

South African hunts use a drag scented with jackal urine

Outfoxed

Fox hunting is typically associated with the United Kingdom, but South Africa has its own version

WORDS AND IMAGES BY ANTONY KAMINJU

It's 6.30am on a Sunday. Four-wheel drive vehicles arrive at a farm on the outskirts of Johannesburg. Dogs are barking from a distance and their cries are drawing ever closer. I learn that they are not called dogs, they are hounds.

The event is drag hunting, an equestrian sport said to have its roots in the 16th century where men on horseback and a pack of hounds would follow a fox trail back to its den. The South African version involves

chasing not a real fox, but a drag scented with urine.

A hunt typically involves up to 50 riders although as many as 100 may attend on special occasions. Riders maintain strict codes on security and dress.

However, the city is rapidly expanding which means a loss of rural land and so less opportunity for hunts in the future.

Antony Kaminju is a photojournalist based in South Africa



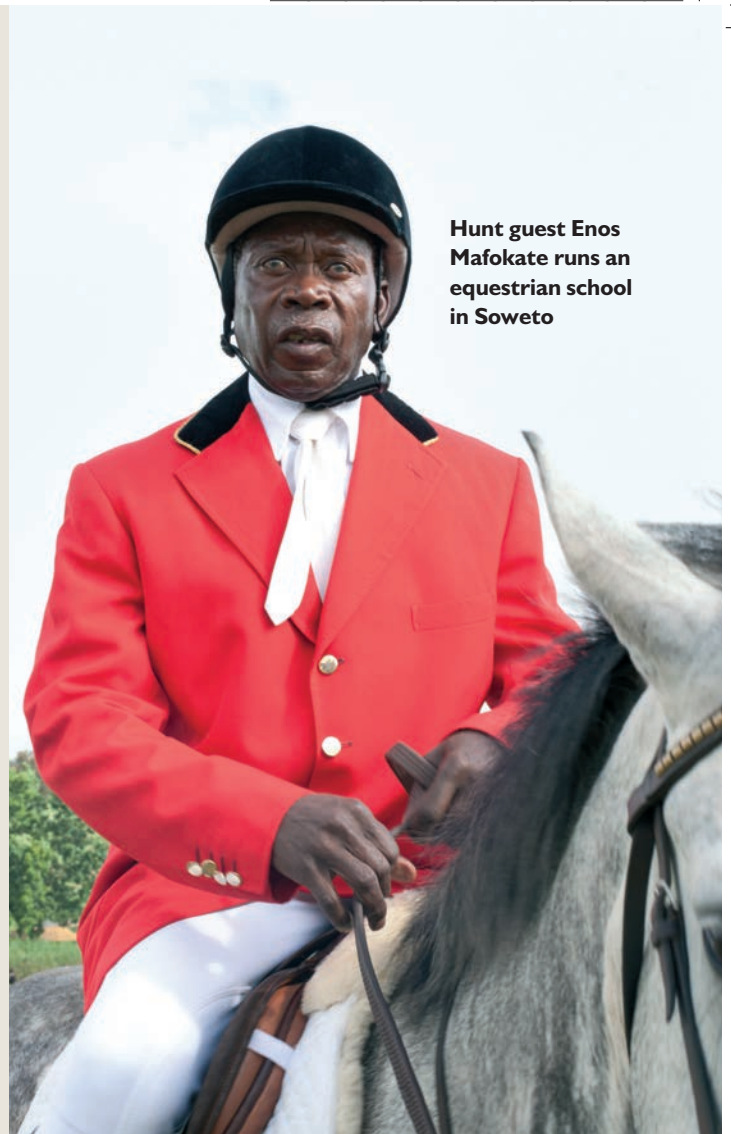
The hunt usually involves between 30 and 50 riders

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The jackal scent is laid ten minutes ahead of the pack



Hunt guest Enos Mafokate runs an equestrian school in Soweto



Everyone needs a drink after the hunt

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