

Cold Weather Tips & Tricks

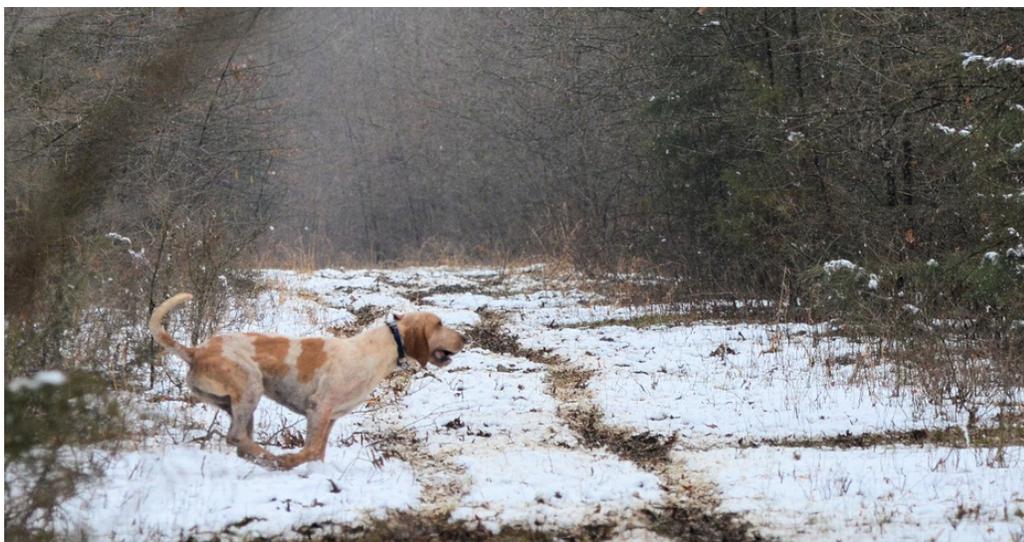
If you can't tell by the hunt monitor, winter is officially here! And with El Nino in full swing this year, it's predicted to be a *real* winter; something we haven't seen in Virginia for awhile. Here are some tips & tricks to help you and your horse stay warm and healthy this time of year.

- Hand warmers - everyone knows to put them in your gloves or boots, but pockets of your breeches is key! On the extra cold mornings, put the hand warmers in your breeches pockets (1 or 2 on each side) and try to place them as close to the femoral artery as possible for maximum heat.
- Latex gloves for under your riding gloves.
- Bridle, boots, and coat in the truck on the way to the meet rather than the trailer. Give those items some extra time to warm up.
- A thick cream on your face, something like CeraVe works great.
- For men, don't shave the morning of. Do it the night before so the natural, protective oils have a chance to rebuild.
- Avoid cotton - it will soak up any moisture, whether it's from precipitation or sweat. And moisture will make you colder faster.
- Avoid wearing tightly fitting clothing and footwear. Wherever your body comes in contact with the surface of a garment or boot, you transfer your body heat to the item, losing that warmth.
- It's better to be a little cool than overheated, to avoid sweating. And it burns more calories!
- Carmex for your lips! Walgreens sells it. It thick and lasts for hours. Far better than chapstick.
- Winter riding boots - they have more insulation to help keep you warm. They are often much wider, so be sure to check that they still fit in your stirrups.
- Proper hydration helps to regulate body temperature (and you're more likely to become dehydrated when it's cold) and increase blood flow to your extremities, keeping them warm.
- Fleece stock ties during winter to keep your neck warm but also properly turned out.
- Get a heated vest! They make thin ones that will fit under your hunt coat. Ororo is a popular brand and you can find them on Amazon.
- If you don't want to do that you can also get ThermoCare HeatWraps at the drug store...they stay warm for hours!
- Spray Pam in a freshly picked hoof to prevent snow balls.
- Can keep a hoof pick in your sandwich case in case the hooves ball up and you need to repick.
- Walk in slowly to give your horse a chance to cool down after a long day of hunting. And have a cooler ready for him/her. Lots of hay available on the trailer for extra calories will help warm them up while you're inside enjoying breakfast.
- Keep your horses hydrated - Water (with salt/electrolytes) is always a good idea. A heater in the water tanks so they don't freeze. Or a little hot water over grain to make sure they're getting what they need. And who doesn't love a hot meal on a cold day? Metamucil doesn't hurt if you're making a warm mash.



