

Fox hunting ban

Text A

David Cameron says he wants to repeal the fox hunting ban



Tory MPs will get a chance to vote on the issue if they win the next election

The Conservatives will hold a parliamentary vote on repealing the fox hunting ban if they win the next election, David Cameron has said.

The Prime Minister, who has previously ridden with the Heythrop Hunt in Oxfordshire, said he believed in the “freedom to hunt” and wanted fox hunting legalised.

Writing in the *Countryside Alliance* magazine, he criticised widespread negative attitudes to the illegal animal killings.

“There is definitely a rural way of life which a born and bred Londoner might struggle to understand,” he wrote.

“I have always been a strong supporter of country sports. It is my firm belief that people should have the freedom to hunt, so I share the frustration that many people feel about the Hunting Act and the way it was brought in by the last government.”

“The Hunting Act has done nothing for animal welfare. A Conservative Government will give Parliament the opportunity to repeal the Hunting Act on a free vote, with a government Bill in government time.”

The practice of fox hunting involves setting a pack of dogs on a fox and then chasing it on horseback, usually in traditional dress.

Conservative MPs will get a “free vote” on whether or not to keep hunting with dogs illegal, meaning they will be allowed to vote against it if they choose.

Labour has said it will defend the ban. Maria Eagle, shadow environment secretary, said in a statement last month:

“Only Labour will protect the Hunting Act. Ten years ago the Labour party ended the cruel practice of hunting with dogs, because we believe that causing defenceless animals to suffer in the name of sport has no place in a civilised society.

“But just as we celebrate the Hunting Act, the Tories plan to repeal it. Only Labour can protect the Hunting Act because Labour is the only major party committed to defending it.”

Source

Extract from Jon Stone's article on 6 March 2015: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/david-cameron-says-he-wants-to-repeal-the-fox-hunting-ban-10091571.html>
[Accessed 4 May 2015]

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We want hunting ban to stay, Echo readers say

'Tradition no excuse to reverse ban'

A FORMER hunt saboteur believes tradition should not be used as an excuse to overturn the ban.

As a young adult, Iain Blake-Lawson would travel across the country carrying out peaceful protests and attempting to sabotage hunts in an attempt to save foxes from being savaged to death.

Mr Blake-Lawson, 53, from Leigh, is now chairman of the League Against Cruel Sports, which campaigns for proper enforcement of the Hunting Act.

When supporting calls for the hunting ban to be scrapped, David Cameron described it as a "rural way of life".

Mr Blake-Lawson said: "I've heard everything from it being tradition and part of our countryside culture, to it being necessary to control fox populations, to the fox actually enjoys being hunted.

"There are many traditions our country has celebrated in the past, but that doesn't mean they are not cruel or should be allowed to continue."

But the Countryside Alliance has condemned the Hunting Act as illogical and unfair.

Its director of campaigns, Tim Bonner, claims 97 per cent of prosecutions using the law have involved poachers, rather than registered hunts.

He added: "The Hunting Act does not even work from the fox's point of view.

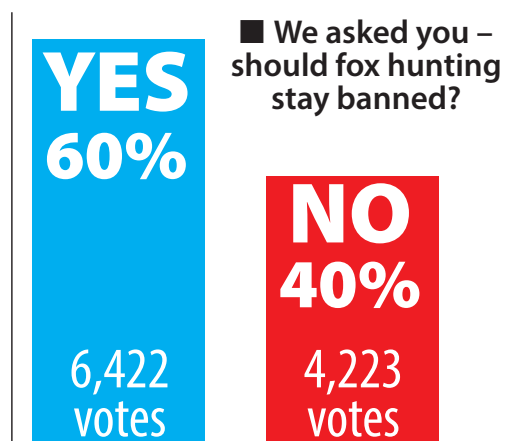
"Anti-hunt groups spent about £30million to put the Hunting Act on the Statute Book—since then they have not spent a penny to show the impact it has had on animal welfare.

"This is because there has been no improvement in welfare – just as many foxes are being killed as were before the ban."

Since the ban was introduced, there have been 237 successful convictions and 96 unsuccessful convictions across the country.

But Mr Blake-Lawson believes, with the help of the League Against Cruel Sports, the law is working.

He said: "The league has done fantastic work in training investigators, gathering evidence and working with the authorities to expose what's happening."



Source

Adapted from http://www.echo-news.co.uk/news/12966773.We_want_hunting_ban_to_stay__Echo_readers_say/
[Accessed 26 May 2015]

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Reading

Read carefully the article '**David Cameron says he wants to repeal the fox hunting ban**' (Text A).

1. In the headline, the writer uses the verb 'repeal' to describe what he wants to do. Can you think of an alternative verb? Explain your choice.

- Remember to read between the lines in order to answer this question.
- It is a good idea to use the word 'because' to help you to explain your opinion.

This is an inference question which asks you to think about what is suggested by the vocabulary used.

2. What are the main reasons why David Cameron wants to legalise fox hunting?

This is a retrieval question which asks you to find and convey information.

3. Is the following statement true or false?

	True	False
Fox hunting means setting a pack of dogs on a fox and then chasing it on foot.		

Writing

7. Write a short article, to be published in a school newsletter, encouraging students to protest against a local fox hunt. Write 200-300 words.

You will need to use persuasive language and techniques to convince the reader.

8. A friend has emailed to tell you that she is planning to enter a local organised fox hunt. Compose a reply to let her know what she should expect. Write about 300 words.

Discuss the pros and cons of taking part in the event. Use the information from the text and your own knowledge in your answer.

Oracy

9. In a small group discuss whether fox hunting should be made legal again.

Remember to listen as well as talk. Make sure that every member of the group gets a chance to share their ideas and opinion.