

Fox Hunting Coursework

I have been given the task to research and find information on the hypothesis “Most people think that banning fox hunting is the right thing to do.” From the start I did not think that this was a true statement, though this was just a gut feeling.

Once I started to gather information I found many mixed feelings about this subject which has been debated since 1949. Fox hunting has already been banned in Scotland and there is a debate at the moment if England should follow our northern counterparts. I will first lay out the why some people think that fox hunting should be banned and why it shouldn't.

For the Ban

There are many reasons why fox hunting should be banned and some seem to be weaker reason than others. The first and probably the main is that fox hunting is cruel and it is killing of another animal for pleasure. The people who want to ban fox hunting cannot understand how people can enjoy the killing of something for sport. (Many people regard fox hunting as a sport).

One of the other stronger arguments at the moment is in the way the foxes are killed. They are chased down by up to 40 hounds for many hours until it is eventually worn down then the fox is killed by several bites and tears by the hounds. In many cases people think that the fox is torn apart.

In an average fox hunting season 15,000 foxes are killed, 3 people die, 6,000 hounds are killed and up to 1,000 are injured. This seems to be a very strong case to stop fox hunting.

Against the Ban

In my opinion there is a much stronger case not to ban fox hunting than there is to ban it. Here are some of the main reasons not to ban fox hunting.

In the fox hunting season around 15,000-20,000 are killed and this is only 3% of the total fox population so there is no real impact on the foxes.

The fox has been seen as a pest by many farmers over the centuries and they believe that the fox population needs to be kept down for the amount of livestock foxes kill.

Fox hunting is said to provide 16,000 jobs from the smithy shoeing of the horses to the houndsmen who care for the dogs. Though anti-foxhunters say only 1,000 jobs would be lost if banned.

Survey Results

For my own research I have made survey on fox hunting to see whether the people I ask think that fox hunting should be banned. These are the results of my survey. I

have shown the question and the possible opinions so you can see who has the majority and the minority.

Question and answers	Female	Male
1. Do you think that there should be a ban on fox hunting?		
a) Yes	5	3
b) No	4	7
c) Undecided	1	0
2. Do you believe that fox hunting can be justified?		
a) Yes	5	9
b) No	4	1
c) Undecided	1	0
3. If you think it can be justified what is your reason?		
a) It is a national sport	2	5
b) It keeps the numbers down	2	3
c) I do not mind what happens to foxes	1	2
d) I like hunting	0	0
e) I chose to ban it	4	1
4. Why do you think fox hunting should be banned if you chose to ban it?		
a) It is killing another of an animal	0	0
b) The foxes are killed in a horrible way	2	1
c) The dogs can be hurt in the hunt	1	0
d) I do not like hunt for sport	1	0
e) I did not chose to ban it	5	9
5. Do you think that fox hunting should continue because of the threat to livestock?		
a) Yes	4	8
b) No	5	0
c) Undecided	1	2
6. Do you think that foxes are dangerous to pets or humans?		
a) Yes	3	3
b) No	4	3
c) I do not know enough information to have an opinion.	3	4

As you can see from my results they seem quite mixed. The majority of females which I used survey on said that there should be ban on fox hunting because they think the foxes are killed in a cruel way, the dogs can be injured and that they do not

like hunting for sport. The majority also said that fox hunting should not continue even if there is a threat to farmer's livestock. It seems to me that more women want a ban on fox hunting than women that do not.

The answers that I received from the males however are very different. 7/10 believes that fox hunting should not be banned and 9/10 thinks that it can be justified. This shows me that there is a strong case with men, which they tend to not support the ban on fox hunting. They may not like everything that happens in foxing so maybe they would vote for a part ban on fox hunting. The case with women that most tend to support the ban, from the survey I have made. But all together with the men and the women results added together they do not support the ban.

My information is only out of 20 people so it can not be trusted as much as a large poll. I have researched and found larger polls taken nationwide.

- These polls were found on www.mori.com.
- MORI interviewed 801 adults aged 18+ across Great Britain.
- Interviews were conducted by telephone on 14-15 July 1999.
- All data are weighted to the known profile of Great Britain.
- Where results do not sum to 100, this may be due to multiple responses, or the exclusion of don't knows/not stated.

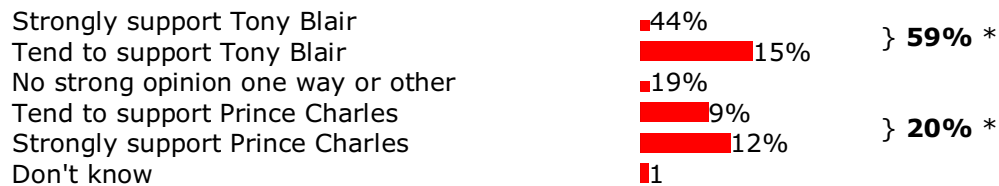
To what extent do you support or oppose a ban on hunting with dogs in Britain?

	%
Strongly support a ban	52
Tend to support a ban	11
Neither support nor oppose a ban	11
Tend to oppose a ban	10
Strongly oppose a ban	14
Don't know/no opinion	2

If the MPs vote to ban hunting, would you support or oppose the government moving ahead - irrespective of the Lords' vote - to bring in a ban on hunting this year?

	%
Strongly support government bringing in a ban	43
Tend to support government bringing in a ban	19
Neither support nor oppose government bringing in a ban	9
Tend to oppose government bringing in a ban	11
Strongly oppose government bringing in a ban	15
Support	62
Oppose	26

On balance, do you personally support Tony Blair in wishing to ban hunting, or do you support Prince Charles in continuing to take part in it - or do you not feel strongly about the issue one way or the other?



Conclusion

From the information which I have gathered and research from various sources I have come to the conclusion that most people think that the ban is necessary. My survey which I have done has a very, very small amount of data. This is because my survey was results were all from the same area and that I only asked 20 people. The polls which I found on the internet contained much a much higher amount of people and the poll was nationwide instead of one local area.

Though my own survey found that the majority of people (an equal amount of male and female) thought that there should not be a fox hunting ban, the nationwide results tell me something different. They suggest that the majority of people (unknown if there is the same amount of males and females) thought there should be a ban on fox hunting. This was unexpected after analysing my own survey.

I made sure that there was an equal amount of men and women in my survey because I believe that women have a more caring view towards fox hunting than men might do. If there was a larger amount of women in the nationwide survey this may be the reason for the difference in my results and their results.