BULL RUN BABBLINGS

February 2024



Above From the winter of 2019, during an on foot hunt - Lancer hot on the trail. PC: Clay Chase:

Fox FAQs

Arctic foxes do not shiver in cold climates! These foxes can be found in the most extremely cold places on the planet. Arctic foxes are not bothered by cold temperatures until it reaches -94F (-70C).



The Arctic fox is also the only species of fox that have fur covering their paw pads.

PC:
WWF.org

Bottle Report

We're making up for the lack of bottle reports with a double header this month!



Witnesses observed Whipper-In David Clore's unplanned, flying dismount while the hounds were on a run near the Feedlot in early December. David promptly regained his mount and continued to hunt as if nothing had happened. When asked for details about his fall, for the Bottle Report, David responded with "I don't remember, where am I?...did you get a count (x12 on the walk in)?"

Nothing like hearing "Clay took a dump" over the radio. Given how well I know our second (road) whip, that could be interpreted several ways. Gallantly sprinting down RT 15, weaving in and out of traffic, to save one of the puppies, our assistant road whip took quite the tumble, smashing his glasses (he has reach out to Oakley asking for a replacement due to the epic circumstances). Us New Englanders would call that taking a digger, but the local vernacular is apparently a bit different. Jumping up, as if nothing had happened, he gathered the fragments of his glasses and continued running. The hound was saved, and everyone was ok in the end...And then the sheriff showed up responding to a call of a concerned citizen. More on that later.

IN THIS ISSUE

Cold Weather Tips ... Fox FAQs ... From the Archives
Events Calendar ... Ms. Appropriate
Winter Storm Photos ... Tech Talk
Summer Horse Shows ... Bottle Report

Tech Talk



Don't Click the Link

Just don't click it! No matter how tempting it is, don't. Especially when it is a shortened link that make it impossible to see where you'll be redirected.

If it's a Facebook post you've been tagged in that looks like a juicy story ("Look who died" or "I'll miss you"), it's a trap.

If it's a scary email about your bank (or other) account under threat or suspension, it's a trap.

If it's a text message about your package that can't be delivered, it's a trap.

If it's a phone call from the "IRS" that you're being audited (or other threatening call from a "government organization"), it's a trap.

All of these tactics are designed to gain personal information that will be used later, or login info that the bad guys can then use in other sites. Essentially they send you a fake URL that looks exactly like the website you're expecting, you log in, and **BAM** - they have your username and password to that site. This is also one more reason not to reuse passwords, but that's a topic for another time.

Always go directly to the site in question yourself by typing in the URL rather than clicking the link. Or google the company's phone number and call them directly if you're not sure. Most large companies (i.e.

banks, Amazon, PayPal) also have a fraud department that you can forward suspicious emails to. This helps in two ways: 1) They can confirm if it came from their company. 2) It alerts them to any new tactics and accounts being used to impersonate them.

Winter is in full swing and we're all feeling the effects of the weather. Hunting on foot is always an exciting day when weather prevents a mounted hunt.

Hunting in the Snow

by Betsy Checchia

Had the time of my life (well, the best time I could have outdoors with 4-plus inches of snow on the ground, air temperature 18 deg, and wind chill 5 deg, max) following our hounds on foot from the Kennels on the 27th. Adrian took 20-1/2 couple, two car followers, and a small field (two ladies on a four-wheeler, two ladies & two gents on foot, and one lady on cross-country skis... me) into the mostly frozen wooded swamp behind the kennels. It took us about thirty minutes at a blistering pace (slow down, Adrian!) to actually get down the road and into the swamp where Adrian deployed hounds and found a line within minutes.

