



# Hunting Act 2004

## 2004 CHAPTER 37

### PART 1

#### OFFENCES

#### **1 Hunting wild mammals with dogs**

A person commits an offence if he hunts a wild mammal with a dog, unless his hunting is exempt.

#### **2 Exempt hunting**

- (1) Hunting is exempt if it is within a class specified in Schedule 1.
- (2) The Secretary of State may by order amend Schedule 1 so as to vary a class of exempt hunting.

#### **3 Hunting: assistance**

- (1) A person commits an offence if he knowingly permits land which belongs to him to be entered or used in the course of the commission of an offence under section 1.
- (2) A person commits an offence if he knowingly permits a dog which belongs to him to be used in the course of the commission of an offence under section 1.

#### **4 Hunting: defence**

It is a defence for a person charged with an offence under section 1 in respect of hunting to show that he reasonably believed that the hunting was exempt.

#### **5 Hare coursing**

- (1) A person commits an offence if he—
  - (a) participates in a hare coursing event,

---

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Hunting Act 2004, Part 1. (See end of Document for details)*

---

- (b) attends a hare coursing event,
  - (c) knowingly facilitates a hare coursing event, or
  - (d) permits land which belongs to him to be used for the purposes of a hare coursing event.
- (2) Each of the following persons commits an offence if a dog participates in a hare coursing event—
- (a) any person who enters the dog for the event,
  - (b) any person who permits the dog to be entered, and
  - (c) any person who controls or handles the dog in the course of or for the purposes of the event.
- (3) A “hare coursing event” is a competition in which dogs are, by the use of live hares, assessed as to skill in hunting hares.

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Hunting Act 2004, Part 1.