Campaigning to Protect Hunted Animals (CPHA)

What is CPHA?

CPHA is a broad-based campaign to end the cruel and unnecessary sports of fox, deer, hare and mink hunting with dogs. First formed in 1996 by the RSPCA, the League Against Cruel Sports (LACS) and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), CPHA has the backing of a number of national organisations, prominent individuals and policy makers.

The RSPCA is the world’s oldest and largest animal welfare charity. Its aim is to prevent cruelty and promote kindness to all animals. The Society has 328 uniformed inspectors that give advice on animal care and investigate allegations of cruelty. Where appropriate the Society also brings prosecutions for cruelty offences. It has four hospitals that provide subsidised treatment for animals, three wildlife hospitals and a national network of rehoming centres and clinics. With the support of its internationally recognised scientists, the Society campaigns both in the UK and abroad to educate the public and to secure legislative changes that improve the welfare of all animals.

Founded in 1924, the League Against Cruel Sports maintains a unique approach to the protection of wildlife – combining campaigning with conservation. The League has been at the forefront of the campaign to ban hunting with dogs. To achieve its goal the League liaises closely with politicians in pressing for government action and enjoys cross-party support. The League backs up its campaigning work with a conservation programme providing practical help to wildlife through its network of wildlife sanctuaries in the West Country.

IFAW is the world’s leading international animal welfare organisation supported by two million supporters and staffed by more than 200 experienced campaigners, educators, legal and communications experts and internationally acclaimed scientists working from offices in 13 countries around the world. IFAW works to improve the welfare of wild and domestic animals throughout the world by reducing commercial exploitation, protecting wildlife habitats and assisting animals in distress. The organisation seeks to motivate the public to prevent cruelty to animals and to promote animal welfare and conservation policies that advance the well-being of both animals and people.

The campaign so far

Since the Second World War there have been a substantial number of parliamentary bills seeking to ban hunting with dogs. In May 1997 Labour MP for Worcester Michael Foster introduced the Wild Mammals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill. At its second reading on 28 November 1997, this private member’s bill had the support of an historic 411 MPs across all three parties – a record for any previous private member’s bill. Despite such overwhelming parliamentary and public support the bill was blocked by a small number of filibustering supporters of hunting.

In November 1998, CPHA launched Deadline 2000 – a campaign aimed at winning, before the new millennium, a government commitment to introduce its own bill to ban hunting with dogs. The campaign was given further momentum in July 1999 when the Prime Minister himself, in response to a question about hunting on BBC TV, said: ‘It will be banned’. Shortly after that the CPHA welcomed a Government announcement that it would hold an official inquiry to establish the facts of the issue. The Committee of Inquiry into Hunting with Dogs in England and Wales, chaired by Lord Burns, released its findings in June 2000 and confirmed that hunting with dogs ‘seriously compromises the welfare’ of foxes, deer, hare and mink.

In December 2000 the Government introduced its own Bill to outlaw hunting with dogs. This time the Bill contained three possible options – a ban, an option to introduce licensed hunting and an option to allow hunting to continue unchanged. Once again the proposed ban received clear support in the House of Commons with 387 MPs voting for the ban option to proceed. Despite such resounding support, the Bill was scuppered in March 2001 when the unelected House of Lords voted in favour of the option to allow hunting with dogs to continue and the bill subsequently ran out of Parliamentary time.

CPHA is now calling on the Government to fulfil its 2001 manifesto and Queen’s Speech commitments to give MPs the chance of a free vote on the issue as soon as possible. This time they must also make sure that the will of parliament is reflected in legislation to finally put an end to these cruel and unnecessary ‘sports’. The countdown to a ban has begun.

www.banhunting.com
CPHA Supporters

The campaign to ban hunting is supported by:

**Popular celebrities** including music legend Sir Paul McCartney, Hollywood actress Julia Ormond, actor Richard Wilson, fashion designers Stella McCartney, Elizabeth Emanuel and Wayne Hemingway, animal behaviourist Desmond Morris, EastEnders actress Wendy Richard, writer and animal campaigner Carla Lane, writer and former model Lauren Booth, TV actress Pam Ferris, TV presenters Chris Packham, Jayne Middlemiss, Wendy Turner Webster, Michaela Strachan and TV vet Emma Inglis.

**High profile politicians** including Ann Widdecombe, former government ministers Lord Hattersley, Baroness Castle and Tony Banks; former Conservative minister Philip Oppenheim; Liberal Democrats Lord Dholakia, Tom McNally, shadow home secretary Simon Hughes and animal welfare spokesman Norman Baker.

**Animal welfare organisations** including the RSPCA, the League Against Cruel Sports, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, the World Society for the Protection of Animals, the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society, Eurogroup for Animal Welfare and Earthkind.

**Some of the biggest trade unions** including the Agricultural Section of the Transport and General Workers Union, the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, the Communication Workers Union and the Manufacturing and Finance Union.

**Prominent individuals** including The Rt Reverend Dominic Walker, OGS, the Bishop of Reading, The Revd Professor Andrew Linzey, PhD, DD, The Rt Revd Richard Llewellin, the Bishop at Lambeth, Dr Roger Crisp, Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy and Sir Patrick Moore OBE.

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