

conservation issues

BADGER BAITING



Badgers are large, social mammals that live in family groups and are mostly active at dusk and after dark. These shy mammals are omnivores, feeding on a broad diet that includes plant matter, invertebrates and a range of small animals.

Badger baiting is a brutal blood sport in which badgers are forced to fight dogs to the death. They are dug out of their homes (an underground network of tunnels and chambers, called sets) with spades. The exits are blocked off and the dogs are set upon the poor badger. Sometimes the badger is transported to somewhere where the torture can be shared with others.

Given that both the dog used and the badgers themselves have powerful jaws and sharp teeth, serious injuries occur. The badger may have their teeth or claws filed down or even removed to give the dog an unfair advantage, but the dogs may well have sustained life threatening injuries themselves. As this would attract suspicion from a vet, these dogs may not get the treatment they need and are equally exploited victims of badger baiting.

Sadly, despite being illegal, this secretive, bloodthirsty "sport" is still very much in practice despite made illegal as long ago as 1835.



European badger
Meles meles

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Follow and support organisations such as...

Badger Trust www.badgertrust.org.uk

League Against Cruel Sports www.league.org.uk

Wild Justice www.wildjustice.org.uk

Protect the Wild www.protectthewild.org.uk

An estimated 10,000 badgers are tortured and killed in this way each year in the UK. Only around three people a year are convicted of offenses related to badger baiting.