

# ANIMAL VOICE



Newsletter of the Irish Council Against Blood Sports Issue 1, 2010

## HELP THE HARES

Support our urgent anti-coursing action alerts

FG challenged on outdated blood sports stance

Green Minister defended cruel badger snaring

Minister asked to

**REVOKE LICENCE**

“before someone gets killed”

I support ban on the Ward Union

“I saw hounds attack”:  
Cllr condemns hunt

# THE END OF THE WARD IS NIGH

Minister Gormley promises that legislation banning the Ward Union will be drafted “as soon as possible”

# THE END OF THE WARD IS NIGH

## Legislation banning the Ward Union hunt will be published "as soon as possible"

**ENVIRONMENT Minister, John Gormley has confirmed that he will publish legislation to ban the Ward Union "as soon as possible". The Minister made the statement in response to a Dail question from pro-hunting Fine Gael TD, Shane McEntee.**

Speaking during an Adjournment Debate about hunting licences on 2 December 2009, Minister Gormley stated that the renewed programme for Government "includes a commitment to ban the practice of stag hunting" and that the relevant legislation will be published soon.

Responding to a defence of the hunt by Deputy McEntee, the Minister emphasised his determination to end the hunt "for animal welfare and public safety reasons"



**A bleeding and exhausted Ward Union deer at the end of a hunt. This activity is "no longer acceptable", Minister Gormley noted.**



**Minister John Gormley: His anti-hunt legislation imminent**

"I believe a large proportion of the public consider such activity is no longer acceptable," he stated. "The Deputy may recall an incident a few years ago when a deer pursued by a pack of hounds entered a school yard during the school day. I find an incident like this totally intolerable."

Highlighting other public safety incidents, he referred to deer in flight leaping through hedges onto public roads.

"This legislation will not have any implications for other activities such as fox-hunting, hare coursing or the shooting of deer,"

he continued, adding that it will "allow for regulations to control recreational activities, to address invasive species and to increase the penalties under the Wildlife Acts. "

It was revealed that the legislation will increase the maximum fines that could be imposed on a person following a conviction for an offence under the Wildlife Act. The penalties were last increased in 2000. The current fine of £500 will be increased to 1,000 while the £50,000 will rise to 100,000

"It is my intention to publish the legislation as soon as possible," Minister Gormley emphasised.

## ACTION ALERT

**Please email "I support the banning of the Ward Union" to [minister@environ.ie](mailto:minister@environ.ie) or telephone your message to the Minister on 00353 (0)1 8882403. Alternatively, you can fax a letter of support for the ban to 00353 (0)1 8788640.**

If you live in Shane McEntee's Meath constituency, please remind him that you are one of the majority of Meath residents who want the Ward Union banned. Contact him at [shane.mcentee@finegael.ie](mailto:shane.mcentee@finegael.ie) or Tel: 01 6184447

**Renewed appeal to Minister John Gormley**

# Cancel the coursing licence extension

ICABS HAS renewed its appeal to Green Party leader and Environment Minister, John Gormley, to cancel a licence extension he promised to hare coursers.

The extension, which was due to be granted early in the new year, would allow coursers to continue terrorising hares into the month of March.

In correspondence to the Minister, ICABS pointed out that he is in no way obliged under current legislation to issue either the coursing licence or the licence extension.

"We appeal to your sense of compassion to please spare the hares the suffering caused by coursing clubs and bring this blood sport to an end," we stated.

**Download and send our poster**

**REVOKE THE COURSING LICENCE  
CANCEL THE LICENCE EXTENSION  
PROTECT THE HARE SPECIES**

Help save hares from this terrible cruelty



**Minister Gormley - Please stop the suffering**

Download now from [www.tinyurl.com/stopthesuffering](http://www.tinyurl.com/stopthesuffering)



**Join our campaign to save hares from this cruelty.**

ed. "Minister, this positive move would be welcomed widely by the majority of citizens who want coursing outlawed and would be

very much in line with the Green Party's anti-blood sports policies.

We are continuing to urge Minister John Gormley to put in place permanent protection for the Irish Hare.

Please help save hares from the cruelty of coursing. Respond now to our action alert.

## ACTION ALERT

Please email "No more hare coursing licences or licence extensions" to [minister@environ.ie](mailto:minister@environ.ie)

Print and post our new poster (pictured left) to Minister John Gormley, Department of the Environment, Custom House, Dublin 1 or fax to 00353 (0)1 878 8640.

Alternatively, download the poster from [www.tinyurl.com/stopthesuffering](http://www.tinyurl.com/stopthesuffering) and email to [minister@environ.ie](mailto:minister@environ.ie)

# FG is challenged on blood sports stance

**ICABS IS urging Fine Gael to modernise its animal welfare policies after a spokesperson stated that the party "supports country sports" and will "oppose any move by Government to deny groups the right to continue to pursue these activities".**

In a letter of complaint to Fine Gael leader, Enda Kenny, ICABS strongly criticised the party's stance on animal cruelty activities. This stance was outlined in a statement from FG Agriculture spokesperson Michael Creed TD, who said:

\* "Fine Gael supports country sports which are carried out humanely, properly supervised and monitored and that do not involve any undue risk to animal welfare. If these criteria can be satisfied Fine Gael does not oppose properly licensed country sports activities."

\* "Fine Gael will oppose any move by Government to deny groups who have conducted their activities as per their licences, the right to continue to pursue these activities in the future."

\* He also shamelessly defends cruel blood sports on monetary grounds, saying that "it would be irresponsible to discount the importance of rural pursuits to the economy as a whole."

In our correspondence to Enda Kenny (and Olivia Mitchell TD who said Mr Creed's statement reflected her own views), ICABS stated: "We wish to convey to you our disbelief that a modern party like Fine Gael is continuing to side with the merciless minority who



take pleasure in abusing animals and subjecting them to the most horrendous cruelty.

"For the majority who want coursing, foxhunting and carted deer hunting outlawed, it is highly offensive for Deputy Creed to suggest that the activities he euphemistically refers to as 'country sports' could in any way be 'carried out humanely...and not involve any undue risk to animal welfare'."

We stressed that Deputy Creed is "clearly wrong in his assertion that if an activity is licensed, it must not be cruel", highlighting that in coursing and carted deer hunting (both licensed), animals are subjected to terrible suffering.

"The stance, presented by Deputy Creed, reflects very poorly on Fine Gael," we added. "We hope that your party can modernise its animal welfare policies and bring them in line with the overwhelming view in Ireland that animal cruelty is wrong and should be legislated against."

**Fine Gael's Enda Kenny: Urged to change his party's outdated animal policies**

## ACTION ALERT

**Please join us in urging Enda Kenny to "Modernise Fine Gael's Animal Welfare Policies."**

Please write a letter of appeal to him today or download and print a sample letter from: [www.scribd.com/doc/22510940](http://www.scribd.com/doc/22510940)

**Enda Kenny, TD**

Dail Eireann, Leinster House,  
Kildare Street, Dublin 2

Email: [enda.kenny@finegael.ie](mailto:enda.kenny@finegael.ie)

CC: [olivia.mitchell@oireachtas.ie](mailto:olivia.mitchell@oireachtas.ie);  
[finegael@finegael.com](mailto:finegael@finegael.com)

Tel: 00353(0)1-618 3105

Please contact your local TDs and urge them to back a ban on all blood sports. Write to them at Dail Eireann, Dublin 2.

