

GUIDEBOOK



2008

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Forming a Hunt, Considerations and Structure; 2003.
Pony Club Foxhunting Camp: Notes for Organizers

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MASTERS OF FOXHOUNDS ASSOCIATION
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RULES, REGULATIONS and PROCEDURES
adopted by the
MASTERS OF FOXHOUNDS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
with information on
CUSTOMS, USAGES and TRADITIONS
of the Sport

The rules and customs of mounted foxhunting are difficult to set out in detail, for they are so heavily impacted by history, traditions handed down for generations and the ever-changing political and habitat requirements of the 21st century. To define them completely is as difficult as completely defining what is "good, sensible or practical," but like "good," there are well-accepted standards and guidelines that, if followed, will result in maintaining the best possible traditions of foxhunting. This Guidebook is not intended to be definitive in every detail, but it does contain rules, regulations and procedures that the Masters of Foxhounds Association of America has adopted in an effort to guide its Members (this includes Masters, ex-Masters and Subscribing Members) and its Member Hunts toward achieving that objective. It also contains information on procedures and provides some insight into their purpose. This Guidebook contains the minimum standards and objectives to which Masters, Subscribing Members and Member Hunts of the MFHA should *and, in some cases, shall* adhere. Hunts that do not continue to meet the standards set forth in these rules, or that act in a manner contrary to the best interests of the sport, may be dropped from the roster of Recognized and Registered Hunts by majority vote of the Board of Directors or be subject to warning, fine, probation, suspension or reduction in status.

The Masters of Foxhounds Association of America is the governing body of organized fox, coyote, other acceptable legal quarry and drag hunting in the United States and Canada. Among its activities are the promotion of the sport, the publication of a Foxhound Stud Book and the recognition of organized Hunts that have met its standards. It records countries and boundaries for

organized hunting establishments and extends Registration of Hunts as a preliminary step toward Recognition. The membership of Masters of Hounds and the participation of their Hunts as Member Hunts are voluntary, but once a Master has accepted membership and a Hunt has accepted Registration or Recognition, they must adhere to the rules and should adhere to the guidelines of the Association and pursue the sport according to the best possible customs and traditions.

The Association is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of a President, two Vice Presidents, a Secretary-Treasurer (or Secretary and Treasurer), Representatives from various Districts in the United States and Canada and one or more Directors at Large, who usually include the three past Presidents. An Executive Director is appointed by the Board of Directors and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Association. The Executive Director is also known as the "Keeper of the Stud Book." The Officers and Directors are elected by the membership.

To properly carry out its purposes and disseminate its policies, the Association ordinarily requires that the current Masters of each of its Recognized and Registered Hunts be current Members or Associate Members of the Association and that these Member Hunts report to the Association and respond promptly to inquiries from the Executive Director or the Board. Violation of these requirements may lead to the termination of a Member Hunt's Recognition or Registration.

QUALIFICATION OF HUNTS

Organized Hunts are *REGISTERED* or *RECOGNIZED* by vote of the Board of Directors of the Masters of Foxhounds Association of America. Recognition and Registration are granted on an annual basis. The status of all Hunts is reviewed annually, and each is re-Recognized or re-Registered for the following year by the Directors.

The Association maintains minimum standards and requirements

that must be met by newly formed hunting establishments, or hunting entities desiring recognition, before their applications can be considered. Once a Hunt has been granted Registration or Recognition, it must maintain performance at or above the minimum condition or be subject to disqualification.

The following sections set forth the *minimum requirements and procedures* for applications. Further rules and requirements set forth elsewhere in this book, or hereafter adopted by the Association, should also be consulted.

1. REGISTRATION OF A HUNT

Registration is the preliminary step that all groups interested in forming and operating a Recognized hunting establishment must take. Current Masters must sign an agreement to be bound by the Rules and Regulations of the Association.

Before a hunt can be Registered, all of its individual members must be Subscribing Members of the MFHA.

Registration is provisional for one year from the date granted and acts as a probationary period to test the character and permanence of any organization wishing to establish and properly maintain a pack of hounds. During the Registration period, Hunts must build up their organization to meet the requirements of the Association.

The procedure for applying for Registration is to obtain an application form from the Association's office. At this time, the Executive Director will send the applicants a copy of the MFHA Guidebook to assure that all involved parties are fully aware of the MFHA requirements. The form should be executed and signed by the Officers or the Masters of the applicant Hunt and returned to the Association's office. The application must be accompanied by a Foxhound Kennel List (as described in Section F) and a map clearly outlining the boundaries of the hunting country which the organization plans to hunt or is hunting and for which application is

being made to record with the Association. The map should conform in size and scale to the standards set forth in Section B.

In the recording of country by a new Hunt, the record thereof shall be *provisional* and shall be made permanent only by vote of the Board of Directors of the Association not less than twelve (12) months after the date of Registration. Only country that is not recorded to a Registered or Recognized MFHA Hunt will be considered for recording by the applicant.

A minimum of one (1) year must elapse from the date when a Hunt is granted Registration status to the date when it becomes eligible to apply for Recognition.

It should be clearly understood that the expiration of the provisional year of Registration does not, in itself, entitle a Hunt to Recognition but merely makes a Hunt eligible to apply for such status. The granting of Recognition depends on the Hunt having fulfilled all requirements of the Association.

If application for Registration as an organized Hunt and for record of country has been granted, the standard fee for such Registration and Recording shall be paid within thirty (30) days, and such a fee shall be paid annually so long as applicant Hunt remains provisionally Registered and recorded.

2. RECOGNITION OF A HUNT

When a Registered Hunt becomes eligible to apply for the status of Recognition, an Officer or a Master of the Registered Hunt shall write a formal letter applying for Recognition to the Executive Director of the Association. This letter shall state that the applicant Hunt feels it is qualified for Recognition and that it has fulfilled all requirements for such status.

The Executive Director of the Association shall give the application to the Representative of the District in which the applicant

Hunt is located, with the request that he/she inspect the applicant's hunting establishment and hunting activities. The Hunt should provide a suitable horse for the Director to ride. After the inspection has been accomplished, the District Representative shall report a recommendation to the Board of Directors for appropriate action.

When a Hunt is notified that it has been Recognized, it shall pay the standard fee (and an initiation fee) within thirty (30) days and each year thereafter shall pay an annual re-Recognition fee. All Masters of newly Recognized Hunts must sign a statement that they will comply with all rules and guidelines of the Association.

3. INACTIVE PERIOD OF A HUNT

The inactive period of a Member Hunt shall be restricted to three (3) years, during which time it will be considered an "inactive Registered" Hunt. Unless there is definite proof that it is to be reactivated, the Hunt will be dropped from Registration after three (3) years of inactive status, and its claim to recorded country will lapse.

Application for inactive status must be submitted to the Executive Director for action by the Board of Directors and should set forth the reasons for inactivity, the date when the Hunt became inactive and what disposition has been made of its hounds.

4. REQUIREMENTS FOR PACKS OF FOXHOUNDS AND DRAGHOUNDS

These requirements apply to both Registered and Recognized Hunts. Full compliance with the intention of all requirements, however, may not necessarily be expected of a newly established Hunt at the time of its first Registration.

PACK

- (a) A minimum of twelve (12) couple of entered hounds shall be

maintained by a live-quarry hunting pack; a drag-hunting pack shall maintain a minimum of six (6) couple of entered hounds. The minimum number must all be registered or eligible for registration in the Foxhound Kennel Stud Book and shall be the property of the Hunt or the Master.

NOTE: The 12-couple rule is intended to refer to entered hounds. During the off-season, however, a live-quarry pack may include unentered hounds to be entered the next season when determining compliance with this rule.

- (b) Hounds must be well mannered, pack-trained, and obedient to voice and horn. All hounds should be accounted for at the end of a day's hunting or hound exercise. Hounds left out should be the exception rather than the rule. If hounds are left out, staff should continue to look for them by all means available.
- (c) Hounds should not riot; however, should riot occur, the huntsman and his staff should be able to stop them promptly.
- (d) A hound breeding program is *essential* for each Member Hunt to ensure continuity and the full range of age classes necessary to provide good sport.

NOTE: Hunts are urged to cooperate by making stud hound services available at no charge.

- (e) If the purchase of hounds becomes necessary, such hounds should be procured from packs whose bloodlines are eligible for registration in the Association Stud Book. (It is customary for puppies and excess or older hounds to be given, not sold, to other hunts in need).
- (f) All Hunts must comply with rules governing the registration of hounds in the Foxhound Kennel Stud Book as set forth in Section F.

THE FIELD

Members of the hunting field should be turned out in proper attire, ride safely, stay off crops and behave in a friendly manner toward all others, especially landowners and the general public. Field members not in compliance may be sent home at the discretion of the Field Master or Master.

HUNT STAFF

- (a) Must be capable of training and handling hounds as set forth under PACK in paragraph (b), page 10.
- (b) Must be turned out in suitable livery.
- (c) Must know and comply with the Code of Hunting Practices, the Rules and Guidelines, Public Relations and Developing a Plan to Confront Anti-Foxhunting Demonstrations.

MEETS

A minimum of two (2) hunting days a week must be scheduled by published fixture.

SEASON

The hunting season will begin and end in compliance with state or provincial laws and at the discretion of the Masters.

COUNTRY

- (a) All parts of a country recorded for a Member Hunt by the Association (not including reserved country for future expansion) should be hunted a minimum of twice a season. Trails should be passable, and jumping panels and gates should

be placed where needed.

- (b) Every effort should be made to further the good will and interest of farmers, landowners and other hunts in the area.

KENNELS AND HOUND CARE

Kennels should be established in the recorded Hunt territory and shall be adequate for the proper and humane maintenance of a pack of hounds throughout the year. Hounds should look well cared for and healthy. Kennels shall not be located in a recorded country of another hunt unless that hunt gives written permission or cedes the territory to the other hunt. The MFHA does not recommend this unusual practice.

