure hunting laws are not broken at meets in Somerset and Dorset.

She said: "It was absolutely terrible. It was a beautiful fox and looked like it had suffered some kind of internal injury. Blood was coming out of its mouth and was all over the car and the road. It's definitely a warning. This sort of thing has happened to me before and it's intimidation. I don't like it but I'm not going to give up fighting. We fought long and hard for the ban but there is still a lot to be done."

In a chilling twist, the fox disappeared minutes after Mr and Mrs Weeks had made the grim discovery and filmed the macabre scene for evidence to give to the police - suggesting the culprits had been hiding nearby, waiting for the couple to find the body.

Mrs Weeks explained: "After we had been outside with the camera, we headed back in. As I was coming in, I saw a car going down the hill but I didn't think anything of it at the time and I closed the door. Then, just afterwards, my husband looked out of the kitchen window again and the fox had gone. It seems the most plausible explanation is that whoever was driving that car took it away. The police said the same thing - that they had been watching us and waiting for us to see it and then took it away, which is a horrible thought."

The police are investigating the incident but Mrs Weeks says officers are limited in what they can do.

"The police were very good but there's not much they can do. We have the video footage so we'll have to wait and see."

Mrs Weeks has been an anti-hunt campaigner for more than 15 years and says she will continue to fight for justice for foxes.

She said: "There needs to be changes to the hunting law to properly protect the animals and we will keep pushing for that. The hunts don't like being monitored because if we're not there, they can do what they like. It is important for hunts to be properly monitored to make sure the law is upheld."

15.4.2008 – Daily Mirror - Bloody 'warning' to animal campaigner Helen

An animal rights campaigner was left trembling with fear after this dead fox was dumped on her car.

Horrified Helen Weeks is certain it was a gruesome "warning" from hunt supporters.

But the hunt monitor has vowed not to stop trying to ensure hunts in Somerset and Dorset obey the law.

Helen said: "It was absolutely terrible. It was a beautiful fox and looked like it had an internal injury.

Blood was coming out of its mouth and was all over the car and road.

"This sort of thing has happened to me before and it's intimidation. But I'm not going to give up fighting - we fought long and hard for the ban but there is still a lot to be done."

The body of the fox vanished soon after Helen and her husband Paul made the discovery on Sunday outside their home in West Coker, Somerset, suggesting the culprit was hiding nearby. The police are investigating.

Attack on Monitors , Otis Ferry Charged – Gloucestershire

15.4.2008 – Daily Mirror - Son of Bryan Ferry charged with attacks and robbery

The son of rock star Bryan Ferry has been charged with attacking and robbing two women anti-fox hunt monitors.

Otis Ferry, 25, friend of Sienna Miller, allegedly wrestled a video camera from them after he spotted the pair filming him.

Another man is said to have broken a window of the women's car and hit one with a radio antenna he snapped off the roof.

They then apparently rode off on their horses as police were called. The women, who had been watching for illegal fox hunting, had to be treated for shock and bruising.

Officers arrested Ferry at his home the next day.

Mum-of-one Helen Ghalmi, 38, one of the alleged victims, said: "He seemed to come out of nowhere and was shouting. He tried to pull me out of the car by the arm but I was still strapped in. The camera fell into the footwell and he grabbed it.

"Then he pulled the keys out of the ignition and we had a tug of war over them. My fingers were hurting and it was only later I found my arm was bruised where he grabbed me." Ferry had been riding with the Heythrop Hunt in Chipping Norton, Glos - near Tory leader David Cameron's Oxfordshire constituency - in November when the assault was said to have happened.

The court case is likely to embarrass Mr Cameron, who has ridden with the Heythrop and is friends with its Hunt Secretary. Its members helped him into Parliament by canvassing and leafleting for him when he stood as their MP.

Gloucestershire Police said: "We can confirm one man has been charged in connection with this incident. The other man has still not been identified and we would be grateful for any information the public might be able to provide in this matter."

Ferry will appear before Cheltenham magistrates charged with robbery and common assault next month.

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/showbiz/latest/2008/04/15/son-of-bryan-ferry-charged-with-attacks-and-robbery-89520-20383740/>

15/4/2008 – Contact Music - BRYAN FERRY - FERRY'S SON CHARGED WITH ASSAULT

The son of British rock legend BRYAN FERRY has been charged with attacking and robbing two female animal-rights campaigners.

Otis Ferry is accused of wresting a video camera from the women as they filmed the 25-year-old fox hunting - a sport which is now illegal in the U.K.

The pair claim Ferry aggressively attacked them after spotting them with a camera - reportedly smashing the women's car window and hitting them with a radio antenna after snapping it from the roof of the vehicle.

Ferry then sped off when the police were called to the scene.

The women, who had been on the look-out for illegal fox hunting in the Gloucestershire, England countryside, had to be treated for bruising and shock after the alleged incident.

A representative for Gloucestershire police says, "We can confirm one man has been charged in connection with this incident."

