

# Animal Matters



## IN THE NEWS...

### Bullfight ban

**In July, the Catalan parliament voted to become the first Spanish region to outlaw bullfighting.** The vote took place after a 180,000-signature petition stating that bullfighting is barbaric and outdated was brought before parliament. Under the ban, the last functioning bullring in Catalonia's capital, Barcelona, will shut down in 2012. Pro-bullfighting groups fear that a ban could spark a wave of similar campaigns across the country. *See overleaf for lesson idea.*

### Slaughterhouse closes after Animal Aid exposé

**After an undercover investigation by Animal Aid, an Essex slaughterhouse, A&G Barber, has been forced to close down.** Abattoir staff were secretly filmed inflicting shocking cruelty on pigs. Barber's main buyer was a German sausage manufacturer, which cancelled its contract after viewing our footage. The loss of custom left the Barber business untenable.



### Government declares war on badgers

**In September, the government announced plans for a cull of badgers in England as a measure to control TB in cattle.** The cull could start in May 2011 and as many as 6,000 badgers would be shot in the first year. Most dairy farmers have welcomed the proposals which have been dismissed as 'scientifically among the worst options they could have chosen' by Dr Rosie Woodroffe, a leading badger ecologist at the Institute of Zoology in London. *See overleaf for lesson idea.*

### Hunt ban in jeopardy

**The Conservative/Liberal Democrat government has announced that there will be a free vote for MPs on whether to devote time to repealing the ban on hunting.**



The Hunting Act, passed by the Labour government in 2004, banned the cruel and unnecessary 'sport' of chasing and killing foxes, deer, hare and mink with dogs – though it does allow some exemptions. Opinion polls suggest that around 75% of the public support the ban.

Under the banner of *Save Me* – the group set up by Queen guitarist Brian May – various organisations, including Animal Aid, have joined together to launch a mass postcard campaign to defend the Hunting Act.

Pro-hunt groups such as the Countryside Alliance are also gearing up their campaigns to lobby for the Act to be repealed.

*See overleaf for lesson idea.*



### Purple poppy

**While millions of animals have lost their lives in human wars, they are rarely mentioned in remembrance ceremonies.**

To highlight this oversight, Animal Aid has produced a purple poppy to commemorate the non-human victims of conflict.

**Poppies can be purchased from Animal Aid, priced £1 each. Free class sets of the information booklet, *Animals: the hidden victims of war*, are available from the Animal Aid education department.**



# FREE ANIMAL AID RESOURCES ▶



New!

## Let's Cook DVD

Our new Let's Cook DVD features Animal Aid's cookery-training officer, Liz Hughes, demonstrating to school students how to cook two delicious and nutritious vegetarian dishes.

There are two short films on the DVD. In the first, Liz shows a class how to cook a vegetarian chilli dish (10-minute duration). In the second, she demonstrates how to prepare a vegetarian sausage and bean casserole, with students having a go at making the meal themselves (15-minute duration). **See the film free on our website: [www.animalaid.org.uk/education](http://www.animalaid.org.uk/education)**

Up to two copies of the DVD are available free to every teacher.



## ▶ Veggie nutrition wall chart

This is an informative and eye-catching wall chart listing the best plant-based food sources for the main nutrients – such as protein, carbohydrates, fats, minerals and vitamins. Laminated for durability. Measures 90cm x 40cm.



Up to two copies available free to every teacher.

## ▶ New education resources catalogue



The latest edition of our catalogue, listing free education resources, is now available.

## ▶ New reports

**Animal Experiments: Bad Ethics – Bad Science** 26-page booklet outlining the case against animal experiments.

**The trouble with shooting** 14-page booklet detailing the case against shooting 'game birds' for sport.

**The trouble with horse racing** 14-page booklet outlining the case against the horse racing industry.

**Is factory farming making you sick?** 26-page in-depth guide to animal diseases and their impact on human health.

Reports can be downloaded from our website. Single copies available free – for bulk orders contact the office.



## Lesson Ideas

### Citizenship KS4 – Pressure Groups 'X Factor'-style hunt debate

Outline the current political situation on hunting. Divide students into three or five groups of four to six each. One group takes on the role of the judges. Half of the

remaining groups take on the role of a pressure group campaigning for repeal of the hunt ban, while the others represent a campaigning organisation that is opposed to repeal.

Give each group copies of the Hunt Ban information sheet and Hunt Ban worksheets (set of four A3 sheets)\*. Ask them all to outline their plan for a campaign for or against.

They will need to work as a team to identify their key target groups, main arguments and methods; and also to prepare a brief presentation outlining their campaign strategy to the class.

The task of the judging panel is to quiz each group ('Newsnight' style) and to give their verdict on the winning presentation ('X Factor' style).

**English KS4 – Bullfighting** Find out what students know about bullfighting. Show part of the first episode of Michael Palin's *Hemingway Adventures* and read relevant passages from Hemingway's *Death in the Afternoon*. Set a comprehension exercise on the text and discuss the issues raised. What did Hemingway think about bullfighting? Why? Do people in Spain still think the same way? Do students agree?

Show newspaper/video reports on the Catalonia bullfighting ban. Discuss the subject and implications.

Ask students to pretend that they are attending a bullfight. They will write a letter home to tell others what they are experiencing. Alternatively, ask students to write a creative story about being a bullfighter and/or a story from the bull's perspective.

**English KS3 – Troublesome wildlife** Start with a discussion of why the government is calling for a cull of badgers and whether it is the correct policy to adopt. Follow with Lesson 4 (Troublesome Wildlife) from Animal Aid's *Animal Writes* resource pack.

\*Full instructions and worksheets plus relevant web-links for all lessons are available on our website.

## To order resources or to contact us:

Tel: 01732 364546 ext 221 (for orders), ext 234 (for talks) Email: [education@animalaid.co.uk](mailto:education@animalaid.co.uk)

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