The basic essentials for adequate hound kennels and care are:

- (a) At least two separate lodging rooms, each with an outside run of appropriate size.
- (b) Separate lodgings and connecting outside runs for whelping and raising puppies, for the care of sick hounds and for the isolation of bitches in season.
- (c) Suitable *raised* sleeping benches, preferably with escape space beneath if it is not provided elsewhere in the kennel.
- (d) Adequate light and drainage, with a proper waste disposal system that complies with local, county and state laws.
- (e) Fencing and yards that will contain hounds, keep them separated, and be of sufficient size for the number of hounds.
- (f) Clean, sanitary kennels and feed room protected from adverse weather, rodents, disease and feed spoilage.

- (g) An adequate preventive medicine program, including internal and external parasite control, with immunization and medical attention.
- (h) A watering system that assures that hounds have clean water available at all times.
- (i) Hounds should be exercised regularly, which includes walking out mounted or on foot or bicycle. Walking out is the act of taking the pack out of the kennel and having them under control as they move through an area.

CONDUCT OF A DRAG HUNT

- (a) Mounted foxhunting must be simulated—not a steeplechase. The art of laying a drag line requires one to know how live quarry runs in order to simulate the actions and paths of its natural environment.
- (b) When hounds first arrive at the meet, they should be allowed to empty and settle around their huntsman before moving off. Hounds must not be laid on the line at the place of meeting, but should be moved off some distance and cast to pick up the line in a natural hunting-like manner. This procedure should be repeated after each check.
- (c) The Drag must be of sufficient length to require at least one check. It is recommended that Drag Hunts use a blank cast (no drag scent present) at least once during a meet. This allows the huntsman to call hounds back to him, thus reinforcing to hounds that all casts do not produce a chase. This practice makes drag hunting more like live hunting. At the end of day, hounds should be gathered around their huntsman to be counted, praised and allowed to cool down and settle before being trailered or kenneled.

GENERAL

- (a) Each Member Hunt is required to file an annual report on a questionnaire supplied by the Association office. The report is used to edit the annual directories of Recognized and Registered Hunts, and its timely return is a requirement for annual re-Recognition and re-Registration.
- (b) Any change in the Mastership of a Member Hunt that occurs after the annual report has been filed shall be reported promptly to the Association office with the full name, address, telephone number and e-mail address of any new Master. The date when a new Master assumes office or when a retiring Master leaves office should also be reported.
- (c) Major changes in the organization of a Member Hunt, the ownership of its hounds or its kennel location must be reported promptly. At the discretion of the Association, such changes may require application for re-Recognition or re-Registration by the Board of Directors. In the case of substantial changes in the Hunt, the Board of Directors, at its discretion, may choose to put the Hunt into "Reorganizational Status" to allow the Hunt time to meet MFHA standards again while not losing Registered status.
- (d) Changes in the recorded country of a Member Hunt require application to the Board of Directors through the Executive Director in accordance with Section B, entitled Country, page 16, for recording by the Board of Directors.
- (e) Changes in the recorded name of a Member Hunt or any merger with Member Hunts or non-member packs require application to the Executive Director for re-Registration or re-Recognition by the Board of Directors.

- (f) It is advisable to register the colors and buttons of a Member Hunt with the Association. More than one Member Hunt may register the same colors. The Association does not grant exclusive right to any color registered with it.
- (g) Organized hunting should be conducted in a manner that will provide a positive image and fair chase on an equal and unselfish basis to the members of the Field, the landowners, the followers and friends of the Member Hunt and the general public living both within and without the area registered to the Member Hunt.
- (h) Each Member Hunt, with the possible exception of a privately owned pack or Subscription Pack, should have a Hunt Committee whose function is to assist the Master in formulating Hunt policy, maintaining the Hunt country, establishing good relationships with landowners, ensuring that the Hunt is financially sound, promoting a responsible breeding program and providing the best possible sport. Although the By-laws of Member Hunts may differ, the Hunt committee should be a powerful supportive council.

SUBSCRIBING MEMBERSHIP

A subscribing membership is an associate membership with the MFHA. It focuses on country-oriented people who wish to become more involved in field sport issues. It is an opportunity for them to belong to the MFHA and take part in helping to secure a future for hunting with hounds and country lifestyles. It is not limited to foxhunters. Keepers of Foxhounds, Beagles, Bassets, bird dogs or just pets can join. It is open to anyone who cares about the future of country lifestyles and wants his or her voice to make a difference.

COUNTRY

1. RECORDING OF COUNTRY

Territory should be hunted regularly before application to record is sent to the Association, unless it is to be requested as reserved country. The proposed territory may then be set aside (for a limited time) until the Hunt meets registration requirements. No request for registration of initial or additional territory shall be considered until a Hunt has started to develop and hunt that country.

(a) **SIZE.** The area of a hunting country should be such that it can be reasonably paneled, maintained and hunted. The size of a recorded country should not normally exceed an area of approximately 250 square miles, plus a reserve for future expansion. It is not necessary to actively hunt reserve country. More than one area may be recorded to a Member Hunt, and these areas need not be contiguous. Drag hunts do not require as much territory as live hunts.

(b) **MAPS AND DESCRIPTION OF COUNTRY.** All applications for recording Hunt country, whether new country or changes to an existing recorded country, must be accompanied by a detailed map, at a scale of one-quarter inch to the mile, clearly showing the boundaries of the territory. (A U.S.G.S. map on a 1:250,000 scale or a county map is suitable.) The boundaries should be roads, railway lines or rivers that can be recognized in the field. Political boundaries, such as counties or townships, or straight lines drawn between two points on the map are not acceptable. Cities and large towns should not be included in the recorded country. The Member Hunt's kennels must be noted on the map. A Member Hunt's "reserve" country must be shaded or outlined to distinguish it from the actual territory hunted.

The application also must be accompanied by a state map with the territory shaded to ascertain the Hunt's general location in relationship to other Hunts, if any.

(c) **SHARING A HUNT COUNTRY.** The Board of Directors will not normally record the same piece of country to two Member Hunts even though the current Masters wish to hunt it jointly.

2. LOAN OF COUNTRY

A Master may, with the written consent of his/her Committee, lend a portion of his/her country to an adjoining Member Hunt. The Loan Agreement must be made on the MFHA Loan Agreement Form, which is available from the Association office.

The term of the loan should be for a period of not less than one (1) year nor more than five (5) years. At the termination of the loan period, all of the Masters of both hunts should sign a new Loan Agreement if they wish to continue the arrangement. A signed copy of the Loan Agreement must be filed with the Association, voted on affirmatively by the Board of Directors and recorded before the Agreement becomes effective.

3. ABANDONED COUNTRY

If an entire hunt country, or a portion of hunt country, has not been hunted at least once each and every season, it may be considered that the country in question has not been fairly hunted and that it has been abandoned. If the Board of Directors determines that the country in question has been abandoned, it may re-record the abandoned country to another member hunt. This does not apply to reserve country.

4. HUNT FIXTURES

Upon request from the District Representative, Masters may be required to provide, on an annual basis, a map showing all locations of their meets. In addition, copies of all fixture cards must be sent to the District Representative. As a courtesy, it is appropriate to send a fixture card to Masters of neighboring hunts.

5. RESERVE COUNTRY

Reserve country is an accommodation to a hunt to allow future

expansion. If a new hunt desires that country and the member hunt has never developed or specified in writing a plan to develop such country, the MFHA has the right to reassign it.

6. NEW HUNTS IN OR NEAR RECORDED COUNTRY

The Association will not Register or Recognize any new foxhunting establishment organized within the recorded boundaries of a Registered or Recognized Member Hunt unless those responsible for proposing the new Hunt have obtained the written consent of the Masters and/or the Committee of the existing Hunt.

Consent having been given, an agreement shall be signed by proper officials of the established Member Hunt and the new Hunt, to the effect that the new Hunt is permitted to hunt within certain specified boundaries only during the period of the agreement. A copy of this agreement must be lodged with the Executive Director of the Association and recorded only after affirmative vote of the Board.

It is the policy of the MFHA to protect the recorded country of Recognized and Registered Member Hunts, provided that the recorded country accurately represents the territory that is being fairly hunted, plus a reasonable reserve for future expansion.

It is also the policy of the MFHA to promote the sport of mounted foxhunting by encouraging the formation of new Hunts. This may involve the Registration or Recognition of a new Hunt near or adjacent to the boundaries of an established Member Hunt. Under these circumstances, the Board of Directors will protect the recorded country of the established Member Hunt unless the Member Hunt's recorded country is deemed to be abandoned or their reserve country is thought to be excessively large.

7. NON-FOXHUNTING PACKS

The National Beagle Club does not recognize any new Beagle or

Basset pack organized within the boundaries of an already established Hunt (Beagles, Bassets, Harriers or Foxhounds) until those responsible for the proposed new Hunt have obtained the consent of the Master of the existing Hunt.

A pack of Harriers, Beagles or Basset Hounds should not be started in an MFHA Recognized or Registered country without the consent of the Master and/or the Committee of that Member Hunt.

8. TERRITORY DISPUTES

Disputes between Hunts tarnish the image of mounted foxhunting and are not in the best interests of the sport. Disputes, when they do arise, must be settled as quickly and quietly as possible and in a courteous manner. If the Masters involved believe they cannot settle the dispute themselves, they may ask their District Representative to mediate the dispute or they may contact the MFHA Executive Director to request help. The Executive Director will gather the facts and provide them to the President and the District Representative.

When a dispute cannot be solved at the local level or has reached the point that it could be detrimental to foxhunting's image, the President, in his discretion, may appoint a committee to try to mediate a decision. That committee normally will consist of three (3) knowledgeable, experienced foxhunters (they need not be on the Board of Directors) of neutral persuasion. They will travel to the area, investigate and interview both sides. If the committee cannot obtain a solution agreeable to both sides, the aggrieved parties may request to go before the Territory Committee of the Board of Directors.