# Species "Protection" Unit quizzed over coursing recommendation

ICABS IS calling on the National Parks and Wildlife Service's Species Protection Unit to explain why it recommended that a coursing licence be granted for another season of hare coursing.

"Given that coursing results in stress, injury and death to hares, we wish to know how your unit's recommendation fits in with its 'species protection' role," ICABS stated.

The details of the Species Protection Unit's recommendation are contained in a document recently obtained by ICABS following a Freedom of Information request.

A letter signed the unit's Assistant Director, Gerry Leckey, states that: "It is recommended that licences issue to the Irish

Coursing Club under the Wildlife Acts to mark hares, capture hares and undertake coursing outside the Open Season Order on 1 March 2010. The licence will cover all clubs affiliated to the Irish Coursing Club."

Referring to a request by the Irish Coursing Club for an extension to the licence, the document states that "We have facilitated the Irish Coursing Club in the past and it is recommended that the ICC be granted this extension."

In a letter to Dr Ciaran O'Keeffe, the director of the NPWS Species Protection Unit, ICABS has enquired about the unit's justification for recommending the issuance of a licence for the 2009-2010 coursing season and a licence to extend the coursing season.



The NPWS recommended that a licence for the continuation of this disgusting cruelty be issued. Please respond to our action alert.

## Westmeath Senators criticised for defending hunters and coursers

WESTMEATH Senators, Camillus Glynn and Nicki McFadden have been criticised for defending those involved in blood sports.

In an article published in the Westmeath Topic, ICABS spokesperson Aileen Yourell said the pair had a "total blind spot" about the suffering caused to animals.

During a Senate debate on the proposed Puppy Farm legislation,

Senator Glynn (Fianna Fail) claimed that hunting groups ran "a fine show, and if it were otherwise I would say so and not apologise to anyone for so doing".

Sen Nicki McFadden (Fine Gael), meanwhile, stated "I am familiar with the South Westmeath hunt. There is no question but they are the kindest people to those dogs."

## ACTION ALERT

Please join us in asking the NPWS Species Protection Unit to explain why it has recommended the licensing of a blood sport that causes massive interference to the Irish Hare species and which results in stress, injury and death to hares.

Dr Ciaran O'Keeffe, Director, NPWS Species Protection Unit, 7 Ely Place, Dublin 2

Tel: +353-1-8882000

Fax: +353-1-8883272

Email: ciaran.o'keeffe

@environ.ie, gerry.leckey

@environ.ie, minister@environ.ie

## Minister Dempsey thanked

ICABS HAS thanked Minister Noel Dempsey for declining an invitation to attend a pro-hunt "monster rally" in County Meath.

An article on the Countryside Alliance website observed that "it is the view of some in the Ward Union hunt that [Minister Dempsey] has not been supportive of hunting at the cabinet table."

ICABS has thanked Minister Dempsey for staying away from the meeting.

We assured him that we strongly disagreed with claims by hunters that his decision to stay away was "insulting" to his constituents.

"The majority of people in the Meath constituency are opposed to the Ward Union so your shunning of this meeting will be widely welcomed," we stated.

# REVOKE HUNT'S LICENCE BEFORE SOMEONE GETS KILLED

**The Irish Council Against Blood Sports is calling on Minister John Gormley to immediately revoke the licence he issued to the Ward Union deer hunt.**

The call is being made on the grounds that it poses a real and present danger to motorists and it comes in the wake of an incident in December when a hunted deer jumped onto a public road and collided with a car.

The deer sustained a leg injury and had to be destroyed. Thankfully, on this occasion no person was injured.

In correspondence with Minister John Gormley, ICABS has stated: "A collision with a deer could potentially result in serious injury and death to a motorist and we urge you to give serious consideration to the risks involved in allowing this hunt to continue."

As part of a submission, ICABS has provided Minister Gormley with photographic evidence showing cars and lorries being brought to a standstill as a pack of hunt hounds spilled out on to a public road.

Another image shows a National Parks and Wildlife Service van on a clogged-up road being forced to reverse to allow traffic to pass. The NPWS official was present to monitor the hunt on behalf of Minister Gormley.

This is not the first time a deer has been chased onto public roads by the Ward Union.

Just last year, a National Parks & Wildlife

Service ranger reported that he was forced to "brake hard" to avoid a fatal collision with a Ward Union deer. The ranger who was monitoring the hunt on 25 November 2008 said he "narrowly avoided killing" the animal.

While monitoring the same hunt in the past, members of the Irish Council Against Blood Sports had to take evasive action to avoid crashing into a deer which was being chased around a corner into oncoming traffic. Only by braking hard and swerving were we able to avoid a collision with the terrified animal.

Over the years, the dangers posed by the hunt have been continually flagged .

As far back as 1997, a Department of Agriculture report ("Monitoring of the Stag Hunts conducted by the Ward Union Hunt by K.W. S. Kane, Veterinary Inspector"), acknowledged that "Stags are frightened by motor



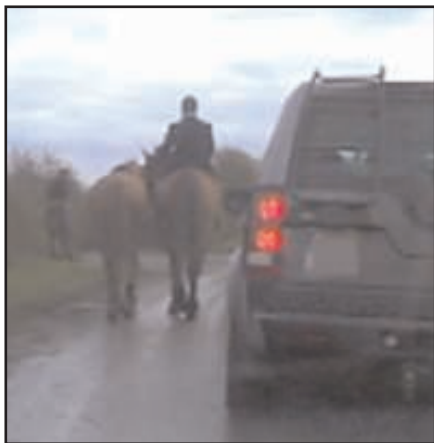
**Absolute mayhem: Traffic is brought to a standstill as the Ward Union's pack of hounds spill out on to a public road.**



vehicles when they cross public roads, which they frequently do during hunts." He added that "during the six hunts attended the Dublin-Slane road was crossed three times by a stag and five times by the hunt; the Dublin-Navan road was crossed once by stag and hunt."

A Department of Agriculture official monitoring the Ward Union during the 1997-98 season referred to the hazards associated with hunts on roads. In his report, he stated that the "deer were at risk of injury when crossing roads."

In a 2003 submission to then Minister for Transport, we highlighted a report from a NPWS ranger who monitored the Ward Union in March 2002. The ranger outlined that "the stag took off in the direction of Dunshaughlin where it crossed the main N3."



In 2004, following an ICABS appeal, the National Safety Council asked the Ward Union Deerhunt to stay off the public roads in the interests of road safety.

Responding to concerns that the hunt poses a potential danger to road users in Meath and North County Dublin, a NSC spokesperson stated at the time that:

"We would have obvious concerns if such [hunt] practices posed a danger to road users. We will be writing to the Ward Union Hunt to communicate these concerns and that in the interests of road safety we would request that all appropriate precautions be taken to prevent incursions (by deer/stag, dogs and the hunt party) onto the public highway during hunting outings."

The government has promised that legislation to ban the Ward Union is due soon but, in the interests of preventing further incidents and danger to motorists, ICABS is demanding that the licence be immediately revoked.

Please respond to our action alert below and join us in urging Minister Gormley to act now.