Ferry, an avid supporter of fox hunting, will appear in Cheltenham court to face charges of robbery and common assault next month (May08).

http://www.contactmusic.com/news.nsf/article/ferrys%20son%20charged%20with%20assault_1065615

ASBO's for Hare Coursers - Lincolnshire

23/4/2008 – Boston Standard - ASBOs imposed to stop men from hare coursing

TWO men have been made the subject of an Anti-Social Behaviour Order to stop them hare coursing near Boston. Kevin Nicholson, 41, and Mark Nicholson, 43, appeared before District Judge Richard Blake, sitting at Skegness Magistrates' Court, and admitted trespassing at Black Drove, Midville, on January 15 in pursuit of game.

They both had previous convictions for hare coursing, the court was told last Tuesday. Kevin Nicholson, of Surtees Street, Darlington, and Mark Nicholson, of Kildale Moor Place, Darlington, were both fined £500 and ordered to pay £35 costs and a £15 surcharge.

The Judge also made them subject to an ASBO for 12 months prohibiting them from being in possession of any lurcher-type dog within Lincolnshire. It also prevents them from going on any open land in Lincolnshire without prior written permission of the landowner.

At the same hearing, Gary Hodgson, of Eden Mount, Kirbythorpe, Cumbria, admitted an identical offence. It was his first offence of that kind, the court was told. He was fined £250 with £35 costs and a £15 surcharge.

Prosecutor Sue Holden told the court the three defendants were arrested on January 15 after a local farmer discovered them hare coursing with lurcher-type dogs at Black Drove.

Landowners felt distressed and harassed by this behaviour and **there were serious implications for the brown hare, which had seen a dramatic fall in their numbers**, said Miss Holden.

Ian Benton, representing all three defendants, said that his clients wished to apologise for committing the offence.

<http://www.bostonstandard.co.uk/news/ASBOs-imposed-to-stop-men.4008572.jp>

Ferry faces Trial charged with assault and robbery of monitors - Gloucestershire

7/5/2008 – BBC News - Ferry faces trial on hunt charges

Otis Ferry is to face trial charged with attacking a hunt monitor and robbing another while they were trying to film him hunting in Gloucestershire.

The pro-hunting campaigner and son of rock star Bryan Ferry entered no pleas to the allegations when he appeared at Cheltenham Magistrates' Court.

Mr Ferry, 25, of Eaton Mascot, Shropshire, will enter formal pleas at Gloucester Crown Court on 14 May.

The charges relate to 21 November 2007 while he was with the Heythrop Hunt.

He is accused of robbing Susan Grima of a Samsung video camera, of a value unknown, on at Lower Swell, Cheltenham.

He is also charged with assaulting Helen Ghalmi by beating on the same date.

A trial date is yet to be fixed.

Mr Ferry was released on unconditional bail by Chairman of the Bench John Williams.

Story from BBC NEWS:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/england/gloucestershire/7387505.stm>

Monitors Footage shown at MP's Reception - London

14/5/08 – Daily Mirror - Anne Widdecombe attacked by pro-hunting bullies

Tory Anne Widdecombe told yesterday of the "terrifying" moment her car was kicked by pro-hunting bullies. She revealed video of anti-hunt campaigners being hit, sworn at, threatened with death and their cars and cameras damaged. And she added: "I was in a car being very violently booted and it is terrifying."

The film showed a man threatening to punch a female hunt monitor - people who film hunts to make sure the ban is not flouted. Another is told: "I will smash your car because I'm entitled to." A man on horseback calls monitors "a dirty bunch of bloody paedophiles - you take pictures of minors too. I will take your bloody name and take your bloody face and put it on a paedophile website."

A monitor's car is surrounded by pro-hunters on horseback. One snarls: "You are not going anywhere. Call the police, go on. I don't want you to move."

Ms Widdecombe attacked police and the Crown Prosecution Service as "remarkably weak" for failing to prosecute illegal hunting since the ban in 2005. The former Prisons and Home Office Minister said: "I am appalled by how men have been cautioned for these attacks and not convicted." At a heated meeting in the Commons, she repeatedly challenged **Countryside Alliance** leaders to condemn the bullying on the film.

They would not comment - although its **head Tim Bonner** said later: "I condemn completely any activity which is illegal."

But he **taunted Ms Widdecombe at the meeting: "The Hunting Act is going to be dead in two years. When David Cameron gets in, MPs will repeal it."**

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said: "The Government is satisfied that the Act is working and legally sound. It has no plans to introduce any changes."

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/topstories/2008/05/14/anne-widdecombe-attacked-by-pro-hunting-bullies-89520-20417151/>

HEYTHROP HUNTSMAN ACCUSED OF HUNTING FOXES – Gloucestershire/Oxfordshire

23.5.08 – Mirror - **Tally ho for a fox-hunting prosecution** by Paul Routledge -

When the ban on hunting with dogs came into force in 2005, I offered lunch at the House of Commons to the first police officer to mount a successful prosecution within a year. My money was safe.