In that case, the Territory Committee may hold a hearing and report its findings and conclusions to the Board, which will decide the matter according to the laws of common sense and the rules and traditions of mounted foxhunting. In arriving at its decision, the Board will consider the wishes of the hunts in dispute and the landowners in the hunting country.

9. HUNT-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

No Registered or Recognized Hunt should schedule or conduct Hunt-Sponsored activities in another Hunt's territory without first receiving permission from that Hunt. All Hunts are encouraged to be reasonable about and receptive to such requests. If either Hunt feels that the other is being unreasonable about such a request, it may ask for the District Representative for assistance.

(C) The QUARRY & HOT PURSUIT

1. The hounds of any recognized or registered pack shall not be hunted in the territory of another Hunt except by invitation or by mutual arrangement previously made with neighboring Masters. However, if the quarry is properly found in the home territory of the hounds being hunted, and if they should carry the line over the boundary into country recorded to another member hunt, it is proper to continue to pursue the hunted quarry. Should the quarry go to ground in neighboring country, no attempt should be made to continue the chase or to find another quarry in that country. The hounds should be taken back to their own territory.

If a pack of hounds should run the quarry over the border into a Member Hunt's country and apparently lose him, they should turn back into their own domain. However, if the quarry is halloa'd at no great distance from where their quarry was lost and it appears to be their hunted quarry, they may go on and hunt that quarry. However, if the halloa is not in the immediate vicinity where the quarry was lost, then it should be ignored and the hounds returned to their own country. He is not a good sportsman who poaches.

2. The hunting of a bagged or "dropped" quarry, or any other practice that does not give the animal a sporting chance, is contrary to the best traditions of the sport. In fact, it is not a sport at all. It is inconsistent with the true principles of mounted foxhunting and is

strictly forbidden.

3. The tradition of bleeding originated in ancient times as a ritual to honor the hunted animal. It is the position of the MFHA that this practice not be encouraged. If done, it should be used with discretion, as it is too easily misunderstood and misinterpreted. If this tradition remains in a given hunt, the individual member should be allowed to decide whether to participate.

4. All Masters, huntsmen and staff must adhere to the *Code of Hunting Practices* and the *Rules and Guidelines for Public Relations* and comply with the 2008 *Guidebook*.

(D) FOXHOUND TRAINING PRESERVES
(Fox or Coyote pens)

The following rules apply to any Member Hunt of the MFHA that uses a Fox Hound Training Preserve (FHTP), also known as a fox pen:

RULE #1:

A Fox Hound Training Preserve is only for limited training of hounds.

RULE #2:

Fox Hound Training Preserves may not be listed on a fixture card or announced to anyone other than staff.

RULE #3:

No Recognized or Registered Hunt is permitted to hold any joint meet or competition in Fox Hound Training Preserves.

RULE #4:

Wearing of colors or formal foxhunting attire in a Fox Hound Training Preserve is forbidden.

RULE #5:

Any Master using a FHTP should ensure that the facility meets state standards and regulations. In the absence of state standards or regulations, the following rules are a minimum standard for Fox Hound Training Preserves used by MFHA members.

a. FHTPs are required to practice good health management as deemed necessary by state and federal officials. State law requires mandatory disease investigation, testing and disease reporting. Foxes or coyotes should be inspected or treated by licensed veterinarians. Foxes or coyotes released in FHTPs should be checked for injury and disease by the preserve owner before being released. Any diseased or injured animal should not be released and should be humanely destroyed.

b. All FHTPs shall provide the necessary habitat to meet the food, water and covert requirements of wild foxes or coyotes. Animals being transported or held for release shall likewise be kept in a safe, sanitary and humane manner with food, water and protection from the elements available.

c. FHTPs may be stocked with foxes at a maximum rate of one fox per ten (10) acres of enclosure. Hunts should exercise restraint in determining the number of hounds using these preserves at any one time and in the number of events that are allowed to take place within a preserve during a period of time. It is incumbent upon the owner of the preserve and user of the FHTP to exercise good stewardship of the wildlife resources in the FHTP.

d. FHTPs containing less than 100 contiguous acres shall not be used by Member Hunts. All preserves should have dense coverts with conditions as natural as possible and numerous escape areas for game.

e. FHTPs must be securely fenced with hound-proof escape

areas (natural or artificial) at a rate of no less than one (1) for every twenty (20) acres of enclosure with adequate escape areas for the number of foxes and coyotes in the preserve. Each escape area or device must be readily available and must not be immediately adjacent to any other such area or device.

The MFHA does not consider the use of FHTPs to be at all central to the sport of foxhunting. Mounted foxhunting as a sport is the hunting of the fox or coyote in its wild and natural state with a pack of hounds while adhering to all the principles of fair chase as outlined in the *Code of Hunting Practices*. The MFHA does not endorse or promote the use of FHTPs. However, if they are used, the MFHA supports the introduction and passage of regulations by states to control the use of FHTPs.

FHTPs may be detrimental to mounted foxhunting. Too frequent use of preserves may promote individuality in hounds and discourage hunting as a pack. Bad habits such as splitting, skirting, laziness, careless drawing, wildness and cheating can develop. Young hounds taken to preserves should be taken with steady older hounds that aren't so fast that young hounds can't keep up. Masters should keep public opinion in mind and should remember that many of the Hunt's members may not understand the use of FHTPs. The negative repercussions associated with using the preserves may not be worth the training value.

(E) HOUNDS

1. No Master should allow puppies of his/her Hunt to be walked, exercised or raised in the country of another Hunt without the consent of the Master of such other country.
2. Any Master proposing to buy hounds from or sell or give hounds to any person in a recorded hunting country other than his own should first obtain the consent of the Master or the Hunt Committee of such other country.

3. It is customary among Masters of Hounds to allow each other the free use of any hounds in their kennels for stud purposes. No Master charges a stud fee. However, the usual practice for a Master sending bitches to be bred at an outside kennel is to send the Huntsman a gratuity for any trouble he may have been put to in the matter. This should not be regarded as a requirement.

4. No Master should help or encourage a new pack of hounds to form in the recorded country of an established Member Hunt. If he or she does so, he will be acting in a manner contrary to the spirit and rules of the MFHA and will be subject to discipline by the Board. Where there is uncertainty concerning areas recorded by Registered or Recognized Member Hunts, the Association office may be consulted.

4. Guide for Drafting Hounds

No hound may be drafted to a hunt that is not a Member of the Masters of Foxhounds Association without first checking with the MFHA Executive Director to ascertain said hunt's status with the MFHA. Hounds may not be drafted to Unsanctioned hunts.

As the practice of drafting hounds between hunts is common, the following Guidelines are provided to minimize problems that may occur. Normally once a hound is given to a hunt, the subsequent disposition of that hound is entirely the new hunt's responsibility. If there are any stipulations attached to the hound, they should be clearly delineated in writing to the respective Master(s) at the time of transfer. However, if a hound is not suitable for the new owner, it is common courtesy to offer to return the hound to its original owner in a timely manner with transportation fees paid by the hunt that drafted the hound.

Hounds are normally given to a hunt. If a hound is given to a Master or huntsman, it should be stated in writing to whom the hound

belongs. In the absence of any statement to the contrary, it is assumed that the hound was given to the hunt. If the hound was given to a Master or huntsman, get from the hound are the property of the hunt unless a prior signed agreement as to the disposition of get was made when the hound came into the kennel. Generally speaking, it is not a good idea for hounds to be the property of a professional huntsman.

Never draft hounds that are unhealthy. If a hound has a manageable physical or behavioral problem, make sure the new owner knows what it is. Hounds may not be drafted to night hunters or deer hunters in the territory of another Member Hunt. Finally, always provide a five-generation pedigree on each drafted hound and a health and inoculation record.

5. Old Hounds Policy

All foxhunters love hounds, and a very difficult decision must often be made when a hound gets to a point in life that it cannot or should not hunt any longer. What are the alternatives?

The MFHA has compiled guidelines for Masters to consider. The MFHA does not recommend one method over another. That is for the Master to decide. Whatever the decision, the foremost concern should be for the health and welfare of the hound. A hound in pain or poor health that cannot be helped should be humanely euthanized.

1. Older steady hounds are very helpful in a pack. Utilizing their abilities sparingly as they get older can prolong their removal from the pack. On bad scenting days, an old hound can find the quarry when others can't and set the pack right if necessary. On fast or very good scenting days, considering leaving them in the kennels may be more appropriate.
2. Many hunts keep exceptional older hounds in kennel as long as they are healthy without hunting them. They walk out

and are part of the pack. If you consider this an alternative, realize that the old hound's drive to hunt seldom diminishes and leaving him in the kennel, if a hound becomes upset when hounds go out to hunt, may not be the kind thing for that hound.

3. Many hunts retire hounds to member's farms or homes. Adopting a hound can be a good thing. They often make good pets and are easy to house train if that is what the individual wants. The key is giving it an environment in which it can live comfortably. Don't give old hounds to anyone who cannot properly care for them or who doesn't have the room or time to give them proper exercise. Don't give old hounds or hounds that must be retired early to anyone who won't keep them in a proper facility. Make sure anyone receiving an old hound understands that even very old hounds love to hunt and will do so if given the chance. This can cause problems with neighbors.
4. Some hunts have developed hound retirement facilities, keeping an area for old hounds only. These hounds must be cared for, supervised and given medical assistance if necessary. They must have adequate room to exercise with a healthy environment and good housing. Hounds that have severe medical problems or don't socialize well should not be considered for this alternative.
5. Often the best alternative is euthanasia. This category includes hounds with severe medical problems or constant pain, *hounds that cannot hunt any more* and hounds for which there are no other alternatives. Humane euthanasia should be done by a veterinarian or an experienced, trained individual capable of performing the procedure. The American Veterinarian Medical Association (AVMA) guidelines on euthanasia are acceptable.