## **ACTION ALERT**

**Please email "Revoke the Ward Union's licence immediately on public safety grounds" to [minister@environ.ie](mailto:minister@environ.ie)**

If you reside in, or drive through the hunt's area, and have personally experienced or witnessed problems, please point this out in your correspondence.

Minister John Gormley, Department of the Environment, Custom House, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 888 2403. Fax: 01 878 8640.

# Deputy O'Sullivan raises issue of public safety

**MAUREEN O'Sullivan, TD has asked Environment Minister, John Gormley, if he will revoke the Ward Union's licence "on public safety grounds". Minister Gormley stated in response that legislation outlawing the hunt will be published soon.**

The following is the full text of the question and answer:

Question 851 - Answered on 19th January, 2010

Maureen O'Sullivan, TD: To ask the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government if, in view of a recent incident involving the collision of a vehicle and a deer during a ward union hunt, he will revoke the hunt's licence on public safety grounds.

Written Answer. Ref No 48365/09

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (Mr John Gormley): I am aware of the recent incident where a deer collided with a vehicle during a hunt meeting. I have had concerns for some time relating to this particular hunting practice for both animal welfare and public safety reasons.



Accordingly, the Government recently approved the drafting of legislation to prohibit the hunting of deer by a pack of hounds in accordance with a commitment in this regard in the renewed Programme for Government. I expect that the legislation will be published as soon as possible.

**Click on "Politicians" at [www.banbloodsports.com](http://www.banbloodsports.com) for more Dail Q&A**

## Dublin hospital will no longer associate with Ward Union

**CAPPAGH NATIONAL Orthopaedic Hospital in Dublin has been thanked for announcing that it will "no longer associate with or accept donations from the Ward Union hunt".**

The hospital's much welcomed move came following an ICABS appeal which was prompted by a photograph on the Ward Union's website which shows hunters posing handing a cheque to a hospital representative.

In correspondence to the hospital, we highlighted the suffering caused to deer by the hunt as well as the public safety risk it poses.

Cappagh Hospital's positive response comes just a few weeks after a similar statement from the Irish Kidney Association.

ICABS greatly welcomes these latest examples of charities refusing to associate with hunts. We view hunt fundraisers as thinly disguised public relations exercises designed to try and gain brownie points for hunts within the areas their blood "sport" takes place.

For more information on Cappagh Hospital or to make a donation, please visit [www.cappagh.ie](http://www.cappagh.ie)

## Kidney Assoc rejects deer hunt's offer

**ICABS HAS praised the Irish Kidney Association for refusing the offer of a fundraiser from the Ward Union.**

A Kidney Association spokesperson stated on RTE's Liveline: "We're in the business of preserving life so we'd prefer if they didn't do something on our behalf." The hunt, which has been condemned internationally for terrorising deer, is due to be banned this year.

The charity's statement was made on the 15th December 2009 edition of the show, which featured a discussion about a hunted Ward Union deer that jumped onto a road and collided with a car. The deer suffered injuries and was put down while the occupants of the car were said to have been badly shaken.

Responding to the Ward Union's fundraising offer, Mark Murphy of the Irish Kidney Association said that the association was "not prepared to lend our name to any hunting event".

"We're in the business of preserving life so we'd prefer if they didn't do something on our behalf, certainly not to use our name," he added.

"So you're saying clearly to the Ward Union hunt 'thanks but no thanks, don't organise anything for us'," clarified programme presenter Joe Duffy. To which Mr Murphy replied: "Yes, I am saying that."

We applaud the Irish Kidney Association for becoming one of the latest in a line of charities that have recognised the inappropriateness of associating with those who cause animal suffering.

The charity is appealing to members of the public to make donations. If you would like to help or are interested in ordering a kidney donor card, please visit [www.ika.ie](http://www.ika.ie)

# No fee exemptions for killer hunting hounds

**THE IRISH Council Against Blood Sports is urging Minister John Gormley to drop proposals to exempt blood sports groups from fees under the new Dog Breeding Establishments Bill 2009. Please support our urgent action alert now.**

According to a statement issued by the Green Party leader in December 2009, "It is proposed that hunt clubs would be exempt from paying fees."

During a Seanad Debate on the bill the following month, Minister Gormley confirmed that "Under section 8(18), hunt clubs...will be exempt from paying fees, but must register and be subject to possible inspection."

In a letter to the Minister, ICABS has appealed for the proposal to be scrapped.

"We remind you, Minister, that these hunting hounds are used for the most horrendous cruelty to animals," we wrote. "These dogs chase wildlife across the countryside, catch them and rip their bodies asunder."

We added: "This bill is a tremendous opportunity for you to introduce a financial disincentive for the breeding of these killer dogs and move a step closer to your party's promise to ban blood sports. We hope you will take this opportunity and firmly reject the proposal to exempt hunting groups."

In its pre-election manifesto, the Green Party pledged to end



**A pack of hounds attack and kill a fox at the end of a hunt. Please urge Minister Gormley not to exempt hunt groups.**

blood sports when in government and increase penalties for those involved. Acceding to requests from hunters to spare them the burden of thousands of euros in fees would make a mockery of this pledge.

The outlined fees for dog breeding establishments range from 400 Euro for up to 12 breeding bitches to 3,000 Euro where 101 to 200 are kept. A further 1,600 Euro will be payable for every 100 additional dogs. According to the Hunting Association of Ireland, Irish hunts "have control of over 60,000 dogs"

You can read the full text of the Seanad Eireann debate at [www.tinyurl.com/seanaddog](http://www.tinyurl.com/seanaddog)

## ACTION ALERT

Minister Gormley has said his intention is to have the Bill introduced to the Houses of the Oireachtas early this year and enacted at the earliest possible date. Please act now to urge him to drop the proposal to exempt hunts.

Email "No exemption for hunt groups under Dog Breeding Bill" to [minister@environ.ie](mailto:minister@environ.ie) or post a letter to Minister John Gormley, Department of the Environment, Custom House, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 888 2403. Fax: 01 878 8640.

# Hunt dogs are kept in disturbing conditions

ICABS HAS brought to Minister Gormley's attention a set of photos showing just some of the appalling conditions in which Ireland's hunting hounds are kept.

The photos show a large green puddle in a dog enclosure, a hunt hound in filthy conditions eating a cow's leg and a hound trying to get out under a gate.

We have asked Minister Gormley to disregard comments made during the recent Seanad debate which claimed that standards are good in hunt kennels.

"This claim is not based on the facts, particularly when you take into account the hunt practice of destroying hounds that are considered unsuitable for hunting or no longer fit for hunting," we pointed out. "These would not be old, unhealthy hounds but hounds that are simply not considered satisfactory as regards speed or ability to follow scent."

"This heartless attitude of killing animals deemed worthless is comparable to that found in puppy farm breeders," we added.

Also brought to his attention was the appalling attitude of those in charge of hunt kennels.

This was highlighted in a past edition of Animal Voice in which we highlighted an individual who called a hunt kennel to enquire about adopting a hound. He was told that the kennels don't rehome dogs because they are killed instead.



A miserable foxhound tries to squeeze beneath the gate of a hunt kennel, dogs jump against a kennel gate close to a green pool and a foxhound in filthy conditions gnaws at the leg of a cow.



