

YOUR TEAM IS GOING TO RESEARCH

Hunting with dogs

and speak **for and against** keeping the ban

This brief has been produced as part of the *RSPCA's Animal Welfare: The Great Debate* and is a starting point for the research you will need to do into the subject in order to ensure a successful debate. The points for or against a subject may not be RSPCA policy and represent some of the wider thinking around the subject.

- The UK Parliament passed the Hunting Act in 2004 which banned the use of hunting with dogs across England and Wales.
- Coming into force in 2005, the Act has been controversial with many people both for and against the ban being in place.
- The ban covers the use of dogs in hunting wild animals, notably foxes, deer, hares and mink, but doesn't cover the process of flushing-out animals.

FOR

Here are some points in **favour of** a ban – what other points can you find?

- According to some polls the vast majority of the British public support the Hunting Act.
- The chasing and killing of wild mammals with dogs causes tremendous suffering.
- Landowners are able to shoot foxes, which is considered less cruel.

AGAINST

Here are some points **against** preserving the ban – can you find any more?

- Foxes are considered by some people to be pests that attack and destroy livestock, such as chickens.
- Some people claim the ban prevents such 'pests' from being removed and therefore threatens the welfare of those livestock animals.

Information you may want to find out

- What were the reasons for the ban being brought in? Do these reasons still exist?
- Are foxes a problem in the countryside? What impact do they have on livestock?
- Does the Act ban all forms of hunting with dogs?

Potential sources of information

- RSPCA website: www.rspca.org.uk
- Political Animal website: www.politicalanimal.org.uk
- RSPCA facts and figures: <http://media.rspca.org.uk/media/facts>
- The Countryside Alliance: www.countryside-alliance.org

