

Foxhunting cut from documentary awards

FILMBASE and Setanta Sports have responded positively to an ICABS appeal for foxhunting to be dropped from a sports documentary competition.

The "Sports Short Documentary Awards 2008" had been inviting submissions on the theme of foxhunting but after ICABS complained, the category was cut from the scheme.

"We appeal to Filmbase and Setanta Sports to accept that since foxhunting is not a sport and that it involves horrendous animal cruelty, it is inappropriate to include it in the sports documentary awards,"

ICABS stated in our appeal.

Describing foxhunting as "an insult to sport", we argued successfully that, as it involves dozens of men and women on horseback along with a pack of hounds terrorising one small, defenceless creature, this unequal and mean-spirited set-up could never be considered a sport.

In response, Alan Fitzpatrick, the Managing Director at Filmbase, assured us that "it was never our intention to offend anyone by including foxhunting as a topic. Nor was it the intention of Setanta Sports or Filmbase to present an agenda that is



ICABS argued successfully that abusing foxes could never be considered a sport pro-hunting or to promote foxhunting generally."

"Having considered the points raised in your email," he added. "We have, in consultation with Setanta Sports, made the decision that foxhunting should be removed from the scheme."

ICABS has thanked Filmbase and Setanta for showing solidarity with our campaign and cutting foxhunting from its list of categories.

The winning documentaries in the award scheme will be broadcast in January 2009 as part of Setanta Sports' new Sports Matters series.

For the latest campaign news, successes and action alerts, please visit www.banbloodsports.com

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THE IRISH Council Against Blood Sports campaign relies entirely on your generosity to continue campaigning against blood sport cruelty.

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A big thank you to those who have sent in subscriptions and donations since the last edition of Animal Voice. We are very grateful to you for these vital funds.

If your sub is not yet due for renewal, please pass the enclosed forms on to a friend. Copies of the form may be downloaded from our website from the "Join ICABS" page. Thank you.

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Animal Voice

Campaign Newsletter of the Irish Council Against Blood Sports

2008 Edition

Gormley grants another hare coursing licence

Thousands more hares will now suffer blood sport cruelty

THOUSANDS of hares will suffer the cruelties of coursing, thanks to the latest blood sports licence issued by Environment Minister, John Gormley.

Despite compelling conservation reasons for the licence to be refused - as well as a pre-election promise by the Green Party that they would end blood sports in government - the licence was issued on Friday, 29th August. ICABS has expressed our extreme disappointment to Minister Gormley.

The licence allows thousands of hares to be forcefully removed from the wild in nets. The creatures, which will have suffered the stress of being netted, handled by humans and transported in crates to coursing enclosures,

will be kept in captivity for up to three months. During this time, they will be mercilessly used as lures for greyhounds.

In one of several appeals to Minister Gormley, ICABS highlighted the injuries and deaths suffered by hares in the last season following the coursing licence he issued in 2007. We also flagged the conservation reasons for a licence refusal. We reminded the Minister of a report he himself issued in May (Status of EU Protected Habitats & Species in Ireland) which warned that the overall conservation status of the Irish

Hare is "POOR". The reasons given included loss of habitat, increased urbanisation and hunting.

We also highlighted how the coursers themselves have complained about a lack of hares. We cited a National Parks and Wildlife Service monitoring report which quoted one coursing official as admitting that "this particular year the most difficult ever to find and capture wild hares."

He went on to tell the ranger that "more man-hours were spent this year looking for hares and yet the number caught was low...the hares are just not out on the land anymore."

Continued on page three

Minister John Gormley's licence means hares like this will continue to suffer



For all the latest updates and action alerts, visit www.banbloodsports.com

Capture data adds to fears for hares

REVELATIONS in a National Parks & Wildlife Service report that coursers are finding it difficult to find hares have sparked fresh fears for the future of the species.

A report on coursing in Offaly says that the Ballinagar club could only find 63 hares (including one leveret) for use in their blood sport.

The quality of the hares caught "appeared to be poor", the NPWS ranger outlined, pointing out that the club had to reduce the number of courses over the 2-day meet.

The ranger added that a club official told him that the coursers found "this particular year the most difficult ever to find and capture wild hares" and that "more man-hours were

spent this year looking for hares and yet the number caught was low."

"He said that the hares are just not out on the land anymore," the ranger continued. "He also told me that his club might have to amalgamate with Edenderry as the Ballinagar club is struggling to find hares any more."

The reports also revealed that other clubs had low numbers of hares with Galway and Oranmore with just 49, Trim with 50 and Loughrea with 55.

The Irish Council Against Blood Sports has brought this to the attention of Minister Gormley as part of our latest appeal to him to refuse further licences to the Irish Coursing Club.

Trapped hare "squealed with distress": report

A HARE "squealed with distress" after being caught by a muzzled greyhound during a coursing meeting last season. Just one of the deplorable instances of animal cruelty uncovered by ICABS from the latest NPWS reports.

The documents provide yet another horrifying insight into the fate of hares caught by coursing clubs. The abuse outlined is some of the worst ever encountered by ICABS.

Among the disturbing incidents witnessed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service rangers during the 2006/07 season are:

Hares being killed after being viciously mauled by greyhounds, hares suffering injuries so severe that they had to be put down, a hare suffering with "a badly broken hind leg", a hare "carrying a hind leg" and a hare with "a damaged hind toe".



Without proper protection, the future for hares is bleak

Status of Irish Hare is "poor"

THE OVERALL conservation status of the Irish Hare is "poor" according to the "Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland" report.

Issued in May by Minister John Gormley, it states that "factors likely to reduce hare numbers locally include loss of refuge areas, change from grassland to silage growing, and hunting."

The report confirms that the "main pressures" and "threats" to the hare include "trapping, poisoning and poaching".

If Minister Gormley does not halt the netting of hares for coursing, Ireland could very likely be in breach of an EU directive on wildlife conservation.

Letters to the Editors

Badgers controversy

Bernadette Barrett, Extract from letter to the Editor, Limerick Leader, January 2008

MICHAEL McElligot's letter published in Leader of January 12 relating to cattle TB and the alleged role of the badger merits a response. His suggestion that a small number of the animals be humanely culled and tested at Government laboratories suggests that he is out of touch with the reality of the situation.

We have been slaughtering badgers for 'scientific research' for almost two decades. Since the East Offaly study, 55,800 badgers have made the journey to the six regional labs for autopsy.

First, they required capturing in the most inhumane way, by means of the barbaric multi-strand wire snare which is our Government's chosen method. They are snared overnight, left struggling for freedom and shot

sometime the following day. To add to this, the number of badgers killed illegally on Irish farms can only be guessed at.

If killing badgers was the solution, Ireland should be TB-free long ago. According to available figures, we removed 25,291 reactors in 2007, an increase on the 22,071 taken out in 2006.

Bovine TB is a cattle disease. The skin test for TB in cattle is not 100% accurate and it is not diagnostic. Healthy animals sometimes fail it but more alarming still is that occasionally an infected animal can slip through. It only takes one missed animal to start the ball rolling again. These animals are like time bombs in a herd.

It is very likely that badgers originally picked up the disease from cattle through their dietary habits of foraging under infected cow pats. How and if they transmit it back to cattle is pure conjecture.

HUNTERS NOT THE FARMER'S FRIENDS

Nuala Donlon, Lanesborough, Co Longford. Extract from letter in Irish Times, 5th Feb, 2008.

AS SOMEONE born, reared and still resident in rural Ireland, I am getting increasingly tired of the pro-foxhunting lobby's attempts to paint themselves as the guardians of the rural way of life and the farmer's best friend.

I come from a part of rural Ireland where we have always,

thankfully, been spared the presence of a foxhunt and I'm glad to report that the area has not been over-run by foxes.

Nor is predation of farm animals by foxes a problem of any significance; by far the majority of farm animal mortality relates to issues of sub-standard husbandry, as is the case throughout Ireland, and this fact is well-documented by the Department of Agriculture.

Irish wildlife under threat

Aideen Yourell, ICABS, Extract from letter in Irish Times, 3rd June, 2008.

A REPORT issued recently by Minister for the Environment John Gormley revealed shocking news about the state of our wildlife and its habitats. Some species are described as on the brink of extinction, while the status of others, including hares and otters, is "poor".

In the case of the otter, it took a directive from Europe to stop its persecution by hunters...but the danger still remains from those who have switched to mink hunting along the same rivers, thereby creating huge disturbance for otters.

For many years now, the Irish Council Against Blood Sports has been calling on successive ministers for the environment to stop issuing hare-netting licences and to outlaw harrying and beagling, all to no avail.

Meanwhile our neighbours in Northern Ireland have suspended all hare hunting and coursing in the past few years. Not to be thwarted, the Northern coursers travel south to be hosted by clubs from the Republic, creating more pressure on our hares.

Will we have to wait for another slap on the wrist from Europe to protect our wildlife? I hope Minister Gormley will take the initiative now to give our precious wildlife the protection it so desperately needs.

Letters to the Editors

Bullfights in advertising

*Philip Kiernan, Irish Council
Against Blood Sports,
Letter to the Editor,
Irish Times, July 22, 2008.*

VODAFONE'S inclusion of a bullfighting scene in its current television advert is both insensitive and offensive.

The footage of a matador taunting a bull was used, the company maintains, because "bullfighting is seen as an important part of Spain's tradition and culture."

This may be the view of lazy advertising executives stuck in the past but it's certainly not based on any modern truth. Bullfighting is now to Spain what hunting and coursing are to Ireland - an offensive anachronism which most want ended.

A Gallup opinion poll carried out last year leaves no doubt whatsoever that Spaniards are overwhelmingly rejecting this horror show. A mere 7 per cent expressed support for the activity while up to 82 per cent said they had no interest in it.

Vodafone should recognise that torturing animals is cruelty, not culture, and immediately cut this scene.

Absentee fox raises question of hunting

*John Fitzgerald, Kilkenny.
Letter to the Editor, Galway
Independent, 13 August 2008.*

IRELAND'S equestrian prowess has been showcased magnificently at the RDS, with some of the best riders and horses in the country having performed for the crowds.

And of course the show has once again been used by the country's foxhunts to glamourise their delightful sport. Riders dressed up in immaculate Tally-ho outfits went through their paces, and packs of hounds were displayed proudly, in a sanitised re-enactment of a hunting scene.

It made foxhunting look so pretty and harmless ... fun for all the family.

But there was something missing: Okay, you had the hunts people in their colourful costumes, the sturdy horses in top form, and the hounds with their tails wagging happily.

The notable absentee from this supposed replication of hunting skills and pageantry was the humble fox. He was nowhere to be seen at the RDS.

While playing a central role in a typical day's hunting in the countryside, An Madra

Rua failed to put in an appearance on the very day when thousands of TV viewers could have seen for themselves how he gets such a thrill out of being chased by hounds, and how being caught and savaged by them doesn't bother him a bit, as we know from the Hunting Association of Ireland.

Or how the fox that runs to ground is so sporting... absolutely delighted with himself, about being dug out of his refuge with the aid of spades and terriers and tossed to the pack.

The foxhunters lost a golden opportunity to win over all those ignorant folk who believe hunting is cruel, or unfair to the fox.

What a pity he was so damn conspicuous by his absence. We could have watched from our sitting rooms or barstools as the hunters displayed that characteristic affection for Ireland's wildlife that they claim is at the heart of the whole field sport ethos.

At the end of the televised hunt, we might even have detected on the fox's bloodied and mutilated face ... the faint traces of a smile.

Then we'd know for sure it died laughing.

Hare coursing licence granted by Gormley

Continued from front page
As part of our impassioned plea to the Minister to fulfil his duty to protect the Irish Hare, ICABS emphasised Ireland's obligations in relation to the EU Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora.

We pointed to Article 14.1 of the Directive which states that any exploitation of a protected species must be "compatible with their being maintained at a favourable conservation status."

We also reminded the Green Party Minister that coursing is now illegal in the UK and it has been suspended in Northern Ireland since 2003.

Just week's before this latest licence by Minister Gormley, his Northern counterpart, Minister Sammy Wilson, extended the ban on hare persecution there until at least March 2009.

Minister Wilson's brave and commendable move came amid fears for the "the stability and sustainability of the hare population".

ACTION ALERT

Please contact Minister Gormley to express your disappointment about his granting of the hare coursing licence.

Minister John Gormley
Dept of the Environment
Custom House, Dublin 1.
Email: minister@environ.ie
Tel: 01 888 2403

Welcome Message

WELCOME to the 2008 edition of Animal Voice, and our annual round-up of campaigning news and updates.

As we go to press, sadly, we have to report that the coursers have again been licensed to net hares from the wild for another season of cruelty and abuse, despite the fact that Minister Gormley had compelling reasons to refuse the licence on conservation grounds, not to mention the 'Catalogue of Cruelty' from last year's season that we presented to him, showing that nothing changes in coursing and hares continue to be mauled, injured and killed.