# HUNT FOXES OR HARES INSTEAD



ICABS has expressed disbelief at a suggestion by the Green Party's deputy leader that when carted deer hunting is banned, the Ward Union could instead switch to hunting foxes or hares.

**IN AN** interview published in the Irish Field, Mary White, TD (Carlow) suggested that when the Ward Union deer hunt is stopped this year, they could instead "switch to drag hunting, fox or hare hunting".

In a letter to the Green Party, ICABS expressed shock and disbelief at the statements made by Deputy White.

In the December 19th edition of the hunting publication she:

\* Assured hunters that the Green Party has "no intention of banning fox hunting or hare coursing either now or anytime in the future."

\* Said the Green Party has a "hands-off" policy towards shooting, fox hunting and hare coursing and that there will be no efforts to ban them.

\* Admitted that she used to shoot animals herself and claimed that "the Greens are in favour of shooting birds, like pheasants, for food"

\* Stressed that the Green Party are not against "field sports" such as shooting.

\* Highlighted the Green Party's determination to ban carted deer hunting but added that they have "no such intentions towards fox

hunting, traditional field sports and hare coursing either now or anytime in the future."

\* Reassured hunters that "there is nothing in the Programme for Government on that, nor will there be." "None of the other rural sports will be touched," she added. "That's the message I clearly want to get out to hunting people."



**Green Party Deputy Leader, Mary White, TD**

In our correspondence with the Green Party, ICABS remarked that it was astounding that a Green TD would suggest that anyone partake in fox or hare hunting, two of Ireland's most cruel and appalling activities.

We reminded the party that hunting sees foxes

and hares desperately running for their lives and when they are too exhausted to continue running, they are knocked off their feet, bitten, ripped apart and disembowelled by packs of dogs.

We pointed out that Deputy White's statement that the Green Party has a "hands-off" policy towards hunting and coursing is "the complete opposite to the message the Green Party conveyed in its pre-election manifesto that it would end blood sports when in Government."

"This attempt to comfort and reassure those involved in torturing and killing our wildlife also gratefully conflicts with the fundamental anti-cruelty ethos of the Green Party and its stated commitment to improve animal welfare in Ireland," we added.

Please respond to our action alert below and encourage the Green Party to fulfil its pre-election promise to end blood sports. If you were one of the many who voted for the party based on its animal policies, be sure to point this out in your letter.

## ACTION ALERT

**Please join us in asking the Green Party to urgently clarify its position and instead of conveying messages to hunters, to get a message out to the majority of the electorate who abhor cruelty to animals.**

Ask the party to confirm that it remains opposed to all blood sports, including fox hunting and hare coursing, and that it will act vigorously to get them banned while in government.

Email "Green Party - please work to ban all blood sports" to [info@greenparty.ie](mailto:info@greenparty.ie) with a copy to [marywhittd@gmail.com](mailto:marywhittd@gmail.com) and [minister@environ.ie](mailto:minister@environ.ie)

The Green Party  
16/17 Suffolk Street, Dublin 2.  
Tel: +353 (0)1 6790012.

**PLEASE SEND TO YOUR LOCAL POLITICIANS NOW!**

Please send our poster to all your TDs and Senators today. To find out their names & contact details, visit [www.oireachtas.ie/members-hist](http://www.oireachtas.ie/members-hist) You can also download this poster from [www.tinyurl.com/animalsvote](http://www.tinyurl.com/animalsvote)

# THE ANIMALS GET MY VOTE

Politicians and Election Candidates: Your attitude towards animals and commitment to bringing animal cruelty to an end in Ireland will be a major factor in my voting decision

	<b>A BAN ON FOXHUNTING</b> (Protection for foxes from being terrorised by foxhunters, chased to exhaustion and cruelly ripped apart by packs of hounds)	
	<b>A BAN ON HARE COURSING</b> (No more netting hares or cruel coursing. Coursing results in terrified hares suffering horrific injuries and deaths when mauled by greyhounds)	
	<b>A BAN ON CARTED DEERHUNTING</b> (An end to the terrorisation of tame deer with packs of hounds. A cruel blood sport that leaves deer exhausted, injured and sometimes dead)	
	<b>A BAN ON HARE HUNTING</b> (Protection for the Irish Hare. An end to the cruel chasing and killing of hares with packs of dogs. The dogs "totally demolish" the hare at the end)	
	<b>A BAN ON DIGGING OUT &amp; APPALLING TERRIERWORK</b> (Digging out foxes and using terriers to attack them is extremely cruel and must be outlawed)	
	<b>A BAN ON FERRETING</b> (Ferrets sent underground by hunters viciously attack defenceless rabbits. Some rabbits are blinded when ferrets bite into their eyes)	
	<b>A BAN ON MINK HUNTING</b> (A blood sport that's not only cruel to mink but also results in huge disturbances to protected otters inhabiting the same rivers)	
	<b>AN END TO BADGER SNARING</b> (An estimated 50,000 badgers have been cruelly snared and killed by the Dept of Agriculture as part of a condemned TB Eradication scheme)	

I invite you to witness the cruelty of blood sports in Ireland. Please click on "Videos" on the Irish Council Against Blood Sports' website: [www.banbloodsports.com](http://www.banbloodsports.com)

# Taxpayers' cash funding squirrel killing contests

The Irish Council Against Blood Sports has asked the Minister for Agriculture, Brendan Smith, to stop his Department's sponsorship of a squirrel killing competition.

According to a report in the Irish Times, the forestry service division of the Department sponsored a 6,500 Euro fund in 2009 which saw shooting clubs being awarded cash prizes for blasting "alien" grey squirrels to death.

Clubs in Meath killed 214 squirrels and were awarded 1,600 Euro while shooters in Monaghan won 1,100 Euro for their tally of 196. The other participating counties also received cash for their killing.

In a letter to Brendan

Smith, ICABS expressed opposition to the sponsorship. "We implore you to stop using taxpayers' money to incentivise the destruction of Irish wildlife," we said. "We strongly urge you not to give any further funding to shooting groups."

In a reply from the Minister's office, a spokesperson stated: "As the National Association of Regional Game Councils [shooting organisation] had added grey squirrels to its list of vermin, it was decided to make a contribution towards the Council's prize fund in an effort to address the spread of the non-native grey squirrel."

ICABS believes it's highly inappropriate to use taxpayers' money to sponsor wildlife killing competitions. Please help the squirrels by responding to our action alert below. Thank you!

**HELP THE SQUIRRELS:** Send "Stop using taxpayers' cash to fund squirrel killing contests" to [minister@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:minister@agriculture.gov.ie) or write to Minister Brendan Smith, Dept of Agriculture, Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, Ireland. Tel: 00353 (0)1-607 2000. Fax: 00353 (0)1-661 1013.

# I SUPPORT BAN ON WARD UNION



ICABS welcomes strong statement from Councillor Noel Leonard

**ICABS HAS welcomed Fianna Fail Councillor, Noel Leonard's condemnation of the Ward Union and his announcement that he backs moves to ban the hunt.**

"I saw the hounds attack the hind quarters of the legs of the poor unfortunate stag," Cllr Leonard outlines in a statement published in the Meath Chronicle. "It's horrific to see the end of the hunt."

Please read on for the full report from 9th January 2010...