The hounds proceeded to run that fox non-stop for the next 2-1/2 hours, in four circles of varying sizes around the creek where they got the fox up in the first place. Everyone in the field had a least one view — a small, very dark fox with a beautiful bushy tail — and some of us viewed another fox (not the hunted one) that took advantage of the hounds being on one of the farthest points of one of their biggest circles to cross the creek on the ice. When even the hardest member of the field complained of being frozen in place, Adrian stopped hounds and took us back to the Kennels for a hot breakfast of chicken noodle soup and beanie-weenies (true gourmets that we are).

I'd never followed hounds on foot before — things are really different when you're only 5-1/2' tall (as opposed to your 8' or 9' height sitting on a horse) and can only cover the ground at 5 or 10 mph (here, the skis gave me a definite advantage, except when we had to cross the creek). It's much easier to tell the hounds apart when you see them from the side instead of the top. And I never really noticed how quietly a fox moves through the woods. Of course, he had an advantage over the hounds — he didn't weigh enough to break through the ice.

I must admit to spending the last hour of the hunt standing still next to the creek listening — fox and hounds had ranged so far that there was no hope of catching them on foot or skis. About the only thing I didn't enjoy was trying to cross the creek, which was too deep for my cross-country ski boots, on a succession of round, snow-covered, slippery boulders. The skis were no help there — a pair of wellies would have been much better — I managed to put only one foot in the water this time.

It was heartening to see the tracks of four or five different foxes in the snow on our way back in to the kennels — no shortage of them in our territory, thank goodness. I had a somewhat different reaction to the ten or fifteen buzzards sitting on the coop in the fence line in back of the kennels. I also heard that the ladies on the four-wheeler drove it over a 3-foot coop in the swamp.

I'm looking forward to trying this again Saturday morning at Birmingham Farm. Maybe I'll finally see the gray fox that lives in those woods.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 New Moon	10 JT Meet Hosting Deep Run
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Full Moon
25	26	27	28	29 Leap Year		

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Vixen Hunt	4	5	6	7	8	9 JT Meet Away At Deep Run
10 New Moon Jumper Show	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 March Madness	21	22	23
Oyster Roast		Cocktail Party		Cocktail Party		Closing Meet Hunt Ball
24	25 Full Moon	26	27	28	29	30
31						



If you have ever had a question about anything hunt related, please send it in to Miss. Appropriate.

Dear Ms. Appropriate: Sometimes I don't feel like staying out for the entirety of the hunt. Maybe it's cold, maybe I have some other things to do that day. What's the best way to head in early? Also, sometimes as I head in, a hound is with me. How should I handle that?
 -Fair Weather Rider

Dear Fair: Most importantly, if you want to hunt, you should plan to stay for the duration of the hunt short of an emergency. If you can't commit to the full hunt, it's probably best to skip that day. If you do have an emergency and need to leave, speak with your field master. They will tell you when and how to head back so as to not interrupt the day. If you find that a hound is following you, it's best to alert staff of the situation and let one of them handle it. We do not want hounds, especially puppies, learning to follow fields/riders in. They're job is to hunt and they're not doing that if they're following you.

-Ms. A.

Winter Storm Photos



Hunting on Foot 1/18/24
 PC: Tosh Bledsoe



Resident Fox
 PC: Clay Chase



"The Hunter Becomes the Hunted"
 Recently adopted Whiskey chased by sister Luna "Fox"
 PC: Clay Chase



Resident Fox
 PC: Clay Chase



On Foot 12/17/20 after an ice storm
 PC: Jessa McCartney

Submissions?

If you have an article, bottle report, advertisement, photo, or question for Miss A that you'd like included in next month's newsletter, we'd love to hear from you! **Submissions are due by Feb 20th** and can be submitted to Jessa at 603-479-6006 (text preferred) or bullrunhuntva@gmail.com. The next newsletter will be released on March 1st

Show Season is Quickly Approaching!

It may feel like winter, but it's never too early to think about show season. BRH will continue last year's highly successfully show series and we look forward to seeing you at Locust Hill! Prize lists are available on the website.

- Jumpers: 3/10 & 6/23
- Hunters: 4/21 & 6/2

COME SHOW WITH US



If you'd like to sponsor, please contact Sam Schiff at (804)761-6182