

# Animal Voice

Irish Council Against Blood Sports Letter Writing Appeals

September 2003

## Make this the last ever hare coursing season

### Special appeal to all Irish TDs and Senators

**IT HAS been banned in Scotland. It looks likely to be banned in England and Wales. Now Ireland is set to become one of the last remaining countries in the world to allow live hare coursing.**

This despite the fact that successive opinion polls since the 1960s have shown that a majority of Irish people want coursing made illegal. The most recent poll shows that eight in ten want this blood sport banned.

In 1993, the muzzling of greyhounds in enclosed coursing was introduced. As predicted by ICABS at the time, muzzling has failed to eliminate the cruelty from coursing. For the upcoming coursing season, around 10,000 hares will be snatched from the wild and chased by greyhounds.

Some of the hares will be battered and mauled into the ground by the dogs. Some will sustain injuries so severe that they will die on the coursing fields. All will suffer the fear and stress of running for their lives.

We are telling the Irish Government that it is now time to replace live hare coursing with drag coursing.

This would involve a simple transition from the use of live hares to the use of a mechanical lure. This lure is rapidly pulled along the ground and, through a system of pulleys, is made to emulate the sudden changes in

direction made by hares. Drag coursing is practised successfully in several countries around the world, including the USA, Canada and Australia where live hare coursing is illegal.

We desperately need your help. Please write to all of your local politicians and ask them to express their opposition to coursing.

If possible, get your friends and family to contact them too. We need as much help with this campaign as possible.

<b>Take Action</b> <b>WRITE NOW!</b> (Name of TD) Dáil Éireann Leinster House Kildare Street Dublin 2 <b>Tel: 01-618 3000</b> or 1890 337 889
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For the names and contact details of your local politicians, please visit the "Politicians" section of the ICABS website at [www.banbloodsports.com](http://www.banbloodsports.com) or get in touch with us.

## APPEAL FOR END TO CARTED DEER HUNT

**ICABS IS renewing its appeal to the Minister for the Environment and Local Government to refuse to grant any further licences to the Ward Union carted deer hunt**

Please join us in this appeal to Minister Martin Cullen. Demand that carted deer hunting is brought to an end due to the animal cruelty involved.

The Ward Union chase captive-bred deer for up to three

hours with a pack of hounds. The hunt takes place twice a week between November and March in Meath and North County Dublin.

The contact details for Minister Cullen are as follows:

Minister Martin Cullen, Department of the Environment and Local Government, Custom House, Dublin 1. Tel: 1890 202021 (Locall). Fax: 01 8882888. Email: [minister@environ.irlgov.ie](mailto:minister@environ.irlgov.ie)

# WELCOME LETTER WRITERS

WELCOME, FRIENDS, to the September issue of *Animal Voice*, the ICABS letter writing newsletter which aims to keep you updated on all our latest letter writing appeals.

Thank you for all your continued help with the ICABS letter writing appeals. Your efforts are much appreciated.

Further to the "Labour leader backs hunting groups" appeal in June, we are pleased to report that Deputy Pat Rabbitte has clarified his stance on blood sports, stressing that he does not support them - "I do not support blood sports or hare coursing," he stated, adding, "I have no difficulty with age-old rural sports like fishing, shooting, etc. within the terms prescribed by law."

Meanwhile, Bord Failte has responded positively to our June appeal and removed references to foxhunting from its equestrian holidays website. Many thanks to everyone who wrote to Bord Failte and told them that promoting a blood sport is unacceptable.

Please join us in as many of the campaigns as possible in this issue of *Animal Voice*.

Together, we can play a part in helping to stop the suffering of animals. Thanks again for all your continued help and support.

**With best wishes.**  
**Philip Kiernan**  
**ICABS Letter Writing**  
**Campaigns Co-ordinator**

# Government funds research project's grey squirrel cull

A TRINITY College research project which involves an "intensive culling" of grey squirrels has received funding of over 76,000 Euro from the Irish Government.

The three year long project which is due to run until December 2004 was initially brought to our attention by a member of the public in County Kildare.

While out for a walk, this individual was shocked to discover a series of cages full of squirrels which were frantically trying to escape.

Research carried out by ICABS revealed that the project has received the funding under the ERTDI programme which is implemented by the Environmental Protection

Agency on behalf of the Department of the Environment and Local Government.