Noel Leonard is hoping that sooner rather than later, the coalition government will get around to banning stag hunting.

Elected to Meath County Council as a Fianna Fail councillor for a second time in 2009, Leonard says he will have no problem giving his backing to the Green Party initiative.

Since he was very young, he has been staunchly against blood sports. Still is. He has not been slow

in voicing opposition and he claims there is considerable support within Fianna Fail to ban stag hunting.

Leonard, who represents the Dunboyne area, is not convinced by the assertion by the Ward Hunt that they provide a huge benefit to the local economy and claims there is an alternative available - drag hunting.

"I've heard the arguments that stag hunting is brilliant for the racing industry, the national hunt, local economy and so on. I don't agree with that. I don't think there were any jobs lost in England when stag hunting was banned over there. They can hunt without a stag."

The Dunboyne councillor claims that the experience of watching a stag hunt as a youngster left an indelible impression on his psyche. "It left a terrible mark on me, the cruelty that is associated with both stag hunting and, indeed, fox hunting or any form of activity whereby hounds chase a dumb animal until it is exhausted.

"I don't care what they say, they can say they have a lot of things in place to ensure the stag doesn't suffer. That's ridiculous; of course the stag suffers.

"I saw the hounds attack the hind quarters of the legs of the poor, unfortunate animal. It's horrific to see the end of the hunt," he adds.

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**"The exhausted and frightened stag is surrounded by salivating hounds eagerly looking for something to eat"**

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As a youngster, Noel Leonard remembers the hunt passing through land owned by his family, disrupting the quiet, rural countryside. "I saw my own mother trying to stop them and we were out as kids trying to stop them, the horses coming in where we had cows and calves, going through our fields and our neighbours' fields, without making any apology for anything."

Leonard points to the incident in Kildalkey a few years ago, when a stag ran through a schoolyard, as an example of how it can all go wrong. How a hunt can quickly turn into a health hazard.

He says that members of the public are invariably not around when

the hunt ends, when the exhausted and frightened stag is surrounded by salivating hounds eagerly looking for something to eat.

"I know that, at least 24 hours before the stag is released, the hounds are starved, they are not fed so they go out there looking for a meal. They are keyed up because they are so hungry and chase the stag until he is overcome with exhaustion.

"Two years ago, I think it was, I came across a stag that was killed on the Summerhill Road, just outside Dunboyne. The children going home from school saw this, an animal dead on the side of the road. I rang the Ward Union Hunt, but they denied it had anything to do with them.

"When I looked into it further, I discovered the hunt was definitely in the area that day, they didn't catch their stag. What I believe happened was that

they called off the hounds somewhere around Baytown Cross and the animal was so traumatised it kept galloping on through the fields. It eventually jumped out of the fields and onto the Summerhill road."

Leonard asserts that the deers are reared domestically and, as a result, are docile creatures who are suddenly turned into the wild and left to escape a pack of chasing hounds.

He adds that he knows "quite a few" members of Fianna Fail who had similar experiences as he had when it comes to stag hunting. Leonard says he wants it banned and will lend his support in the push to do just that. (*meathchronicle.ie*)

# Matador is removed by travel company

ICABS HAS thanked the Travel Department for removing an image of a matador from its advertisements. The company has also been praised for its assurance that trips to bullfights are not included in any of its itineraries.

The matador image in question appeared as part of an advert in the Irish Independent. However Brendan Breen of the Travel Department told ICABS that it was "not consciously used" but instead was part of a library stock of images for Spain that is used in rotation in print and online media.

"I will instruct our Marketing team to withdraw it," he stated.

ICABS also welcomes the company's assurance that "bullfighting is not included in any of our itineraries." We are grateful for this positive and swift response.

The Travel Department is Ireland's leading tour operator and has been in business for over twelve years. Its escorted holidays "offer a professionally planned itinerary, the expert knowledge of a local guide and the convenience of booking an all-in package".

The company operates in 30 countries with their largest destinations being Italy, France, China and Spain.

Check out their website at [www.thetraveldepartment.ie](http://www.thetraveldepartment.ie)

## "I'm no fan of coursing": Pat Kenny

RTE RADIO and television presenter, Pat Kenny, has stated publicly that he's not a fan of coursing.

"I'm no fan of hare coursing," he declared on his 1st October 2009 radio show, adding that he has "no brief for it one way or the other."

ICABS welcomes this comment from the popular presenter.



RTE presenter, Pat Kenny

## Get active at a local level

IF YOU ARE in County Carlow or Kilkenny and would be interested in teaming up with like-minded individuals in the area to raise awareness about blood sports, please get in touch with us now.

Simply email your name and contact details (phone number, email address) to [info@banbloodsports.com](mailto:info@banbloodsports.com) and we will pass them on to others who respond.

Proposed peaceful activities include collecting petition signatures, distributing leaflets and political lobbying.

We also invite individuals from all areas of Ireland to get in touch with us if you are interested in becoming an active campaigner at a local level. Thank you.

## CRUELTY TO HORSES IN COUNTY WATERFORD

IN DECEMBER 2008, ICABS highlighted a shocking attack on three horses in the Ballybeg and Williamstown areas of Waterford. We are renewing our call on anyone with information on these brutal attacks to please contact the Gardai in Waterford now on 051-305316.



able act of cruelty, which saw three horses being mutilated as part of the long-running feud between Travellers in the city, has shocked people beyond belief. All three animals had to be put down as a result of their injuries."

Waterford News & Star reported at the time that "a despic-

able act of cruelty, which saw three horses being mutilated as part of the long-running feud between Travellers in the city, has shocked people beyond belief. All three animals had to be put down as a result of their injuries."

If you have any information on those responsible for this horrific attack, please call the Gardai now in confidence.

**RENEWED APPEAL FOR INFORMATION**

# Clonmel 2010: Protestors call for ban on cruel coursing



Photo: Philip Kiernan

Thank you to everyone who attended the protest against coursing in Clonmel on February 3rd. As hares ran for their lives inside Powerstown Park, protestors representing the compassionate majority called for a ban on the blood sport.

## ICABS online

KEEP up-to-date with the campaign against blood sports. Visit [www.banbloodsports.com](http://www.banbloodsports.com) for all the latest updates, news items and action alerts.

To watch our campaign videos, check out our Youtube channel at [www.youtube.com/icabs](http://www.youtube.com/icabs)

Please be sure to add us as one of your top friends at [myspace.com/banbloodsports](http://myspace.com/banbloodsports) and [www.bebo.com/banbloodsports](http://www.bebo.com/banbloodsports).

For regular mini updates and action alerts, please follow us on Twitter. You can find our Twitter page at [www.twitter.com/banbloodsports](http://www.twitter.com/banbloodsports).

For leaflets, newsletters, posters, head over to [www.scribd.com/banbloodsports](http://www.scribd.com/banbloodsports)

Help highlight our campaigns. Click on Links at [www.banbloodsports.com](http://www.banbloodsports.com) and choose a promo banner to display on your website.

## Help us protect Irish animals from BLOOD SPORT CRUELTY

By supporting our campaign against hunting and coursing, you can help make a difference.

**Please become a supporter or make a donation today. Thank you.**

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

### ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

**Family: 20 Euro Individual: 15 Euro Unwaged: 8 Euro**

I enclose cheque or postal order made payable to ICABS for the sum of Euro..... and a donation of Euro..... (optional).

