

Prepared For: **LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS**
Prepared By: **MILLWARD BROWN ULSTER**

HARE COURSING SURVEY

**MARCH
2006**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

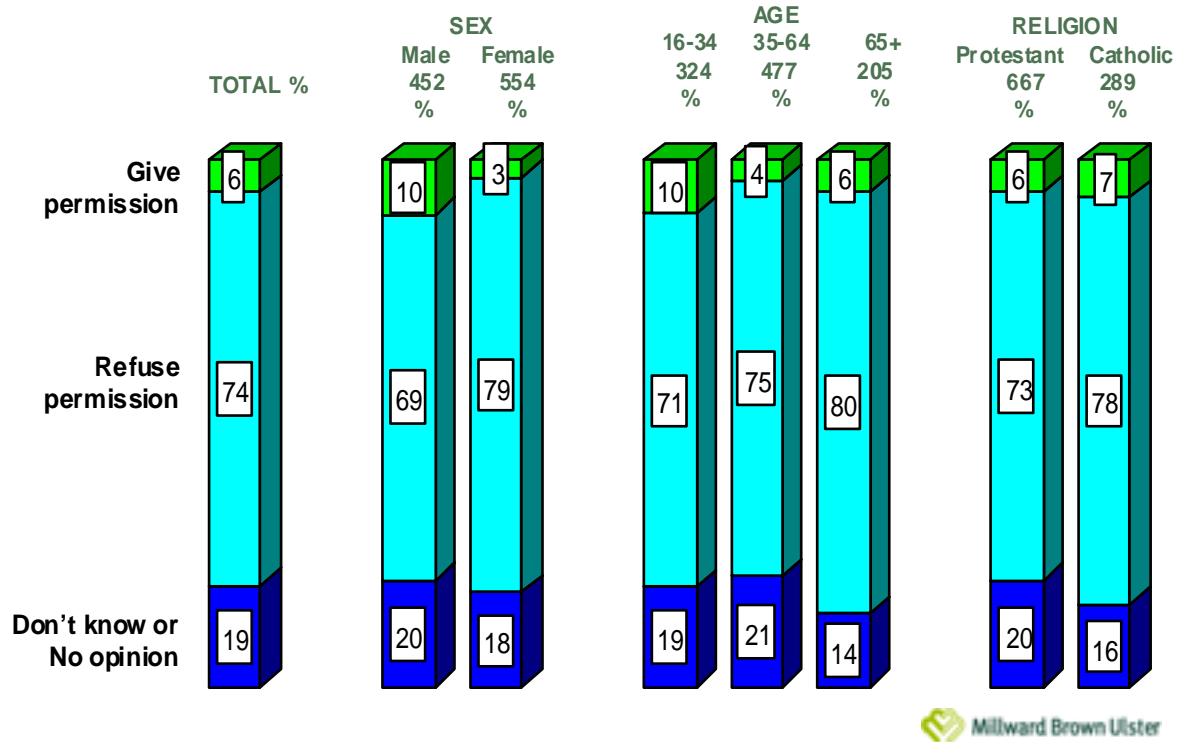
1.	Introduction.....	3
2.	Should The Government Give Or Refuse Permission For Hares To Be Captured For Hare Coursing?.....	4
3.	Hunting With Dogs Or Hounds, Legal Or Illegal In Northern Ireland.....	5
4.	Is Fox Hunting Humane.....	6
5.	Is Fox Hunting Cruel.....	7
6.	Is Stag Hunting Humane.....	8
7.	Is Stag Hunting Cruel.....	9
8.	Tables.....	10
9.	Questionnaire.....	32

1. Introduction

This report presents the findings of the Hare Coursing survey which was included in the long standing Northern Ireland Omnibus (late March 2006).

1006 members of the general public were selected using quota-control procedures and interviewed face to face by an experienced panel of interviewers. All interviewing was conducted according to the Code of Conduct of the Market Research Society and the definitive quality standards of IQCS (Interview Quality Control Scheme) between the 20th and 27th March 2006.

