

Thousands expected in Boxing Day hunts

by UPI

LONDON -- British hunting advocates say about 250,000 people may participate in Boxing Day hunts around the country. Pro-hunting campaigners said the increasing popularity of foxhunting is a sign of widespread support for repealing a law against hunting foxes with dogs that was passed two years ago, Sky News reported Wednesday. "Numbers have been consistently good since the ban came into force a couple of years ago," said Jill Grieve, a spokeswoman for the pro-hunting Countryside Alliance. "A lot of people didn't know or care about hunting before but since the Hunting Act has been in the news a lot of people have thought they will go along and see what the fuss is about." The League Against Cruel Sports said it has no objection to the hunts so long as they remain within the law. The Hunting Act prohibits the use of dogs to kill foxes, but hounds can be used to track the animals and flush them out of hiding places. Foxes can then be legally shot or killed with a bird of prey if no more than two dogs are used by the hunters.

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