Three years later, the cops have finally charged a foxhunt professional with illegally killing foxes. The case comes to court in Cheltenham in July.

The defendant? None other than **an employee of the Heythrop Hunt, of which David Cameron is a member**. Tally ho!

Daring Dave thrills at being "out of control" chasing a fox on "a powerful steed". The rest of us find his idea of sport disgusting.

Threat to Ann Widdecombe MP on Pro-Hunt Web Site – National

24/5/2008 – Telegraph - **Why make it easier for nutters to find MPs** By Andrew Pierce

Sir Igor Judge, Lord Justice Latham and Mr Justice Blake are the judges who decreed that, from yesterday, all MPs should publish their home addresses....

Last week, Ann Widdecombe showed a film to MPs of anti-hunt campaigners being hit, sworn at, threatened with death and their cars and cameras damaged. It also showed a man threatening to punch a female hunt monitor - people who film hunts to make sure the ban is not flouted. A man on horseback calls monitors "a dirty bunch of bloody paedophiles - you take pictures of minors, too. I will take your bloody name and take your bloody face and put it on a paedophile website".

Charming stuff. Only a few days later, Widdecombe was subjected to a particularly sinister threat in an email on a pro-hunting web site: "I have heard, from a very good source, that she is buying a property in -----. Maybe we could monitor her daily comings and goings. When I have her address I can forward it to anyone interested in welcoming her to her new home," it read.

After their Lordships' intervention, the anonymous website bully will have that address.....

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml?xml=/opinion/2008/05/24/do2406.xml>

Tory Leader David Cameron Exposed as Hunt Supporter - National

27.5.08 – Western Morning News - **HUNTING OPPONENTS TARGET MPS**

Campaigners against fox hunting will be trying to unseat pro-hunting MPs and garner support for candidates who oppose the sport in marginal seats at the next General Election.

Labour party member and anti-hunting campaigner Chris Gale, from Wiltshire, is coordinating the national operation, which is designed to prevent a Tory victory at the next election.

Mr Gale has launched the campaign because Tory leader David Cameron has promised to allow MPs a free vote on repealing the 2004 Hunting Act; **it is likely if there were a Conservative majority after the next election, the ban would be overturned.....**

Mr Gale said: **"We will not allow fox-hunter David Cameron to take this country back to the Dark Ages. His election would be a calamity for our wildlife and the values of decency and compassion.**

"We will fight in every marginal seat and expose the Cameron agenda of bringing back barbaric so-called sports to our countryside.".....

CAT SAVAGED BY HUNTING DOG – Boldon, South Shields20.8.2008 – Shields Gazette - **BOY'S PET CAT SAVAGED BY HUNTING DOG**

A BOY has been left heartbroken after his pet cat was killed and eaten by a rampaging hunting dog. Jack Burnett, seven, had been given rescue cat Penny after his rabbit died two months ago.

Over five weeks he grew close to her, getting up early to feed her every morning, and playing with her during the day. But Jack was left devastated when **a dog from a pack** roaming the fields around Newton Garth Farm in Boldon ran across his family's land and chased his cat and savaged it....

<http://www.shieldsgazette.com/news/Boys-pet-cat-savaged-by.4408588.jp>

WOMEN LEFT TERRIFIED AFTER DOG ATTACK – Isle of Wight4.9.2008 - Isle of Wight Radio - **Pet dog injured as pursued by hunting hounds**

Two Island women say they've been left terrified and shaken after an encounter with the **Isle of Wight Hunt. 70-year-old great grandmother Margaret Mussgin and her sister were walking in Gatcombe when their whippet dog was chased and pursued by a group of hounds.**

Speaking exclusively to Isle of Wight Radio, Margaret said, "**The dog was exhausted. She was being pursued and I just screamed help and quick because I thought the hounds would attack even more. Her claws were missing, one pad was gone, and a ligament in the back of her leg was showing which she had to have stitches. She had to have a sediment and painkillers. I haven't slept for two days and we're terrified about going back there**".

Members of the hunt were unwilling to speak to Isle of Wight Radio, however a spokesman from the Countryside Alliance said, "despite this unfortunate incident the dogs would never hurt a person or child. The hunt has offered to pay the whippet's vets bills".

<http://www.iwradio.co.uk/news/125840.html>

CAT KILLED BY HIGH PEAK HUNT – Sheldon, Derbyshire28.9.2008 – Derbyshire Times - **Hunt's vow as pack kills pet**

Hunt leaders have vowed to stop exercising their hounds in Peak villages after a **family's cat was savaged and killed by their pack of dogs**. Members of the High Peak Hunt had been riding through Sheldon near Bakewell when the pack of around 40 hounds attacked the animal after spotting it by the side of the road....Group leaders have now promised not to ride through Sheldon and other villages nearby, following calls from concerned residents — including the family who owned the cat — in the wake of the incident on September 8....

<http://www.derbyshiretimes.co.uk/news/Hunt39s-vow-as-pack-kills.1792662.jp>