2. Should Government Give Or Refuse Permission For Hares To Be Captured For Hare Coursing?



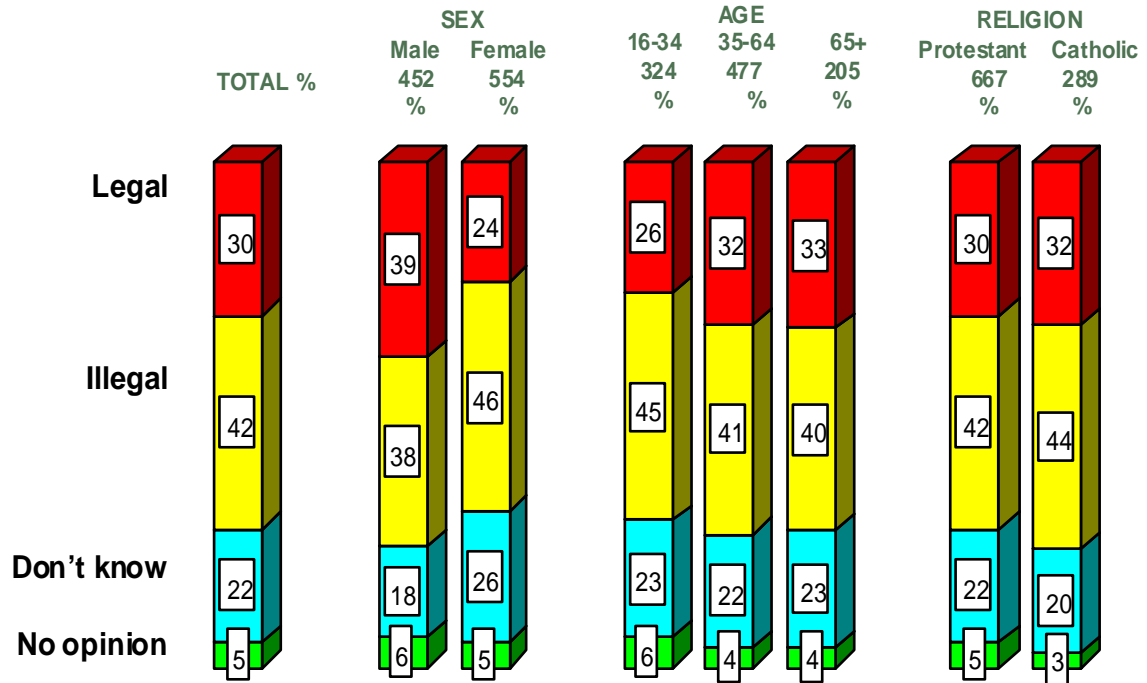
In 2003, Angela Smith, as Northern Ireland Minister for the Environment issued a 2 year ban on the capture or killing of live hares, a restriction which precluded the holding of hare-coursing events. In order to ascertain whether this ban should be renewed, respondents were invited firstly to indicate whether they thought the Government should give or refuse permission for hares to be captured for hare coursing.

The evidence strongly indicates that the majority of adults believed that permission should be refused in this case. Comparing men and women, a significantly higher proportion of women believe that permission should be refused, with 79% of women citing this compared to 69% of men.

The 16-34 age group were more likely to agree with permission being granted than other age groups.

Frequently, it is found that moral issues are viewed differently across the religio-political divide, but this was not so in this instance, both Protestant and Catholic respondents coming to the same conclusion.