Please contact the Environmental Protection Agency and ask them not to give any further funding to projects which involve the trapping and killing of wild animals.



## Take Action

### WRITE NOW!

Dr Shane Colgan  
Environmental  
Protection Agency  
McCumiskey House  
Richview  
Clonskeagh Rd  
Dublin 14.

Tel: 01 268 0143

Fax: 01 268 0199

Email: [s.colgan@epa.ie](mailto:s.colgan@epa.ie)

## Sign a petition

**THOSE INTERESTED in collecting signatures for our anti-blood sports petitions are invited to get in touch with us now.**

The petitions available are "Ban Hare Coursing", "Ban Hunting With Hounds" and "Ban Bullfighting". Let us know which ones you require and we will post them out to you.

All three are also available to print off the ICABS website.

Thank you to everyone who has signed petitions and collected signatures in the past few months. We greatly appreciate your support.

## Tony Blair reminder

**PLEASE WRITE to Tony Blair and remind him of your views on blood sports.**

Urge him to introduce a total ban on coursing, deer hunting, foxhunting and all forms of hunting with hounds in the UK.

Tony Blair, Prime Minister, 10 Downing Street, London SE1 2AA, England. Fax: +44 20 7925 0918. Email from: [www.locata.co.uk/cgi-bin/webdriver?Mival=commons\\_mail&id=390](http://www.locata.co.uk/cgi-bin/webdriver?Mival=commons_mail&id=390).

# Nationwide search for illegal leghold traps

**THE IRISH Council Against Blood Sports is calling on members of the public to do a nationwide spot-check to investigate the possible sale of illegal leghold traps.**

The call comes following an incident in Galway where a fox was found in agony in a trap like the one pictured.

The Galway SPCA who brought the animal to the vets (where it was put down because of its injuries) has described the individual who set the trap as "cruel and despicable".

They have appealed for any information which may help

identify the person responsible for setting this "abominable instrument of torture".

You can help catch those who may still be selling these barbaric devices.



Please have a look in local shops where these traps may be illegally for sale (general supplies stores, fishing and shooting supplies stores, hardware shops, builder providers, antiques stores, etc).

If you spot one for sale - or if

you know of someone who is setting them - immediately contact the Gardai, your local wildlife conservation ranger or report it to ICABS.

According to the Wildlife Act, 1976 (Approved Traps, Snares and Nets) Regulations 1977, gin traps are classified as being unapproved, making it an offence to import, sell or use them.

Section 34 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 as amended by section 42 of the Wildlife (Amendment Act) 2000 also states that it is unlawful to import, offer for sale or sell such a trap.

## Catering company's coursing connection

**CORK CATERING company, Excellent Choice, was one of the sponsors at the National Hare Coursing Meeting in Clonmel in February, we have learned.**

According to a report in the Sporting Press, the company had "no hesitation when asked to sponsor this year's Coursing Bitch of the Year Award".

It is particularly disappointing that a company who in the past has been involved with such high profile events as the Rose of Tralee Ball and the International Gardening Festival would associate itself with animal cruelty.

Please write to the manager of the company and ask her to give a commitment that no further support will be given to coursing.

**Take Action**

**WRITE NOW!**

Anne Marie Fagan,  
Manager,  
Excellent Choice,  
Unit 3, Portside,  
Marina Commercial  
Park, Cork, Ireland.  
**Tel:** 021 4319398.  
**Fax:** 021 4319399  
**Email:** info@  
excellentchoice.ie

## Screensavers and calendars

**VISIT THE new "Extras" section of the ICABS website to download one of our exclusive PC screensavers.**

The selection currently on offer includes Foxes, Nature, Swans and Sunsets. Each screensaver displays a slide show presentation of nine photographs.

Also available to download are a range of attractive nature-themed calendars for you to print out and hang on your wall!

For this and all the latest updates on the campaign against blood sports, visit [www.banbloodsports.com](http://www.banbloodsports.com) today.

# PADDY POWER AND COURSING

**PADDY POWER Bookmakers have indicated that as long as hare coursing is legal in Ireland, they will continue to accept bets on the blood sport.**

The statement came following an appeal by the Irish Council Against Blood Sports for the company to disassociate itself from coursing due to the inherent animal cruelty.

