

# Fox Hunting, A History



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- Established by Britain—particularly cultivated in Poland.
- 1600s – Deer (esp. stags) were the prized, noble quarry.
  - Foxes seen as “beast of chase” – vermin
  - Over hunting and deforestation led to fewer deer
- 1800s – England established fox hunting as a country sport
  - Fox hunting also became a regular, *public* event.
  - Fox hunting journalism – Charles Apperley – *Sporting Magazine* – 1820s.

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- Landowners would allow hunters to use their land, generally by subscription.
- However, by the late 1800s fox hunting went out of control.
  - Large, organized event—public
  - Foreigners would hunt on lands – which took away from the national aspect
- Shortage of game – subscribers would cancel and move on!
- “Bag-men” – imported foxes

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- Illusion of class convergence
- “Everyone” could fox hunt (except the people who could not afford it)
- Farmer/Aristocrat may ride together to hunt foxes
- September-October – “cub hunting” – training for new hunters
- October – 15 January – Hunting season for fox
- When the shortage of foxes hit, pheasant hunting became popular.
- <http://ie.youtube.com/watch?v=FucQs2Ajsw4>

# Fox Hunting, The Present

- One can still fox hunt today in Poland!
- “Driven” hunts with large groups, generally led by a resident hunter and a range of \$400-500/day for most hunts



# Fox Hunting in Art



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1615 – Wolf and Fox Hunt





the end...