

## Why?

Hunting is a hugely popular equestrian sport, because it tests a rider, without being competitive. Many of those taking part for the first time will not be confident riders, and particularly nervous about jumping. However they find that in supportive company and in a controlled challenging environment, they start to do things they would be too nervous to do in cold blood. Hunting the clean boot is becoming increasingly popular, not least because it is gaining recognition as a totally humane form of hunting.



Bloodhound hunts are very welcoming to people who haven't hunted before. You don't have to 'know anyone' to be able to join a hunt, nor do most packs insist you go out and buy 'all the right gear' before you try the sport. Most people who come out with these hunts do so because it gives them organised, controlled access to land they wouldn't otherwise be permitted to cross. For young children in particular, this is good physical exercise, which also gives them a good understanding of animals and the countryside.

## Hunting Format & Protocols

A clean boot hunt will ensure -

1. Permission will be gained for any land to be hunted.
2. Routes will be agreed with landowners, farmers and other interested parties in advance of the day.
3. Meets will be published in advance on hunt's publicly available website and/or social media..
4. Maps will be available at the meet for anyone to inspect and sent to the Police if required.
5. The Huntsman and Field Master will know the routes the Quarries will be taking.

## The Hounds



A bloodhound's life doesn't end if it doesn't take to hunting, or can no longer keep up. Because of their superb temperaments, there are always people who will take them on as pets.

## Hunting the Clean Boot

The unequivocal, publicly verifiable, humane hunting of human runners that neither drag, nor wear any form of scent enhancement.



Hunting the clean boot is done with cross bred bloodhounds that have never hunted an animal quarry. They love humans, because not only do they give them food and shelter, but they get to hunt them as well. These hounds are trained from a very early age not to chase anything by sight.

## History

Contrary to common belief, hunting the clean boot with bloodhounds goes back to well before World War II, but it's the countryside's best kept secret. Not deliberately so, but because it is not controversial, it never gets any media attention. The oldest pack currently in existence is The Coakham Bloodhounds, started in 1976, and there are currently around 15 packs of bloodhounds in the UK.

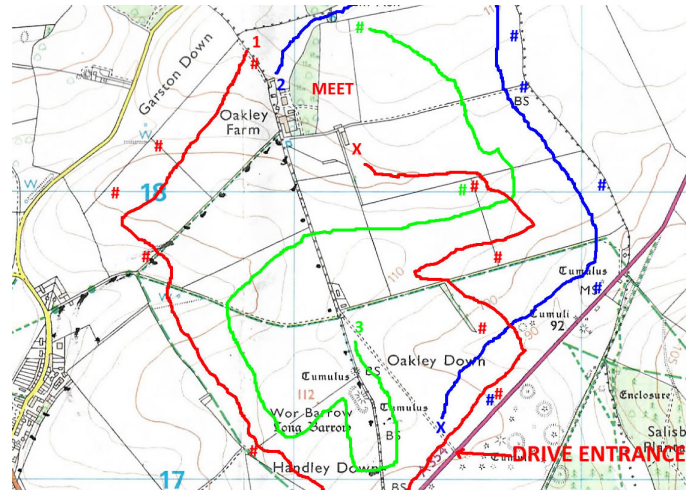


## So, how does it work?

Masters of Bloodhounds approach landowners and farmers to ask for permission to hunt on their land. Once permission is given, the Masters will produce a map and check with the landowners and farmers that the routes will not interfere with any of their farming, shooting and/or conservation interests. In the planning of the routes, the Masters are effectively carrying out a risk assessment to ensure as much as possible, there are no likely points of conflict with other landowners/farmers and the general public. For example sometimes warning signs are put up to advise dog walkers, who might otherwise let their dogs off their leads, end up with their dog joining the pack as they hunt.

## Unequivocal

The fact that maps are produced before a hunting day to show where the Quarries will be running, make it impossible to hunt a live animal without it being obvious to all.



## Maps, Apps, Comms and Brakes.

For a hunt to ensure it will be welcome on the land again, hunts use a real belt and braces plan to ensure accidents will not happen. The Quarries carry maps and sometimes use an Ordnance Survey app, or other tracking app, if the technology is available. They will also have radios or phones in case they should meet something unexpected like a herd of deer, or livestock that has been moved between planning and the day.

The huntsman will know the route before he/she releases the hounds to hunt and if in any doubt as to the hounds accuracy, he/she will stop the hounds. If a planned hunt goes close to a neighbouring property, he/she, or a whipper-in, will ride between the hounds and that boundary. Any competent huntsman can stop a pack of bloodhounds even if they are in full cry,

## Publicly Verifiable

Hunts advertise their meets and anyone can attend without having to produce 'references'. Riders have to book in merely to ensure that not too many horses will be crossing the land, but they're booked in on a first come first served basis, with no vetting. Foot/car followers are welcome to attend without booking in and people may use still cameras and videos as they wish.

## Humane

The hounds have never hunted anything other than humans, and the hunt staff ride close to the hounds to ensure they don't chase anything that pops up in front of them.