The MFHA reiterates that it does not recommend one method over another. The choice is the responsibility of the Master and the Hunt, depending on their situation or philosophy. However, the MFHA

strongly encourages that actions be taken for the benefit of the hound. No matter how difficult and emotional the decision, it must be based on what is best for the hound.

(F) THE FOXHOUND KENNEL STUD BOOK

1. RULES AND DEFINITIONS

(a) **RULES.** The filing of breeding records on an annual basis with the Keeper of the Association's Stud Book is obligatory for all Registered and Recognized Hunts and is the responsibility of the Master. The records comprise: (1) pedigrees for all hounds entered in the current year by each Hunt according to the instructions provided, and (2) an annual Foxhound Kennel list of all foxhounds in the kennel with their year of entry, sire and dam.

(b) **ELIGIBILITY.** American (including Penn Marydel), English and Crossbred Foxhounds and Harriers are eligible for registration or listing in the Stud Book, provided that they are the property of the Member Hunt or its Master and are a bona fide part of the hunting pack. (Penn Marydels are identified under a separate registration process and are listed as American in the MFHA Stud Book until the two different Penn Marydel registrars can agree on what constitutes a Penn Marydel.)

(c) **HUNTING.** All Foxhounds registered in the Foxhound Kennel Stud Book must be acceptably certified to have legally hunted fox, coyote, bobcat, mountain lion or drag for at least the first two previous generations.

(d) **BREEDING.** Hounds bred by a person or organization not primarily devoted to hunting acceptable quarry (fox, coyote, bobcat, mountain lion or drag) will not be considered to have hunted for the purpose of qualifying with the provision of this rule.

(e) REGISTRATION. Pedigrees should be on the form provided by the Association and should be sent in after all hounds for the current year have been entered and before December 31st. All hounds entered by each Hunt must be registered, listed or recorded in the Stud Book at the MFHA office. After a hound is entered on acceptable live quarry or drag, said hound may be registered or listed in the Stud Book.

(f) LISTING. Foxhounds with pedigrees containing not more than one fault in the third generation (a hound that has an unknown sire or dam, unknown prefix or date of entry or a hound that did not hunt acceptable live quarry) will be listed in the Foxhound Kennel Stud Book, providing that a three-generation pedigree is submitted with a certification that the first and second previous generations have regularly hunted fox, coyote, bobcat, mountain lion or drag. The progeny will be eligible for registration in accordance with rules regarding the registration of American, Penn Marydel, English or Crossbred Foxhounds.

(g) THE NAME of an entered hound is made up of three parts: the prefix (name of the Hunt that first entered the hound, the given name and the year of entry). The prefix, name and year of entry do not change when an entered hound is drafted from one pack to another. A hound is entered when he has been hunted on a regular and systematic basis. The name of an unentered hound consists only of the given name with no hunt prefix or entry year even when the proposed future entry date is known.

FOXHOUND BREEDS

(h) AMERICAN FOXHOUNDS must be free from any outcross other than American blood during the previous three generations. One-sixteenth ($1/16^{\text{th}}$) outcross is permitted.

(i) ENGLISH FOXHOUNDS must be free from any outcross

other than English blood during three previous generations. One-sixteenth ($1/16^{\text{th}}$) outcross is permitted. (This rule applies to hounds entered in 1978 or thereafter; for English hounds entered before 1978, the earlier $1/32^{\text{nd}}$ outcross rule will continue in effect.)

(j) All hounds registered under these outcross rulings as American or English hounds will be regarded thereafter as pure American or English Foxhounds in determining the breed of their progeny.

(k) **CROSSBRED FOXHOUNDS** are Foxhounds that do not qualify under the fractional rulings as either American or English Foxhounds.

(l) **OUTCROSS.** Outcrosses from other scenting breeds may be listed with the Keeper of the Stud Book, providing that a three-generation pedigree is submitted with a certification that the first and second previous generations have regularly hunted fox, coyote, bobcat, mountain lion or drag, with one such non-foxhound outcross permitted in the third generation. One-eighth ($1/8^{\text{th}}$) outcross is permitted for such listing. The progeny may be eligible for registration in accordance with rules regarding the registration of American, English and Crossbred Foxhounds.

FOXHOUND KENNEL LIST

(m) Masters of all Member Hunts are required to send the Executive Director/Keeper of the Stud Book a list of all entered hounds in their kennels each year. The list should be on the form provided by the Association or by the MFHA official computer program and should be sent to the MFHA office with the pedigrees for the registration of the current year's entry before December 31st. Any Member Hunt that does not submit its list by December 31st will be charged a fine determined by the Board of Directors. Hound lists published by Hunts are acceptable.

(n) THE FOXHOUND KENNEL LIST should give the prefix (if different from the name of the Member Hunt submitting the list), name, year of entry and sex for each entered hound, and its sire and dam. It should be arranged chronologically by litter and year of entry. Within each litter, the hounds should be alphabetically listed, first dogs and then bitches. To indicate the breed, use the letters "A," "E" or "CB" for American, English or Crossbred, respectively.

(o) UNENTERED HOUNDS may be shown at the end of the list under a separate heading if they have been named.

(p) DRAFTED HOUNDS. The Keeper of the Stud Book must be notified of any unentered hounds drafted to any Hunt, including Hunts in countries other than the USA and Canada. Normally this is done by listing them on a litter certificate noting the sex and where they were sent.

2. REGISTRATION FEE

There is a fee for the registration or listing of hounds. Upon registration, the Keeper of the Stud Book will return a confirmation sheet showing all registrations in the form in which they will be published, with a bill for the fee. The sheet should be checked for accuracy and agreement with the Hunt's records.

3. FORMS

Three-generation pedigree and Foxhound Kennel List forms, as well as printed instructions for the preparation of pedigrees and the registration of hounds, are available from the Association office. An assortment of these forms will be sent free of charge to one Master of each Hunt during October of each year. The MFHA computer software program is available to assist in three-generation pedigrees, hound lists and forms. It automatically inserts the correct information.

4. STUD BOOKS

(a) The Foxhound Kennel Stud Book of North America has been published annually since 1973. Prices and availability of all volumes may be obtained from the Association office. All Masters are asked to purchase a copy of the annual Stud Book so that we can cover the publication cost of this valuable document. It is imperative that whoever is contributing to or making the breeding decisions have a copy at their disposal.

(b) COMPUTER SOFTWARE.. The MFHA's computer software program contains all registered Foxhounds recorded with the Keeper of the Stud Book. English and Irish hounds have their own registry, and they are not normally recorded in the MFHA Stud book unless they have been used as a sire or dam in North America. A version of the MFHA's computer software program is available for purchase from the Association. It is updated annually and is invaluable in assisting serious hound breeders in their breeding decisions and registration requirements.

(G) THE MASTER – DUTIES AND RIGHTS

1. On or before March 1st of each year, Masters wishing to resign should so acquaint the Chairman or Secretary of their Hunt Committee or the Secretary of their Hunt to give the most opportune chance of securing the services of the best replacement Master possible. After March 1st, having received no notice, the Committee and the Hunt are justified in presuming that the Master intends going on for another season. Likewise, any Master who is not going to be re-elected by the appropriate governing body of the Hunt should be so informed no later than March 1st.

2. All Masters of Member Hunts must be members in good standing of the Association. Masters in arrears of dues more than 90 days after billing will not be listed as Masters in MFHA publications

or Bailey's hunting directory in England. Masters Emeritus of Member Hunts who are not Members of the Association are not listed as Masters in any MFHA publication.

3. A change of Mastership or of arrangements for hunting a country for the ensuing season should be announced as early as possible, by March 1st, but not later than May 1st.

4. As it is only fair to give Hunt employees as long as possible to seek a new situation, Masters should notify them of their re-employment or dismissal before January 1st. Hunt employees should, as a condition of their employment, be required to give notice before January 1st if they do not intend to stay for the next season, which normally begins May 1st. This gives a new employee time to prepare for the hunting season. Giving notice in this way should be considered proper behavior and should not lead to any negative consequences.

5. No Master of a Registered or Recognized Member Hunt may negotiate for the employment of a Member Hunt's employee without first ascertaining that he/she has given notice. The proper way to determine an employee's eligibility is to contact the employee's Master before talking to the employee.

Even though an advertisement may appear in a publication soliciting employment by a Member Hunt employee, or by a Hunt offering employment for a Hunt employee, it is strongly recommended that the present Master be contacted to verify that the employee has reached a valid point of termination of employment.

A Master who breaks the traditions of mounted foxhunting by giving mid-season employment to a Hunt employee who has left his/her position during a hunting season without a satisfactory agreement with his/her employer is subject to censure by the Board of the MFHA.

A Hunt employee who does not honor his/her agreement to give proper notice and leaves in mid-season without agreement by the Hunt shall not be listed for employment by the MFHA and will be ineligible for any assistance from the MFHA.

The MFHA will keep a list of Member Hunts looking for staff and employees looking for positions in Hunt service. This service is available to both Hunts and Hunt employees.

6. When a decision has been made at a meeting of a Member Hunt affecting the Mastership or future arrangements for hunting a country, it is imperative, in the interests of mounted foxhunting, that the minority should loyally abide by the wishes of the majority of those present at the meeting and not attempt to reopen the question subsequently.

7. As soon as the arrangements for the ensuing season are decided, the Executive Director of the Association shall be notified of the name, address, phone and fax numbers and e-mail address of the new Master, or name, address, phone number and e-mail address of the Chairman of the Hunt Committee when there temporarily is no Master. The first name of Master's spouses is requested for the Membership Directory.

8. When a Master takes over a pack of hounds, both he/she and the Hunt Committee should have an accurate list of the hounds taken over.

9. Hounds brought into a pack by the incoming Master in excess of the specified number he/she took over shall remain his/her property, but the progeny of those hounds bred in the country become merged into the pack. Progeny are the property of the Hunt and are available to be selected to complete the specified numbers, as enumerated below.

