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COMING UP: RSPCA EXHIBITION



Dogs and bones of contention

Action for Animals charts the campaigning history of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the world's largest animal welfare organisation which this year celebrates its 150th anniversary. A wide-ranging display pays tribute to founder member, Richard Martin MP — known as "Humanity Dick" — who initiated a tireless crusade in defence of our mute companions, overseeing legislation to protect domestic animals (above) and outlaw cock-fighting as well as struggling to curtail the sad trail of broken-down pit ponies, banished to the continent for sale as horsemeat. Over a century later the need for vigilance is no less apparent with increasing concern over trade in live animals and the potentially catastrophic effects of pollution and animal experimentation. The multi-faceted exhibition comprises interactive displays and computers together with a complementary series of films and lectures and affords a glimpse of the whole range of RSPCA activities from political lobbying to the emergency treatment of diseased seals in the Wash. Among those credited with animal-friendly inventions is Sir Isaac Newton whose catflap liberated moggies around the world. 9 March to 10 June Natural History Museum, Cromwell Rd SW7 (01-938 9388).

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