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mobile:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**To pay by credit card or Paypal, click on Shop at [banbloodsports.com](http://banbloodsports.com)**

**Kindly return to ICABS, PO Box 88, Mullingar, Co Westmeath, Ireland.**

**For copies of this form, click on "Join ICABS" at [www.banbloodsports.com](http://www.banbloodsports.com)**

# Letters to Editors...

## Controversy Over Stag Hunt Ban Irish Times - Jan 11, 2010

**Madam, - I found the contrasting letters on the subject of blood sports very interesting (Dec 31).**

As a lifetime yellowbelly I found myself, unusually, on the same side as the Kilkenny man John Fitzgerald. As for Philip Donnelly, he trotted out the same arguments as those of his ilk did when the debate was on in England. I was resident there and a member of the Labour party at the time and there was massive support for the ban across all classes.

The claim by Mr Donnelly that it cost the party 47 seats at the following election is rubbish. What cost us the seats was the invasion of Iraq. It beggars belief that alleged adults in the 21st century can't find a more decent way to amuse themselves.

**James Moran, Knockanure,  
Bunclody, Co Wexford**

## War Declared - The Kingdom - January 14, 2010

**Irish hunt followers have declared war in a futile attempt to prevent the outlawing of stag hunting with hounds.**

A hunting army has been assembled from the ranks of the various strands of Ireland's hunting community.

Battle plans have been drawn up by hunting generals who have ordered in extra supplies of lies, misinformation, innuendo, personal attacks and economic blackmail.

Given that hunting supporters have yet to accept that the war is over, it could be a long campaign.

It will fall to those kind of heart to break it to those cruel of heart that the war is actually over.

A ban on stag hunting starts this long overdue process.

**John Tierney, Campaigns  
Director, Association of Hunt  
Saboteurs, PO Box 4734, Dublin 1**

## Taxpayers Funding Squirrel Cull Prizes - Irish Times - Jan 8, 2010

**Madam, - It was with disbelief and dismay that I read Michael Parsons's article (Home News, January 6th) stating that the Department of Agriculture awarded monetary prizes to the gun clubs that killed the most grey squirrels.**

In addition to the barbaric activities of hare coursing, stag hunting and fur and factory farming, those who enjoy the torture and killing of animals are now to have the added excitement of legally shooting grey squirrels.

Not only were gun club members able to experience the pleasures of the kill, but our Government awarded them prizes from taxpayers' money for this barbaric activity.

Soon our country will be entirely denuded of wildlife. One can only hope that before that happens, the present pack of incompetent, arrogant and uncaring Government politicians, along with their advisers, will also have been sent packing into a wilderness from which they will not emerge for many years. -

**Carmel Courtney, Dublin 16.**

## Surprised by a Fox Irish Times - January 7, 2010

**Madam, - What a lovely surprise on Tuesday morning to have a fox run by my car. It was greatly uplifting.**

She looked so beautiful and elegant as she ran across the road from the snowy grounds of the Oblate Fathers, Inchicore, to a grassy forest area nearby. The fact it was an industrial estate did not seem to matter to the fox. Not so long ago Inchicore was the country!

A happy New Year to all in The Irish Times, a wonderful paper delivered to my door daily, even in this treacherous cold and frosty weather. It's like a piece of warm toast, when it's popped into my letter box.

**Terry Healy, Kill, Co Kildare**

## Mongrel Foxes - The Kingdom January 14, 2010

**I am disappointed by Fine Gael's decision to oppose the government sponsored Bill to ban stag hunting.**

I had thought the party might have moved on a bit and become a little more humane and compassionate in its policy direction since that rousing Ard Fheis of 1972 when its then leader Liam Cosgrave famously took a swipe at his critics, declaring: "Some of these commentators and critics are like mongrel foxes - they are gone to ground but I'll dig them out and the pack will chop them when they get them".

Is the party seriously committed to supporting deliberate cruelty to animals - just for the sake of annoying the government?

I have contacted all Fine Gael TDs over the past month asking them to justify the party's pro-stag hunting policy. To date, not one deputy has done so.

Perhaps they have gone to ground like Mr Cosgrave's mongrel foxes, and we campaigners will just have to dig them out!

**John Fitzgerald, Co Kilkenny**

## Hunt Supporters 'delusional' Meath Chronicle - 30 Dec 2009

**Dear sir - Delusional, is this the only word to describe the people who met in Trim to defend the Ward Union Stag Hunt. Are we to believe the lynch pin of the Irish horse industry is the Ward Hunt.**

Is it possible that names like Meade, Kinane or Sea the Stars would not have emerged without hunting, all nonsense.

The truth is I believe that the vast majority of people involved with hunting do so for their love of horses and would continue with their passion regardless...One speaker talked spoke of Cuchullain and his involvement in hunting with hounds but I would suggest that this was the way at the time to provide food for his clan rather than some form of sport...

**Joe Price, Ladyrath, Co Meath.**

Highlight the suffering of animals in Ireland - Write a letter to your local newspaper today.

Clodagh Blake's

# Winter Wildlife

A captivating set of wildlife photos from Ireland's winter of 2009-10



Check out more of Clodagh's excellent wildlife photos at [www.bebo.com/clo1234xx](http://www.bebo.com/clo1234xx)



# NPWS cull considers terriers and digging out baby mink

**ICABS has expressed grave concerns to Minister John Gormley about a National Parks and Wildlife Service report which points to the use of packs of hounds and terriers as possible ways of controlling mink.**

The 2009 "A review of mink predation and control for Ireland" outlines that "a large number of techniques are available for the capture and subsequent dispatch of mink [and] each is discussed in turn, illustrating advantages and disadvantages relevant to the control of mink in Ireland."

Considering hunting as a method of destroying mink, the report says that although "hunting with hounds, searching, chasing and killing mink is still legal in Ireland, and some hunts do use otter hounds to hunt mink, the numbers caught over a large area are likely to be too low to have an impact on the population." It adds that "consideration of the legal and humane aspects of hunting with hounds is outside the scope of this review."

Elsewhere in the review, the focus is on terriers which it says are used in Iceland to seek out and kill mink. "When dens are found, mink are

sometimes flushed by the use of chemicals or blowers where they encounter dogs and are killed," it says. "Over small areas this has been found to be effective although its efficacy has yet to be quantified."

The report goes on to state that "dogs can be an effective supplement to a live trapping operation". Reference is made to the capture and killing of nursing female minks and their kits [baby minks]:

"During the denning season, Roy (2006) found that catch/trapnight was reduced virtually to zero. During this period, dogs trained on mink scent glands were used to find den sites where females were then subsequently trapped. By using multiple traps side by side, kits close to weaning were also caught on the same or over subsequent nights. If not close to weaning, kits were unearthed from the den."

Recommending the use of traps to catch mink, the report reveals that animals caught are shot through their brains, saying that "well placed shots through the front of the skull above the nose destroyed their brains, instantly rendering animals senseless".

"Traps should be spaced approximately 300-500m apart along the edge of watercourses...Where possible they should be interred into the ground to provide any captured animals with shelter and protection. It also minimises the risk of traps being found and tampered with by members of the public... "

In the report's conclusion, reference is again made to the use of dogs, saying "dogs can be an important additional tool."

