

Foxhunting: past, present, future?

Transcript of interview extract for Sue

Sue

Hunt Saboteur

Interview date

31.07.2006

Brief description

Talks about distinction between animal rights and animal welfare and some of the hunt sabbing techniques.

Duration

4mins 3secs

Interview extract

Sue: Um, if I can just pick up on, just briefly on the animal rights, animal welfare thing, my definition of it is that animal rights, you believe that the animal has the right to life, to freedom, to live in the way that it chooses to live and is its rightful way of living. Animal welfare is the belief that animals, we can use animals as long as we don't abuse them in the sense that it's okay to rear animals for food as long as they live in good conditions and as long as they are slaughtered humanely. If you're animal rights, you don't believe any of that because you believe that an animal has a right to life just as much as we do and that no matter how well they are kept, and how painlessly they are slaughtered, you're still taking their life which is their right to have and any killing is as much a murder as killing anyone in your own species. So that's the difference I would make and so I actually don't fully agree with what Duncan said because I think you can be an animal rights person and you can write letters and you can do stalls and get petitions done and everything because you are trying to spread that information to people, to make them

Foxhunting: past, present, future?

Transcript of interview extract for Sue

recognise the rights of animals as much as our rights, because we are just another species of animal. We are an upper primate and um, so, we don't have the right to use animals for their flesh, for their hides, for their fur, for anything, to test anything on them, um, apart from the fact that of course the, any sort of testing is not given as a valid result for humans. We don't have the right to do it, even if it did, um, because as much as we would say we wouldn't experiment on our own species, although different sections of society have done that in the past, on other races, religions, um, we don't have the right to do it on other species. And the initial question which was about sabbing [laughs] um [clears throat]. Sorry. I think that, well when we go out sabbing, we will tie up gates that we find open because that delays the hunt coming through and can stop them killing a fox that they are in pursuit of. Um, we will spray an area, sometimes we know an area, um that a hunt has done previously and you know the route they're gonna go round so you can check out badger sets because they often stop up badger sets, and they hard stop them with clay you know or compacted earth which is illegal but they still do it because they are allowed um to, or have been allowed to do so with twigs but they will fill them with rocks and compacted earth and clay and so we can deal with that. And tie up the gates and spray a bit, and I haven't personally done this, but people have put rook scarers in the woods which also go off intermittently and will clear that area of wildlife, um we've used all sorts of noise things and gismos and whips, not to hit anything with but to just cracking the whip that will hold the hounds back. And shouting different cries

Foxhunting: past, present, future?

Transcript of interview extract for Sue

for the hounds, trying to copy what the huntsman does, the whipper in, um to try and control the hounds. Um all of those things and I think probably most importantly for me spraying, if I see a fox, I know a fox has gone a certain way, and that's it. Some of it has been considered illegal but then I make a difference between what's legal and what's moral and I would rather do what's moral than what's legal.

(Copyright Leicestershire County Council)

Contact Melton Carnegie Museum to hear or read the full interview.
Tel. 01664 569946 or email: museums@leics.gov.uk