Meanwhile, we continue to highlight the cruelty in the media with a record number of letters to editors and radio interviews over the past year. Our well attended protest last February outside the coursing 'festival' in Clonmel also received great coverage.

The Ward Union carted deer hunt are awaiting their licence, and after their court victory overturning Minister Gormley's restrictive licence last year, it will be interesting to see what the Minister will do this time. We are, of course, pressing for him to refuse this licence.

We continue to lobby the politicians on foxhunting, hare coursing and carted deer hunting, and we can't stress enough to you, our

loyal supporters, how important it is to make your views known to your local TDs, especially now, as a new Animal Welfare Bill is being drafted by the Department of Agriculture, on which ICABS has made a submission, outlining the cruelty of hunting wild animals with dogs.

Our website continues to be an important and powerful campaigning tool, and is kept updated regularly by Philip Kiernan, whose technical and artistic brilliance knows no bounds, evidenced by the compelling videos presentations posted on our Youtube Channel - youtube.com/icabs - which leave no doubt about the cruelty.

The hunters meanwhile try to keep a low profile, with their policy being to shun radio and TV debates. They managed to sabotage the Late Late Show debate scheduled for last January by objecting to opposition speakers, and the show was axed as a result, which goes to prove that their arguments are indefensible and they have a lot to hide.

The fight goes on and we in ICABS will not rest till our aims have been achieved. Your support is absolutely vital, both financial and otherwise, and we thank all those who sent donations throughout the year and wrote kind letters of encouragement.

Aideen Yourell
Campaign Director

Coursing's catalogue of cruelty continues

NOTHING CHANGES in coursing as far as the cruelty is concerned, and the 2007-08 season was no different, as reports obtained by ICABS under Freedom of Information were to reveal. Hares continue to be struck, injured, killed and fatally affected by stress-related syndromes in captivity.

NPWS rangers attended 34 of the 75 meetings on the fixture list, and according to the monitoring reports, there was hardly a meeting without hares being struck by muzzled dogs.

At the three-day meeting in Tubbercurry last January, 26 hares were hit, with 14 of these being "mauled" according to the ranger's report. There was no mention of what became of these hares, other than that they were released after the meeting. It would be miraculous if all these 14 survived such maulings!

Meanwhile, at Dundalk seven hares died as a result of being hit by dogs. At Gorey, 11 hares were hit, with five dying of injuries; at Tradaree, nine hares were hit by dogs, with five dying of injuries; North Kilkenny saw four hares hit, four injured and four dying of injuries.

At Ballyheigue, 12 hares were hit, three killed, one injured and one put down, with the vet deeming 10 hares "unfit for coursing".

At Loughrea, four hares were



A hare is sent tumbling after being hit by a greyhound during a coursing meet.

hit and one was found dead in the compound after the meeting. Two died while being put in boxes and four hares were reported "missing" after the meeting.

Sixteen hares were hit and eight injured at Wexford & District but again, there is no mention of the fate of these animals.

The coursing meeting in Blarney saw five hares being struck, with one being killed and another put down after suffering a broken femur.

And so the list of cruelty goes on and on.

At Templetuohy, five hares were found dead in the paddock prior to coursing, and post mortems revealed coccidiosis, a condition which is exacerbated by the stress of being netted from the wild, handled and transported in crates.

Another stress-related condition claimed the lives of eight hares at Glin - the creatures were found dead before the meeting with haemorrhagic enteritis.

At Mallow, the system of tagging hares was crude, with four hares having "twine tied in their ears". Seven hares were hit, with three hares unaccounted for on release. And in Cavan, five hares were hit according to the coursers. Three of these were "released" and there was one "escapee".

A further five hares "either escaped or disappeared" during the holding period following capture, and a leveret was born in captivity, indicating a pregnant hare had been caught, in breach of licence conditions.

A leveret was also present in the Ballinagar compound in Co Offaly.

All this suffering was facilitated by a licence from Green Party Minister John Gormley and we have made him aware of all the casualties.

We are told, however, that the welfare of hares is not his responsibility! Minister Gormley, in granting a licence for this appalling blood sport, only considers conservation issues.

So, it would appear, that no government department or Minister is willing to take responsibility for what happens to hares at the hands of cruel coursing clubs.

Irish singer recounts encounter with fox

MUSICIAN Dónal Donohoe has said that foxes are always welcome to his Co Wicklow garden. In his website blog, the singer and guitarist recounts the moment he came face-to-face with one of the creatures and tells of how a fox drops by occasionally to drink from the bird bath!

"I was absorbed in what I was doing when I turned around to get something and there he was, the fox," Dónal writes of the winter encounter. "With his reddish brown fur, long bushy tail and cat-like eyes, he was no more than three or four feet away from me. He just stood there looking at me expectantly in the hope, I suppose, that I would feed him. My elderly neighbour had told me that while her grandchildren had been



Irish singer and guitarist Dónal Donohoe

staying with her for a few days sometime earlier, they had fed the fox by hand a few times. Somehow feeding a wild animal with human food did not seem right, it could make him a little too trusting of people which might not always be in his best interest."

"He followed me around for



The gorgeous red fox encountered by Dónal Donohoe

about a half an hour and although it was hard, I resisted giving him any food hoping instead that he would turn his attention to catching one of the many wild rabbits that inhabit these hills. Eventually the fox did go his own way, but over the following days and weeks he has come around many times.

"Sometimes he would eat some of the apples that were left out for the birds and other times he would drink from the bird bath, but maybe he was just dropping by to say hello in his own foxy way. As far as I am concerned he is always welcome."

Speaking out against fox-hunting and other blood sports, Dónal comments that "anyone who would want to inflict pain and cruelty on an animal and experience pleasure in doing so is something that I cannot relate to."

"Tradition is often cited as justification for these practices," he adds, "but cannibalism, eating the heart of your enemy to gain the power of his soul and throwing Christians to the lions have also been traditions in this world. Not all traditions are necessarily good or worth keeping."

You can check out Dónal's website at donaldonohoe.com and listen to some of his songs at www.myspace.com/donaldonohoe.

Photo: Irene Lundgaard

Coronation Street star supports campaign

THE IRISH Council Against Blood Sports is thrilled to announce that Coronation Street star, David Neilson, has expressed his support for our campaign.

Award-winning, David, who plays Street legend, Roy Cropper, said: "I am happy to be added to your list of supporters."

"I oppose all blood sports," Mr Neilson said in an email to Animal Voice editor, Philip Kiernan.

ICABS is delighted to have the support of David Neilson.

Other celebrities who have approved our campaign include U2, Brigitte Bardot, Howard Jones, DJ Mark Wilkinson and Benjamin Zephaniah.



"I oppose all blood sports and am happy to be added to your list of supporters": Corrie star, David Neilson

"You have my full support": Sean Hughes
POPULAR Irish actor and comedian, Sean Hughes, has given the thumbs up to our campaign against blood sports.

"I am opposed to any cruelty," he told us in an email. "I find animal cruelty disgusting. You have my full support."

ICABS is delighted to have Sean's support. For more on his work, visit myspace.com/seanhughescomedian

"HUNTING IS HORRIBLE"



SINGER and actress, Dana Varon has expressed her support for the ICABS campaign against hunting.

The New York-based artist who is currently appearing in critically acclaimed film, *Momma's Man*, said: "Hunting is horrible. I hate it and I am so glad you are doing this campaign."

You can listen to some of Dana's excellent songs at www.danavaron.com

Ward Union's hunt is illegal, experts insist

LEGAL EXPERTS have outlined how the Ward Union deer hunt is illegal under current animal protection legislation.

Legal opinion by Professors Clive Symmons and William Binchy of Trinity School of Law (published in the Irish Law Times) concludes that the Ward Union hunt is "illegal" under the 1911 Protection of Animals Act, and that it shouldn't be licensed under the 1976 Wildlife Act, as the deer are not wild animals.

Bringing the reports to the attention of Minister Gormley, ICABS earnestly appealed to him to stand firm against the Ward Union bullies, and their backers in the Fianna Fail cabinet, and bring an end to the suffering of these vulnerable animals.

With top legal experts confirming that this hunt is illegal, the time has never been better to act, we told the Minister.

Gormley considers another licence for deer hunt cruelty

AS WE go to press, the Environment Minister, John Gormley, is considering an application from the Ward Union for a licence for another season of hounding tame deer around the countryside with hounds.

Last year, the Minister issued a restricted licence to the Ward Union, which prohibited them from actually chasing the deer with dogs. It was intended that the deer be released and chased for a period by the huntsman, then recaptured and taken away before the dogs were released to follow the scent left by the deer.

However, the Ward Union challenged this licence in court, and won their case on the basis that the licence stat-

ed that they may hunt deer with a pack of dogs, but the new condition prevented them from doing this.

In a statement from the Minister's office, ICABS was told that "the terms of the settlement are that the case will be dropped, and that the Minister will not impose conditions 12 and 13 on this or future licences, should such licences be granted."

ICABS had urged the Minister to deny the hunters a licence in the first instance but our appeal was dismissed.

We emphasised to Minister Gormley that it was, and is, in his power to refuse a licence outright on the grounds that the deer chased by the Ward Union are domestic and not wild, and therefore this hunt should not receive a licence under the Wildlife Act.

Ryanair mag ends in-flight bullfights

ICABS HAS praised the publishers of Ryanair Magazine for a promise that bullfighting will no longer be publicised in the popular in-flight publication.

Responding to an ICABS appeal, editor Ramsay Short assured us that "there will not be any stories promoting or highlighting bullfighting."

FG TD wants deerhunt ban

FINE GAEL TD, Terence Flanagan, has lent his support to the campaign against carted deer hunting.

"I support the Irish Council Against Blood Sports' call for the Ward Union hunt to be refused a licence," the Dublin North-East TD said in a letter to Minister John Gormley.

ICABS is very grateful for Deputy Flanagan's support.

ACTION ALERT

Urge Minister Gormley to refuse a licence to the Ward Union. Remind him that carted deer hunting is contrary to the Protection of Animals Act which protects domestic animals.

Minister John Gormley
Dept of the Environment
Custom House, Dublin 1.
Email: minister@environ.ie
Tel: 01 888 2403.

Fox forced to swim for its life during foxhunt

A FOX being chased by a pack of hunt hounds was forced to swim across a canal twice in a desperate bid to try and save its life.

This hunt cruelty was outlined in a report about the Westmeath Foxhounds published in the Irish Field (2nd February 2008).

This is the same hunt who, last December, admitted mercilessly digging a fox out of its earth and seeing hounds tear it asunder.

"The fox and the pack swam across the canal and continued along the banks to the Mullingar/Ballynacargy Road," the disturbing report reveals. From here, "the fox, with four and a half couple (9 hounds) in pursuit, swam the canal again before retracing their steps back to Newman's Bog."



A fox like this was chased into a canal by foxhounds

The Irish Council Against Blood Sports dreads to think of the awful fear and suffering endured by the fox as it did everything it possibly could to try and lose the pack.

In a letter to the editor published in the Westmeath Examiner, we appealed to local landowners to consider

the canal fox's terrible ordeal and the cruelty they facilitate by inviting hunts on to their land.

"Please stand up for our wildlife heritage by posting 'No Hunting' signs along property boundaries and putting a notice in your local paper warning hunts to stay away," we appealed.

We also asked hunt followers uncomfortable with the cruelty to press for a changeover to draghunting.

We told them that "this 21st Century alternative will not take away your enjoyment of following hounds along waterways, over stone walls and across bogs but it will ensure that a day's sport will never again depend on a bedraggled fox drenched in canal water and sweat running to save its life."

Hunt told to stay away from canal

When ICABS told Waterways Ireland about the fox chased into the freezing waters of the Royal Canal, we were assured that the Westmeath Foxhounds would be contacted and told to stay away from the canal.

Waterways Ireland Regional Manager, John McKeown confirmed that "the Westmeath Foxhounds do not have permission from

Waterways Ireland to hunt on Royal Canal property."

"We carried out some local investigations and could not find evidence that horses had accessed the canal banks and no damage was observed," he added. "However, I will write to the chairman of the Westmeath Foxhounds to inform them that their horses are not permitted on canal property."

In our letter to Waterways Ireland, ICABS highlighted the threat to public safety posed by packs of hounds. We also pointed out that seeing a fox running for its life would prove distressing to legitimate canal and canal bank users.

"Persecution of wildlife along the canal would surely be upsetting to the majority of those who enjoy the canal experience," we stated.

NUIG foxhunting debate: hunters lose arguments

THE ANIMAL Rights Society at Galway University held a debate in March with the motion "That This House Would Ban Hunting".

Packing the room with hunters, coursers and terrier-men, the pro-hunt side "won" on the night as the outcome was decided not by the validity of points presented but by a show of hands!