The estimated cost of the proposed 5 year mink destruction project is put at Euro1,062,425. This massive figure takes in the cost of dogs, traps, air rifles, boats, quad bikes and cars as well as wages for six trappers (Euro18,200 each per annum or a total of over half a million for the duration).

ICABS is horrified that a Department of the Environment publication would present for consideration such shameful cruelty as digging out and terrierwork. We are currently awaiting a reply to our correspondence to Minister Gormley.

**Mink: Under threat from the NPWS**



## **ACTION ALERT**

**Please join us in expressing concern over the report. Contact Minister Gormley now at:**

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

# SARGENT DEFENDS BADGER SNARING

**ICABS HAS expressed disappointment to Green Party TD, Trevor Sargent, after he defended the continuation of cruel badger snaring.**

Deputy Sargent, a former Green Party leader, claimed that the Department of Agriculture's "enhanced badger removal strategy" [i.e. cruel snaring and killing of badgers] has helped reduce TB in cattle.

In response to an Adjournment Debate question from Mary White last November, the then Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture said: "My Department continually monitors the animal welfare aspects of badger culling and is satisfied that the existing culling arrangements and procedures result in minimal injury to badgers while in the restraints." [ICABS Note: restraints is a euphemism for snares]"

"Targeted badger removals will continue in the medium term," he added.

ICABS supplied Deputy Sargent with photos of dead badgers in snares. In one photo, scratch marks are visible at the base of a tree where the doomed



animal desperately tried to claw its way to freedom.

"This is just a small sample of the suffering being endured by badgers caught in your Department's snares," we told Deputy Sargent. "Surely, it is Green Party policy to condemn this type of cruelty to our wildlife."

Badgerwatch Ireland has stressed that "conservationists do not accept the theory that badgers are guilty of spreading bovine TB - the route of infection from badger to cow under normal farm conditions has never been fully explained; the evidence remains circumstantial."

The group reveals that the latest Department of Agriculture figures show that almost 7,000 badgers were snared and killed by trappers in 2008.

"This appalling slaughter is simply unacceptable. It is a nothing less than a state approved brutal pogrom against badgers," said Bernie Barrett of Badgerwatch.

The Department has killed over 50,000 badgers in total in what has been described as "slaughter masquerading as science".

## ACTION ALERT

**The snaring of badgers is currently licensed by Green Party leader, John Gormley. Please ask him to "Stop the badger snaring slaughter".**

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



# WATER DISGRACE

**Urge the Danish Government to stop this cruel, sick slaughter of Pilot Whales**

**Say NO to the Faroe Island's bloody barbarism**

**PLEASE JOIN US** in registering opposition to this deplorable slaughter of pilot whales in the Faroe Islands. The Faroe Islands are situated approximately halfway between Scotland and Iceland and are a constituent country of the Kingdom of Denmark. Every summer, around 950 whales are brutally hooked to death by islanders. Such is the scale of the killing that the sea is turned red with blood.

Please send a complaint now to the Ambassador of Denmark and demand that he takes action to stop this cruelty:

Henrik Ree Iversen, Ambassador of Denmark,  
Royal Danish Embassy, 7th Floor, Block E,  
Iveagh Court, Harcourt Road, Dublin 2.

Tel: +353 (0)1 4756404  
Fax: +353 (0)1 4784536  
E-mail: [dubamb@um.dk](mailto:dubamb@um.dk)

## ABOUT PILOT WHALES

The pilot whale is one of the two species of cetacean in the genus *Globicephala*. It belongs to the oceanic dolphin family. Pilot whales are very social, family animals and may travel in groups of up to a hundred, with one acting as leader. When pilot whales strand themselves on beaches, the rest of the pod tends to follow because of the strong family bonds.

*(Source of information: Wikipedia)*

## SAMPLE LETTER

Dear Mr Iversen: I urge you to exert pressure on the Danish Government and those in authority in the Faroe Islands to stop the brutal slaughter of pilot whales.

This cruel and shameful attack on defenceless sea creatures is one of the world's worst examples of barbarism and its continuation is a very poor reflection on Denmark.

I hope that you will take urgent action to protect pilot whales from the barbaric individuals on the Faroe Islands who mercilessly attack and kill them.

Thank you. Yours sincerely

[Name/Location]



Islanders surround the beached whales and mercilessly hack them to death with hooks

## CAMPAIGN QUOTES

"The pack could be heard screaming on the line as they gained on their fox who was a few minutes ahead of them giving a grandstand view to the car followers." ***Meath Foxhounds hunt report - Bective village meet - 2009/2010 season - Irish Field, 5th December 2009***

"Let's hope the stag hunt ban comes in quickly and that hare coursing and foxhunting follow soon afterwards...to keep the staghunters company in the Hall of Shame!" ***Facebook comment from "Bad Hare Days" author John Fitzgerald, November 19, 2009***

"It must also be noted that several mink farms operate across the Republic of Ireland. Escapes from these will continue to threaten the wildlife of Ireland, by adding to the feral [mink] population, even if the feral population is managed. Escapes from fur farms would also invalidate any attempts to eradicate feral populations." ***from the 2009 NPWS report entitled "A review of mink predation and control for Ireland"***

"First draw at Rathvin provided a fox from the Fort that ran back over the Ballybough Road to Daly Fuels where he crossed the road at the Railway Bridge and the river to Monroe where they lost him...At Kelly's stables the fox did a U-turn, ran back to a small pit near the avenue and to ground." ***from a report on the Tipperary Foxhounds on the Hunting Association of Ireland website, January 10th, 2010***

"I have seen [Ward Union stags], bellies heaving, heads raised and nostrils flaring, looking for their escape..." ***from a pro-hunting article in the Irish Times, December 18, 2009***

## Bullring cards removed by card company

A VERY big thank you to 123Greetings.com for removing around 20 bullfighting-themed cards.

ICABS has praised the online greetings company for dropping the cards which included scenes of a Santa matador taunting a bull, a matador proposing to an injured bull and matadors and bulls on New Year's Eve. Thank you to everyone who supported our action alert.

123Greetings is the "world's leading online destination for human expressions". It reaches millions of unique users annually and offers over 20,000 greeting cards, covering a mix of 3,000 seasonal & everyday categories. You can visit their website at [www.123greetings.com](http://www.123greetings.com)

## MySpace thanked for removing hunt advertisement

THE IRISH Council Against Blood Sports has thanked MySpace for removing an advert for foxhunting in Ireland.

The ad invited readers to "experience the thrill of the chase". Responding to our concerns, a MySpace spokesperson said that the company "normally does not allow this type of advertising".

"At this time, we are researching ways to tighten up our advertising demographics in order to make the user experience as enjoyable as possible," the spokesperson added.

ICABS is grateful to MySpace for this positive response.

Our attention now turns to search engine company, Google, which continues to feature hunting in its sponsored adverts.

## Shop fined for unlawful glue traps

A SHOP reported by ICABS for offering unlawful glue traps for sale has been fined 500 Euro.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service outlined that a man pleaded guilty at Letterkenny District Court to having the traps on his premises and offering them for sale.

