



Protect Our Wild Animals Ltd. – powa.org.uk

Press Release

Immediate release

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MP Backs Call to Toughen Law on Hunting

The campaign group POWA - Protect Our Wild Animals, has responded to the start of a new hunting season by calling on MP's and the Government to remember all of the cruel and barbaric practices that the Hunting Act was meant to outlaw and show a renewed commitment to the hunt ban by addressing the failings in the legislation.

Their campaign has won the immediate support of Labour MP John McDonnell who is backing the call for the Government to act now to toughen the law against hunting.

John said "There is mounting evidence that hunts are avoiding the law and by various devices continuing the barbaric practice of hunting foxes down to a bloody kill. The Government needs to act to prevent this abuse of the spirit of the anti hunting legislation."

POWA – Protect Our Wild Animals has received hours of footage from hunt monitors¹ and reports from country dwellers of what they regard as reckless and lawless behaviour by the hunts ever since the Hunting Act became law four years ago.

Penny Little, spokesperson for POWA said "When the general public pressed their MPs to ban hunting, they did not want a ban that would allow hunts to behave with such arrogance and deceit. They wanted the practice to be stopped, with genuine drag hunting the only legal alternative.

Penny added "The practices of "trail" hunting as described by the hunters themselves are so utterly reckless that they are virtually certain to result in "accidents". But this outrageous situation can be resolved by amending the Hunting Act to include a 'reckless behaviour clause' by making it **an offence to 'cause or permit a dog to hunt, attack, injure or kill a wild mammal'**. That removes the possibility of an accident being used as a defence, and removes the need for intent to be proved in court."

Build On The Ban - Strengthen the Act!

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Notes to Editor:

Stills are attached and video footage¹ is available for viewing and download online at

www.powa.org.uk/pressreleases.html

Copies of the full 'Hunting Anarchy' DVD are also available from POWA on request – enquiries@powa.org.uk