In a concluding speech, Green Party Councillor, Niall O Brolchain, dismissed the hunt propaganda and declared that the only thing proven by the hunters was that "they can fill a room"!

The following extracts from letters to the editor subsequently published in the Galway Independent illustrate the hunters' appalling behaviour on the night and the emptiness of their arguments.

"The pro-hunting audience continuously heckled, jeered, interrupted and booed at every anti-hunt speaker. It seemed like a hunt was taking place in the theatre...I did not learn anything that night that would even start to change my mind. The one thing I did learn was that the hunters are bullies." (*Muriel Hayden, Athenry, Co Galway*)

"When is a debate not a

debate? When one side seeks to bully and intimidate the other side into submission.

"Illogical, irrelevant arguments were cast around like confetti, with the real issue of the debate being carefully air-brushed out; this being that hunters hunt for the thrill of the chase and the buzz they get from terrorising outnumbered animals, be those animals foxes or deer.

"All arguments put forward from the pro-hunting side were pretty much an insult to the intelligence of the average person." (*A Herbert, Ballybrit, Galway*)

COURSING CRUELTY CONTINUES

A terrified hare is knocked off its feet by a muzzled greyhound. Records show that hares hit by dogs can suffer broken bones and other internal injuries. Please join our appeals to the government to ban this blood sport.



Uncovered: more hunting horrors

HOUNDS killing a hunt servant, cats deliberately targeted by hunters, the threat to humans and livestock from diseased foxhounds. ICABS Correspondent, Dick Power, uncovers more of hunting's horror stories...

Newspaper coverage of hunting rarely highlights the unpleasant truths about the blood sport.

But, among the reports on the hunting activities of Saint Stephen's Day, we were told of the savaging of an old cat in her owner's garden. Not everyone knows, however, that cats have been deliberately targeted by hunters.

"No man or woman ought to be allowed on the hunting field until they have read and thoroughly digested 'Thoughts on Hunting,'" asserts one Capt. J. Paget, introducing the 8th edition of Peter Beckford's 1951 book.

Beckford assures his readers that a cat is as good a trail as any and he refers to an old huntsman friend who trained young hounds by dragging a cat along the ground for a mile or two in front of them.

Beckford outlines how he himself begins training his



Hunting hounds: Dangerous not only to wildlife but also to pets, farm animals - and humans.

young hounds in August by having his huntsman release a cat before them, which they hunt up to a kill.

Be very wary of confronting a pack of hounds. It is recorded that hounds killed a hunt servant in County Galway many moons ago. More recently, hounds attacked and injured a housewife in the garage of her home in Leinster.

Never fondle foxhounds either. As far back as the 1960s, foxhounds were found to be hosts of two difficult parasites - Trichinella and Echinococcus.

Investigators concluded that they became infected

with Trichinella as a result of killing and eating foxes caught during hunting. Infection in humans arises from handling dogs. Sheep may also pick up the parasites from pasture which has been contaminated by the dogs.

Under current legislation, all dogs must be kept under control in public places. In the time of landlordism, it was said that the poor were struck out of the protection of the law, the rich out of its penalties.

The landlords are gone but their despicable attitude prevails very evidently in the hunting fraternity.

FURTHER DEER DEATH DETAILS UNCOVERED

MORE disturbing details have emerged about the deaths of two deer hunted by the Ward Union.

Documents obtained by ICABS include statements from a vet who was present at some of the hunts. His description of two particular incidents provide a sickening account of the fate of the deer.

In a report submitted to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the vet refers to a Ward Union hunt in Scurlogstown in County Meath during the 2006-07 season. He reveals that a deer "died as a

result of 'dry drowning' having fallen into a quarry." This shocking incident obviously occurred as the creature was desperately trying to stay ahead of the pack of hounds and Ward Union riders.

The vet mentioned other deer that suffered injuries during the season. Five had "slight lameness" and two had "skin abrasions", he said.

In another report dealing with the 2004-05 season (also obtained by ICABS), details are provided about an unfortunate deer that dropped dead after trying to escape over a high wall. The deer was eight years old and was hunted for approximately one and a half

hours, according to the document. What follows is the harrowing account of the deer's final minutes of life...

"At 15.25, the stag approached a walled garden attached to a semi-detached cottage in a cul-de-sac near Ringlestown, Kilmessan, Co Meath.

"At this point the stag, which was not being pursued, jumped over a 5 foot in height wall into the cottage garden, following which 3 nominated handlers entered the garden through a side gate. The stag, in full view of two of the han-

dlers then attempted to escape from the garden by attempting unsuccessfully to scale a higher wall (approximately 8-9 feet high) before being captured on his feet by the three nominated handlers...

"The stag was held for approximately five minutes by the handlers as they waited for the deer cart to arrive, following which he suddenly dropped dead ... The cause of death was due to a ruptured aorta."

Incredibly, the hunters were praised in the report for lifting the dead deer "in a dignified manner" through the side gate of the garden and into the deer cart.



Ward Union deer choked in woodland

A WARD Union deer was choked to death in a wood, the Irish Farmers Journal has revealed. The death occurred at the end of a hunt and is one of the fatalities caused by the Ward Union "over the last few years", the newspaper reported.

ICABS is trying to establish when exactly this incident took place and if it is yet another instance of a deer being choked.

The last known choking took place a decade ago during the 1997/98 season. A report from the Department of Agriculture stated that that deer was choked while being captured by hunt members.

Senator Bacik backs WU ban

ICABS HAS thanked Senator Ivana Bacik for supporting our campaign for a ban on deer hunting.

"I am asking you to refuse a licence to the Ward Union deer hunt," she stated in a letter to Minister John Gormley. "The Irish Council Against Blood Sports are mounting a campaign against this, which I support."

Senator Bacik is the Reid Professor of Criminal Law, Criminology and Penology at Trinity College (previously held by Presidents Mary Robinson and Mary McAleese).

Submission calls for multiple bans

A SUBMISSION made by ICABS to the Department of Agriculture has called for the new Animal Health & Welfare Bill to completely ban blood sports activities.

Our comprehensive submission covered hare coursing, fox hunting, carted deer hunting, mink hunting, ferreting, terrierwork, the bleeding of hounds, earthstopping and snaring.

In our 27-page presentation, we emphasised the need for all animals to be given equal protection and expressed concern about the Department's stated intention to provide for "differentiated levels of welfare for farmed animals, protected animals and all animals".

"It is our contention that all animals - domestic or wild - should receive full and equal protection from 'needless pain or unnecessary suffering' on the basis that all are sentient creatures and all should be protected from cruelty and unnecessary suffering," we stated.

"If there are to be differentiated levels of welfare, with farmed animals receiving the highest level, this would be a retrograde step - the existing 1911 Protection of Animals Act does not discriminate among farmed and other

domestic animals as regards the level of protection from suffering they should receive."

ICABS welcomed the stated intention of the new act to prohibit "potentially cruel activities involving animals" and to make it an offence to be involved in such activities.

"As regards 'potentially cruel activities involving animals', we would welcome

such a provision, and would call for all blood sports activities to be included, i.e. hunting of wild animals with dogs - hare hunting and coursing; fox hunting with dogs; mink hunting with dogs and the hunting of domestic deer (Ward Union) as these activities involve the infliction of unnecessary suffering on the hunted animal."

Wexford foxes were "brutally assaulted"

THE STAR newspaper has revealed that two foxes were dug out of their den and "brutally assaulted" in Fethard-on-Sea, Wexford.

A local woman said that, prior to the grim discovery, she saw two men from a red car walking close the dens with four dogs. ICABS has urged anyone with information to contact the Wexford Gardai on 053-916 5200.

The Star (March 31, 2008) reported that the mangled remains of the unfortunate foxes were found by the woman while she was out walking.

"I went for a walk and this is what I came across - two foxes just on the ground a few metres away from their hole,"

she was quoted as saying. "They were absolutely brutally assaulted. It must have been a long, slow death."

Digging out and the use of terriers is one of the most cruel and heartless assaults on the fox species in Ireland. It is carried out not only by cold, heartless individuals who enjoy seeing animals suffer but also by thugs employed by registered fox-hunts.

ICABS has brought this latest assault on our wildlife to the attention of the Department of Agriculture and stressed the desperate need for foxes to be given protection under the new animal welfare legislation and those guilty of animal cruelty to be given major penalties.

Sickened hunter calls for life ban on 2 hunts

A HUNTER who says he saw foxes dug out of their earth with spades and bars is calling for "a life ban" on two hunts.

Quoted in the Avondu newspaper, the long-time hunt reporter said he was "sickened to the core" to witness the scene. He has also alleged that a captive fox was released from a bag in front of hounds and that members of the Ormond and Avondu hunts were "implicit in this act of barbarism".

Following a call from ICABS, the incident is being investigated by the Gardai in Fermoy.

The Avondu newspaper says it was contacted by the sickened hunting enthusiast who "described how a group of men dug foxes out of their underground hiding place with spades and bars, subsequently killing them".

The hunter brands digging out as being contrary to "the

good sport" to leave foxes alone once they have outwitted the hounds and escaped underground.

However, digging out is commonplace during Irish hunts and acknowledged by the Irish Masters of Foxhounds Association: "Digging shall only be conducted by a small number of experienced people," they state in a so-called code of conduct. "Reasonable efforts shall be made to ensure that digging out will not become a public spectacle."

"It goes against my grain to report this but these hunts deserve to be exposed and the actions of the IMFHA need to be questioned," the quoted source told the Avondu. "I thought bagged foxes were a relic of darker times and consigned to the history books. The gentlemen of the Avondu and Ormond Hunts are stuck in the past and their actions will

only hasten the demise of fox-hunting in Ireland."

"The anti foxhunting brigade can hang up their boots," he added. "Foxhunting will end as a result of the actions of its own followers."

Although unlawful to release a captive animal in front of hounds, ICABS believes that this may be commonplace. Bagged foxes are released when hounds fail to find the scent of a fox in the wild.

In a separate report in the Nenagh Guardian, it is suggested that the alleged incident came to light only after complaints were made by visiting hunters from the UK.

In a submission to the Department of Agriculture, ICABS has demanded a total ban on foxhunting and all forms of digging out and terrierwork.

MEP supports calls for bans

IRISH MEP, Kathy Sinnott, has joined the calls for a ban on hare coursing and carted deer hunting. In a letter to Minister, John Gormley, Ms Sinnott asked for an end to "this terrible practice of animal abuse".

"I support the call by the Irish Council Against Blood Sports for you to refuse licences for the Irish Coursing Club and the Ward Union carted deer hunt," she stated.

ICABS has thanked Kathy Sinnott for her support.



A fox is thrown into a bag after being dug out of the ground during an Irish hunt. The animal was later thrown to the pack

Terror as hunters invade farm yard

A 6-YEAR-OLD boy was left hysterical and screaming in terror as Ireland's oldest hunt came thundering through a farmyard in County Cork.

The boy's mother told RTE's Liveline programme that she feared for her children's safety and roared at the hunters to get out.

Speaking to presenter Derek Davis, Margo O'Keefe described how mounted hunters "came within three yards of the concrete yard where my kids were playing".

"[Me and my aunt] went out obviously - because my children were out there and I wanted to protect my children - and we started roaring at them to get out of there, they had no permission," she added. "They were so close to me that there were spatters of muck on my clothes. I was shouting at my children to stay behind me. My son was hysterical; he was running around the yard and I was shouting at him to get into the house."

The aunt expressed her upset at the incident. "I was very upset and very angry," she said. "It was the fact that this was an invasion [into] a

private farm in a private area. We should be entitled to that privacy."

She also told of how her fear for the safety of the children prompted her to lob stones into the air to try and divert the hunters away from the yard. She insisted that she was aiming to miss the horses but, regardless, one of the men on horseback gave her this abusive response: "if that f***ing stone hits my horse, I'll put that f***ing stone straight through your window."

A hunting spokesperson

The hunters "came within three yards of where my kids were playing...My son was hysterical"

agreed with a statement by Derek Davis that "at a time when hunting is under huge pressure from the anti-blood sports lobby, you need all the friends you can possibly get and that behaving like the seventh cavalry isn't the way to do it."

Derek went on to question the general disregard that hunters have for private land. "There is, amongst anglers, a protocol about going on other people's lands, about sterilising boots (where requested) and fishing tackle before

bringing something in from the open road on to somebody's land. That doesn't seem to affect the hunts at all. There's also the protocol of going on to private property - you seek permission. You're trying to draw a comparison between anglers and huntsmen on horseback [but] I'm unlikely to come around the corner of a farmyard at 30 miles an hour brandishing a fishing rod and telling someone to f*** off, crossing their land."