10. On giving up the Mastership, the retiring Master shall leave

in the kennel at least the same number of "entered" working hounds and unentered hounds as he took over, in approximately the same proportions of ages and sexes. In the event that there are not enough hounds, he/she must make good the deficiency. The retiring Master is expected to "put to" a sufficient number of bitches to produce enough whelps, in the ordinary course of events, from which to make the entry for the succeeding season.

11. If an outgoing Master owned and hunted hounds, a representative of the Committee, the outgoing Master and the incoming Master shall select the "entered" and "unentered" hounds to be left in the kennel.

12. All drafted-in hounds are the property of the Hunt unless the drafted-in hounds were given to the huntsman or Master and unless that transaction was documented in writing or can be verified by the person who drafted the hounds. No hounds shall be *drafted out of the kennel* during the Master's last season without the knowledge and consent of the Hunt Committee. Professional Huntsmen may own hounds if there has been a prior agreement.

13. A Master of a pack of hounds, whether a membership, subscription or private pack, has the right to take hounds home when, in his/her judgment, so doing is in the best interest of the sport (or of the hounds). If a Master encounters a disciplinary problem, such as the Field over-riding hounds, kicking a hound or riding over crops, it is usually better to send the offender(s) home rather than take hounds home and by so doing spoil the day's sport for the other members of the Field.

14. It must be distinctly understood that in the absence of the Master, whether in the field or in kennels, the individual acting on his/her behalf during his/her absence carries the same responsibility and the same authority as would the Master.

15. If a Master is asked to bring his/her hounds into another

hunt's country for a day's hunting, the words "By Invitation" should be inserted on the Fixture Card. If, on the other hand, a portion of a country is being lent for the whole season by written agreement, no such explanation is necessary.

16. Cub hunting or Autumn hunting before opening meet is entirely at the discretion of the Master, as is the decision as to whether a Fixture Card should be mailed out. Cub or Autumn hunting is for training young hounds and not for entertaining the Field. It may be reserved in whole or in part for Hunt Staff only.

17. No Master of Hounds may participate in any form of commercial advertising that in any way uses to advantage the fact that he/she holds the office of Master of Foxhounds, without the express permission of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors. Such advertising may be contrary to the spirit of the sport (as well as the principles of the Association) and detrimental to the image of organized hunting. Any publicity concerning your Hunt must be carefully considered. The Association's Executive Director is qualified and willing to give good advice on this important subject. Good publicity is vital to the growth and maintenance of our sport.

18. If a Joint Master or Masters are appointed, the specific duties and obligations of each Joint Master should be carefully delineated at the time he/she takes office.

19. Awarding of individual Hunt Colors and buttons is completely a Master's prerogative. The following guidelines are provided to assist Masters: Prerequisites should include hunting regularly to permit a proper evaluation of the individual's qualifications. Assisting with the affairs of the Hunt is important. Any member awarded colors should, in the opinion of the Master, be a person knowledgeable of mounted foxhunting etiquette and a proficient rider who, when hunting with any Hunt, would not be an embarrassment to their Hunt. Most Hunts do not award colors and buttons to anyone who has been a hunting member less than two seasons or to children younger than sixteen years old.

20. All Masters must know the *Code of Hunting Practices, Rules and Guidelines for Public Relations*, the *2008 Guidebook* and *Developing a Plan to Confront Anti-Foxhunting Demonstrations*. Copies of these publications are available from the MFHA office.

21. The term "Unsanctioned Pack" (formerly "outlaw pack") is used to describe a pack of hounds that hunt in a Recognized or Registered Member Hunt's territory without its permission and its actions are considered detrimental to the sport of foxhunting. An Unsanctioned Pack shall not be so labeled unless the Board of Directors has determined it to be necessary and voted accordingly at the request of the offended Member Hunt. Member Hunts shall not have joint meets with, draft hounds to or from, or participate in events with Unsanctioned hunts. The MFHA recommends that Member Hunts discourage their memberships from hunting with Unsanctioned packs.

22. The term "Farmer Pack" traditionally refers to farmers who hunt their hounds in territory registered to a Member Hunt with the permission of the latter. More recently, the term has been applied to packs that:

- a. Do not meet MFHA standards, but do cooperate and are thought to comply generally with MFHA rules and guidelines, and may wish to become members of the Association in the future.
- b. Hunt in country not recorded to a Member Hunt.
- c. Hunt in country of Member Hunts that have not voiced an objection.

There are no restrictions for Member Hunts concerning Farmer Packs.

23. The term "No Status" refers to a Hunt that the MFHA does not recognize in any manner or has no direct knowledge of

24. The term “Unsanctioned Person” refers to an individual that the Board, after careful consideration, believes to be acting in a manner detrimental to the sport of foxhunting. Such person would not be invited to, or allowed to participate in, any MFHA membership functions. The MFHA recommends that an Unsanctioned Person not be allowed to hunt with or join any Member Hunt. An Unsanctioned person cannot judge or participate in any MFHA/FCNA sanctioned hound show.

(H) THE FIELD – OBLIGATIONS TOWARD THE MASTER

The position of Master can be a thankless job. If a Gentleman or Lady hunts his/her own hounds, the pleasure derived from it makes up for many hardships. But to the average Master, there are days of worry and bitter disappointments that must be borne, and anything that any member of the Field can do to help him/her and show him/her that their efforts are appreciated will be welcome. Do not think that because you happen to be a newcomer, he/she will not appreciate your thanks or that he/she does not notice that you are trying to help and not to hinder. Try to help the Master in any way you can. By so doing, you will increase your own sport and everyone else's as well.

Members of the Field should carefully observe the following:

1. The Master, Hunt Staff and hounds should be given the right of way at all times. Always turn your horse so that its head is facing hounds, Master or staff as they pass.
2. The Master and Hunt Staff can enjoy members' conversation and society when they are not in the field with hounds, riders, hunting and damages on their minds.
3. All halloaing, calling out to and attempts at hunting hounds by members of the Field are not only very bad manners, but

apt to spoil sport for everyone. However, saying “ware hound” if a hound is attempting to come through the Field warns other Field members to give the hound the right of away.

4. If you take down a rail, put it back. If you open a gate, shut it. Leave everything as you found it.
5. If you break a fence or do any damage that you cannot repair, report it at once to the responsible officers of the Hunt so that it may be made good. Always offer to help fix damage and or pay for costs incurred by the Hunt.
6. Do not ride over crops, and keep off all seeded fields.
7. A newcomer to a country who wishes to hunt should first contact the Hunt Secretary to determine whether new members are being accepted, as well as to acquaint himself or herself with local protocol. If you arrive at the meet and have been given permission to bring a guest, arrive early and introduce your guest to the Master. Then have your guest meet the Hunt Secretary to sign the release of liability and pay the capping fee before hounds move off. You should assist your guest during the hunt.
8. No one should speak to a Huntsman in the field without first riding up to the Master and getting permission to do so. The less a Huntsman is spoken to, the more time he will have to attend to business at hand.
9. Members should come to the MEET and not anticipate the draw by joining the hunt after hounds move off. They should be particularly careful to refrain from going through or near any covert as there is always a chance of disturbing the quarry prematurely.

10. Those who lag behind, late-comers, persons on green horses, those who talk loudly, leave gates open or break fences (without reporting the breakage or repairing it) are a constant worry to a Master. All members should arrive at the meet in sufficient time to be mounted before hounds move off. Members who arrive late should not try to find the field unless given permission by the Master. If permission has been granted, do not ride through coverts. Stay on paths and roads, if at all possible, and wait until you can join the Field without disrupting the hunting in progress. If you must leave the hunt early, get permission from the Field Master to excuse yourself, and take roads, if at all possible, to get back to the meet. Take care not to disrupt hunting or pass through areas that are yet to be drawn.
11. Hill-toppers, second Flights or Fields, car followers and other interested persons can be helpful to a Hunt. Their enthusiasm and support should be encouraged.
12. When a Hunt has been given the privilege of riding over a landowner's property, it does not mean that members of that Hunt, or anyone else, have the right to trespass without specific permission from the landowner, the appointed agent, tenant or farmer, whether hacking on non-hunting days, going to a meet or not keeping up or returning from a hunt.
13. At the close of the day, when you leave the pack to go home, ride up to the Master and say, "Thank you" or "Good night." It is the least you can do for the person whose one thought all day has been to show you a good day's sport. It means a lot.
14. The time to clean one's trailer is not at a meet. Pick up trash around your trailer whether it is yours or not. Pay

attention to wet areas so that you do not cause damage.

15. Be courteous and friendly to the public. A smile, wave of the hand or tipping one's cap does wonders for the good of our sport. Do not impede traffic while on your horse. Public relations are everyone's responsibility.
16. Keep safety foremost in your mind. If you are on a chase and the person in front of you fails to keep up, pass safely. Otherwise, stay in your position. If your horse refuses a jump even once, move to the back of the field.

(I) HOUND SHOWS

1. The Association encourages the participation of all Member Hunts in Hound and Puppy Shows. Such shows can be beneficial and educational and can give the staff and members of each Hunt an opportunity to learn about breeding and the importance of conformation in their respective packs as well as others.

2. It is recommended that Puppy Shows be held at individual Hunts or among neighboring Hunts. Suggestions for holding such events can be obtained through the District Representatives of the Association and from a copy of the *Guide for Hound Shows and Puppy Shows*.

3. The Association will recognize District or Regional Hound Shows, allow the use of its seal and extend its auspices provided that the show has been held two consecutive years and that all other requirements for recognition have been met. The general requirements, hound eligibility and minimum class requirements can be obtained from the Association office. Recognized shows are required to check the pedigree of entries. The Association's computer program is provided free of charge to assist show secretaries in the verification of hound registration, type and pedigrees. Recognition may be granted by the Board of Directors upon recommendation by

the District Representative and the Hound and Puppy Show Committee.

4. No entered hound belonging to a pack Registered or Recognized by the MFHA shall be eligible to compete in Foxhound classes at Hound Shows held under its auspices unless said hound has been registered in the Stud Book of the Masters of Foxhounds Association. Unentered hounds must be eligible for registration. This rule also applies to Hound Shows held under the auspices of the Foxhound Club of North America.

