

BADGER BAITING

Badger baiting is a **brutal blood sport** in which badgers, that would typically avoid contact with humans or dogs, are forced to fight 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.

EUROPEAN BADGER

Meles meles



Badgers are large, social mammals that live in family groups. They are a protected species in the United Kingdom and are mostly active at dusk and after dark.

As an omnivore, badgers feed on a broad diet that includes plant matter, invertebrates and a range of small animals. Their powerful claws allow them to dig large quantities of soil.

It is estimated that some **10,000 badgers** are tortured and eventually killed in this way each year in the UK. Sadly, despite being illegal, this secretive, bloodthirsty “sport” is still very much in practice despite made **illegal** as long ago as **1835**. Only around three people a year are convicted of offenses related to badger baiting. **If such activity is seen or suspected, you should contact your local police force and never approach the offenders.**

FIND OUT MORE...

Badger Trust badgertrust.org.uk

League Against Cruel Sports www.league.org.uk

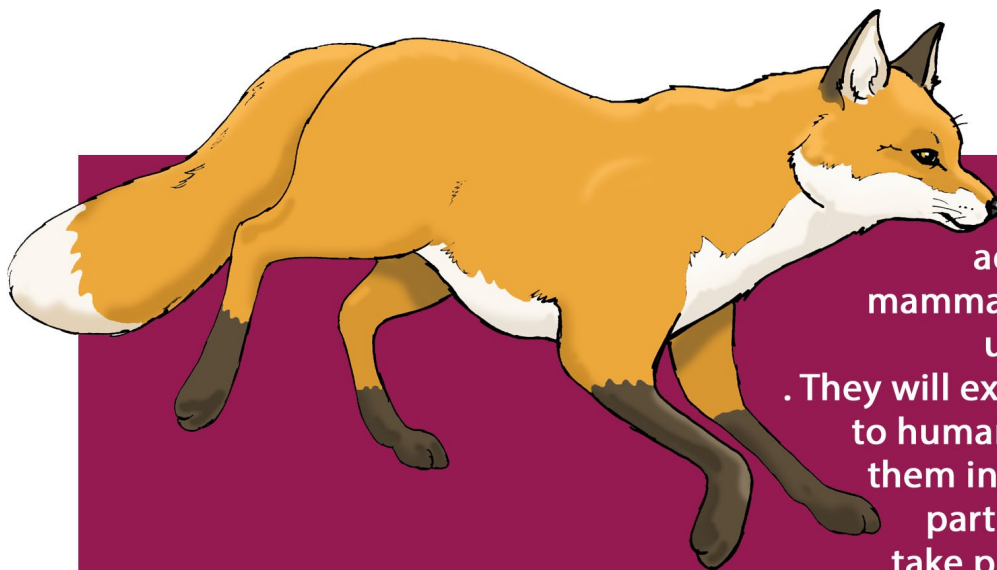
Protect The Wild www.protectthewild.org.uk

FOX HUNTING

Hunting foxes with packs of dogs has been **banned in the United Kingdom since 2005**. However, loopholes in the law that allow simulated hunting with the hounds pursuing a scent (known as **trail hunting**) is permitted. Trail hunting is widely seen to be a mask for continued fox hunts with many foxes still **chased and torn apart** at the climax of such events.

Recent cases have shown that careful manipulation of the laws and measures to mask deliberate hunting of foxes. Evidence has clearly demonstrated that the problem continues to exist, and does so in a **highly organised** manner.

Foxes are persecuted and, whilst control of these animals is allowed under special circumstances, there exists many examples of unnecessarily cruel control measures including use of snares that result in a long, drawn-out death.



RED FOX *Vulpes vulpex*

Red foxes are a highly adaptable and successful mammal that flourishes in both urban and rural settings. They will exploit food sources close to human activity which can put them into conflict with people, particularly where they may take poultry or domestic pets.

The subject of fox hunting remains **highly emotive** with pro-hunt supporters stating that such "sport" is an important part of traditional country life. In order to seek to disrupt the killing of foxes, and **document evidence** of where law breaking occurs, groups of **animal rights activists** frequently clash with the hunts. Networks of **hunt saboteurs** have campaigned for tighter restrictions and their recordings of illegal activity has brought the issue to public attention.

FIND OUT MORE...