Admitting that they had made a mistake, Duhallow Hunt chairman, Pat Fleming, apologised

for the hunters coming into the farm yard, saying "I've already apologised and I'll apologise again for that." Retorted Derek Davis: "It would have been nice if somebody on the day had apologised."

According to the IMFHA website, Duhallow hunters "maintain the best possible relations with...the general public!"

ICABS has brought this incidents to the attention of the government and renewed our appeal for hunting with hounds to be banned.

Galway fox chased for 80 minutes by hunters

A FOX had to endure a grueling 80 minute chase during a hunt in County Galway, according to an Irish Field report.



A fox runs for its life during a foxhunt in County Galway. Photo: banfoxandstaghuntingcrueltyireland.com

"As soon as [the huntsman] cast his pack in Pump Bog, they found a fox and were away for what was to be a run of one hour and twenty minutes," the report stated, adding that the hunt terrier was among the dogs chasing the unfortunate fox.

The report on the Grallagh Harriers suggests that this particular fox managed to get away but it's more than likely that the creature was in a poor state afterwards.

Research has shown that foxes chased by hounds suffer internal injuries, leaving them at risk of dying even if they eventually escape.

ACTION ALERT

Please urgently appeal to Minister for Agriculture, Brendan Smith, and Minister of State, Trevor Sargent, to protect foxes under the new animal welfare legislation.

Minister Brendan Smith
Department of Agriculture
Agriculture House,
Kildare Street, Dublin 2.
Email: minister@agriculture.gov.ie
Tel: 01-607 2000

Trevor Sargent, TD
tsargent@greenparty.ie
Tel: 01-6183465
Fax: 01-8900361

Captivating viewing for all the family



If you've missed it at the cinema, do look out for the captivating The Fox and the Child on DVD. Oscar-winning director Luc Jacquet (March of the Penguins) says of the film: "It is our hope to reveal the wonder of nature that surrounds us every day." This special release beautifully achieves that and will undoubtedly help win many new friends for the red fox!

Noel Treacy asked to stop pandering to foxhunters

THE IRISH Council Against Blood Sports has called on Galway TD, Noel Treacy, TD to stop pandering to hunters and “respect the overwhelming wishes of the electorate and commit to safeguarding our wildlife heritage”.

Our call comes following an article in the Galway Independent which outlined how Deputy Treacy addressed hunters at a meeting in Ballinasloe earlier this year.

“When I was in charge of the Wildlife Service, I got constant letters from the Irish Council Against Blood Sports to ban hunting and only ever got one letter pro-hunting,” he was quoted as saying.

The former Minister of State

suggested that this could be a case of complacency on the part of the blood sport enthusiasts.

In a letter to the editor published in March, ICABS stated that the more likely explanation for Deputy Treacy’s anti-blood sports postbag towering over a solitary letter is that a massive majority in this country want a ban on activities involving animal cruelty.

“Most agree that it’s totally unacceptable to unleash a pack of hounds to chase a fox for hours before ripping it to bits,” we commented.

“This has been confirmed by the latest Millward Brown opinion poll which found that around two out of every three Irish adults want the government to outlaw foxhunting.”



Noel Treacy, TD: Spoke in favour of foxhunting

ACTION ALERT

Ask Noel Treacy, TD to stop standing up for animal cruelty. Remind him that a majority want blood sports banned.

Noel Treacy, TD
 Athenry, Co. Galway
 noel.treacy@oireachtas.ie
 Tel: 091-844360
 Fax: 091-844360

Download our new anti-hunt posters

ICABS IS urging landowners to show compassion for our wildlife heritage by closing property to those involved in blood sports.

If you are a farmer or countryside landowner, please download our new “No Hunters, No Hounds” and “Hare Sanctuary” posters.

Simply print, laminate and display along your property boundaries to send a clear

message to local hunters that your land is strictly off-limits.

If you have friends and family who own land, please print copies of the poster and distribute them.

The posters, along with a selection of others, can be freely downloaded from the ICABS website at banbloodsports.com. Simply click on Farmers and scroll down to “No Hunting” signs.

BUY A BADGE

SHOW YOUR support for a ban on blood sports. Purchase one of the new ICABS badges today and help raise funds for our campaign.

Displaying our website address, these cool 28mm badges cost just 1 Euro each (including postage and packaging to anywhere in the world). Order at our online shop or from the usual postal address.

Hare found with bleeding leg at coursing meet

ICABS HAS learned that a hare with a bleeding leg was discovered by a National Parks and Wildlife Service ranger at a coursing meeting in Balbriggan last November.

According to a document obtained by ICABS, a ranger also reported hearing hares “crying out” while being handled at the meeting.

The NPWS Memo reveals that “at the boxing stage, it was noted that one of the hares was bleeding from its hind leg” and adds that after being seen by a vet, the animal was considered unsuitable for coursing.

Another hare was seen by the club’s vet after it was hit by two greyhounds. The ranger outlines that, the following day, he was “shown two dead hares - including the animal that was seen by the vet the previous day”. It is unclear if this includes the hare with the bleeding leg.

A second ranger present at Balbriggan described how “a third dog slipped on to the pitch and resulted in 3 dogs chasing the hare.” Another hare was pinned to the ground after the muzzle of a greyhound “seemed to loosen”.

“The dog held the hare in the air,” the ranger states. “After the intervention of 2 coursing men the hare got away and ran into the escape hatch.” [ICABS note: It is very likely that this hare sustained serious internal injuries]

Reporting on observations made at the Balbriggan and Trim coursing meetings, this ranger goes on to highlight the coursing-related stress caused to hares.

“This is the first year I have heard hares crying”

“At both meetings, the odd hare will cry out while being handled when the ear tag is being identified, causing more stress to the animal. This is the first year I have heard hares crying out.”

The ranger also highlights how coursers attempt to hide the suffering caused to hares, saying that “I have noticed at several meetings down through the years that if the dogs hit and pin the hare, the guy on the horse always gets in front of the ranger to prevent us from seeing what is happening.”

ICABS has brought these additional examples of coursing cruelty to the attention of Minister John Gormley and demanded a total ban on the blood sport.

CAMPAIGN "QUOTES"

“The Green Party would be anti-bloodsports and I think [Minister Gormley] is doing all he can at the moment. It is very likely that there will be a much bigger clampdown next year and that would be what I hope will happen.” *(Green Party councillor Niall O’Broilchain, Galway Independent - 12th Sept 2007)*

“This government is allocating 76 million Euro to the Horse and Greyhound Racing Fund while giving less than that, 64 million Euro, to the Drugs Initiatives and Young People’s Facilities Fund. This is unacceptable.” *(Donegal Sinn Fein Senator, Pearse Doherty, in a Donegal News report about how the county’s drugs squad has been left with just one part-time officer - 1st February, 2008)*

“We were digging out the fox with the farmer’s permission and hounds that were too close to the foxhole broke loose and got hold of the animal.” *(Hunting spokesperson, Brian Munn, reports on how a fox was killed by hounds after being dug out of the ground during a Westmeath Foxhounds hunt, Westmeath Examiner, 23rd February 2008)*

“There is no evidence of this happening, there is no photograph.” *A Westmeath Hunt employee insisting that there is no evidence to prove that a fox was dug out of its den, tied up and fed alive to hounds during a hunt. (Irish Independent, 20th December, 2007)*

CAMPAIGN "QUOTES"

"Hounds eventually got a fox to leave, running to the nearby smaller plantation he got to ground in a rabbit hole. Bolting from the strong mark, the hounds caught him on top after a short run." (from a report on the *White Heather Harriers' meeting at Clonacody, Tipperary Voice - 5th February 2008*)

"The Ormond Foxhounds in North Tipperary is at the centre of an investigation into complaints of cruelty to a fox, it was reported last week. The Irish Council Against Blood Sports has called for a Garda investigation into the alleged incidents which occurred in North Cork earlier this month." (from *Ormond Foxhounds under investigation, Nenagh Guardian - 5th April 2008*)

"A High Court judge granted an injunction to the [Ward Union] removing the conditions on its licence pending a full hearing of a separate judicial review hearing. The High Court decision allowed 42 riders to head out yesterday, Ward Union hunt secretary Declan Brooks confirmed, while a further 100 or so people watched." (*Irish Independent, 23rd February 2008*)

"I hate hunting. I had a rescue fox cub as a kid; the local hunt had killed its mother. But we got the cub from them, his name was Sparky. He only lived a short while as the hunters had injured him so much." (comment left on the *ICABS Bebo page at www.bebo.com/banbloodsports - 10th February 2008*)

HUNTERS DISGUSTED AT "SICK" DEER HUNT

THEY'VE been condemned by animal welfare groups, farmers, landowners, motorists, parents and householders. Now the Ward Union are being slammed by hunters who describe carted deer hunting as "idiotism", "horrible" and "sick".

The comments were made in response to a video on the ICABS Youtube Channel which shows the cruelty of carted deer hunting. Among the feedback are the following comments from hunters:

"What the heck is wrong with those people - I hunt and that is the most horrible thing that I have ever seen."

"It's ass****s like you [Ward Union] who give real hunters

like myself the negative publicity that we try so hard to avoid!!!!"

"I'm from Canada and I hunt deer - even to me this is sick s**t. There is no sport in this!"

"I'm a hunter but this is idiotism. Poor deer."

"I'm an avid big game hunter in B.C. [Canada] but that doesn't look like fun or fair chase."

"I am pro-hunting but this video made me sick. The people who follow this hunt obviously don't care for animals or the countryside. There is no point in hunting a carted stag. If it is a jolly across the countryside you want, then go drag hunting."

ICABS launches new online video channels

THE IRISH Council Against Blood Sports is excited to announce the launch of our new online video channels.

ICABS TV1 provides a continuous stream of campaign videos, wildlife footage, action alerts and other animal-related presentations and will help bring our issues to an even wider audience.

The ever-growing schedule includes the entire content of our Youtube channel which, we are pleased to report, has been viewed nearly half a million times in total.

Ban Bullfighting TV, meanwhile, focuses exclusively on the cruelty of the corrida and features ICABS action alerts.

Our video presentations have helped achieve massive advances in the levels of awareness surrounding blood sport cruelty.

The overwhelming response has not only been one of disgust but also disbelief that such animal abuse continues to be allowed.

To tune in to our channels, please click on Videos at www.banbloodsports.com

IFA president shuns pro-hunting seminar

ICABS HAS welcomed the IFA president's shunning of a pro-hunting seminar held in Dublin in August.

Criticising the organisers for presenting him as a speaker at the event, Pdraig Walshe stated: "The organisers have used my name in a totally inappropriate way to promote their own agenda. I will not allow my name or the IFA to be hijacked in this way. There will be no IFA participation in this event."

A brochure for the "Consumer Intimidation, the Vegan/Animal Rights Agenda" seminar listed Pdraig Walshe as one of three scheduled speakers but the

Irish Farmers Association president denied that he had agreed to take part.

In an IFA statement issued to the Irish Times, Mr Walshe said his name had been used in relation to the event without permission. "I am very dissatisfied about this," he said.

Quoted in the Times, event organiser, Gavin Duffy of the Hunting Association of Ireland, apologised to the IFA president: "Apparently Pdraig Walshe now feels he cannot attend the event and says his name was used inappropriately. If this is his view of events, I apologise unreservedly. It was never my [intention] to cause any

embarrassment to Pdraig or the IFA in inviting him to represent Irish live exporters."

In a letter to Pdraig Walshe, ICABS welcomed his decision to avoid the event. "Every hunting season, Irish farmers are plagued by hunters coming on to their land disturbing livestock, damaging pastures and boundaries and posing a serious threat to biosecurity," we stated. "It is very fitting that the IFA stays away from pro-hunt events."

We also renewed our appeal to the IFA to stop encouraging blood sports enthusiasts to join its IFA Countryside scheme. The IFA Countryside website acknowledges that "the Irish countryside is a great national resource which Irish farmers work hard to maintain and enhance" but goes on to outline how the scheme is open to those with "an interest in...field sport activities".

"Surely, the IFA would agree that its primary duty is to its core farming supporters and not to a minority who pose a threat to biosecurity, cause inconvenience and anguish to landowners and endanger livelihoods," we commented.

"We hope that the IFA will act to ensure that its policy of putting farmers first extends to the IFA Countryside."

Clonmel mayor asked to stop coursing support

THE MAYOR of Clonmel has been asked to consider the cruelty of coursing and stop supporting the blood sport.

The call comes after the Progressive Democrats councillor was pictured in a paper at the town's coursing finals.

In a letter to Mayor Richie Molloy, ICABS expressed disappointment that he deemed it appropriate to attend the event.

"Considering the animal

cruelty involved in coursing and the fact that a huge majority of Irish people want this blood sport banned, we hope that you can reconsider your stance," we stated.

Please join our appeal to Mayor Richie Molloy to rid his town of this shameful animal cruelty festival. You can contact him at: Clonmel Town Council, Clonmel, Co Tipperary. Email: clrrichie.molloy@southtippcoco.ie. Tel: 052-29362 or 086-1967482.