He was charged with a breach of Section 34 (6) of the Wildlife Act 1976 and Section 42(F) of the Wildlife Amendment Act 2000 and was convicted and fined after pleading guilty.

ICABS applauds the member of the public who originally brought the shop in question to our attention. We also thank the NPWS conservation rangers involved in this latest successful trap-related court case.

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 futile effort to escape from the sticky base, creatures may bite off their own limbs.

Help us to ensure that glue traps remain off Irish shop shelves. Visit your local hardware stores, discount shops, pet supply outlets, builder provider stores, etc to make sure that these illegal traps are not being sold. If you spot glue traps (also known as glue boards) for sale, please contact ICABS immediately with the details.

ICABS has reported numerous shops selling the traps and our efforts have led to their removal from sale nationwide.

# Response to Carberry hunt ban comments

**IN A LETTER to the editor published in the Irish Times, ICABS has responded to comments from pro-hunt jockey Paul Carberry.**

Spokesperson Aideen Yourell points out that when the Ward Union is banned this year, a transition to drag hunting would not only address Carberry's concerns about employment and local business but also serious concerns about public safety, animal welfare and respect for landowners.

The letter appears below...

Irish Times - January 13, 2010

A chara - Jockey Paul Carberry asserts that stag hunting is a "vital part" of his preparation for the Cheltenham Races (Home News, January 2nd), and in his recent open letter to Taoiseach Brian Cowen, he asks what will happen to the deer, the hounds and hunt employees when the hunt is banned.

If the Ward Union were to switch to drag hunting, all Paul Carberry's concerns about employment and local business would be addressed. Additional concerns about public safety, animal welfare and respect for landowners would also be addressed.

Only recently, a terrified hunted deer jumped onto a public road and collided with a vehicle, resulting in its death. Fortunately, nobody was injured.

The route for a drag hunt is pre-ordained, so incidents of trespass, or incursion onto public roads or spaces are eliminated, while the hunt followers can still enjoy the thrill of the chase across country in a safe and responsible manner.

In fact, the Ward Union hunt uses a drag when training its young hounds, so switching to this humane method should pose no problems. And hunt master Michael Bailey showed he was open to drag hunting in 2004 when he told the late deputy Tony Gregory, who was out observing the deer hunt, "I'm not saying that's [drag hunting] not a possibility".

As for the future of the deer, perhaps the Ward Union would consider donating its pure-bred red deer herd to the nation. I'm sure the National Parks and Wildlife Service would find a place of sanctuary for them where they can live out their lives in peace, safe from human persecution. - Is mise,

Aideen Yourell, Spokeswoman, Irish Council Against Blood Sports, Mullingar.

## VET PRAISES COURSERS

**ICABS HAS responded to a veterinary surgeon who openly defended hare coursing.**

In a letter to the editor published in the Irish Examiner, we challenged the vet's claim that coursers "hold the welfare of the Irish hare very close to their hearts".

Vet Tommy Kearney also said that when he attended a coursing meeting in Glin, Co Limerick, he was "immediately struck by the importance of this event in the community" and that he would "urge anybody to make a point of attending a meeting".

Responding, ICABS described the claim as wrong and said it was horrifying that a vet would defend the blood sport.

## CAMPAIGN QUOTES

"How could I [John Gormley] live with myself if there was a very serious accident when there are clearly safety issues involved? I have been pretty clear from the outset that our primary concern in relation to the stag hunt is our safety concern. We have had a number of incidents where we have had the stag going out into urbanised area with high levels of traffic. I have heard from a reliable source that the deer jumped out in front of a woman who was pushing a pram." **Minister John, Gormley, Irish Times, December 19, 2009**

"In his latest book, The Thin Green Line - wildlife crime investigation in Britain and Ireland - [retired police inspector] Alan Stewart] instances cases of cruelty to a variety of animals in Ireland." **Irish Examiner, November 30, 2009**

"Because of the callous and ruthless nature of some of the people involved, greyhound racing results in unbelievable cruelty to many dogs and, of course, a great deal of work for the Gardai and the ISPCA. In many cases, the dogs are bred for one purpose only and once that purpose is fulfilled they are disposable." **The Thin Green Line author, Alan Stewart, Irish Examiner, November 30, 2009**

"When the great rural public in Britain opposed the ban [on hunting with hounds], planeloads of Irish hunters went over to swell the numbers..." **from a pro-hunting article in the Irish Times, December 18, 2009**

"The Cashel Hunt were originally Beagles but with the scarcity of hares they became Foot Harriers and are now recognised by the Foot Harriers Association." **from a hunt report in Countryman's Weekly, 20th January 2010**

# PET FOOD COMPANY STOPS COURSING PUP COMPETITION

**Pedro Pet Foods has been thanked for stopping a "coursing pup of the month" competition. The company's very much welcomed move came following an ICABS appeal in which we highlighted the cruelty of hare coursing.**

Pedro becomes the latest in a line of Irish companies to disassociate from the blood sport.

Responding to our letter of appeal, a Pedro spokesperson stated: "This was a one off sponsorship with the Sporting Press. We have now stopped the competition."

"We at Pedro Pet Foods take all animal health and safety very seriously," the spokesperson added.

Details of the now ended competition appeared on the Irish Coursing Club website. Coursers were invited to help select the Coursing Pup of the Month by voting for "the pup (dog or bitch) that has impressed you the most".

The monthly prize was a 200 Euro voucher for the owner of the pup while entrants had the chance to win a pass for the coursing finals in Clonmel.

ICABS is grateful to Pedro Pet Foods for ending its sponsorship of this competition. Other Irish companies which have disassociated from coursing over the years include Connolly's Red Mills and Irish Dog Foods.

About Pedro Pet Foods: Based in Strabane, Co Tyrone, Pedro was established in 1976 and was one of the first companies to manufacture dog food in Ireland.

Its product range also includes cat food and peanuts for bird feeders. You can check out the full range at: [www.pedropetfoods.com](http://www.pedropetfoods.com)

## Grotesque hunt will be outlawed

**SPEAKING ON RTE TV's Nine News in December, ICABS spokesperson Aideen Yourell expressed confidence that Minister John Gormley will stand firm and introduce overdue legislation to ban the Ward Union carted deer hunt.**

The RTE report featured ICABS footage showing a deer surrounded by hounds being dragged to the ground during a Ward Union hunt.

"The minister will stand firm and legislation to outlaw this grotesque hunt will be introduced." stated Aideen. "It's long overdue. What we're talking about is an activity where a deer with its antlers sawn off is taken out and hounded around the countryside for entertainment."

## HELP US PROTECT FOXES



The fox is one of Ireland's most persecuted creatures. Foxes are chased by packs of hounds and brutally killed when caught. Foxes that escape underground are attacked by terriers and mercilessly dug out of the ground before being killed.

**Support our campaign to save foxes from this cruelty**

**Please make a donation today at [www.banbloodsports.com](http://www.banbloodsports.com)**

**Animal Voice is published by the Irish Council Against Blood Sports**

**Editorial Team:** Philip Kiernan & Aideen Yourell. **Layout and design:** Philip Kiernan. Download more copies of Animal Voice by clicking on Newsletters at [www.banbloodsports.com](http://www.banbloodsports.com) or at [www.scribd.com/banbloodsports](http://www.scribd.com/banbloodsports)