

Charter of the International Union of Hunting with Hounds

Hunting with hounds takes place in many countries worldwide but principally in Australia, Canada, France, Ireland, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States of America. The hunts in these countries are governed by Associations with rules and codes of practice designed to suit the circumstances of each country. There are principles of hunting, common to all, which form the basis of this Charter and to which the Hunting Associations from all the named countries above have signed.

Charter

1. Welfare

This Union believes that the interests of animal welfare are paramount to all hunting practices and pledges to act always in accordance with these principles. Wild animals are adapted to hunting and being hunted by evolution and their species survive because of it.

2. Utility and Wildlife Management

This Union pledges to act in the interest of the quarry species and the management of them. Further, it aims to maintain and enhance natural wildlife habitats and to monitor biodiversity in the countryside.

3. Stewardship

This Union pledges to act with responsibility and believes that hunting is part of the natural selection process and makes a positive contribution to the maintenance of sustainable and healthy populations of species within the living environment.

4. Culture

This union pledges to champion and safeguard the culture of sustainable hunting as part of the world's rich heritage.

5. Hounds

This Union pledges to maintain the specific breeds of hounds which are the basis of our way of hunting. As they have no other specific function, breeding them in our kennels is a main contribution to biodiversity.

6. The Right to Choose

This Union believes the right to choose to hunt under this Charter is the benchmark of a free and tolerant society.

7. Unity and Solidarity

This Union pledges to promote and defend these principles and actively opposes those who seek to attack the interests of hunting with hounds. It further pledges its support to all forms of sustainable hunting and angling. It believes that the animal rights' agenda threatens successful wildlife management throughout the world.