GALWAY CAT RELIVES FOND FOX MEMORIES

MEET Ted, a cool snowy cat from County Galway who's missing the fox he made friends with during the summer.

This cute snapshot shows Ted captivated by a wildlife show and reliving fond memories of Basil, the fox he once shared bowls of cat food with in the garden.

Muriel Hayden of Athenry's Cuddles Cattery says that Basil visited for a couple of months but hasn't been seen since August.

"I still see foxes from time to time but none so tame as Basil," she told ICABS. "I really miss his twice-daily visits."

"There is so much ignorance about foxes," she adds. "Some people think that a fox would probably attack a cat but my photos disprove that theory!"

"I felt privileged to have had the company of Basil," Muriel says. "I run a cattery and always have leftover cat food, which he seemed to enjoy. He would follow me as I worked and when I was in the garden he acted very like a dog, wrapping himself around my legs."



Wildlife watching: Ted relives memories of vulpine pal, Basil, and below Ted catching up with Basil at mealtime.



Hotel asked to drop foxhunting

HOTEL reservations company, CentralR, has been asked by the Irish Council Against Blood Sports to stop publicising foxhunting.

In an entry for Ballinasloe's Carlton Shearwater Hotel, the firm's website presents foxhunting as one of the local "leisure pursuits".

ICABS has provided CentralR with photos showing the barbarity of foxhunting and commented that "most visitors to your site would find the publicisation of foxhunting to be offensive."

The hotel has also been asked to act to ensure that foxhunting is removed from its listing.

ACTION ALERT

Please complain to both companies about the publicisation of hunting in Galway.

CentralR - Tel: 01-764 2500
 Email: info@CentralR.com
Carlton Shearwater Hotel
 Tel: 0909-630400
 Email: dbirchall@carlton.ie
 (Dermot Birchall, Manager)

Deer chased on to "busy road"

A WARD Union deer was chased on to a "busy public road" with "many vehicles going in both directions", ICABS was horrified to learn.

Revealed in a document obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, it's yet another worrying incident involving the hunt coming on to main roads.

"As the hunt was close to finishing, the stag headed in the direction of Agher Cross, Summerhill, County Meath, where the huntsman, master and followers and some of the hounds were held up in a field surrounded by secure wire fencing," the document says of the incident which, we believe, occurred during the 2004/05 season. "The delay in the hunt's exit from this field, by way of looking for alternative exits and subsequently cutting wire, allowed the stag to continue onwards and away from the hunt along the road, followed by 16 hounds for several minutes."

The report outlines how it was members of the hunt who were following along on the road in a 4-wheel-drive who eventually caught up with the fleeing animal.

"As soon as they observed the stag and hounds detached from the main hunt and on the public road, they called off the

pursuing hounds and caught the stag with the aid of another nominated deer handler," it states, adding that "despite the busy road, with many vehicles going in both direction, this procedure was carried out with a minimum of fuss."

ICABS can only imagine the terror experienced by this deer as it contended with hounds, hunters and traffic in its desperate effort to escape.

ICABS brought the incident to the attention of the Road Safety Authority, the Garda Commissioner, the Road Safety Officer of Meath Council and the Minister for Transport. We are asking all of them to urgently act in the interests of public safety.

Garda wildlife unit requested

ICABS HAS urged the Gardai to establish a special unit to tackle illegal blood sports like cockfighting, badger baiting and dog fighting. In a letter to Garda Commissioner, Noel Conroy, we said that such a unit could alleviate cruelty.

"There is much animal suffering in Ireland - both from legal and illegal activities," we stated. "A high profile Garda unit could combat the illegal aspect. Such units have proved popular in other jurisdictions as they facilitate priority reporting of animal-related crimes."

Hunt literature removed from tourist offices

IN THE last edition of Animal Voice, we asked you to appeal to East & Midlands Tourism to stop publicising hunting in its "Equestrian Holidays" literature.

Thank you to everyone who responded. We are happy to report that the Failte Ireland-affiliated body has confirmed that they "have removed any literature promoting hunting from the shelves of our tourist information offices."

ICABS greatly welcomes this positive response which means that hunting will no longer be publicised by the body in Kildare, Louth, Laois, Longford, Meath, North Offaly, Westmeath and Wicklow.

SWISS GREENS IN APPEAL TO IRISH GREENS

THE GREEN Party in Switzerland took time out from its pre-election campaigning in August 2007 to convey a message of support to ICABS.

Vice General Secretary, Miriam Behrens, announced that "the Swiss Greens fully support your position" and asked us to convey to Irish Green Party Minister, John Gormley, their desire to see blood sports licences refused here.

ICABS has thanked the Swiss Greens for this support and have conveyed their message to Minister Gormley and the other Green Party TDs.

UK SCRAPS PLANS FOR MAJOR BADGER CULL

Irish Department claims killing here is "inevitable"

IN JULY, as the UK Department of the Environment scrapped controversial plans for a badger cull, the office of Ireland's Environment Minister was maintaining that the mass slaughter of badgers here is "inevitable".

"Minister John Gormley would like to see a situation where no badgers are snared," a spokesperson told ICABS in an email, adding that "unfortunately for the time being it is inevitable."

The spokesperson admitted that "it has never been demonstrated that an individual badger gave TB to an individual cow" but claimed "there is an overwhelming statistical case that badgers spread TB to cattle" and that "there is also an overwhelming case that culling of the worst affected populations greatly reduces the TB."

This is in stark contrast to a statement made by the UK's Environment Secretary, Hilary Benn, that culling badgers actually makes things worse.

In a speech to the House of Commons on July 7th, Mr Benn stated: "Bovine TB is transmitted between cattle, and between cattle and badgers. But what has dominated debate is whether badger culling could be effective in controlling the disease. The ten year Randomised Badger Culling Trial culled some 11,000 badgers to discover what impact it would have.

"The ISG's final report, published last year, concluded that reactive culling – killing badgers in areas where there had been local TB breakdowns – made the problem worse, and that proactive culling – taking an area of about 100 square kilometres and repeatedly

culling badgers over a number of years – only produced marginal benefits because although TB was reduced in the area, it increased outside because of the disturbance and movement of badgers."

ICABS has repeatedly called on the Department of Agriculture here to call a halt to the killing which has already left over 50,000 badgers dead. Our appeal to Minister Gormley to stop issuing badger snaring licences continues.

ACTION ALERT

Remind Minister Gormley that the Wildlife Act, for which he is responsible, lists the badger as a protected species. Demand that he stops licensing the killing of badgers as part of a cruel and discredited TB eradication scheme.

Minister John Gormley
Dept of the Environment,
Custom House, Dublin 1.
Email: minister@environ.ie
Tel: 01 888 2403

Please appeal to the Minister for Agriculture, Brendan Smith, to show compassion and suspend the cruel badger snaring.

Minister Brendan Smith
Department of Agriculture
Kildare Street, Dublin 2.
Email: minister@agriculture.gov.ie. Tel: 01-607 2000 or
Locall 1890-200510.



Season extensions ended, Minister informs beaglers

BEAGLERS have been told to assume that in the future, there will be no further extensions to their hunt season.

This very much welcomed development was revealed in May in a letter from Environment Minister, John Gormley's office.

In previous years, beaglers have been allowed to stretch their hare persecution into the month of March but Minister

Gormley this year turned down the latest application from the Irish Masters of Beagles Association.

"The Department, in granting the licence for 2007, advised the Association that for conservation reasons licenses to permit the hunting of hares with beagles beyond the general open season for the species may not, in future years be granted, as this impinged on the breeding season of the hares," the correspondence from the Minister's office outlines.

"It was also stated that in planning the calendar for future years the Association should work on the assumption that all beagling events should be scheduled within the standard open season for hares which finishes at the end of February."

The Department says that its decision was reached "following discussions with the relevant regional, administrative and scientific staff of the National Parks and Wildlife Service". Officials took into account the results of the recently completed National Hare Survey which makes it clear that hare numbers can fluctuate dramatically from year to year.

"Where hunting is allowed to extend into the breeding season, and this coincides with periods of low population, local extinctions can be

expected," the letter concludes. "This is incompatible with Ireland's responsibilities under Irish and EU Wildlife legislation."

Hare hunting is a low profile blood sport in which hares die horrendous deaths. Chased to exhaustion, they are ripped apart by packs of dogs.

A Dublin motorist who witnessed such a kill described what remained after the dogs attacked the hare – "a tiny piece of fur blowing in the breeze."

In Ireland, there are 129 harrier packs, which hunt both hares and foxes, while there are 22 registered beagle packs hunting hares.

While they have been prevented from terrorising hares for an additional month, they continue to be free to hunt up to the end of February (with no licence being required) despite the fact that hares are designated a highly protected species.

ACTION ALERT

Please join our appeal to Minister Gormley to fully protect the Irish Hare by implementing a total, year-round ban on hunting and coursing.

Minister John Gormley
Dept of the Environment,
Custom House, Dublin 1.
Email: minister@environ.ie
Tel: 01 888 2403.

View all ICABS videos on your mobile phone

THANKS TO Youtube Mobile, millions more people are now be able to witness the cruelty of blood sports in Ireland.

Anyone with a compatible mobile phone which supports RTSP streaming can view the ICABS videos by accessing: <http://m.youtube.com/icabs>

Please note that while the videos are free to view, you will be charged by your service provider based on the amount of data downloaded.

Always remember to check rates before viewing videos on your phone.

All the videos may also be viewed online at www.youtube.com/icabs or by clicking on Videos at www.banbloodsports.com

MEP is "odd man out" in cruel seal hunt support

GALWAY MEP, Sean O Neachtain, has been described as "very much the odd man out" for backing Canada's barbaric seal hunters.

The Fianna Fail MEP (pictured right) sparked outrage in February after he declared: "I will be supporting the seal hunters".

Mr O Neachtain's bizarre stance has been condemned by animal welfare groups across Ireland.

In a letter to the politician,



ICABS criticised his lack of compassion towards the largest slaughter of marine mammals in the world.

Canada's Telegram news-

paper has branded Mr O Neachtain as "very much the odd man out in the European Parliament - perhaps the lone EU parliamentarian leading the fight against a ban on imported Canadian seal products".

Highlighting a video of Mr O Neachtain coming out in favour of the merciless hunters, the paper stated: "He is defending Canada's seal hunt, despite the fact that the majority of his 784 parliamentary colleagues are calling for the hunt to be banned."

Coursing ban extended - NI

ICABS HAS welcomed the news that a ban on all forms of hare persecution has been extended in Northern Ireland until March 2009.

The North's Environment Minister, Sammy Wilson (whose interests include animals and birds) made the move amid fears for "the stability and sustainability of the hare population".

We have appealed to Minister John Gormley to follow Minister Wilson's commendable example and give full protection to the hares in the Republic.

Hare persecution has now been prohibited in Northern Ireland since 2003.

RTE urged to drop coursing as sport

ICABS HAS urged RTE to stop presenting cruelty as "sport" after the station featured coursing in a radio sports report in February.

In our complaint, we outlined that "many would struggle to comprehend how sport could ever encompass an activity based on greyhounds chasing hares and causing them stress, injury and sometimes death."

Responding to our appeal, a spokesperson for RTE said that the station "neither approves nor disapproves of coursing". He tried to defend the coverage on the basis that coursing remains legal.

ICABS stressed that a majority of Irish people (and presumably, therefore, licence fee payers) want coursing outlawed.

They would find the portrayal of animal cruelty as a sport to be highly offensive and inappropriate, we said.

ACTION ALERT

Tell RTE to keep cruelty out of its sports reports. If you are a licence fee payer, make this known in your correspondence.

RTE, Donnybrook, Dublin 4.
Email: info@rte.ie
Tel: 01 208 3111.

SAVE THE RABBITS

Please join our urgent call for ferreting ban

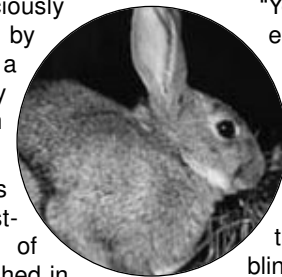
ICABS has called for an urgent ban on ferreting after a newspaper article highlighted how the horrific activity leaves rabbits blinded.

Ferreting involves sending a ferret down a burrow to trap rabbits. The rabbits are either chased out of the hole and into nets or viciously gripped in place by the ferret while a hunter digs away the earth from above them.

The following is a ferreter's first-hand description of the activity published in the Westmeath Topic of March 13th, 2008.

"On a typical day I'd get up at six in the morning while it's

still dark. People contact me, often lads with greyhounds. These lads would be looking for rabbits...I bring my nets, cages, and of course my ferret finder. It's a collar you put on the ferret before he's sent underground. It beeps like a metal detector, so you know where he is...



