

Glossary

Hunting terms

Covert

A patch of trees or hedges where foxes might be found.

Cub hunting

Hunting that takes place in the autumn.

The fox

The aim of the hunt was to flush the fox from its covert where it was chased by the pack across open country. The hunt ended when the fox was caught and killed or escaped.

The kill

Hounds were supposed to kill the fox with a quick nip to the neck. Death was not always instant but usually followed within seconds of the fox being caught. Hounds would "break up" the fox after the kill.

Gone to ground

If the fox went to ground in a hole or drain, the Master with the landowners permission would decide whether or not to dig it out. A fox would only be dug from a natural earth for humane destruction. A terrier man could be asked to put a small dog into the artificial earth to locate or eject it.

Lamping

Dazzling a bright light at a fox and killing it with a rifle.

The pack

Hounds counted in "couples" were hunted as mixed packs. They were trained to hunt mainly by scent.

The saboteurs

People who objected to hunting would take action against it. They tried to prevent hounds catching foxes by blowing horns and laying false scents to confuse them, or by diverting the fox.

The scent

Sometimes stronger from a dog fox than a vixen, and affected by temperature and ground conditions. It was the essential ingredient which allowed the hounds to find and chase a fox. Hounds "checked" when they lost the scent, and "cast" to find it again.

General terms

Bias

When an objective consideration of an issue or situation is prevented and the nature of an event or observation distorted, e.g. prejudice or preconceptions.

Campaign

A connected series of activities designed to bring about a particular result.

Civil disobedience

Deliberately breaking a law.

Cruelty

Behaviour which causes pain or suffering.

Freedom of choice

The power or right to act, speak and think freely.

Justice

Fair behaviour or treatment.

Lobbyist

People who try to influence members of the government to bring in legislation that would benefit a cause or movement that they represent. Lobbying can take place in other settings where policies are created such as a school.

Minorities

The smaller group of people representing less than half of the whole.

Parliament Act

A rarely used device which allows the Commons to force through a bill if it is rejected or amended in an unacceptable way by the Lords.

Pest control

Limiting the number of creatures that attack and cause damage to crops, food or animals.

Rational

Based on sensible, balanced thought.

Rhetoric

Writing and speaking with the intention of influencing the audience and persuading them to a certain point of view.

Tolerance

Respecting the beliefs or practices of others.

Vermin

A term given to animals which are considered by people to be pests or nuisances.