

From: Patrick Graham
Sent: Tuesday 6 October 2020 13:44
To: Declan ODonnell; Clare Heardman
Subject: [REDACTED] Open Coursing

Hi Declan,

Please find below, my report on the [REDACTED] Open Coursing Event, that myself and Clare Heardman, attended on Sunday 4th October 2020.

We meet [REDACTED] and others from Bantry coursing club [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

They had four greyhound dogs with them, all muzzled. We then followed them up to the first field, where I stayed with the dogs and Clare went with the beaters. I found a place, close by where I could observe the dogs being released and Clare observed the beaters from a suitable spot on the road.

The beaters started some distance away and drove any hares in the area, into the field where the [REDACTED] and two dogs were waiting. Also in this field was a judge and two other members of Bantry Coursing Club, plus myself.

Eventually a hare presented itself and ran across the field and the two dogs were slipped. The hare escaped easily. The dogs were changed for the other two and the beaters tried from a different direction, into the same field.

This time a hare came out and the dogs were slipped, but the hare turned back into the field and was caught. The dogs pinned the hare and [REDACTED] an and grabbed the hare. After the dogs were restrained, [REDACTED] released the hare before myself or Clare could get a close look at it.

The hare made of under its own steam, into the adjacent woods. The condition of the hare could not be ascertained by us and [REDACTED] assured us that it was fine. Nether myself or Clare are qualified to make a judgement call on the health of the hare (apart from obvious damage, Blood, Broken leg, etc), and I have no idea of such qualifications of [REDACTED]

I feel that the lack of a suitable Veterinarian at such an event, to determine the health of potentially injured hares, is something that should be address if possible. There is a Veterinarian at enclosed coursing meetings for just such a purpose.

After this, we all made our way back to a field [REDACTED] and the two winning dogs from earlier were slipped against a hare who also escaped easily. Whilst the dogs were being rounded up, another hare was seen by the dogs and was chased, and escaped easily.

That was the end of the event. So in total:

The dogs were slipped to 3 hares and chased another one.

One hare was pinned, with unknown effects, if any.

This event took place within an RHD2 virus 25km restriction zone. We did not observe any members of the coursing club taking biosecurity measures e.g. using foot baths as we did.

Regards, Patrick Graham.

Conservation Ranger, Cork SW