



Gazette photos by Sallie Turner

Tot Goodwin, a huntsman, rounds up the hounds during a fox hunt at Half Halt Farms in Cherryville on Tuesday. Below, the hounds lead the way at the start of a formal hunt.

Let the hunt begin

From staff reports

CHERRYVILLE — Fox hunters gathered Thursday with their hounds to see if they could catch the elusive fox.

Fox hunts are held twice weekly in conjunction with Green Creek Hounds in Columbus, Bill Anderson of Half Halt Farms in Cherryville said.

The hunts begin each year at the end of September and continue through March.

According to Anderson, the hunts are done in "traditional English fox hunting" manner. Around 50 to 70 English Fox hounds and a lead "huntsman" chase the scent of wild foxes as hunters follow on horseback.



Between 98 and 99 percent of the foxes are able to escape the dogs, Anderson said.

"Generally, (the foxes) have a definite advantage because they know the territory better," said Anderson, who added that the fox is released if the dogs catch it. "Our sport doesn't involve killing, just the chasing," he said.

The hunts usually last three hours, according to Anderson.