"You have two different types of hunting ferret; you have the 'eye' ferret and you have the 'brain' ferret. An eye ferret in a hole only goes for the rabbit's eye - he blinds him. The 'brain' ferret, he'll bite straight onto the head between the ears."

"The fellas who call me out sometimes use them for teasing the greyhound in a thing called a 'rolling cage' which is a small round cage they put the rabbit in to tease the dog before a race."

What happens to the traumatised, and probably injured, rabbit next? It is highly questionable that greyhound men suddenly show mercy and release it back to the wild. It is much more likely that the rabbit is let out of the cage and used as a live lure for the greyhounds.

This highly illegal act of "bleeding" is thought to be commonplace in the grey-

hound industry. Unscrupulous owners and breeders believe that letting greyhounds tear a rabbit asunder will keep them keen for running on the track or up a coursing field.

Greyhound scene commentator, John Martin, is on record as saying that "greyhound racing would not continue to exist without bleeding [and] it follows that, with a constant greyhound population of close on 30,000, bleeding must be widespread."

Writing in the Irish Independent of January 12th, 1994, Mr Martin added: "Do not expect an admission of that from Bord na gCon, the country's semi-state greyhound racing authority. To concede the point would be to accept that they are the custodians of a sport whose very existence is based on bleeding."

ACTION ALERT

Please join us now in calling on the Minister for Agriculture to act urgently to end the horrendous practice of ferreting.

Minister Brendan Smith
Department of Agriculture
Agriculture House,
Kildare Street, Dublin 2.
Email: minister@agriculture.gov.ie
Tel: 01-607 2000 or LoCall 1890-200510.

October rally for animals

TO CO-INCIDE with World Animal Week, a peaceful rally has been organised for Dublin on October 5th, 2008.

By attending this event, you can show your support for all the animals cruelly abused and killed in Ireland.

The rally begins at 1.30pm sharp on Sunday, October 5th at the Garden of Remembrance (top of O'Connell Street), Dublin. More info at www.aran.ie

ICABS action leads to confiscation of traps

IN THE last edition of *Animal Voice*, we reported on our renewed appeal for the public to be on the look-out for shops selling unlawful glue traps.



Trap confiscation will help save squirrels and other animals from cruel death

Glue traps (also known as glue boards) are one of the world's most inhumane traps. Among the victims are mice, rats, small mammals, birds and pets. In a desperate bid to escape from the sticky base, doomed creatures have been known to bite off their own limbs.

Following an ICABS complaint to the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), the traps were confiscated. We understand from correspondence from Minister John Gormley that a file is now being prepared for the Chief State Solicitor's Office recommending a prosecution.

Thanks to the help of ICABS supporters around the country, we have identified and reported the sale of these cruel traps in a number of outlets.

In another major success, we were instrumental in the removal from sale of snares

We wish to particularly applaud the person who brought to our attention a shop in Leinster which had glue traps in its window display.

and traps from an Irish website.

The development was confirmed in a letter to ICABS Vice-President, Deputy Tony Gregory from the Minister for the Environment, John Gormley.

The Minister stated: "Officials of the NPWS visited the premises in question and confiscated a number of illegal traps, snares and a quantity of illegal glue traps. Advertising for the traps and snares on the company's website has also been removed."

"A file is being prepared for the Chief Solicitors Office recommending a prosecution in this instance," Minister Gormley added.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us in our campaign against glue traps.

Hunt supporter's admission: I kill foxes with baseball bat

A HUNT supporter has told ICABS that over the years he has "snared hundreds of foxes and killed them with a baseball bat".

I've seen 2 foxes killed [by the hunt]," the anonymous Irish farmer declared. "But I've snared hundreds of foxes and killed them with a baseball bat."

The disturbing admission was left as a comment on the ICABS Youtube channel and has been brought to the attention of the Department of Agriculture.

ICABS is demanding that the new animal welfare legislation provides protection for foxes from this kind of barbarism. We have called for tougher penalties for those convicted of cruelty.

"I support the hunt and in the 25 years I've been farming

ACTION ALERT

Please continue to check local hardware and builder provider stores, discount shops and pet supply outlets to ensure that glue traps stay off Ireland's shop shelves.

If you spot this, or any other kind of unlawful trap for sale, please contact ICABS immediately. Also, if you are aware of any company using glue traps, please contact us now in confidence.

PROTEST HIGHLIGHTS COURSING CRUELTY



A PROTEST outside the national coursing finals in Clonmel has helped highlight the continued cruelty of hare coursing in Ireland.

A very big thank you to those who travelled to Clonmel for the protest, to those in Clonmel who expressed their support and to those who sent us messages of support from Ireland and abroad.

Thank you also to the television (TV3 and RTE), radio and print media for helping to spread the message about coursing cruelty and the majority view in Ireland that a ban on this despicable blood sport must finally be implemented by the government.



Wildlife is welcome, golf club confirms

HERMITAGE Golf Club in Lucan, County Dublin has informed ICABS that the club very much welcomes wildlife in the environs of its parklands.

This comes following claims by a caller to RTE's Liveline recently that he was employed to shoot rabbits at the club.

Not so, says the Hermitage, whose policy is to encourage wildlife and certainly not to eradicate it. Hares and foxes are welcome visitors to their greens, they say, and rabbits are not a problem.

In an email to ICABS in April, Brendan Delaney, Honorary Secretary of the club stated: "I can confirm that it is not club policy to shoot any wildlife on Hermitage golf course."

"In fact, we are proud of the number of pheasants, foxes, hares, rabbits and squirrels who inhabit our course," he added. "We have no agreement with, nor has anyone express or other authority to enter our lands for the purpose of hunting any of the above."

ICABS is delighted at this positive response and we have thanked the club for clarifying the situation.

About Hermitage Golf Club: Founded over a hundred

years ago, the Hermitage lies alongside the River Liffey within the famous Strawberry Beds part of the valley.

Among those who have enjoyed golf at the course are Bing Crosby, Prince Rainier, President Hillery, Seve Ballesteros, Ian Woosnam and Colin Montgomerie.

Check out our "Foxes around the world" playlist for some humorous videos of foxes on golf courses - <http://tinyurl.com/6krfa8>



Lovely shot: Rabbits like this are welcome, says Hermitage Golf Course.

Green fox killing sparks outrage

THE SHOOTING of a fox by a Dublin golf club has left locals outraged. The fox, which the club claims was damaging greens, has been described by neighbours as a magnificent and fascinating creature.

According to a report in the Irish Independent, a woman and her two children were in a "terrible state" after witnessing the shooting.

ICABS shares the outrage of residents at the killing of this fox. We have told Milltown Golf Club that foxes should be viewed as an asset in that they add to the character of the course and that most golfers cherish the sight of

wildlife. We have urged the club to consider non-lethal methods if foxes really need to be deterred.

It is heartening to learn that those living in Milltown value the presence of foxes in their neighbourhood. Most citizens, both urban and rural, have a genuine appreciation for wildlife and would welcome increased protection from this kind of wanton destruction.

Please join our call for an end to the killing of golf club foxes. Contact Denis McDowell, President, Milltown Golf Club, Lower Churchtown Road, Milltown, Dublin 14. Email: info@milltowngolfclub.ie. Tel: 01-4976090

Hotel asked to disassociate from coursing

THE MANAGER of the Clonmel Park Hotel in County Tipperary has been asked by ICABS to disassociate from coursing.

In an advert placed in the event booklet for the 2008 coursing finals, the hotel extended a "welcome to all visitors to the national coursing meeting".

The ad boasted that the hotel is "just 5 minutes drive from the coursing grounds" and that a coursing video was to be shown nightly.

Asking manager, Michael Boyle, to give a commitment that the hotel would disassociate from coursing and ensure that no further ads are placed in coursing publications, ICABS stressed that "a majority of Irish people (and many millions around the world) are opposed to this horrendous blood sport."

ACTION ALERT

Ask the Clonmel Park Hotel to give a commitment that no further adverts will be placed in coursing publications and that coursing videos will not be shown at the hotel again.

Michael Boyle, Manager
Clonmel Park Hotel
Clonmel, Co. Tipperary
Email: michaelboyle@clonmelparkhotel.com
Tel: 052-88700

Bishop advocates love for animals

ICABS HAS welcomed a statement from the Bishop of Killaloe, Willie Walsh, in which he advocates "mercy, kindness and love towards all God's creatures".

The bishop was responding to an email from ICABS in which we called for the bishops of Ireland to condemn blood sports.

Although Bishop Walsh expressed his view that "such condemnations [by clergy] can be counterproductive", he pointed to the promotion of compassion as being a way forward.

"I believe that preaching mercy, kindness and love towards all God's creatures will be more effective in the long run," Bishop Walsh stated.

"I fully respect your own approach on the matter," he added.

In our appeal to the bishops, ICABS highlighted that blood sports cause horrendous suffering to animals such as foxes, hares and deer.

"The Catechism states that it is contrary to human dignity to cause animals to suffer and die needlessly," we stated.

TESCO CRITICISED FOR GREYHOUND PROMO

THE GREYHOUND Action Ireland group has called on Tesco to stop promoting greyhound racing in its Clubcard Deals literature.

The chain is inviting customers to exchange clubcard points for entry discounts into greyhound stadiums.

Pointing to the "thousands of dogs who are drugged, injured, mutilated and killed by the industry worldwide, especially Ireland and the UK", Greyhound Action has slammed the promotion.

According to the ISPCA, "approximately 14,000 greyhounds are 'disposed of' in Ireland each year.

"They are destroyed because they haven't made the grade as racing dogs or when they are past their best for racing (usually by the age of four)," they outline on their website.

"Other unwanted dogs are sold to Spain, where they are forced to race in appalling conditions, with no veterinary care."

If you would like to register a complaint, the contact details are: Tony Keohane, CEO, Tesco Ireland, Gresham House, Marine Rd, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin. Email: tony.keohane@tesco.ie. Tel: 1850 744 844.

Wildlife garden

THIS delightful photo was taken by a Kildare resident who regularly welcomes foxes in to her garden.

The creatures explore the lawn, relax on the patio table and enjoy generous portions of pet food!

Many landowners are happy to see foxes, not only because they are fascinating to watch but due to the fact



A fox poses for a photo while relaxing on the patio table. (Photo: Dee)

that they naturally keep down the numbers of rats and mice.

If you would like to share your fox photos or videos, please send them to us at ICABS, PO Box 88, Mullingar, Co Westmeath or email them to info@banbloodsports.com

For more information on foxes, including foxwatching advice and podcasts, click on Foxwatch Ireland on the links page of the ICABS website.

HUNTS RUN SCARED OF LATE LATE

THE IRISH Council Against Blood Sports was informed by the Late Late Show that a debate on hunting scheduled to take place on the 11th January had been axed because hunting representatives were refusing to take part.

The reason for this back out by the hunters, we understand, is that they objected to Philip Lynch, Chairman of the Farmers Against Foxhunting and Trespass Group, being invited to take part in the debate.

ICABS spokesperson, Aideen Yourell, who was also due to take part, said that she was absolutely amazed at the turn of events.

“By refusing to take part in the Late Late debate, the hunters have now shown that they have a lot to hide, both in terms of the cruelty they mete out to animals, and the annoyance they cause to farmers by routinely trespassing and creating havoc on farmlands,” Aideen commented.

“As well as running scared of the farmers’ group, I believe that their decision to pull out is due to a fear of their heinous activities being exposed on prime time television, with

video footage of the cruelty possibly being shown. These people are the epitome of the ‘schoolyard bully’ - well able to dole out cruelty to animals, but terrified of the exposure.”

The Irish Council Against Blood Sports feels it is a great pity that the Late Late Show axed the discussion. We urged them to go ahead without the hunters and tell viewers that they had refused to take part.

Complaint against hunter profile on RTE radio show

ICABS HAS complained to RTE after a radio show profiled a hunter who outrageously branded foxes as “vermin” and anti-hunt campaigners as “no good for society”.

The “Curious Ear” show (curiousear@rte.ie) also gave the hunter an opportunity to make the false claim that hunting with packs of dogs is part of nature.

ICABS has asked RTE to stop providing hunters with a platform for spreading misinformation and asked them to redress the balance by featuring an anti-hunt campaigner in a future episode.

HOUND KILLS CAT DURING FOXHUNT

A HUNT hound was seen entering a private garden and killing a cat, according to a report in the Limerick Leader. The creature was found by distraught neighbours during a harrier hunt on St Stephen’s Day.

Quoted in the article, local woman Mary Cooke said neighbours saw the cat being killed by the hound. “The cat was very old and her hind legs were gone and she couldn’t run,” Ms Cook said. “I am hardly able to sleep at night thinking about it. It is revolting.”