"We offer betting on most sports where there is a public inter-

est and coursing as a greyhound sport is popular with the betting public," stated Patrick Power in an email to ICABS. "At present we offer betting on the National [coursing] meeting at Clonmel and on the Irish Cup meeting at Tralee."

ICABS is very disappointed at this response and we have this month renewed our appeal to Paddy Power Plc.

The Paddy Power company has branches all over Ireland and several in London. It also operates telephone and online betting services.

## Success - hunt info to go from Go Ireland site

**ICABS IS delighted to report that we have received a very positive response to our recent Go Ireland appeal.**

The Golreland.com website was featuring contact details for four fox-hunts but after an ICABS appeal, the Content Manager of the popular site stated that they had "carried out an exhaustive trawl of the Equestrian Sports section" and removed all references to blood sports. He promised that the changes will be visible on the site within a week.

"We have decided that in future, we will adopt a policy not to list any content which makes reference to or promotes blood sports," he added.

Golreland.com is Ireland's leading tourism website with over four million unique visitors annually. It is operated by Gulliver, the national tourism information and reservations system, which is jointly owned by Bord Failte, the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and financial services company, FEXCO.

ICABS congratulates Gulliver for their positive move and thanks everyone who joined us in this appeal.

### Take Action

**WRITE NOW!**

John O' Reilly, CEO,  
Paddy Power PLC,  
Airton House,  
Airton Road  
Tallaght, Dublin 24.  
**Tel:** 1850 4144444 or  
0800 039 1800 (UK)  
**Email:** ppower@  
paddypower.com

Please contact Paddy Power and ask that they stop helping to keep hare coursing alive by accepting bets. Tell them that it is unacceptable that they are associating themselves with a form of animal cruelty which 80 per cent of Irish people wish to see banned.

## Thank you!

**ICABS wishes to thank everyone who has sent in subscriptions and donations since the last issue of Animal Voice.**

Many thanks also to all the campaigners around the country who continue to contribute their time and energy to the campaign.

## CAR STICKER CAMPAIGN

**HELP SPREAD the word about the campaign against blood sports by displaying the ICABS car sticker.**

The sticker displays the address of our website - [www.banbloodsports.com](http://www.banbloodsports.com) - where information, images and videos of blood sport cruelty are available to view.

Get in touch with us today for your free sticker.

## BoyleSports promoting blood sport

**BOYLESPORTS bookmakers is another betting company connected to coursing.**

In a February edition of the Sporting Press newspaper, the company had a half-page advertisement detailing how to place bets on a Kerry coursing meeting.

Please write a letter of complaint to BoyleSports and urge them to stop promoting coursing.

The contact details are: Alexander Mar, Customer Services Manager, BoyleSports, Internet Service Centre, 31 Shop Street, Drogheda, Co. Louth. Tel: 041-983 4344. Fax: 041-983 4258. Email: alexmar@boylesports.com.

# Stop the badger snare slaughter

ENCLOSED IN this issue of *Animal Voice* you will find copies of our new "Stop the Badger Snaring Slaughter" postcard.

The card is aimed at Minister Joe Walsh who continues to defend his Department's dubious TB-Eradication Scheme.

The scheme has already left tens of thousands of badgers dead and this awful massacre looks set to continue.

Please send the card to the Minister and ask a friend or family member to send the extra one.

Further copies of the card can be downloaded from the ICABS website or, if you prefer, we can send you out extra copies to distribute. Simply get in touch and



**Stop the badger slaughter: Our snare-inspired message to the Minister for Agriculture, Joe Walsh.**

tell us how many you would like.

Alternatively, write a letter to the Minister and demand an end to the snaring of badgers.

Also write to the Director of

Duchas, asking him not to grant further snaring licences to the Department. Without these licences, the snaring would not be able to take place.

## ICELAND RESUMES KILLING OF WHALES

**DESPITE international condemnation, Iceland has resumed its killing of whales.**

Thirty eight Minke Whales are to be killed before the end of September because the Icelandic Government says it wants to establish "the role of whales in the marine ecosystem".

By claiming that the whale hunt is for scientific purposes, Iceland is exploiting a loophole in the International Whaling Commission's world-wide moratorium on commercial whaling.

But the science behind the slaughter has been described by

experts as being "deficient in almost every respect".

Many feel that this whale hunt - Iceland's first since 1989 - is being used as a way of moving towards a commercial whaling programme.

