

YouGov Survey Results

Fox Hunting

Prepared for The Daily Telegraph

Sample Size: 1997

Fieldwork: 25-27 September 2002

%

Thinking about the recent 'Liberty and Livelihood' countryside march in central London, which of the following statements comes closest to your own view?

It was a valid and necessary protest	51
It was not a valid and necessary protest	41
Don't know	9

Some people are concerned about the 'erosion of living and working conditions in the countryside'. Do you agree or disagree that they are right to be concerned?

Agree strongly	33
Generally agree	31
Neither agree nor disagree	16
Generally disagree	12
Disagree strongly	5
Don't know	3

Has the size and strength of the march made you more sympathetic or less sympathetic to these concerns?

More sympathetic	25
Less sympathetic	18
Neither	57
Don't know	2

As a result of the march, do you think the government should be more sympathetic and determined to help those involved or not?

The government should be more sympathetic	54
The government should not be more sympathetic	33
Don't know	13

Which of the following do you believe the march was mainly concerned with?

Preserving the 'way of life' in the countryside	31
A ban on fox hunting	37
The government's handling of the Foot and Mouth outbreak	1
Rural poverty	3
Affordable housing in the countryside	1
Low food pricing	0
The government being more concerned with the city than the countryside	23
Don't know	4

Generally speaking, do you believe the fox population should or should not be controlled?

Should	70
Should not	22
Don't know	8

What is your view on hunting with dogs?

Hunting with dogs is ALWAYS acceptable	13
Hunting with dogs is NEVER acceptable	57
Hunting with dogs is SOMETIMES acceptable	28
Don't know	3

a) Thinking about controlling the fox population, which of these do you believe inflicts more cruelty . . . ?

Hunting foxes with dogs	25
Killing them by other means such as snaring / shooting / trapping them	27
Both are EQUALLY cruel	44
Don't know	5

b) And which of these inflicts more cruelty?

Shooting game (e.g. grouse shooting / pheasant shooting)	6
Hunting with dogs	50
Both are EQUALLY cruel	37
Don't know	7

c) And which of these inflicts more cruelty?

Fishing	6
Hunting with dogs	64
They are both EQUALLY cruel	23
Don't know	7

d) And which of these inflicts more cruelty?

Battery farming	33
Hunting with dogs	21
They are both EQUALLY cruel	43
Don't know	3

a) Do you believe the government should make hunting foxes with dogs a criminal offence?

It should be made a criminal offence	50
It should not be made a criminal offence	44
Don't know	6

b) And do you think hunting other animals such as rats or rabbits with dogs should be made a criminal offence?

It should be made a criminal offence	42
It should not be made a criminal offence	48.8
Don't know	9

The government is proposing three broad options concerning the future of hunting with dogs. Which of these do you most agree with?

Hunting should carry on as now	17.6
Hunting should be licensed by an independent authority	30.3
Hunting should be banned completely	49.9
Don't know	2.1

Some have said an outright ban would be an 'infringement of civil liberty'. Do you agree or disagree with this view?

Agree - it is an 'infringement of civil liberty'	36.9
Disagree - it is not an 'infringement of civil liberty'	58.7
Don't know	4.3

Thinking about the issue of hunting, which of the following comes closest to your own view?

It should be a top priority for the government	3.4
It should be an important priority for the government	25.7
There are many other issues that are more important	57
It is not at all important	13.2
Don't know	0.7

Generally speaking, do you think people living in towns and cities are concerned about the future of the countryside?

They are concerned	37.1
They are not concerned	55.6
Don't know	7.3

Which of the following statements about farmers comes closest to your own view?

Farmers have had it too good for too long and should stop complaining	30.8
Farmers are hardworking people whose work benefits the nation and should be helped	63.2
Don't know	6

Do you believe Prince Charles was right or wrong to write to the prime minister about the difficulties of life in the countryside?

He was right	63.8
He was wrong	28.6
Don't know	7.6