(J) SUGGESTIONS FOR PROPER HUNT ATTIRE

The formal Hunting Dress, below, is given for guidance only. Over the years, it has proved to be practical, comfortable and comparatively safe, for which reason it has become traditional. Masters have always had the authority to insist on whatever degree of formality or informality of dress that suits their particular countries. These suggestions reflect decades of tradition and should only be deviated from for significant reasons.

When a hunt member with colors is invited or requests to hunt with another hunt, the proper attire is always a plain black coat without colors, unless it is a joint meet or you have been invited to wear your hunt's colors by a Master of the hunt with which you wish to ride. To encourage participation, many hunts allow you to wear your colors and buttons if that conforms to local custom.

1. PERSONAL APPOINTMENTS

(a) MASTER – Lady or Gentleman – FORMAL ATTIRE

Coat: Square-cornered, single-breasted frock coat, cut to suit the wishes of the owner, with no flaps on the waistline and no pockets on the outside of the coat except an optional whistle pocket. A Master who does not hunt hounds should have four front hunt buttons. A Master who does hunt hounds should have five buttons. There should

also be two hunt buttons on the back of the coat if it is a frock coat and two or three small buttons on the cuff of each sleeve. The material should be twill or Melton cloth. Scarlet (called "red" or "scarlet") is the most traditional color for hunting, but if the regular Hunt livery is of another color, that color should be worn. Many lady Masters prefer not to wear scarlet and prefer black or navy. The collar and lapels of Hunt coats should be in conformity with the Hunt's livery. No Master, Whipper-in, Huntsman or member should wear his or her Hunt livery (scarlet coat, Hunt colors or buttons) in another country unless invited to do so. When scarlet is worn, both ladies and gentlemen should wear white breeches. It is correct to wear a black or dark coat when participating in a joint meet without your own hounds.

Breeches: Should be white, tan, rust, canary or buff, of heavy cord, synthetic stretch twill or other material. Lightweight breeches of synthetic knits are acceptable. With a scarlet coat, ladies and gentlemen should wear white breeches.

Vest: Canary, tattersall or appropriate Hunt color.

Hat: Black or dark blue velvet safety helmet approved by the American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM), with ribbons down or up, according to local custom. (Ribbons down traditionally indicate professional Hunt staff or amateur huntsman.)

Boots: With scarlet coats, traditional hunting boots of black calf with brown tops sewn on, well polished, with tabs sewn on but not down. White or brown boot garters (to match breeches) may be worn. Ladies wearing black or navy may wear plain black boots or boots with patent leather tops with tabs sewn on but not down. Black rubber boots are acceptable in wet weather.

Spurs: Of heavy pattern with moderately short neck and no rowels. Light racing spurs are not permissible. Spurs should be set high on the boot just below the ankle, and the spur arms should be parallel to the ground. The buckle should be on top of the boot with the free end of the spur strap on the outside of the boot.

Gloves: Heavy wash buff, brown or black leather. White or navy wool gloves are also acceptable.

Crop: Traditional hunting whip with lash

Horn: Masters, Huntsman or designated whippers-in only. The traditional hunting horn is carried either between buttons of the coat or in a leather case fastened on either side of the front of the saddle.

No Horn should be carried by anyone except Master, Huntsman, or First Whipper-in when given permission by the Master.

Wire Cutters: Wire cutters may be carried in a leather case attached to the saddle.

Neckwear: Plain white hunting stock neatly tied and fastened with a plain, horizontal safety pin. Ends of the stock should be pinned down to remain tidy.

Flask and Sandwich Case: Gentlemen may carry either a flask or sandwich case (or both). Ladies may carry either a sandwich case or a combination flask and sandwich case.

(b) HONORARY (AMATEUR) HUNTSMAN

Turnout is the same as for the Master except there should be four or five buttons on front of coat, and ribbon on hat should be down.

(c) PROFESSIONAL HUNTSMAN

Same as Honorary Huntsman *except:*

Couplings: Should carry one set of couplings fastened to dee on off side of saddle.

Crop: Traditional hunting whip and lash or white whip with white lash. The lash should be long enough to strike the ground.

Flask and Sandwich Case: Not permitted.

(d) HONORARY WHIPPER-IN

Same as HONORARY HUNTSMAN *except:*

Couplings: Should carry one set fastened to a dee on off side of saddle.

(e) PROFESSIONAL WHIPPER-IN

Same as HONORARY WHIPPER-IN *except:*

Flask and sandwich case are not permissible.

Coat should have a large "hare pocket" on inside of skirt.

Stirrup leather should be worn outside coat over right shoulder, under left arm, buckled in front with the point of the strap down.

Hat: Ribbon down.

Crop: Regulation hunt whip and lash or white whip and lash that is long enough to strike the ground.

(f) GENTLEMAN MEMBER

Scarlet coat: should have rounded corners and three buttons in front, two on the back and two or three on each sleeve in brass with the insignia adapted by the hunt. Scarlet coats are worn only by members who have been awarded their colors.

Black coat: Black hunting coat or frock coat cut same as scarlet coat are preferable to a shadbelly coat. Buttons should be plain or black. In hunts where the Field wears black, members wear the hunt buttons on their black coats. If not awarded colors, buttons must be plain or black. There should be three buttons on the front of the coat and two buttons on back if frock coat. It is not customary to wear Hunt colors on the collar of a black coat. It is customary that brass buttons on black coats are reserved for Masters and ex-Masters.

Vest: Canary, tattersall or appropriate color designated by the Master.

Breeches: May be tan, buff or white (only with a frock coat), of heavy cord, synthetic stretch twill or other heavy material.

Hat: ASTM-approved safety helmet in black velvet with chin harness fastened is strongly recommended. Ribbon should be up. If you plan to wear a bowler, it is wise to check with the Master of the

hunt, as some hunts do not allow them. Top hats, with optional hat-guard, may be worn with scarlet coat, frock coat or shadbelly coat, but they are not recommended by the MFHA.

Boots: Plain black calf boots without tops are worn with black hunting coat. Brown-topped boots should be worn with a scarlet frock coat. Black field boots with laces are not considered proper formal boots. White or brown boot garters (to match breeches) may be worn.

Hair: If long, it should be confined neatly.

Neckwear: Plain white hunting stock, neatly tied and fastened with a plain, *horizontal* safety pin. Ends of the stock should be pinned down to remain tidy.

Spurs: Same as for Master

Crop: Traditional hunting whip and lash (white whip or lash are not appropriate).

(g) LADY MEMBER (Astride)

Coat: Frock or hunting coat of black, dark blue or dark gray, suitably cut, with plain dark buttons. If she has been awarded colors, she may wear the Hunt's buttons and collar trimmings. A frock coat should have rounded corners with three buttons in front and two on back. Hunting coats should have rounded corners and three buttons on the front. Both should have two buttons on each sleeve.

Vest: Canary, tattersall or appropriate color designated by Hunt.

Breeches: Buff, tan or canary (not white) cord or heavy synthetic stretch twill (not knitted) material.

Hat: ASTM-approved safety helmet, black or dark blue velvet with chin strap. Ribbon up. If you plan to wear a black bowler, it is wise to check with the Master of the hunt, as some hunts do not allow them. Silk top hat (the crown should be six inches or more and worn only with a frock coat). The MFHA does not recommend wearing a bowler or top hat in the hunt field. Short dressage hats are not appropriate.

Sandwich Case (or combination flask and sandwich case): Optional. Flask case is not customary.

Hair: Should be neatly confined. Hair nets are advisable and correct.

Gloves: Wash, buff, black or brown leather. White wool or navy wool or cotton string gloves in cold or rainy weather.

Spurs: Regular hunting spurs, same as for Master

Neckwear: Plain white hunting stock, neatly tied and fastened with a plain, horizontal safety pin. The ends should be pinned down to remain tidy. No other jewelry should be visible.

Crop: Light hunting whip with lash, smaller shaft than a gentlemen's (white is not appropriate).

Boots: Black calf hunting boots without laces. Black leather or patent leather tops are appropriate with tabs sewn on but not down, especially with a frock coat. If scarlet is worn, black boots with brown leather tops with tabs sewn on but not down are appropriate.

(h) LADY MEMBER (Side-Saddle)

Same as LADY MEMBER (Astride) except:

Habits: Dark melton or other cloth, suitably cut.

Veil: Must be worn with a top hat, not a bowler.

Hat: Silk top hat to be worn with double-breasted dress hunting coat (crown should be six inches); black bowler (derby) may be worn with plain jackets. Safety headgear in black with chin harness properly fastened is strongly recommended with ribbon up. It should be noted the top hat and derby offer no protection to the head.

EXCEPTIONS TO THE SUGGESTED ATTIRE

(i) JUNIORS

It is not necessary for Juniors to wear formal attire, as it is often both difficult and expensive to obtain properly fitting formal attire in small sizes. Whichever type of "turnout" is chosen, it should be clean and appropriate for various weather conditions, with an ASTM-approved safety helmet with chin strap properly fastened.

FORMAL ATTIRE: Same as for Lady Member (Astride). Junior colors may be worn according to individual Hunt customs.

Hat: A plain, properly fitting black ASTM-approved safety helmet with chin strap properly fastened is required, with ribbon up.

Crop: A lightweight hunting crop with or without lash.

Neckwear: A plain white stock, neatly tied and fastened with a plain, horizontal safety pin. Turtleneck shirts should not be worn except by very young children.

Hair: If long, it should be neatly confined or braided.

INFORMAL ATTIRE: A tweed coat in a muted color (no reds), tan or brown breeches or jodhpurs, shined brown/black jodhpur boots, string or brown/black leather gloves, a plain or patterned muted-colored stock, neatly tied and fastened with a plain, horizontal safety pin. A white stock is not correct. "Ratcatcher" shirts are also correct with a neckband, horizontal plain stock pin or a man's necktie. Muted-color turtleneck shirts are usually for young children only. Hat as stated under formal attire.