Please join us in writing to the Icelandic Government and expressing outrage at the killing of whales.

The email addresses to write to are: [postur@for.stjr.is](mailto:postur@for.stjr.is) (David Oddsson, Icelandic Prime Minister), [postur@sjr.stjr.is](mailto:postur@sjr.stjr.is) (the Minister of Fisheries), [postur@umh.stjr.is](mailto:postur@umh.stjr.is) (Minister of the Environment) and [info@icetourist.is](mailto:info@icetourist.is) (Iceland Tourism).

### Take Action

**WRITE NOW!**

Minister Joe Walsh  
Dept of Agriculture,  
Agriculture House,  
Kildare Street, Dublin 2.  
Tel: 01-607 2892 or  
LoCall 1890-200150.  
Fax: 01-661 1013.  
Email: [minister@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:minister@agriculture.gov.ie).

### Take Action

**WRITE NOW!**

The Director  
Duchas  
The Heritage Service  
7 Ely Place, Dublin 2  
Email: [duchasinfo@duchas.ie](mailto:duchasinfo@duchas.ie)

# ANIMALS AND THE EU CONSTITUTION

**THE EUROPEAN Convention - the body preparing the expansion of the EU - has so far failed to include animal protection in its new European Constitution.**

The constitution is set to be finalised in October during an international governmental conference.

EU citizens are being asked to urgently contact the heads of their governments and urge them to make sure that animal protection is included in the constitution.

To lend your support to this important campaign, please visit [www.animals-constitution.info](http://www.animals-constitution.info) and click on the Irish flag (or

whichever flag represents your country). Then click on "Sign the Petition".

Here you will be able to attach your name to a letter which will be presented to the relevant head of government.

Alternatively, write directly to Bertie Ahern, urging him to ensure that animal protection is included in the EU Constitution.

Contact details are: An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, Government Buildings, Upper Merrion Street, Dublin 2. Email: [taoiseach@taoiseach.irg.gov.ie](mailto:taoiseach@taoiseach.irg.gov.ie).

## Kangaroo killings: protest to Adidas and David Beckham

**ACCORDING TO Vegetarian International Voice for Animals (VIVA), the Adidas company is currently engaged in a "barbaric kangaroo slaughter" which will leave hundreds of thousands of Australian kangaroos dead.**

The kangaroos are being killed for leather for use in the manufacture of Adidas "Predator" football boots. Methods being used reportedly include clubbing of the animals over the head.

In a statement, Adidas said that they have met with the government agency that regulates "the harvesting of kangaroos" and

have examined current industry practices. They have also claimed that "none of the common species of kangaroo that are harvested are considered endangered animals".

Please write to Adidas and express your concerns about the continued slaughter of kangaroos.

Ask them to use a synthetic alternative to kangaroo leather - a material which Adidas itself produces.

Send a copy of your letter to David Beckham who wears and promotes Adidas's kangaroo-skin football boots.

More details available at: [www.shameonadidas.com](http://www.shameonadidas.com)



### Take Action

**WRITE NOW!**

Ross McMullin,  
CEO/President, Adidas,  
5055 North Greeley Ave,  
Portland, OR 97217,  
USA

**Email:**  
[Consumer.Relations@adidasus.com](mailto:Consumer.Relations@adidasus.com)

### Take Action

**WRITE NOW!**

David Beckham,  
c/o Tony Stephens,  
SFX Sports Group Ltd,  
Hockley Ct, Stratford Rd  
Hockley Heath, Solihull  
B94 6NW, UK

**Email:**  
[tony.stephens@sfx.com](mailto:tony.stephens@sfx.com)

## SAMPLE LETTER

**Dear Mr Ahern,**

It is of great importance to me to have the protection of animals written into a European Constitution.

I expressly support the amendments relating to the incorporation of animal welfare into an EU Constitution proposed by the German Federal Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer, and MEP Johannes Voggenhuber.

Unfortunately the Convention disregarded these proposals in its draft of the Constitution.

The mass cruelty to animals that happens daily in Europe must not be ignored. The protection of animals must be integrated as an objective into the future EU Constitution and recognized as an indispensable part of European democratic culture.

I respectfully urge you to take my wish into consideration in the further discussions relating to the new Constitution.

Sincerely yours,

**Name/Address**