

Working Dogs Honouring man's best friend



WORKING DOGS, the second special issue of 2008, goes on sale at Post Office branches, Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets on 5 February. The stamps show: Assistance Dog, 1st class; Mountain Rescue Dog, 46p; Police Dog, 48p; Customs Dog, 54p; Sheepdog, 69p; and Guide Dog, 78p. They are designed by Redpath Design with photography by Tim Flach Ltd, and printed in lithography by Cartor Security Printing of France. The stamps measure 37 x 35mm. Post Office branches will carry sheets of 25; sheets of 50, with gutter margin, will be available from Royal Mail Tallents House and selected Post Office philatelic outlets. The 1st class stamp bears the EUROPA symbol, the Eurropa theme for 2008 being 'The Letter'.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Orders for serviced FDCs must arrive at Tallents House (address below) by the date of issue. Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark), or to their nearest Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centre (Hound Green, Basingstoke, Hants postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FD0803' or 'FD0804'. For details of sponsored handstamps and for the addresses of the Handstamp Centres see the *British Postmark Bulletin*.

PRESENTATION PACK The colourful pack (shown opposite), containing the six stamps, was written by Jim Davies, and includes details of the work of the six dogs featured on the stamps, and which breeds are the best-suited to each task. We are told that the first dogs used in police service were not a success, one of them biting the Metropolitan Commissioner! Today's several hundred police dogs are better trained and behaved.

IT'S A DOG'S LIFE



MONDAY: DOMESTIC BREAK-IN 3AM: SECURE AREA...999 CALL: ARSON ATTACK ON WAREHOUSE
 TUESDAY: HAWTHORN ESTATE: RIOT...SEARCH BUILDING FOR EXPLOSIVE SUBSTANCES...
 WEDNESDAY: CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION: SUSPECT PACKAGE INSPECTION...HIGH STREET: FRACAS...
 THURSDAY: GREAT NORTHERN CANAL: CADAVER RECOVERY...CITY CENTRE: PROTEST MARCH...
 FRIDAY: AIRPORT BAGGAGE RECLAIM: ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES SEARCH
 SATURDAY: CROWD CONTROL: UNITED V ROVERS...999 CALL: DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE...



WORKING DOGS

The presentation pack, left, shows working dogs in action during the World Wars, and at the present time. The pack is designed by Redpath, with images from the Imperial War Museum, Metropolitan Police Archive, and other sources.

The first day envelope, below, is also designed by Redpath.



Royal Mail First Day Cover WORKING DOGS

Rowan
Max



Mrs J Robinson
 200 Manorbier Road
 Ilkeston
 Derbyshire
 DE7 4AB

Royal Mail Talents House 21 South-Que Crescent Edinburgh EH12 9PH

Earlier stamp issues This is the first set of special stamps devoted to working dogs, although an Old English Sheepdog was depicted on the 9p value in the Dogs set of February 1979, and a guide dog on the 14p stamp of the 1981 International Year of the Disabled issue. A Border Collie, a breed which is frequently used as a sheepdog, was featured on one of the 10 Farm Animals stamps issued in January 2005 •

Dogs Prices	
Set of stamps	£3.29
Presentation pack	£3.80
FDC envelope	£0.30
Serviced FDC (UK orders)	£4.34
Serviced FDC (overseas orders)	£3.70
Stamp cards set	£1.80