In hunting countries where extremes of temperature occur, modifications to the foregoing suggested formal attire may be in order. Such modifications for extreme temperatures may be made by the Master(s) of individual Hunts as needed, particularly in cold weather when parkas and heavy jackets may be worn over regular coats. Likewise, in hot weather, jackets may not be required.

(j) INFORMAL OR RATCATCHER ATTIRE

GENTLEMEN & LADIES

Hat: Plain ASTM-approved black or brown velvet helmet with chin strap is strongly recommended, ribbon up.

Coat: Tweed or wool in muted color, tailored and single- or double-vented.

Shirt: Ratcatcher or other light-colored shirt. Stock tie (plain or colored) with horizontal pin, or man's necktie. A plain or patterned

muted-color stock or necktie, with ends pinned down to remain tidy. White stock ties are not correct. Neckbands are also appropriate for ladies. Turtlenecks and polo shirts are usually reserved for children but are used in some hunts that experience extremely hot temperatures during cubhunting season.

Breeches: Earthtone colors – buff, tan, gray or rust.

Spurs: Regular hunting spurs with no rowels.

Boots: Brown or black leather dress boots or brown field boots with laces. Formal boots with brown, patent or leather tops are not appropriate. Rubber boots are acceptable, as are canvas-topped (Newmarket) boots, and jodhpur boots with either canvas or leather leggings. Three-buckle brown field boots are also correct.

Gloves: Black or brown leather or string gloves. White is not correct.

Wire Cutters, Flask, Sandwich Case: Same as in formal attire.

Crop: Regulation hunting whip. Thong or lash may be removed during cubhunting. White whip or lash is not correct.

LADY MEMBER – SIDE SADDLE

Coat: Beige, brown or off-white; suitably cut; plain, tweed or salt sack.

Skirt: Should coordinate with the coat.

Hat: Bowler, velvet hunting cap or black velvet ASTM-approved safety helmet with chin harness fastened. Bowlers and velvet hunting caps without chin straps do not protect the head when hunting.

Veil: Not appropriate for informal attire.

ACCESSORIES

(a) *Raincoats.* Masters may allow certain rain gear (common sense should prevail). They should be used sparingly in muted colors (brown, black or dark green). Staff may wear red rain gear.

(b) *Eyewear.* Sunglasses or tinted eyewear are not recommended

unless specifically prescribed or recommended by a physician or allowed by the Master. This does not preclude clear prescription glasses. It is common practice for riders in hunts in areas such as California and Nevada to wear sunglasses.

2. TACK APPOINTMENTS

Horses and all tack should be impeccably groomed, clean, polished and shining. It is a disservice to the landowners to do anything less.

Bridle: Brown leather, either double or single. A cavesson (noseband) should be used. Colored or ornamental browbands are not acceptable.

Breastplate: Optional, plain or raised leather. Martingale attachment optional.

Martingale: Optional; if used, it should be plain\raised leather. A running martingale must have "stops" on the reins.

Saddle: Brown. Saddle pads should be saddle-shaped, of a light color (white, buff, yellow). Numnahs or saddle cloths are not proper. Stirrup irons with optional pads should be large, plain and clean (shined). Safety equipment such as cruppers, grazing over-checks and safety stirrups should be used whenever needed.

Girth: Preferably brown leather, but clean neoprene, string and cloth girths are permissible, as are girth covers made of fleece.

Accessories: Accessories such as figure eight and flash nosebands, bell and shin boots, gel and cushion saddle pads may be used for safety, comfort or health of the horse. Accessories like fly hoods and ear or muzzle covers are not appropriate in the hunting field.

Clipped horses: Clipping provides horses the ability to more effectively thermo-regulate their bodies. Therefore, full body clips with the legs left long are recommended. Trace clipping does not provide for efficient thermo-regulation, and ornamental clipping is inappropriate.

MASTERS OF FOXHOUNDS

EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

The Masters of Foxhounds Educational Foundation is a non-profit entity established to inform and educate all interested persons about the field sport of mounted foxhunting and to support research on the subject. The Educational Foundation provides conservation and habitat-preservation information and educational materials; publishes books, CDs, tapes and videos, and conducts seminars covering all elements of the sport, including the breeding, training and hunting of hounds, game management, historical treatises, and how to enjoy yourself more fully as a member of the mounted field.

Promoting knowledge of the basis for and the value of traditional field sports is the most effective way to deal with public media that might otherwise exploit ignorance of field sports by distorting and misrepresenting them in stories opposed to mounted foxhunting and other outdoor pursuits.

The Educational Foundation is not a public advocacy lobbying force on behalf of field sports. That job is left to others already well established in that field. A well-supported Educational Foundation teaches historic truths about our sport and disseminates them as widely as possible, in print and via other media, to educate and stimulate the interest of the public. The Educational Foundation began *COVERTSIDE*, the official MFHA newsmagazine that is available to Subscribing Members of the MFHA and interested parties to assist in these purposes. Your TAX-DEDUCTIBLE donation will assist in educating the public about mounted foxhunting, its long history and bright future.

HUNT STAFF BENEFIT FOUNDATION

Foxhunters, especially Masters, recognize and appreciate the very important part professional Hunt employees play in the operation and welfare of mounted foxhunting. Their dedication to a lifestyle in mounted foxhunting has many intrinsic rewards, but few of them are financial. Their hours are long in the field, kennels, stables and hunt country and in other related efforts. More than sixty percent of the

Hunts in America and Canada use professionals as huntsmen, whippers-in and kennelmen. The professional makes substantial contributions to amateur hunt staff, often setting an example and providing professional advice. The contributions of professional Hunt staff to the sport of mounted foxhunting in North America are numerous and essential. Many professionals could obtain more lucrative jobs were it not for their extraordinary love of hounds and hunting.

Professional Hunt employment offers little financial stability, as well as grueling and often hazardous duties. It is sometimes vital to the future of mounted foxhunting that these fine people be provided a "safety net" of adequate financial assistance or other relief in old age or whenever and as often as periods of disability, emergency and financial inadequacies occur.

THE HUNT STAFF BENEFIT FOUNDATION IS NOT A RETIREMENT FUND. It provides monetary assistance to Hunt Staff professionals and their families who are in dire financial need. Grants are made only to those whose circumstances (health or financial crises) warrant our help. Grants are sometimes provided to widows and close family members of deceased Hunt professionals whose loss has devastated their lives.

To achieve these purposes on an overall basis, the **MASTERS OF FOXHOUNDS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.**, in 1930 established a fund for the benefit of Hunt employees of all Registered and Recognized Member Hunts.

The Hunt Staff Benefit Foundation was established on July 27, 1938, under Massachusetts law as a charitable trust and is now the expanded, sustainable, ongoing and improved outgrowth of that significant concept and action.

Over the years, contributions made to the fund by Hunts and individuals have increased the capacity of the fund to render

assistance to more Hunt employees in larger amounts.

All Masters should understand the purpose of procedures for benefits available to Hunt employees under the MFHA Hunt Staff Benefit Foundation so that deserving and eligible Hunt employees needing assistance are not overlooked. While the Indenture of Trust of the MFHA Hunt Staff Benefit Foundation contains all the necessary information, below are some of its more important features for your guidance.

1. PURPOSE

"The purpose of the trust shall be to provide financial assistance or other relief to Hunt employees and persons who have been in the employ of a Member Hunt for a period of one year or more who are in need of financial assistance and have become either physically or mentally incapable of performing their duties by reason of illness, accident, disability or old age, and to provide financial assistance or other relief for the widows and children of deceased persons who are qualified for and received benefits hereunder during their lives or were eligible to qualify but for the fact that during their lives they were not in need of financial assistance or other relief and were neither physically nor mentally incapable of performing their duties by reason of illness, accident, disability or old age..."

2. ELIGIBILITY

To qualify as a beneficiary, a Hunt employee (in addition to meeting the standards under "Purpose," above) must have been in Hunt Service at least one season and have commenced a second season.

3. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

To be eligible for consideration, a Hunt employee must file, or have

filed on his behalf, the official Hunt Staff Benefit Application Form (available from the MFHA office) addressed to the Chairman of the HSBF, requesting financial assistance or relief. The Master of the Hunt involved must approve the application when it is submitted by others. Preferably, the master should make the application on behalf of the Hunt employee, as the Master is usually closest to the situation. If the current Master is not familiar with the situation, the ex-Master who employed the person in question will submit the application. The applicant should include all factual information that might be pertinent or useful to the Trustees in processing the case. In addition to any other information the Trustees may require, the application shall contain the following:

a. A complete copy of the applicant's most recent federal income tax return, with all attachments, or a notarized statement that the applicant's income was not high enough to require filing a federal income tax return.

b. A certificate from the applicant's doctor verifying that they are no longer able to continue in hunt service, or be otherwise employed because of illness, accident, old age or other physical or mental infirmity or disability.

c. A completed Hunt Staff Benefit Application Form.

The applicant will be required periodically, upon request from the Trustees, to submit continued substantiation of income by sending federal income tax forms or confirm that the medical condition still exists to qualify for continued assistance.

4. PAYMENT OF BENEFITS

The Trustees, at their sole discretion, approve or deny applications for benefits and establish the amount, frequency, duration, termination or resumption of payments made to a beneficiary. Decisions are based solely upon the eligible applicant's

financial need in the light of personal circumstances, which may change.

5. REVIEW

The situation and status of any Hunt employee or beneficiary may be reviewed at any time by the Trustees. Likewise, requests for review or special action may be made at any time by submitting to the Trustees all the necessary or useful information and stating the nature of the request.

6. MANAGEMENT

Management of the Hunt Staff Benefit Foundation is vested in three Trustees who are members of the Association and are elected at the annual meeting of the Association, for staggered three-year terms. The Trustees appoint one of their members as Executive Trustee to carry out administrative functions. The Executive Trustee then must be confirmed through election by the MFHA membership at the annual meeting.

