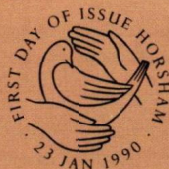
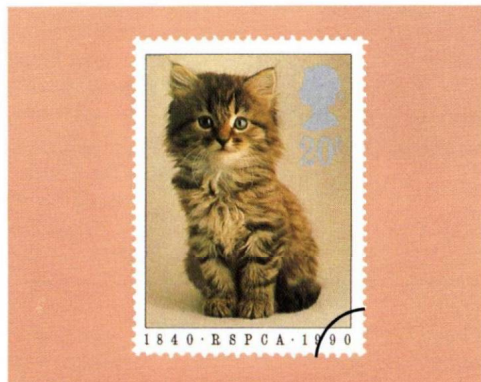


23 January 1990



The first set of special stamps for 1990 will be issued on 23 January to mark the 150th anniversary of the granting of the prefix "Royal" to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, one of the country's best-known charitable organisations. The four stamps feature popular animals and a bird.

The **20p** stamp (basic inland first class and EEC rate) depicts a kitten, the **29p** value (post-cards outside Europe) a rabbit, the **34p** (Airmail Zone B) a duckling and the **37p** stamp (Airmail Zone C) a puppy.

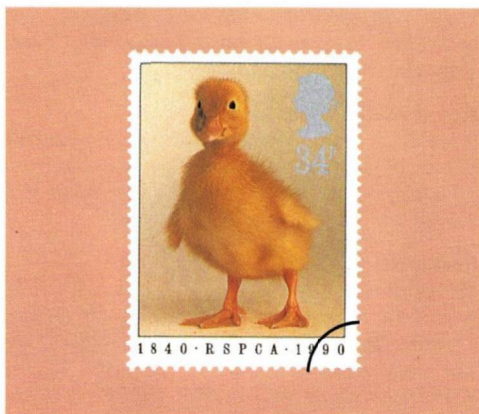


in the late 1830s to report on cruelty and to prosecute where necessary. Similar bodies were established in other countries and the RSPCA was instrumental in the setting up of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children in 1884.

The RSPCA has played an important role in promoting legislation including the 1911 Animal Protection Act. Today the Society is active on the European scene, being a founder member of Eurogroup for Animal Welfare.

Even in the early 19th century bull-baiting and cock-fighting were popular sports in Britain and horses were flogged to death in the streets. In 1822 Richard Martin, MP for Galway (dubbed "Humanity Dick" by George IV) promoted the first law in Britain to limit cruelty to cattle. Two years later, Arthur Broome, a London clergyman appalled by cruelty to animals, convened a meeting of people of similar persuasion including Martin and another MP, William Wilberforce, famous for his work in abolishing slavery. The outcome of this meeting (held at the inappropriately named "Old Slaughter's" coffee house) was the establishment of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Initially the Society was short of money but support grew with the patronage of Princess Victoria and in 1840 the Society was granted the coveted Royal prefix. Inspectors were appointed

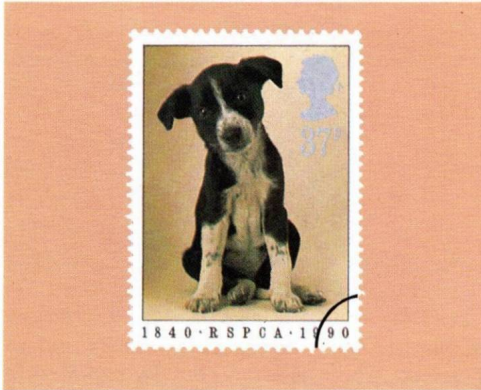


The Society's inspectors investigate some 80,000 complaints annually and each year about 2,000 people are convicted of cruelty to animals. Animal homes and hospitals are other important

aspects of the Society's many activities as are RSPCA campaigns against animal experiments and the abuse of animals kept as pets.

### Technical Details

The stamps were designed by Tony Evans, who was responsible for the Studio Pottery stamps of 1987, and printed in lithography by The House of Questa in sheets of 100 on phosphor coated paper. They measure 30 x 41mm, are perforated 14 x 15 and have PVA Dextrin gum.



Tony Evans describes himself as "a self-taught photographer" who began his career in 1963 taking a series of portraits of young painters about to leave the Royal College of Art; one of these was David Hockney. He sold Hockney portraits to *Vogue* and *The Sunday Telegraph* and over the next few years did many portraits of painters, sculptors and potters including the famous Bernard Leach, one of whose pots featured in the 1987 Pottery set. Mr Evans has worked for both *The Sunday Times Magazine* and Radio Times.

### Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Royal Mail Stamp Cards featuring enlargements of each of the four stamps will be available from 8 January, price 18p each. They are numbered 123A-D.

### Presentation Pack

The presentation pack (No. 204) will cost £1.45. It has been designed by Feldman, Epps with text by Mike Barden and illustrations by Paul Leith. The pack illustrates some of the work of the RSPCA, Richard Martin MP and the commemorative plaque on the site of the coffee house where the Society held its inaugural meeting.

### First Day Cover and Postmarks

The Royal Mail first day cover envelope will be

available from the British Philatelic Bureau, philatelic counters, the National Postal Museum and main post offices approximately two weeks before 23 January, price 18p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service — one for the British Philatelic Bureau and one for Horsham, West Sussex — where the RSPCA headquarters is now sited.

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the four stamps cancelled with either postmark. Application forms, available from the Bureau and most main post offices, should be returned not later than 23 January.

Customers requiring only the special pictorial postmarks may obtain them under the reposting facility by sending on the first day of issue a stamped addressed envelope under an outer cover endorsed "Special First Day of Issue handstamp" to:

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British Philatelic Bureau      20 Brandon Street  
EDINBURGH EH3 5TT

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Horsham      Special Postmark Duty  
Windsor Post Office  
Peascod Street  
WINDSOR  
Berks SL4 1AA

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First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps.

A number of special handstamps, sponsored by stamp dealers and others, will be used on 23 January — full details of these will be published in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, available on subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau.

Royal Mail Stamp Cards may be given any of the First Day of Issue and sponsored special handstamps. Collectors wishing to have their first day covers/cards returned under cover should enclose a large self-addressed envelope when sending covers/cards in to the relevant Special Postmark Duty for handstamping.

### Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from all philatelic counters from 24 January, price 18p. It will remain on sale for one year.



