

## Timeline

- 1066 The Normans, keen deer hunters, conquer England.
- 1100s A monk, John Salisbury, writes 'by hunting, the nobility become as savage as the very beasts they hunt'.
- By 1240 Bradgate Park is enclosed from Charnwood Forest for deer hunting. Over 40 mediaeval deer parks are known in Leicestershire. Hunting boar, wolf, wildcat, hares and many other creatures is also popular. Foxes are hunted as vermin, mainly on foot.

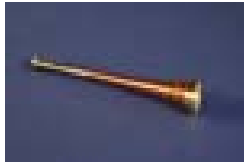


A side saddle was potentially very dangerous for female riders as their feet could get stuck in the stirrups if a horse fell at a jump or other obstacle.  
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- 1542 Record of foxhounds used at Belvoir.
- 1591 A Short Treatise of Hunting by Thomas Cockaine describes hunting with fox hounds, including a fourteen mile run.
- 1600s Deer still the most popular beast of the chase. Duke of Rutland hunts deer, hare, otters and foxes at Belvoir. He also enjoys bull and bear-baiting and cock-fighting.
- 1612 King James hunts deer in Leicester Forest, near Desford.
- 1698 Thomas Boothby of Tooley Park in Leicestershire is said to have hunted 'the first pack of foxhounds in England' over part of the Quorn Country, but this is now disputed.
- 1700s Deer population reduced due to clearance of woodland for farming. Fox hunting becomes more popular.
- 1750s Hugo Meynell, a wealthy young man, buys Quorn Hall and begins 'hunting to a system'. He is master of the Quorn for 50 years.
- Hogarth publishes a series of prints condemning 'cruel sports'.
- Enclosure of open fields in Leicestershire makes the countryside especially attractive for fox hunting.

- 1800 Foxhound Kennel Studbook begins. Still maintained today by the Master of Foxhounds Association. Melton Mowbray becomes 'Pride of the Shires' – the fashionable centre of English fox hunting.
- 1822 First law against cruelty to horses and cattle passed.
- 1824 RSPCA founded.
- 1837 Victoria becomes Queen – fox hunting and variations spread to all parts of the globe as British Empire is established.
- 1849 Animal Protection Act passed. Applies only to domesticated animals.
- 1840s Railways make it easier for London people to get to the Shires to hunt and wealthy industrialists start to take up hunting.
- 1880s The Empress of Austria makes hunting more fashionable for women.
- 1881 Master of Foxhounds Association formed, to regulate the sport and resolve disputes.
- 1890s Humanitarian League begins to campaign against hunting with dogs.
- 1896 First Peterborough Hound Show held. Sets standards for the breeding of foxhounds.
- 1914-18 World War I – many young men and horses taken for the war effort.
- 1920s Agricultural and economic depression, hunts start funds to compensate farmers.
- 1924 League Against Cruel Sports founded.
- 1930 British Field Sports Society founded – now the Countryside Alliance.
- 1939-45 World War II – Hound numbers and days hunting reduced as part of the war effort.
- 1951 Scott-Henderson Report concludes that fox hunting is a reasonable means of controlling foxes and should not be banned.
- 1958 RSPCA opposes hunting for sport but excludes fox hunting.

1962 Hunt Saboteurs Association formed.



The huntsman uses a series of calls on a hunting horn to direct hounds and signal to the people on horses following the progress. Hunt saboteurs also use hunting horns to distract and confuse the hounds and followers.

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1970s Deep divisions within the RSPCA over attitudes to fox hunting.

1976 RSPCA opposes fox hunting.

1992 Kevin McNamara's bill to outlaw hunting fails.

1993 Leicestershire County Council bans fox hunting across its land.

A similar bill is introduced by Tony Banks MP but that also fails.

1995 Another bill to ban hunting from John McFall once again fails.

1996 Wild Mammal (Protection) Act protects all wild creatures against cruelty, but does not ban hunting with hounds.

Richard Foster's Private Members Bill maintains pressure for a ban.

1997 The Labour Party wins a majority and are elected.

The Labour Manifesto promised to give a free vote on fox hunting.

July: Inspired by Foster's Bill 100,000 pro-hunt supporters attend a rally in Hyde Park.

1998 March: Pro-hunt supporters organise the Countryside March on London.

1999 The Burns Inquiry is commissioned to examine the impact of a ban on the rural economy.

2000 Burns Report concludes that hunting has little impact on fox populations but it 'seriously compromises the welfare of the fox', and that none of the legal methods of fox control is 'without difficulty from an animal welfare perspective'.

January: There is widespread support for a total ban amongst party politicians and back benchers.

- The Lords block the bill before the general election.
- 2002 Scottish Parliament votes to ban hunting with dogs in Scotland.
- Liberty and Livelihood March in London attracts over 400,000 people to draw attention to a wide range of rural issues, including fox hunting debate.
- December: Government introduces a bill that would allow licensed hunting as an alternative.
- 2003 The Bill is blocked in Lords but ministers promise to bring it back in 2004 and allow it to be forced through under the Parliament Act
- 2004 September 15: bill passes all stages in House of Commons  
September 16: bill arrives in Lords
- November: Parliament Act used to force the ban through Parliament.
- Legal action by supporters of fox hunting begins.
- 2005 February: Ban scheduled to come into force. Fox hunting season ends.
- May: General election held. Conservative Manifesto promises free vote on hunting.
- 2006 First prosecution of a Huntsman takes place in August.