

CARTED DEER HUNTING

An Irish Council Against Blood Sports Factsheet

Carted deer hunting is a cruel activity which causes horrific suffering to defenceless red deer. It subjects the deer - captive bred specifically for the abuse - to a distressing ordeal, leaving them exhausted, injured and severely at risk of dying from heart failure.

The red deer used are taken from a herd which is privately owned by the Ward Union hunt. This hunt is based in County Meath, Ireland.

Every Tuesday and Friday between November and mid-March, two deer (stags or hinds) are taken out in a cart to a hunt location. They have their antlers sawn off to prevent injuries being caused to the dogs and the manhandlers who wrestle them to the ground at the end of each hunt.

One deer is turned out of the trailer, and forced to run. The other is kept as a spare in case the first deer is caught too soon.

During the hunt, the deer is at risk of sustaining injuries as it frantically



A deer with its antlers cut off nervously waits for the hunt to begin.



Exhausted and injured: At the end of the hunt, the deer is dragged back to the hunt's trailer. It will be abused again in a future hunt.

ly tries to outrun the horseback riders and the pack of dogs. Being in unfamiliar terrain, the deer has an extremely hazardous route ahead.

Crashing through thorny hedges, over walls, across busy public roads and even into lakes and rivers, the terrified creature does everything it can to stay ahead.

A Department of Agriculture Veterinary Inspector who monitored a Ward Union hunt wrote: "One stag was seen attempting to jump a very high fence and getting his front leg caught on a top strand of barbed wire and hanging, thus suspended, for some seconds before his struggles and/or weight tore him free."

He also outlined how a stag "having run at least 8 miles in 90 minutes showed extreme physi-

cal distress, panting through its mouth and with a lather of white foam around its muzzle."

Reported fatalities include a deer which died of an aneurism, a deer that was "accidentally" choked to death during capture and a deer which had to be put down after suffering a broken leg in a collision with a car on a public road (December 2009).

ICABS has always contended that this hunt is in breach of the 1911

Protection of Animals Act and we are continuing to call for a complete ban.

We are appealing to Environment Minister, John Gormley (Green Party) and Agriculture Minister, Brendan Smith (Fianna Fail) to follow the example of Northern Ireland where a similar hunt was outlawed years ago.

For more information on the cruelty of carted deer hunting and to find out how you can support our action alerts, please visit our website at www.banbloodsports.com. Witness the cruelty of carted deer hunting on our Youtube Channel at www.youtube.com/banbloodsports



Desperate to escape, a deer slips and falls as the hounds close in.

How can I help end this blood sport?

Please appeal to Minister John Gormley (he licenses the Ward Union deerhunt) and Minister Brendan Smith (he is responsible for the Protection of Animals Act) to end carted deer hunting as a matter of urgency.

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For more information about carted deer hunting, please visit www.banbloodsports.com