The Hunt Staff Benefit Foundation is a tax-exempt 501-C3 charitable trust devoted to Hunt employees. Contributions to the Foundation in the form of checks, cash, securities or property are totally **TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.**

In the final analysis, the Hunt Staff Benefit Foundation's capacity to help Hunt employees is a function of its continuing growth and earning power, made possible through the collective efforts of the hunting fraternity. It assures a sound base for the flourishing of mounted foxhunting by encouraging future employees to come into Hunt Service and current employees to remain in hunt service.

Copies of the Indenture of Trust are available from the Executive Director of the Association or the Executive Trustee, and requests for

additional information should likewise be so directed.

Masters of Foxhounds Foundation

The MFHA Foundation is a tax-exempt 501-C3 organization. It was created as an umbrella organization for the Masters of Foxhounds Educational Foundation and Hunt Staff Benefit Foundation, both 501-C3 organizations. Since its beginning, it has also received monies from other 501-C3 events, such as seminars, the Legacy Program, the Professional Development Program and Centennial events.

The MFHA Foundation's mission is to distribute donations from people who wish to contribute to foxhunting generally or who are unsure to which Foundation they would like to donate their money. It allows them to send one check. Unless donors direct their contributions to a specific Foundation, the MFHA Foundation determines the amount of money each Foundation receives or may give the entire amount to any one Foundation.

FOXHOUND CLUB OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.

The Foxhound Club of North America is not affiliated with the Masters of Foxhounds of America. It is a separate Association open to **anyone and everyone** interested in our sport and hounds. The goal of the club is to promote and encourage interest in the proper selection, breeding and development of Foxhounds as used in the pursuit of fox, coyote, or other legal quarry by mounted followers. The Foxhound Club of North America promotes and supports hound shows, hound seminars, hound publications, performance trials and hound demonstrations. It provides financial assistance to sanctioned hound shows throughout North America. Membership dues are modest. This is a worthwhile organization for Masters to recommend that their members support if they want to get more involved.

HISTORY

Mounted foxhunting has existed in America since Colonial days, and the development of the sport kept pace with the progress of the United States as it extended its influence across the Appalachians to the West Coast. Hounds of various types were brought from Europe by the early settlers who reached these shores. By 1900, the American Foxhound was the product of breeding their descendants with hounds that continued to be imported, especially from England, Ireland and France. The oldest continuing Hunt in North America is the Montreal Hunt in Canada, established in 1826. The oldest continuing Hunt in the United States is Piedmont Hunt, established in Virginia in 1840.

The earliest record of the importation of hounds to this country was on June 30, 1650, when Robert Brooke arrived in Maryland with his family, 28 servants and his hounds. By the early 1700's, mounted foxhunting was spreading rapidly in Maryland, Virginia and probably other colonies. Hounds were also used for other forms of hunting. Early planters with sporting English blood imported red foxes from England in 1730 and celebrated the event at Chestertown, Maryland. George Washington was born two years later, and his diaries make it evident that, in adulthood, the favorite sport of his good friend Lord Fairfax was mounted foxhunting. The sport has grown ever since, but its formal organization, as with other sports, did not begin until some years after the Civil War.

The Masters of Foxhounds Association of America was formed in 1907 as a parent organization to be both custodian of the boundaries of each foxhunting territory and the medium through which hunting organizations could apply for territory, submit complaints and have leadership.

The first step toward the formation of a parent association took place on the evening of February 14, 1907, when Messrs. Louis Baetjer, Westmoreland Davis, R. Penn Smith, Harry Worcester Smith, Henry G. Vaughan and Major W. Austin Wadsworth met at

the old Waldorf Astoria Hotel on 34th Street, New York City, at the invitation of Mr. Harry Worcester Smith. They adopted a Constitution and By-laws, which generally followed the lines of the British Masters of Foxhounds Association.

Major W. Austin Wadsworth was elected first president of the new association, Harry Worcester Smith was made Chairman of the Hunt Committee and Henry G. Vaughan, Secretary-Treasurer. These Officers, together with Westmoreland Davis, Edward Crozier, R. Penn Smith, Thomas Hitchcock, Charles E. Mather, A. Henry Higginson and John R. Valentine, constituted the first Hunt Committee.

On the evening of May 15, 1907, Messrs. Thomas Hitchcock, Harry Worcester Smith, Henry G. Vaughan and Major W. Austin Wadsworth met at the Knickerbocker Club, New York City, and made some revisions to the Constitution and By-laws. The principal change was the substitution of an Executive Committee to manage the affairs of the Association in place of the Hunt Committee. The Association was incorporated in Massachusetts in 1926. The Constitution and By-laws adopted at that time provided for a Board of Directors, but it was known only as the "Executive Committee." Major revisions of the By-laws were adopted in 1971 to conform to standard corporate procedures. Since then, the governing body has been called the Board of Directors.

Seven members attended the Annual Meeting of the Association held on February 14, 1908, in the Cafe of the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show at Madison Square Garden. At that meeting, the Association voted to invite Canadian Masters to become members, to sanction the Third National Hound Show in Lincoln, Massachusetts, and to publish a Foxhound Stud Book. At the Annual Meeting held at the same location on February 12, 1909, the Secretary reported that "there were eighteen members" and that "eight descriptions of hunt country and two maps had been filed."

The first known "recognition" of Hunts began with the American Hunt and Pony Racing Association in 1893. From about 1899 through 1908, recognition was granted by the Stewards of the National Steeplechase and Hunt Association, and from 1909 through 1933, by its Hunt Committee. Although the MFH Association of America was founded in 1907 and immediately began to "record" hunting countries and, later, to "register" Hunts, it was not until 1933, under the Presidency of Henry G. Vaughan, that the prerogative of recognition was relinquished by the National Steeplechase and Hunt Association. Since 1934, the registration and recognition of Hunts has been under the exclusive authority of the Masters of Foxhounds Association of North America.

Each year, the members of the Association elect a President, two Vice Presidents, a Secretary, a Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer) and an Executive Director, as well as three or more Directors. In 1971, the Constitution and By-laws were amended to impose a limit of four successive one-year terms for the President and the two Vice Presidents. There is a term limit of five years for the Secretary-Treasurer and no limit for the services of the Executive Director. As of January 2008, the Board of Directors consists of all Officers, sixteen District Representatives and four Directors at Large (the three past Presidents and a Director at Large, if desired, appointed by the President). Directors, other than Officers, are elected for three-year terms. Including the current President, there have been twenty-three Presidents of the Association. The nominating committee consists of the three past Presidents and the current President. In case of a tie, the first Vice President casts a vote. The nominating Chairman is the most recently retired President.

Mr. Henry G. Vaughan, during his long service first as Secretary and then as President, from 1907 to 1938, did more than anyone to build up the Association in those early years. He devoted much time and thought to it and had the Association office in his law offices. After incorporation in 1926, his personal Secretary, Miss Clara H. Sampson, served as Clerk to conform to Massachusetts law requiring

the Clerk to be a resident of that State. She was succeeded in 1939 by Mr. Joseph J. Jones, who had worked in Mr. Vaughan's office since 1923 and had been Keeper of the Foxhound Stud Book since 1936. He ran the office most efficiently and was consulted frequently by all Presidents until his retirement in 1973.

Dr. John B. Glass served as the Association's office Clerk from 1973 until his retirement in 1995. He instituted publication of the Stud Book annually and issued the Association's first publication list. In 1984, he directed the installation of a computer system to manage the registration of foxhounds. Since then, the new litter registration certificates and camera-ready copy for publication of the Stud Book have been prepared by computer. During his tenure, he edited 22 Stud Books and 23 sets of annual Hunt Directories. At his suggestion, the title of Clerk was changed and in 1994 his successor, LTC Dennis J. Foster (US Army, ret.), was designated Executive Director. Since 1993, Col. Foster he has added to and changed the job description of the former clerk/secretary. He actively rides and hunts with Member Hunts and assists them with their problems. He represents the MFHA on national and international boards that work with other countries to save hunting around the globe. He is a proponent of animal welfare (our obligation to care for and treat animal humanely) and is considered an international expert on animal rights organizations whose political bottom line is a petless/meatless society. As of this printing, he is still serving.

After his retirement in 1995, Dr. Glass and the Association cooperated in the publication of "FoxDog," an innovative computer program created and written by Dr. Glass. The program allowed Masters and Huntsmen to consult the Stud Book, retrieve pedigrees, determine get of sires and dams, prepare registration papers and manage kennel lists on a home computer. FoxDog has since been replaced by a more modern program.

For many years, the Annual Meeting has been held in New York City on the last Friday in January. The Board of Directors meets three

times a year. In addition to the day before the Annual Meeting, it also meets in late Spring, often in conjunction with the Virginia Foxhound Club hound show. The Autumn Directors' meeting has been held in different regions of the United States and Canada since 1973.

In 1980, the Masters of Foxhounds Association of North America published a history of the Association written by Alexander Mackay-Smith, entitled "Masters of Foxhounds."

The MFHA celebrated its Centennial in 2007. In January of that year, there were 723 members of the Association, more than 5,000 Subscribing Members and 164 Recognized or Registered Hunts in the United States and Canada. The year-long Centennial celebration was planned, organized and implemented by President Mason H. Lampton, MFH, with the assistance of countless volunteers and people dedicated to the future of the sport. Hound Shows, Performance Trails, Field Hunter Championships, Joint Meets, Art Shows and memorabilia sales were held throughout the year to give everyone a chance to celebrate foxhunting. The year began with a Centennial Ball at historic Cipriani's in New York City, a lavish event attended by almost a thousand foxhunters from all over the USA and Canada and leaders of hunting with hounds from 11 different countries. Closing ceremonies were held at Morven Park in Virginia. In all, Centennial events raised \$ 2.2 million to help secure mounted foxhunting for future generations.