3. Hunting With Dogs Or Hounds, Legal Or Illegal In Northern Ireland?



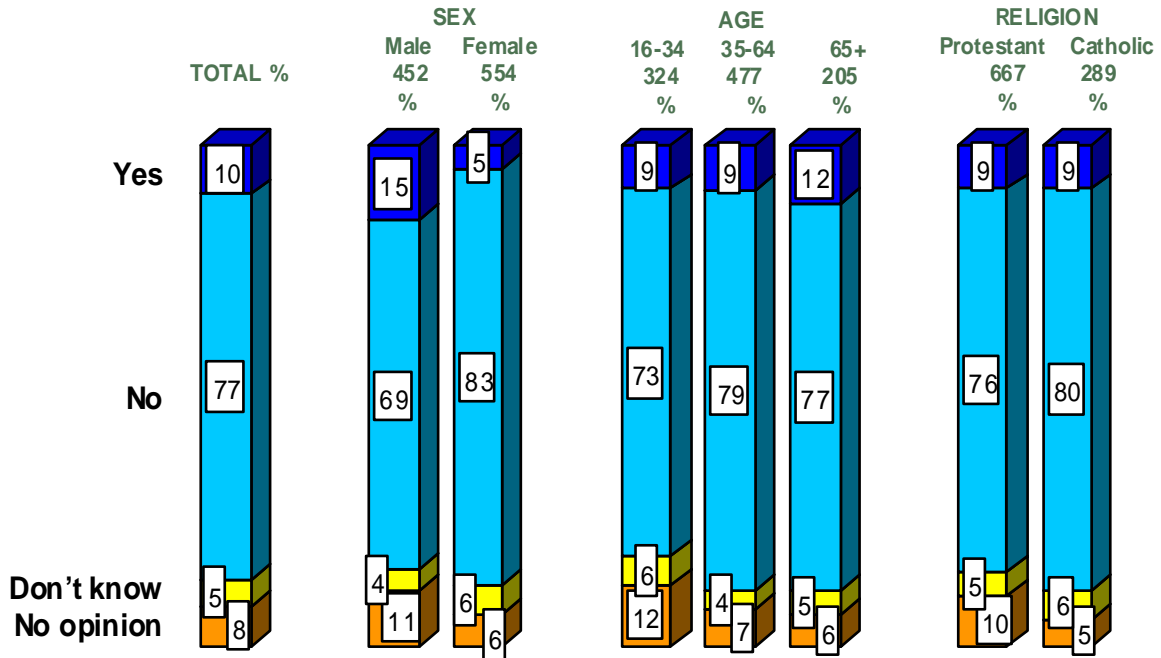
Just under one third of respondents believed hunting with dogs or hounds to be legal in Northern Ireland, whilst 42% disagreed.

A difference in perception was evident between men and women with a significantly lower proportion of women believing that this type of hunting was legal, 24% compared to 39% of men.

16-34 year olds were less likely to believe that hunting with dogs or hounds was legal, compared to 32% of 36-64 year olds and 33% of 65 year olds plus.

No significant difference was evident between the two religions.

4. Is Fox Hunting Humane?



Millward Brown Ulster

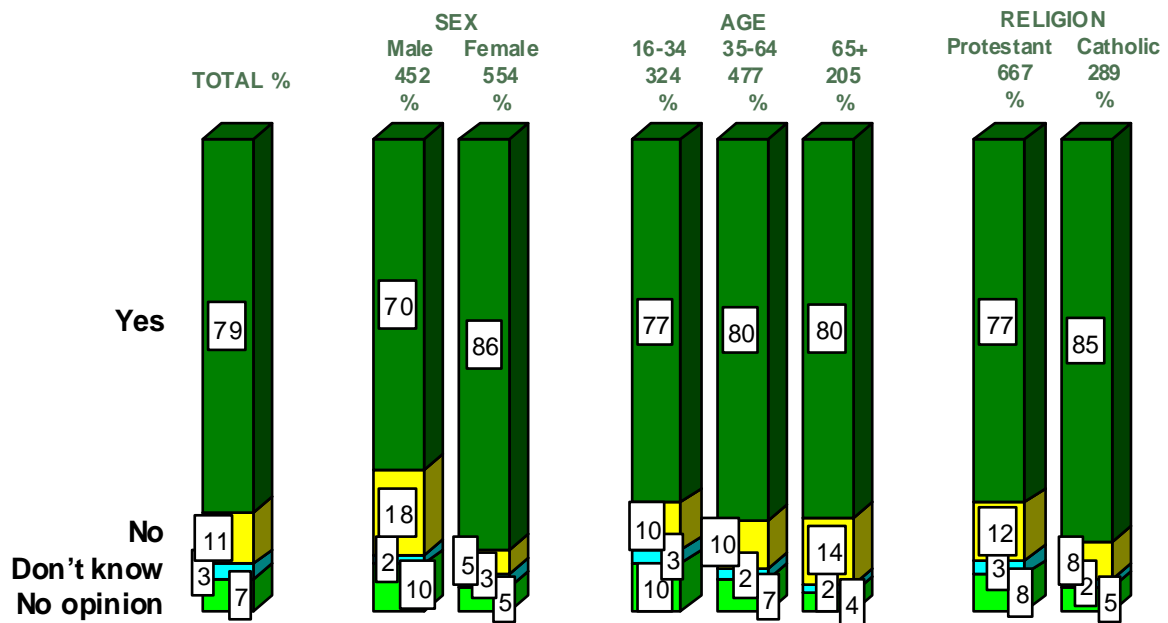
Respondents were asked to consider whether they believed fox hunting to be a humane act, to which over three-quarters returned the opinion that it was inhumane.