League Against Cruel Sports www.league.org.uk

Protect The Wild www.protectthewild.org.uk

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals www.rspca.org.uk

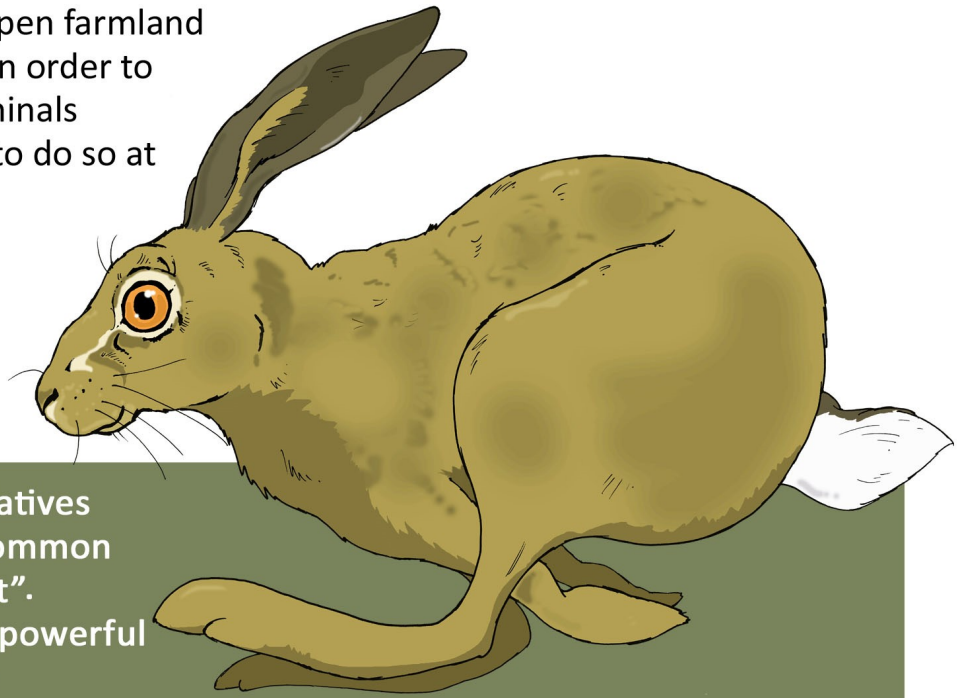
HARE COURSING

Hare coursing is an illegal blood sport in which dogs are deliberately set after hares or rabbits, with the intention that they are chased and killed for the enjoyment of those watching. Often there is an element of gambling and links to criminal gangs. As hares are noted for their speed (reaching 45mph), fast sprinting dog breeds (e.g. lurchers or greyhounds) are used to hunt them.

Brown hares are found in open farmland and open countryside and in order to avoid been caught, the criminals undertaking coursing tend to do so at dawn or dusk.

BROWN HARE

Lepus europaeus



Brown hares and their relatives the rabbit are the most common victims of this cruel "sport". Hares have long ears and powerful legs that make them such extraordinary sprinters.

Their large, highly-set eyes, are ideally placed to look out for danger whilst grazing in exposed areas (covering the entire 360 degrees around the animal).

This is incredibly cruel and often the hare or rabbit suffers a prolonged, painful death. The dogs may also disturb or attack other wildlife or indeed livestock. The uninvited trespassing onto private farmland also causes damage to farm property and crops.

The Hunting Act 2004 outlawed this activity and if people are found guilty, fines of up to £5,000 can be enforced. **If such activity is seen or suspected, you should contact your local police force and never approach the offenders.**

FIND OUT MORE...

League Against Cruel Sports www.league.org.uk

Wild Mammal Persecution UK www.wmpuk.home.blog

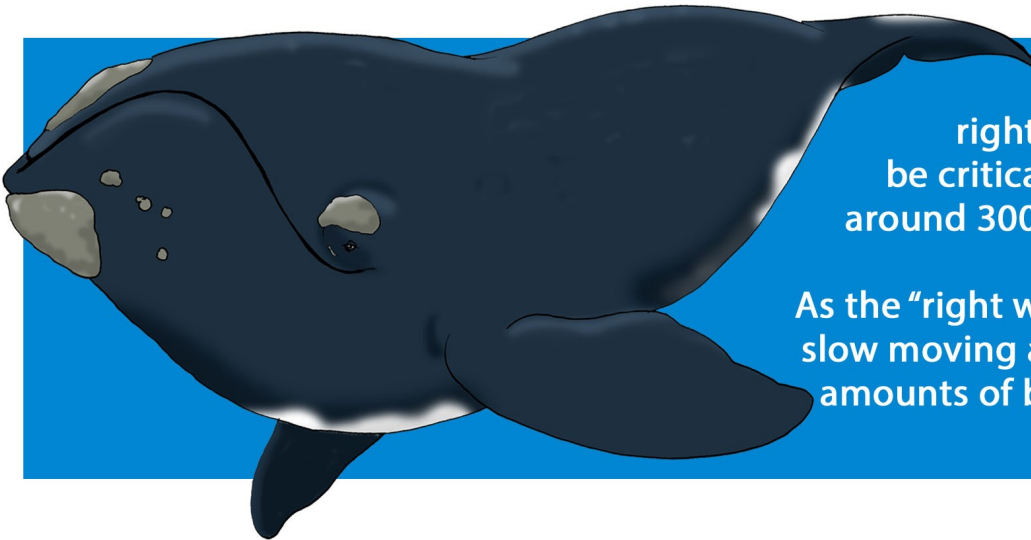
Protect The Wild www.protectthewild.org.uk

For many years, the products that came from the bodies of whales were highly valued. From oil (created from the **fatty blubber**) to meat and products made from whale bones, these huge animals, were intensely slaughtered in great numbers. It is unsurprising that this had a significant impact upon their populations, with many species becoming **endangered** to the brink of **extinction**.

An international agreement to limit commercial whaling was made in **1986** by the International Whaling Commission. Whilst many countries have ceased whaling, it has been continued at lower levels, most notably by Japan, Iceland and Norway. As whales are slow growing and only reproduce in small numbers, recovering populations continues to take many years. Despite some successes, many species remain highly vulnerable. The noise created by underwater activity (e.g. drilling, shipping) confuses these sound-sensitive creatures and toxic chemicals accumulate in their tissues (so eating whale meat carries a health risk). Injuries from fishing activity and ship strikes also contribute to inhibiting population growth. Given the many other factors affecting whales, it would be **catastrophic** if human greed lead to an increase in this form of hunting.

NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE

Eubalaena glacialis



The North Atlantic right whale continues to be critically endangered and around 300 individuals remain.

As the “right whale” to hunt, these slow moving animals yielded vast amounts of blubber and so were targeted heavily.

Whaling activity has been monitored by environmental activists and, in the case of Sea Shepherd, disrupted at great personal risk. The documentation of the slaughter brings attention to this issue, with pressure placed on governments to act.

FIND OUT MORE...

Sea Shepherd www.seashepherdglobal.org
Whale And Dolphin Conservation www.uk.whales.org
Orca www.orcaweb.org.uk