



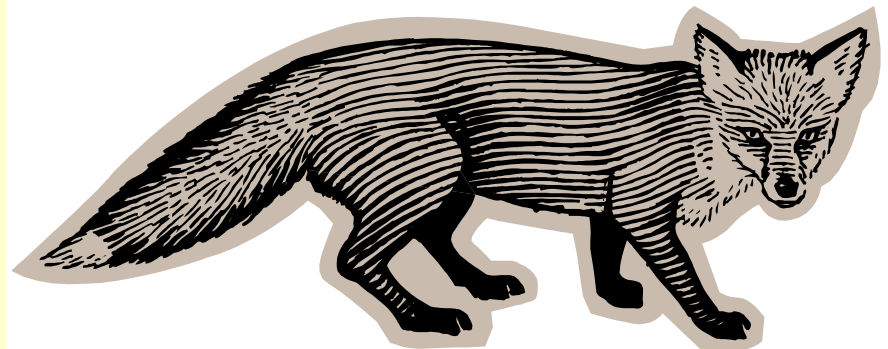
FOX HUNTING



Foxy facts

- ▶ Red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) is the size of a small dog
- ▶ Live in families – sometimes one pair and cubs, sometimes several adults
- ▶ Average of five cubs in a litter
- ▶ Eat rabbits, voles, poultry, eggs, worms, beetles
- ▶ Adaptable – urban foxes scavenge from dustbins
- ▶ Usually live for two years – but can reach nine

SOURCE: The Mammal Society



CRUEL OR NOT?

- People who are against hunting are concerned mainly that it is cruel - that being chased for several hours to be killed by a pack of dogs cruel.
- Hunt supporters say that a "quick nip" to the back of the fox's head kills it outright and it does not suffer.
- The fox does not anticipate death, they say, so is not traumatised by the pursuit.
- The alternatives - shooting, gassing, snaring or poisoning - would all inflict much more pain and suffering on the foxes. Already, 10 times as many foxes are shot each year than are hunted to death, they say. That figure would only increase if hunting was banned.

TOO MANY FOXES?

- There is no doubt that the fox population has to be controlled, and hunting with hounds is not only effective, but it is also the method which involves the least cruelty.
- They also say that foxhunting is crucial to conservation of the species. Figures show that during the Second World War, when fox hunting ceased, the fox population went into decline, because farmers took to shooting them all.
- Hunting, they say, not only kills one fox, but disperses others.
- Hunters believe they are doing the farmer a service, by getting rid of the fox that would kill his lambs or chickens.

SAVE THE FOX

- The RSPCA's Campaign for the Protection of Hunted Animals, does not believe that foxes are a national pest or a national problem.
- They believe fox hunting is cruel and unnecessary. If there is a problem with a fox, then a skilled marksman is the only answer. But killing wild animals for pleasure should not be acceptable in this day and age.

Fox Hunting should be banned

- Write a balanced argument to discuss the topic.
- Remember to argue both sides equally.