Again there was a gender difference with three times as many men believing that fox hunting was humane, 15% compared to just 5% of women. Nevertheless, the clear majority of both men and women share the view that fox hunting is inhumane.

79% of the 35-64 age group cited that fox hunting was inhumane compared to just 73% of 16-34 year olds and 77% of the 65 plus year group.

There was no significant difference in opinion according to religion.

5. Is Fox Hunting Cruel?



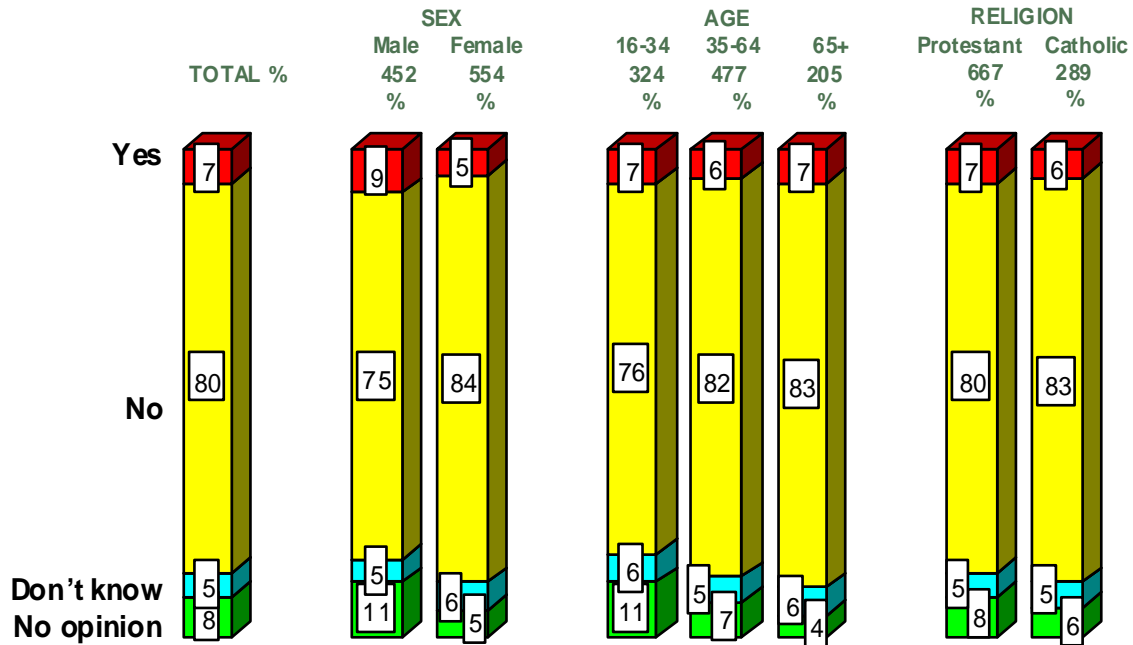
Millward Brown Ulster

The majority of respondents, 79%, returned that fox hunting was cruel. 86% of women respondents returned the same opinion compared to just 70% of men.

There was more or less uniformity across the age groups, with over three-quarters in each category agreeing that fox hunting was cruel.

There was a marginal difference of opinion between the two religions with 85% of Catholics believing it to be a cruel sport compared to 77% of Protestants.