Although a hunt spokesperson tried to claim to the newspaper that hounds “would never follow a cat”, it emerged



The victim of the vicious hunt hound attack in Limerick

that members of the hunt “approached the owners of the cat and apologised for the incident”.

ICABS has also been told that an attempt was made to remove the dead cat from the scene following the incident. “I shouted at the hunt follower four times to come back,” an

eyewitness said. “He was letting on he was taking the cat to the vet (at this stage the cat was dead). Some of the hunt crowd were laughing.”

This is the latest hunt-related incident involving attacks on pets. In a previous edition of Animal Voice, we highlighted the Lurgan girl who was left inconsolable after hunt hounds killed her cat. A farm dog in Galway was also the victim of an attack.

In a statement published in the Limerick Leader, ICABS advised anyone who suffers an incursion of hunt hounds to notify the Gardai and quote the Control of Dogs Act.

This important piece of legislation makes it very clear that the owner or person in charge of a dog shall not permit the dog to be on the premises of another person without their consent. The dog must be kept under “effectual control”, it states.

Property firm removes hunting from website

PROPERTY Partners have removed a hunting reference from their website following an appeal from the Irish Council Against Blood Sports.

A company spokesperson commented that they “do not affiliate ourselves with blood sports of any sort” and that references to hunting were removed immediately.

Our appeal was prompted by a listing which referred to

an equestrian centre in Limerick as being in the heart of the county’s hunt country and an ideal location for hunting. The listing has since been modified.

ICABS has been assured that “Property Partners do not condone blood sports and hunting references shall be excluded from Property listings on our website.”

ICABS thanks the company for this positive response.

Documentary captures campaigner's determination

"I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE UP. NO WAY."

A NEW documentary profiles Tom Hardiman, a former foxhunter who turned his back on the cruelty and went on to become one of Ireland's most dedicated anti-hunt campaigners.

Directed by Ana Maqueda-Lopez, "Calling the Hounds" is a motivating presentation about a man haunted by what he witnessed at hunts but determined to see the cruelty outlawed.

Interviewed during the film, Tom recalls the moment he knew he had to give up hunting.

"I decided to stop hunting in 1999," he says. "I was at a hunt down in Knockbrack, the far side of Athenry - they were hunting in a Coillte forestry. They hunted a fox to ground. I was watching. They dug the clay away from over the fox and let the hounds in on top of him. They pulled him up and tore him to pieces. I was really disgusted when I saw it."

But how did a man of compassion end up involved in hunting?

Tom explains it as follows: "We used to live across from where the hunt is situated. I had a liking for horses and it goes on from there. You get in to the hunt and you don't really see the cruel side of it."

"You are all excited when you're going through the countryside and you're jumping walls and you think this is great. You're not thinking of the cruelty that's taking place."

Now with over 117 Dail protests completed, Tom is as committed as ever to seeing a ban on the barbarity.

"I'm going to keep protesting until they change the law," he states in the documentary. "I'm not going to give up. No way."

You can watch "Calling the Hounds" by clicking on Videos at banbloodsports.com and scrolling down to Documentaries.



Anti-hunt campaigner, Tom Hardiman, who protests against foxhunting outside Dail Eireann every week. You can join Tom's protest on Wednesdays from 11am-5pm.

ICABS on Youtube

WITNESS the cruelty of blood sports in Ireland. Check out the ICABS video channel now at youtube.com/icabs

Available to view are videos exposing the animal abuse involved in foxhunt-

ing, hare coursing, mink hunting and carted deer hunting.

Also featured are short presentations showing the humane alternatives in action and playlists focusing on the beauty of Irish wildlife.

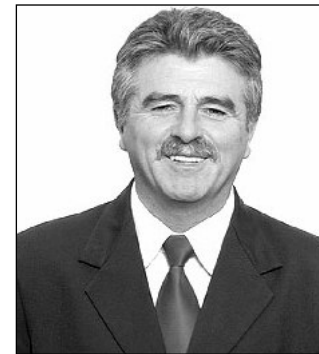
Louth TD calls for hunt ban

SINN FEIN Environment spokesperson, Arthur Morgan is among the TDs who have called for a "total ban" on the Ward Union carted deer hunt.

In a letter to Minister John Gormley, the Louth Deputy described the hunt as "an abomination".

"Carted deer hunting is an unnecessary cruelty which causes horrific suffering to defenceless red deer," Deputy Morgan stated. "This blood 'sport' is not just an abomination for the animals involved - it can also pose a danger to members of the public."

He went on to remind Minister Gormley about a precedent in Northern Ireland where "a similar hunt in County Down was banned in 1997 when it was ruled that



Stop the Ward Union: Anti-hunt TD, Arthur Morgan

the deer used by that carted deer hunt were domestic animals and thus covered by animal welfare legislation."

"The Irish Council Against Blood Sports are campaigning on this issue and they have my full support," Deputy Morgan added. "I look forward to your decision to ban this cruelty."

Anti-hunt campaign is "well organised"

THE CHAIRMAN of the Hunting Association of Ireland has described those campaigning against hunting as "passionate" and said that the anti-hunt campaign is "well organised".

According to The Irish Horse section of the Irish Farmers Journal, Mr Duffy made the comments at a pro-hunt meeting in Navan.

"HAI chairman Gavin Duffy told the Navan protest meeting that hunting was seriously under threat and that the association was broke," the report outlined. "He said that the anti-hunt faction were passionate about their objectives [and] were well organised."

ICABS appreciates this positive feedback!

Anti-hunt policy re-instated by Ganly Walters

THE MANAGING Director of international property consultants, Ganly Walters, has told ICABS that the company has re-established its policy of keeping foxhunt references out of marketing material.

Paul McDowell was responding to a letter from ICABS in which we queried the company's current policy on the issue. This was prompted by the appearance of hunt references in a number of property listings on the Ganly Walters website.

Mr McDowell explained that "the company has grown in recent years with new personnel who may not have been aware of our policy" and added that "this policy has now been re-established."

The company originally announced its anti-hunt policy following an ICABS appeal in 2004. Quoted in the Sunday Times at the time, a company agent said: "The anti-blood sports people highlighted the issue for us and so we decided to have a rethink on it. Whether we like it or not, the anti-foxhunting lobby has grown stronger and we came to the conclusion that many more people would be offended today by references to foxhunting. It seemed to make sense to rectify the situation."

ICABS is delighted that Ganly Walters has confirmed that this policy remains in place.

Google remove ads from anti-bullfighting page

ICABS HAS thanked Google for removing bullfighting ads from a page which previews Life on the Line, a book about anti-bullfight campaigner, Vicki Moore.

In our appeal to the company, we told of how brave Vicki was violently gored by a bull while documenting animal cruelty and sadly died five years later.

"We are sure that it was not Google's intention to be insensitive or disrespectful but the fact remains that the presence of these sponsored links are hurtful not only to Vicki's surviving husband, Tony, but also to the many people in Ireland,

the UK and across Europe who remember the enormous contribution Vicki made to the campaign against bullfighting," we stated.

Replying, a spokesperson for Google acknowledged "the contradiction of showing the ads on a book search site against animal violence".

ICABS was delighted to subsequently learn, through Tony Moore and his partner Matilda Mench, that the sponsored links had been removed.

As Google continues to accept and display bullfighting adverts on other pages, our general appeal to the company continues.

Arrow Tours delete bullfighting image

ARROW TOURS has been praised for removing a bullfight image from their website and for pledging to delete it from the next edition of their European City Breaks brochure.

The publishers of a Madrid guidebook distributed by Arrow Tours have also been thanked for promising to remove a matador from the front cover.

Responding to an ICABS appeal, Brian Greene, a director of Arrow Tours stated: "I have been in contact with Metropolis International, based in the UK, and they con-

firm that on their next print run of Madrid guidebooks they will remove the bullfighting image that is currently on the cover.

"Furthermore, I confirm that on the next print run of the Arrow Tours brochure we will also remove the Madrid bullfighting image."

"Neither Arrow Tours nor Metropolis International wishes to be associated with cruelty to any kind of animal and we give this undertaking as a sign of goodwill towards your efforts," he added.

ICABS is delighted at this positive response.

ACTION ALERT

Thank Google for removing the ads from the Life on the Line page. Ask them to stop publicising this blood sport altogether by refusing all future bullfighting adverts.

Dr. Eric E. Schmidt

CEO, Google
1600 Amphitheatre
Parkway, Mountain View,
CA 94043, USA.

Fax: 001 650 253 0001
Email: adwords-support@google.com

Xerox advert "will not be run again"

Fuji Xerox has told ICABS that a TV advert featuring Cristiano Ronaldo "will not be run again".

The ad is set in a bullring and shows the Manchester United footballer - and bullfighting fan - kicking a ball next to a bull.

It was aired in Japan two years ago but only came to light in Europe in May when copies appeared on YouTube.

Responding to an ICABS complaint, Fuji Xerox Operations Vice President, Kazimierz Herchold, stated: "The commercial was run between June 1 and December 31 2006 after which it was discontinued. Our understanding is that it will not be run again."

Shannon Development to stop publicising hunting

SHANNON Development has promised ICABS that references to hunting will be eliminated from future editions of its equestrian brochure.

In a letter to the company, ICABS expressed our concerns about the publicity given to blood sports in the 2006 edition of the publication. Hunting groups in Limerick, Tipperary, Clare and Galway were mentioned.

Appealing to Shannon Development's CEO, ICABS highlighted the horrendous

animal cruelty involved in hunting. "We hope that you can respond positively to our appeal on the compassionate grounds of avoiding publicising activities involving animal cruelty, activities which are now illegal in our neighbouring jurisdictions of England, Scotland and Wales," we stated.

In response, Tourism Marketing Manager, Pat Daly assured us that "any future publications regarding equestrian based promotions [will] take account of your con-

cerns." "We will not include hunting references in any future publications/promotions in line with our sister agencies [Failte Ireland and Tourism Ireland]," he added.

ICABS is delighted at this positive response which means that hunting will no longer be promoted by Shannon Development in the 10,000 square kilometre area they cover. We have thanked them for becoming the latest body to stop publicising hunting in Ireland.

Fantastic Fox Photos



A set of fantastic fox photos taken recently by ICABS supporter, Clodagh Blake. According to Clodagh, this adorable fox is a regular visitor to a garden in County Tipperary where he is welcomed with a generous supply of food. Thanks to Clodagh for sharing the photos. If you have similar wildlife images, please send them to us at info@banbloodsports.com.

Foxhounds dangerous to humans

THE DANGER posed by foxhounds to human health has been highlighted.

Writing in the Irish Examiner, ICABS Correspondent, Dick Power, cites research which found that hounds can act as an "avenue leading to the human population" for Trichinella. Among the human diseases caused by Trichinella is the potentially fatal trichinellosis.

Thank you to Slattery's

ICABS HAS thanked Slattery's Travel for removing a bullring from their Spanish Wonder tour.

"We have removed any mention of a bullring from our website and I confirm that it will not be mentioned on the brochure again," stated Commercial Director, Norma McElligott.

Pro-hunt Meath TD is criticised

FINE GAEL'S Shane McEntee, TD has been criticised by ICABS for defending blood sports.

Asking for a licence to be granted to the Ward Union, the Meath TD claimed that "hunting has a long and honourable tradition in Meath".

"It's hardly 'honourable' to hound tame, defenceless deer around the countryside," ICABS responded.

Woman left "severely injured" after vicious hunt hounds attack

A WOMAN who was bitten and gnawed by a marauding pack of hunt hounds was left suffering from "considerable personal and psychological injuries".

A solicitor's letter seen by ICABS details the horrendous incident which allegedly took place on private property during a hunt in Ireland.

The woman was "severely injured as a result of being attacked by a pack of hounds", the solicitor's letter outlines, adding that "the hounds were, on the occasion, in the process of pursuing [an animal] when they strayed into the garage area of a house adjacent to a field where the hunt was going on."

"They proceeded to bite and gnaw our client's body resulting in considerable personal and psychological injuries from which she is still suffer-

ing," stated the woman's solicitor.

Reference was made in the letter to the "spontaneous nature of hounds" and to "how dangerous it is to have a pack out in fields close to houses where they may be liable to stray and attack".

Following this disturbing incident, a court case was pending but it later emerged that there was an out-of-court settlement. For legal reasons, ICABS is unable to name the hunt in question.

These shocking revelations make it crystal clear that hunt hounds are not only a threat to wildlife, livestock and pets but also to children and adults.

We have alerted the government and cited this attack on a human as yet another reason to urgently ban hunting with hounds in Ireland.

Wet weather warning for wildlife

AS PART of our appeal to Minister Gormley to refuse a licence to coursers, ICABS stressed the impact that this year's wet weather will have had on the hare species.

We quoted an article from the Irish Examiner in which wildlife journalist, Dick Warner, stressed the dangers posed by heavy rainfall.

"Persistent rain is one of the commonest causes of death among young birds," he says.

