

Terms

1. The “field” (the riders) assembles with hounds at a designated site. This is known as the Meet.
2. Hounds “move off” from the meet on command of the huntsman (the man handling the pack). This command is a note blown on the copper horn carried in a case on his saddle.
3. Hounds, accompanied by the huntsman and his whipper-in (the man who helps him handle the pack) precede the field led by a “Field Master.” (the man who controls the riders, known as “The Field.”) They are on their way to the first covert (pronounced kuvh-ah) to be hunted. A covert is woodland and a good place for game to hide.
4. On reaching this woodland, hounds are given the command “STAND”. They then wait for the command “GO IN”. Hounds spread out and race into the woods. Their huntsman follows them through the woods encouraging them with voice and every so often a short note on the horn. This is to let Hounds know where he is and the direction he is going. Almost subconsciously they listen for this encouragement as they continue to hunt for their fox. If a hound winds (smells) the line of a fox, he opens (barks) and all hounds that hear him run to him. In case some hounds can’t hear this first hound, the huntsman, as he gallops towards the hound who is speaking, blows a series of short notes on his horn to bring the pack together.
5. As they leave the cover with their fox, the huntsman blows them “Away” with an exciting series of long and short notes.
6. If, however, the covert is drawn blank (they do not find a fox), the huntsman blows them out of the covert with long notes on his horn and calls “Come, come, come on away, leave it” and when all together they go on to draw another cover.
7. The purpose and pleasure of foxhunting is in watching the ability of the pack to find, follow and finally mark the earth where the fox has safely “gone to ground.” One enjoys observing the strategy of this wild animal in eluding his pursuers. There is also the physical enjoyment of riding a good horse across country while following the above maneuvers of the wild animal and his disciplined pursuers.

Dos and Don'ts

1. Never ever try to attract the attention of the hounds: they are busy working.
2. Do not speak to the Huntsman or Whips: they too are busy working.
3. Do not get ahead of the fox, the hounds or the huntsman and his staff.
4. Never turn a fox: turning him might endanger him in his efforts to elude hounds.
5. If you see a fox, stand still on the line of the fox, take off your hat, point it in the direction the fox has gone and shout Tally-Ho once in a loud voice.
6. Remember you and the hunt are guests of landowners-do everything to avoid injury or damage to landowner’s property-never litter-do not open gates or take fences down. Be courteous to your host the landowner.
7. Drive slowly, carefully and courteously.

Enjoy and come to understand and support the wonderful sport of fox chasing. The Cheshire Hunt thanks you for your interest and support today and all year long.