

Friday 23 June 2006

## **Give Up The Chase - RSPCA Calls for Groups to Accept Court's Verdict**

In an historic judgement today (Friday), the Court of Appeal has dismissed appeals by the Countryside Alliance and other hunting supporters that the hunting ban breaches Human Rights and European law.

“The ability to make animals suffer for sport is not a human right, and we are glad to see the Court has given a very clear and authoritative judgement. This ruling is a total vindication of our long-held view that hunting with dogs is cruel and unacceptable,” said John Rolls, RSPCA Director of Animal Welfare Promotion.

“It is time for people who have spent millions of pounds challenging this law to accept it and move on. They should finally accept the will of the public majority, of Parliament, and of the Courts.”

He added: “Cruelty-free hunting, which does not involve chasing a wild animal and where the pageantry, social recreation, jobs, horses and hounds can be retained, is the obvious way forward, and something the RSPCA has always suggested.”

In its judgement, the Court of Appeal agreed with the High Court that there was sufficient material available to MPs for them to conclude that hunting with dogs is cruel.

The ban on hunting with dogs came into force on 18 February 2005, and since then many hunts have converted to drag hunting, where a scent is followed rather than live quarry.