"If their feathers get wet they lose their insulating properties and the birds die of hypothermia. Some mammal species are vulnerable in the same way. Young rabbits and hares have a reduced life expectancy if they are born in a long spell of wet weather."

ICABS represents Ireland at bullfight protest in Brussels

A PROTEST outside the European Parliament in May succeeded in highlighting the huge opposition to bullfighting across Europe.

The Brussels demonstration, which received extensive media coverage (including a report on BBC television) brought together anti-bullfighting groups from around the world in a collective plea for bullfighting to be stopped.

ICABS was proud to represent Ireland at the demo and to have the opportunity to exchange campaigning ideas at several anti-bullfighting workshops and seminars.

The protest coincided with a pro-bullfighting event which was being hosted within the



Brussels protest: Some of our colleagues from across Europe who work tirelessly for an end to bullfighting.

Parliament buildings. The blood sports brigade had convened to try and persuade parliamentarians that slowly torturing a bull to death is a "noble" activity that should be preserved.

ICABS thanks Kathy Sinnott and the other Irish MEPs who joined us in an appeal to the President of the European Parliament to keep the bullfighters out of the EU Headquarters.

Deer hunting illegality is highlighted on Today FM

ICABS Campaign Director, Aileen Yourell, has highlighted the illegality of the Ward Union hunt in an interview on Today FM.

Speaking to Matt Cooper on the Last Word show, she stressed that the deer terrorised by the hunt are domestic animals and therefore protected under the Protection of Animals Act.

The Irish Council Against Blood Sports has always contended that this hunt is illegal and should never have been

licensed under the Wildlife Act, because the deer hunted by the Ward Union are farmed deer, not wild animals, and therefore not subject to the Wildlife Act.

This contention has been borne out in legal opinion from Professors Clive Symmons and William Binchy of Trinity School of Law which concludes that the Ward Union hunt is "illegal" under the 1911 Protection of Animals Act, and that it shouldn't be licensed under the 1976 Wildlife Act.

Subscribe to our RSS feed

STAY RIGHT up to date on ICABS campaign activities by subscribing to our new RSS news feed.

Click on the RSS logo on the bottom of our homepage to copy the relevant link. Please also consider adding our RSS widget to your website to help spread the word about the latest action alerts and updates.

This exciting addition to our campaign helps us reach an even wider audience to further expose the cruelty of blood sports in Ireland.

Vodafone asked to drop bullfighting from advert

THE IRISH Council Against Blood Sports has called on Vodafone Ireland to drop a bullfighting segment from its "Roaming Passport" television advert.

The offensive scene shows a Vodafone character waving his hands in the air as a matador taunts a bull.

In a letter to the company's CEO, Charles Butterworth, ICABS appealed for the advert to be modified to exclude the bullring scene.

"Matadors, like the one in the Vodafone ad, are responsible for the slow torture to death of thousands of bulls every year," we told Mr Butterworth. "Each bullfight event sees the merciless killing of six or more bulls."

Despite being told of the extreme suffering endured by the bulls, Vodafone defended the advert. Although stressing that the company does not



Vodafone's "Roaming" character waves his hands in the air as a matador taunts a bull in the company's TV advert.

"endorse or support the practice of blood sports", a spokesperson went on to claim that bullfighting "is seen as an important part of Spain's tradition and culture".

ICABS has told Vodafone that we strongly disagree with this statement, pointing out that over 70 per cent of Spaniards do not support bullfighting. "The idea of bullfight-

ing as a cultural identifier is offensive to most Spaniards, we stated"

ICABS is disappointed that Vodafone Ireland is defending the bullfighting scene and very surprised that the company is content to allow its reputable image to come anywhere near what is the most appalling animal cruelty - an activity that, we are sure, the majority of Vodafone customers would find abhorrent and unacceptable.

ACTION ALERT

Please ask Vodafone Ireland to keep bullfighting out of their future advertisements.

Ruth Brady,
Consumer Manager
Vodafone Ireland
Email: ruth.brady@vodafone.com
Tel: 042 938 5504

MEATH MAJORITY WANT WARD UNION BANNED

A MAJORITY of people in Meath want Environment Minister, John Gormley, to refuse a licence to the Ward Union hunt.

According to a poll carried out by the Meath Post, nearly two thirds of residents in the Royal County now want the cruel hunt ended.

The poll also found that only around a quarter of locals want the hunt to continue while nine per cent of those polled said that they didn't know.

ICABS welcomes the results of this poll. We have brought them to the attention of Minister Gormley.

OTTERS NEED BAN ON MINK HUNTING

THE STATUS of the otter species is "poor" according to the "Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland" report published by the Department of the Environment in May 2008.

As reported in the last edition of Animal Voice, the National Parks and Wildlife Service previously found that otters have declined by 18 per cent in the past 25 years and numbers are continuing to fall.

It is very clear that urgent action must be taken to help halt the decline in the otter population.

ICABS has told Minister John Gormley, that it is imperative that this action must include a ban on mink hunting, a blood sport which is not only cruel to mink but also



Mink hunters and hounds causing chaos on a river inhabited by otters.

results in huge disturbances to the otters which inhabit the same stretches of rivers.

We have stressed that allowing mink hunting is totally at odds with Ireland's obligation to protect the otter species. Please respond to our action alert now.

ACTION ALERT

Urge Minister Gormley to bring mink hunting to an end as a way to help halt the otter decline.

Minister John Gormley
Dept of the Environment
Custom House, Dublin 1
Email: minister@environ.ie
Tel: 01 888 2403.
Fax: 01 878 8640.

Six otters killed by hunt: claim

THE NATIONAL Parks and Wildlife Service have been asked to investigate a claim that mink hunters in County Cork killed six otters.

Details about the alleged killings were made anonymously to ICABS. The NPWS have alerted the conservation ranger in the area in question.

ICABS appeals to the person who sent us the details to please call us in confidence.

Doomed badger struggled for 24 hours in Dept snare

PHOTOS from Badger Watch Ireland show a badger injured so badly in a Department of Agriculture snare that a vet had to put the barely conscious animal out of its misery.

Describing the horrendous scene, Badger Watch stated: "The snare caught her across the groins and abdomen. The more she struggled, the tighter it became."

ICABS has joined Badger Watch in renewed calls on the government to stop this cruel snaring which has already left tens of thousands of badgers dead.

"What have we got to show for almost two decades of slaughtering badgers?" asks Bernie Barrett of Badger Watch. "Ireland's bovine TB levels rocketed by 13% in 2007."

Paddy Power urged to end bullring bets

THE IRISH Council Against Blood Sports has strongly urged the Paddy Power company to stop accepting bullring bets.

Visitors to the company's Spanish website are invited to bet on the number of ears hacked off the heads of bulls that have been tortured in bullrings.

On the "Toros" page of the site, heartless punters are given the opportunity to guess the "No total de orejas cortadas en la corrida" ("Total number of ears cut in the bullfight") or predict whether the number will be even or odd.

In one of several letters of appeal to Paddy Power, ICABS stated: "We find it absolutely grotesque and in the poorest of taste the Paddy Power company's acceptance

Campaign text alerts

SIGN UP to the ICABS Text Alerts service and receive occasional action alerts and campaign updates to your mobile phone.

To subscribe to this free service, simply text the word GO to our textline on 086-0386617.

To unsubscribe at any stage, simply text us the word STOP. Thank you.

STOP BARBARIC BETS



Paddy Power - Stop the bloody bullring bets!

The ICABS campaign postcard aimed at Paddy Power.

of such bets. As people are placing bets on the Paddy Power website, tortured bulls are stumbling around the bullrings with blood spurting from their backs and spraying from their noses and mouths.

"How can your company justify making money from this disgusting animal abuse?"

Bullfighting is one of the world's worst blood sports and is cruel from beginning to end. Each bullfight involves the slow torture to death of six or more bulls.

Ears are cut from the bulls as grisly trophies for the matadors. The animals will have suffered enormously in the bullring and, if still conscious when the ear is cut off, their agony will be even greater.

The Paddy Power company has been made fully aware of the violent horrors of bullfighting. A video sent to their head office shows a bleeding and injured bull - still conscious - lying paralysed on the ground as a bullfighter uses a dagger to carve off one of its ears.

Watch our action alert video now at youtube.com/icabs

ACTION ALERT

Please contact the CEO of Paddy Power and demand an immediate end to its bullring bets.

Patrick Kennedy, CEO
Paddy Power Plc
Airton House, Airton Road
Tallaght, Dublin 24

Email: ppower@paddypower.com
Tel: 01 404 5900

Sligo TD notes information on hunting cruelty

A TD WHO described hunting as an "integral part of the rural lifestyle" has been told by ICABS about the terrible animal cruelty involved in the activity. Sligo's John Perry, has said that he will keep our comments in mind for the future.

In a statement delivered at a pro-hunt meeting in January, Deputy Perry stated: "Outdoor leisure and recreational activities such as hunting, shooting and fishing are factors that are a fundamental and integral part of the rural lifestyle" and that there is "a need for positive policies to protect the best of our rural culture and traditions".

The Fine Gael TD told hunters at the meeting that "I will maintain my pressure on this Government to have our rich rural heritage recognised, and indeed protected by legislation, rather than being threatened by it."

Appealing for Deputy Perry to reconsider his stance, ICABS outlined how hunting is very much a minority activity and is in no way integral to the rural lifestyle. We pointed out that 64 per cent of Irish people

want foxhunting banned.

"During foxhunts, foxes are disturbed from their habitat, chased for anything up to three or more hours (during which they suffer not only fear and stress but a physical breakdown of muscles and damage to internal organs)



John Perry, TD

and eventually knocked off their feet and eviscerated by a pack of hounds," we stated. "There is no justification for such cruelty to wildlife."

Challenging a claim by Deputy Perry that hunts have "an excellent record in...looking after the welfare of their hounds", ICABS highlighted how hunts destroy hounds that are no longer considered fit for hunting. "These would not be unhealthy hounds but hounds that are simply not considered by hunters to be satisfactory as regards speed or ability to follow scent."

Responding, Deputy Perry stressed that he continues to "feel strongly about animal welfare and conservation of our wildlife".

"I note your comments and will keep them in mind for the future," he assured us.

Don't license deer hunt: Mayo TD

MAYO TD, Beverley Flynn, is one of the members of Dail Eireann to call for an end to carted deer hunting in Ireland.

Deputy Flynn has contacted Environment Minister, John Gormley, to highlight the "considerable public opposition" to the Ward Union hunt among constituents.

According to a report in the Sunday Times, the Independent TD wrote to Minister Gormley to put forward the case for refusing a licence to the widely condemned hunt. "I have been approached by a number of constituents who have expressed concern over the possibility of your issuing a [hunting] licence," she stated in her correspondence.

ICABS has written to Deputy Flynn to thank her for her stance on this issue.

The Sunday Times went on to reveal some of the TDs who have defended the Ward Union. These were named in the paper as Darragh O'Brien (Fianna Fail, Dublin North), Christy O'Sullivan (Fianna Fail, Cork South-West) and Noel Treacy (Fianna Fail, Galway East).



Help us stop blood sports

The Irish Council Against Blood Sports is campaigning for an end to foxhunting, hare coursing, carted deer hunting, mink hunting and all forms of hunting animals with packs of hounds.

We need your support now more than ever.

Become a supporter of our campaign or renew your support and together we can continue working for an end to blood sports.

Please return the completed form to us today. Thank you.

Help make a difference! Become a supporter today!

I am opposed to blood sports and agree with the aims of the Irish Council Against Blood Sports. I wish to become a supporter or renew my support*

* If your sub is not due (see date on mailing label), please ask a friend to consider joining.

Subscription Rates: Family (E20), Individual (E15) Unwaged (E8)

I enclose cheque or postal order for my annual subscription for the sum of E..... and a donation of E..... (optional).

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Please let us know if your email address has changed since the last edition of Animal Voice.

I wish to receive occasional campaign updates and action items by email

I will respond to occasional action items. Please post them to me

Please send me a receipt (S.A.E. appreciated)

**Kindly return to ICABS, PO Box 88, Mullingar, Co Westmeath, Ireland.
For copies of this form, click on "Join ICABS" at www.banbloodsports.com**

Help minimise our administrative costs and enable us to plan future campaigns. Pay your subscription by standing order. Simply fill out this form and send to us today. Thank you.

Standing Order Form

**Please fill out this form and return to:
ICABS, PO Box 88, Mullingar, Co Westmeath, Ireland.**

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Please pay to the Irish Council Against Blood Sports,

Ulster Bank account number: 80628033. Sort Code: 98 62 42

the sum of Euro _____ each month / quarter / year (delete as applicable)

Starting on ___ / ___ / ___ (date) until further notice and debit my account,

the number of which is:

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Your generosity will help our campaign against this kind of cruelty