

# Private prosecutions by RSPCA

by Francis Bennion

Before Rod Liddle lays down the law on foxhunting he should be sure it really is the law. As a lawyer I can tell him he has got it wrong. He says that the RSPCA case was a 'state prosecution' when it was actually a private prosecution. He says the RSPCA is 'charged' with the task of defending the law and compiling evidence. It isn't. He says (on no evidence) that the legislation banning fox hunting was 'not motivated by social or political spite'. No one thinks that is true. He is ignorant of the fact that Crown prosecutors are not allowed to bring a case unless it is in the public interest to do so. Scandalously, private prosecutors like the RSPCA are under no such restriction.

Many apart from me must wonder why you pay this man to insult respectable readers by rudely calling them bone-headed psychopaths.<sup>1</sup>

© 2011 F A R Bennion

Website: [www.francisbennion.com](http://www.francisbennion.com)

Doc. No. 2013.003

Published in *The Spectator* 9 February 2013

Any footnotes are shown at the bottom of each page

For full version of abbreviations click 'Abbreviations' on FB's website

## References:

None

---

<sup>1</sup> Published in *The Spectator* 9 February 2013.