

Loudoun Hunt Celebrates 125 Years

*As Cubbing Season Starts,
Hound Puppies Prompt A Party*

By Kirsten Cook

Loudoun Hunt has kicked off its 125th season with a bang. Saturday, Aug. 31 was perfect weather for cubbing and getting new horses ready to hunt. We saw several new faces who wanted to give hunting a try. To ensure safety of horses and riders we split into groups or “fields” that would move at an appropriate pace.

It was great to see people in western tack and dressage saddles!

Foxhunting is an excellent way to have new experiences with your equine partner. Riding on trails and in a group gives horses a chance to move freely and take in new sights. Regardless of your discipline, it’s important to shake up your training routine and give your horse a chance to do something that comes naturally to them. Moving along with their equine friends is second nature to them and they love it. We take care to make sure you and your horse have a positive experience.

The enjoyment of fox hunting can also be found by hunting on foot. On Saturday I followed the riders in order to take photos. Even though we are just a few miles from downtown Leesburg, it feels like you are a world away from the bustling traffic of our major roads. The hounds worked hard and had the opportunity to build up some more fitness for formal hunting season. After the ride we had a hunt breakfast, known as a “tailgate” to non-horsey folks. Members bring food to share and it gives everyone a chance to catch up with old friends and share fun stories.

Cubbing is an excellent opportunity for new foxhunters to see another core principle of foxhunting in action. Camaraderie is one of the most important parts of riding to hounds. We have such a range of people with different life experiences riding together. Individual competitive endeavors are wonderful but can be very isolating. Riding with people who simply enjoy horses is a refreshing break.

In addition to riding, we had the opportunity to unveil six new hounds at our Puppy Naming Party. The purpose of this event was to give each of the hounds a name that started with the letter “E.” Guests had a great time coming up with as many “E” names as possible. Dry Mill Vineyards generously provided the space for our party as well as delicious wine!

Huntsman Ron Johnsey is particularly enthusiastic about this specific litter. They are products of the first pack of hounds that he started at the kennel. We look forward to seeing them develop into valuable members of the pack. Loudoun Hunt would like to express its appreciation to the hunt staff that worked so hard to make these early days so enjoyable.



Loudoun Hunt Master Larry Dale, introduces the newest members of the pack to adoring fans at a recent Puppy Naming Party

PHOTOS COURTESY: KIRSTEN COOK