6. Is Stag Hunting Humane?



Millward Brown Ulster

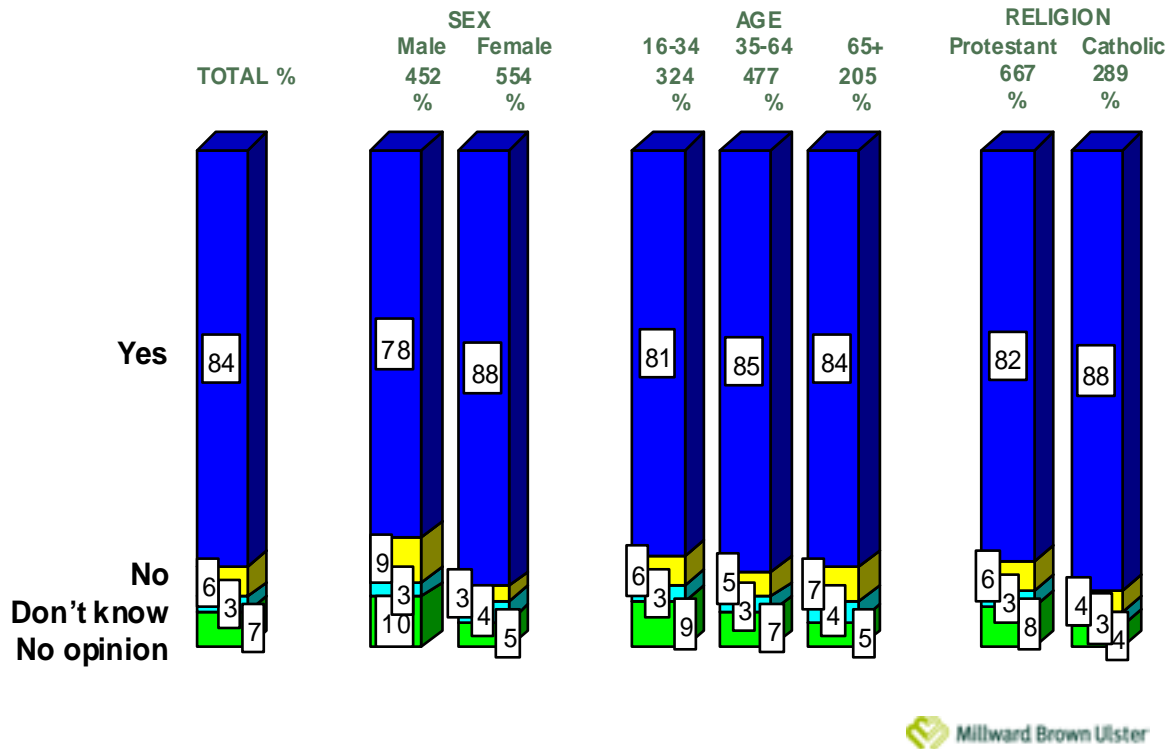
The focus switched to stag hunting, with just 7% of all respondents averring that stag hunting was humane. Comparing stag hunting and fox hunting, fox hunting was more likely to be seen as humane, 10% compared to 7% for stag hunting.

A higher proportion, 9%, of male respondents cited stag hunting to be humane compared to just 5% of women, a trend that was mirrored in fox hunting. Again, clear majority of both men and women agreed that stag hunting was inhumane.

Both the 35-64 year olds and the 65+ age groups were overall in agreement, with 82% and 83% respectively believing stag hunting to be inhumane compared to just 76% of 16-24 year olds believing the same.

The two religions were in agreement on the subject.

7. Is Stag Hunting Cruel?



Again the majority of respondents thought the act of stag hunting is cruel, with over 4 in 5 citing so. This was mirrored across the categories of sex, age and religion with some slight differences.

As for fox hunting, a higher proportion of women believed stag hunting to be cruel, 88% compared to just 78% of men.

The various age groups were in agreement, with over 4 in 5 of all respondents in each group believing that stag hunting is cruel.

Although over 80% of both religions were in agreement that stag hunting is cruel, there was a slight difference between the two with 88% of Catholics believing stag hunting to be cruel, compared to the slightly lower figure of 82% of Protestants.