

DRAG HUNTING

A Practical Alternative to Fox Hunting

A short documentary shot in HD video



DURATION: 7 minutes:

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Australian Writers' Guild Reg No: JB 008592

DRAG HUNTING

Episode: 1 of 1

AWG Regn: JB008592

Episode Title: Drag Hunting

Episode length: 7 minutes

	VISUAL	ON-CAMERA AUDIO	OFF-CAMERA AUDIO
	Titles/credits		Length: 0.15
Sc. 01	EXT. HUNT CLUB MEET		Length: 0.55
	Fox hounds with hunting people at a "meet".	Narrator: As can be seen by the clothes these riders are wearing, fox hunting on horseback has a tradition going back hundreds of years.	
	Still photo montage - hunting scenes		Originally a means of providing food for the dining table, as agriculture progressed in sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, hunting became less of a necessity and more of a 'sport'.
	C/U the fox		
	L/S a hunt in progress		
Sc. 02	EXT. MASTER OF FOX HOUNDS		Length: 0.40
	M/C/U Interview at meet - hounds and riders in background (credit overlay)	Master: Here in Australia, foxes were brought over from England not long after settlement purely to provide sport for wealthy English migrants. Subsequently, the population of foxes expanded out of all proportion and they're now a pest.	
	Archival footage of foxes in the wild		
	Archival footage of fox-hunts	Narrator: Many people think that it's a cruel sport and that the number of foxes can be controlled in a more humane fashion. In fact, fox hunting as such is now banned in the UK.	

Master:

We've heard those arguments, of course, but our opinions differ.

Sc. 03

EXT: THE HUNT KENNELS

Length: 0.40

The kennels with friendly hounds jumping for attention

Narrator:

At the heart of any hunt club are the hounds and we're here to talk to . . . who is huntsman of the Yarra Glen and Lilydale Hunt Club. . . what's your job exactly?

M/C/U Interview at the kennels (credit overlay)

Huntsman:

I look after the hounds, both here at home and out on the hunting field.

Out on the hunting field, blowing horn and cracking whip

I have a small group of people called 'whippers in' to help me.

Archival footage of dead foxes

Narrator:

And you're there when the fox is killed?

Huntsman

Yes. Part of my job is to ensure the fox is killed quickly and without undue suffering.

Sc. 04

EXT: THE HUNT

Length: 1.05

The hunt in progress riders and dogs gallop across fields, fences

(the hunting horn, the baying of hounds, the thunder of galloping horses)

Fields and hedges as background

Narrator:

Nostalgic as this scene might be many people in Australia believe that we should follow England's example and ban the sport.

Sc. 05 EXT. COUNTRYSIDE *Length:* 0.40

Interview in open fields
(credit overlay)

Animal Rights Activist:

Under Australian law it is actually illegal to set one animal on another. But on purely moral grounds, there can be no justification for this so-called sport. These people are inflicting pain and terror on a small animal and should be stopped.

Fields and hedges in
the background

Narrator:

Given the fact that the anti-fox-hunting lobby is strong, is there an alternative to hunting the fox?

Sc. 06 EXT: THE HOTEL CAR-PARK *Length:* 1.00

M/C/U Interview with
hotel in background
(credit overlay)

Drag Queen

It's called 'drag hunting' and it means providing a different scent for the hounds to follow. I've been involved in drag hunting for two months now and I think it's a viable alternative. There's no cruelty . . . well, not much anyway.

PAN TO

Hounds and riders

Narrator:

We're here to watch a drag hunt where a man dressed as a woman runs across the fields chased by the hounds.

CUT TO

Open fields where the drag queen is seen running, climbing fences, removing her high heels, wading knee deep through ditch, then running again . . .

CUT TO

Narrator:

So how much start do you give the drag?

M/C/U The Master at
the hotel

Master:
We give the drag about an hour's
start.

Sc. 07

EXT: THE HUNT

Length: **0.50**

The hunt in progress
riders and dogs gallop
across fields, fences

*(the hunting horn, the baying
of hounds, shouts of 'tally ho')*

CUT TO

The drag queen some-
what out of breath

(panting . . .)

CUT TO

Hounds closing

(excited yelping)

CUT TO

M/C/U The drag queen raising
her arms to protect her face

(scream)

CUT TO

Hounds leaping into the air . . .

FADE TO BLACK

FADE IN

L/S a bloodied, muddy
figure in a torn dress
limps across a wide
expanse of paddock,
alone

Drag Queen *(faintly/distantly)*
I'm alright . . . no damage done . .
I'll be fine . . it's just a scratch

Sc. 08

EXT: HOTEL CAR PARK

Length: **0.30**

M/C/U The Master
unsaddled horses in
the background

Master:

It misses something of the excitement
of a fox hunt . . . for one thing, the drags
don't run fast enough.

L/S The Huntsman
leading the hounds
home

Huntsman:

(calling hounds by name)

CUT TO

The dishevelled drag queen
wandering alone in the middle
of a huge field

Master

And then of course there's
the question of volunteers . . .
we just can't get enough of
them.

FADE TO BLACK

End credits

Length: **0.25**
