

Tekst 2

Cruelty of the chase

Sir: Much of what has been written recently about the fox-hunting ban, even by its advocates, seems distracted by peripheral issues such as class distinctions and factory-
5 farming. Yes, chicken and pig factories are bigger problems than fox-hunting in terms of the numbers suffering, but the presence of industrial-scale cruelty has never been a reason to turn a blind eye to the cruelties dealt
10 by minority groups.

I take issue with inferences that fox-hunting is only mildly cruel. Sure, sometimes the fox is taken early and dies quickly, but often it is chased for long periods. In natural situations,
15 larger predators typically pursue foxes only over short distances because the possible gains from a catch are weighed against the probability of losing the fox and energy wasted in the chase. Consequently, the physiology of
20 foxes is not adapted for the stresses of long chases that only pleasure hunting allows. Incidents of subsequent death due to internal bleeding and kidney failure among foxes that escape provide some indication of the torture
25 of the hunt.

Some say that the world is a cruel place, accept it. Certainly, from alleopathic trees that poison their own saplings to avoid competition, to invading male lions that kill the pride's cubs,
30 nature is selfish and often hideous. It can co-opt us into the most base of deeds against our own and other species. But the luxury of abundant resources in combination with empathy allows us to rise above the cruelty.

35 So when landmarks in humanity are reached, such as the emancipation of slaves or the abolition of killing for pleasure, we should not get bogged down in issues of class, but celebrate the victory of compassion over
40 cruelty.

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- 1p **2** Which of the following contains Dr Phillips's factual argument against fox-hunting?
- A** "the presence ... minority groups" (lines 7-10)
 - B** "sometimes ... quickly" (lines 12-13)
 - C** "the physiology ... allows" (lines 19-21)
 - D** "nature ... hideous" (line 30)
- 1p **3** Which of the following is in line with the stand taken by Dr Phillips in his letter?
- A** All too often the pleasures that man seeks derive from his lower instincts.
 - B** Savage pastimes such as fox-hunting are below modern man's dignity.
 - C** The social class of the fox-hunter is no excuse in the issue of fox-hunting.