

Foxhunting: past, present, future?

Transcript of interview extract for Josey Sharrad

Josey Sharrad

Campaigns Officer, IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare)

Interview date

09.05.2006

Brief description

Talks about views on proposed licensing of fox hunting and elements of the IFAW campaign.

Duration

2mins 14secs

Interview extract

Josey Sharrad: ... then there was a um licensing bill that was introduced and IFAW's always been opposed to any form of licensing because in our view it's just licensed cruelty, it's just given the rubber stamp, "Yes okay you can, you can hunt animals with dogs, but as long as you don't do this and you can do that", so we thought you can't, you can't compromise on, on cruelty and the only way to, to resolve this issue is an outright ban. Um, and we actually had the promise from Tony Blair in 1999 on, it was Question Time when someone asked him what he was going to do about fox hunting and he said "It will be banned", and we kept throwing that, that back at him at every given opportunity because in our view it was a, a very clear promise to the electorate that he was going to ban it, um. And we had a, we had a core group of MPs that we worked with who mobilised other MPs and we had a lot of public work, for example we had a roadshow in 2002 in conjunction with the League and the RSPCA where we went round all, I think we visited about 45 cities and towns and cities in the UK, and took this big bus around with us and collected signatures in favour of a ban, and the response we had from people

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was absolutely amazing. We had people sort of seeing our, our sign from miles away and coming up and saying “Thank God, you know, why hasn’t, why hasn’t this been banned?”, you know “Why, thank God you’re here”, you know, and people from all walks of life. Um, you know this whole thing about the country and town divide on this is a very superficial thing and I think that opinion polls have shown that the majority of urban and rural people are opposed to fox hunting, um, and that was very clear from when we visited rural locations too. Um, so that was amazing to actually get that public engagement as well and to actually see the strength of feeling, ‘cos you, you read about it in opinion polls and they’re just figures, when you actually see it for, for real it’s amazing and you actually see, see the, the strength of the, the messaging that um, has come from the strength of feeling of people.

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