

## **Fox Hunting: For and Against**

### Pro-hunting arguments

1. Foxes are pests and hunting is a good way to control their numbers
2. Fox hunting helps farmers who are being pestered by foxes.
3. Foxes kill lambs.
4. Foxes kill chickens.
5. Fox-hunting helps conserve the country-side.
6. Fox hunting is a traditional sport. If fox hunting was banned, many people would lose their jobs and packs of hounds would have to be destroyed.
7. Foxes do not suffer—they are killed quickly by the hounds.

### Anti-hunting response

1. There are about 250 000 foxes in Britain. Each year, 15 000-20 000 are killed by hunting. 50 000—100 000 are killed on the roads. The rural fox population remains fairly stable.
2. Foxes which cause problems to farmers can be humanely shot by experts.
3. Foxes eat rabbits which helps farmers. 0.5%-3% of lambs are killed by foxes compared to 25% that die from starvation, exposure or illness.
4. Chickens are safe if properly fenced in
5. Wildlife areas are damaged by the hunt passing through them.
6. Hunting can still take place without killing foxes: drag hunting uses a scent laid by a human for the hounds to follow. Fox hunting could be replaced by drag hunting.
7. Recent evidence suggests that foxes do suffer during the chase. Anti-hunt supporters say that foxes are not always killed quickly.

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