

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

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HUNT MONITORS OUT IN FORCE POST-BAN

(London, 17 February 2005) Hunters thinking of breaking the law have been warned: "When the hunt ban comes into force this week we'll be watching you."

When the Hunting Act takes effect on 18 February, IFAW's highly effective hunt monitors will switch from documenting the cruelty of hunting with dogs to checking that hunts are obeying the new law.

Roving monitors Kevin Hill and Peter White have been bearing witness to the cruelty of hunting for 20 years, filming and gathering evidence of hunt and hare coursing around the country. Their video evidence underpinned the campaign to ban this cruel "sport".

"Some hunts have threatened to break the law - we know who they are and will be keeping a close eye on them," says Kevin Hill. "Contrary to what the hunters are saying it will be obvious when they do flout the ban. We'll work with the police to ensure that anyone who does is prosecuted like any other law-breaker."

Peter White says: "I've made it my life's work to put an end to this barbaric so-called sport. I'll continue to monitor and observe their actions until I'm happy that what they're doing is drag hunting and nothing else. That's when I'll walk away."

Speaking at a photocall in Parliament Square today, IFAW UK director Phyllis Campbell-McRae commented: "IFAW is celebrating the end of the hunt ban but not the end of our campaign. There is a huge network of supporters and voluntary hunt monitors out there who will be acting as the eyes and ears of the countryside to protect British wildlife. I hope hunters will see sense and choose to obey the law but, for those who don't, we will help bring them to justice. No-one is above the law."