

Dear Chris Sherwood (RSPCA CEO) and Claire Horton CBE (RSPCA Board Chair)

We're celebrating the RSPCA's 200th anniversary with you. You've helped make the world a kinder place for many animals.

Yet in the 200 years you've been in existence, you've failed to protect the largest group of animals who are suffering the most – animals who are farmed. **Your RSPCA Assured scheme is failing to ensure the wellbeing of farmed animals, it is welfare-washing animal cruelty, and it is misleading the public that animals can be farmed without cruelty.** Almost 100 investigations over the past 16 years have shown [shocking and heartbreaking levels of suffering in RSPCA Assured farms and slaughterhouses](#). Newborn babies taken from their mothers. Animals confined in crowded, stressful conditions their entire lives, with many dying from dehydration, starvation, injury or disease. [Animals stamped on, kicked and hit with blunt instruments](#). The majority of animals gassed to death in slaughterhouses, which causes fear, pain and suffocation. As you're aware, much of this is widespread under RSPCA's Assured scheme. Yet the public is not aware of this, and [your adverts intentionally hide this from them](#).

These investigations continually expose how animal cruelty is the norm in RSPCA-Assured farms and slaughterhouses, not the exception. **Endorsing animal cruelty not only erodes the public's trust in the RSPCA, it holds us back as a society from making the changes we so urgently need.** Even your own president, Chris Packham, has described the evidence as "utterly indefensible" and called for an immediate suspension of the Assured scheme. But despite mounting investigations and pressure for many years to end the Assured scheme, nothing has changed. If this level of cruelty was happening to dogs and cats, you'd be rescuing those individuals and taking those responsible to court. **We believe it's time for you to protect all animals by ending the Assured scheme and promoting a kinder future that doesn't involve harming and slaughtering animals in their billions.**

Anyone who's spent time with a pig, chicken or cow knows they have as much personality as the dogs and cats in our homes. They feel joy and sadness, and they value their lives – just like we do. **Charlie the piglet, who would have soon been killed in a slaughterhouse, was [recently rescued from one of your Assured farms](#) with a huge growth on her face that needed medical attention.** Seeing the footage of her now, it's impossible not to smile to see her playing and thriving in her new home. Every individual like Charlie should have the freedom to live. Yet, by putting your stamp of approval on an industry that confines and kills billions of animals, **you're reinforcing the harmful myth that some animals matter more than others.**

[In your 200th anniversary video](#), you ask the UK public to respect all animals. As your friends and allies, we're asking you to do the same. **The RSPCA is the most trusted animal charity and you have the influence to lead the way towards a better future for all of us.** A future where all animals are seen as unique individuals, rather than 'stock'; where our food system supports our

planet, rather than destroys it; and where the food we eat sustains all of us, rather than makes us vulnerable to disease and pandemics.

The science is clear – a transition away from farming animals is urgent and cannot be delayed any longer:

- Billions of animals, just like Charlie, suffer and are killed every year in UK farms and slaughterhouses;
- Ancient forests are being chopped down to farm animals and grow food for them;
- Waterways are being choked and polluted with waste from animal farms;
- Farming animals is one of the biggest contributors to the climate and nature crises;
- Animal-based foods aren't required in our diets and are a significant contributor to chronic disease;
- Farming animals increases antibiotic resistance and the risk of more pandemics.

It takes courage to lead the way and create change in a society that may not seem ready for it. But brave leadership is part of your legacy. Two of your founders helped end human slavery, while another created the first ever animal cruelty law. This would have seemed radical at the time, but is unquestionable today. **While a move away from farming animals might seem radical now, in the future the only question society will ask is: *why didn't we do this sooner?***

We know you set up the RSPCA Assured scheme with good intentions, but **it fails to protect animals, it misleads the animal-loving public, and it should no longer carry the RSPCA's trusted name**. Your 200th anniversary marks an opportunity to lead the way once again for animals, and we ask that you create a kinder world for all animals by:

1. **Dropping the RSPCA Assured scheme**
2. **Promoting a transition away from farming animals, towards a plant-based future.**

This change is not just for Charlie and the billions of animals like her. It benefits all of us and helps ensure a future for all of us – for generations to come. And as your friends and allies, we'll be behind you every step of the way...

Signed by:

Ricky Gervais, **Actor, Comedian**

Sir Brian May, Co-Founder, **Sir Brian May's Save Me Trust**

Bryan Adams, **Singer**

Joanna Lumley, **Actor**
Peter Egan, **Actor**, former Vice President, **RSPCA**
Moby, **Musician**
Jerome Flynn, **Actor, Singer**
James Cromwell, **Actor**
Will Young, **Singer**
Sir Mark Rylance, **Actor**
Miriam Margolyes, **Actor**
Evanna Lynch, **Actor, Writer**
Heather Mills, Founder, **VBites**
Lou Sanders, **Comedian**
George Monbiot, **Author, Journalist, Environmental Activist**
Dale Vince OBE, Founder, **Ecotricity**
Gail Porter, **TV Personality**
Sadie Frost, **Actor, Film Producer**
Mary McCartney, **Photographer, Director, TV Presenter**
John Robb, **Journalist, TV and Radio Presenter**
Etienne Stott MBE, **Olympic Gold Medallist**
Kate Strong, **World Champion Triathlete**
Zack Polanski, Leader, **Green Party and London Assembly Member**
Vanessa Hudson, Leader, **Animal Welfare Party**
Dr Diana Newson, **Co-convenor, Green Party Animal Rights Policy Working Group**
Councillor Ian Middleton, **Oxfordshire County, Kidlington South Division**
Jane Tredgett, former Board Vice Chair, **RSPCA**, former Board Non-Executive Director, **RSPCA**
Assured
Bob Baylis, former Trustee, **RSPCA**, former Board Member, **RSPCA Assured**
Kim Stallwood, **Scholar, Author**, former Council Member, **RSPCA**
Jose Parry, former Board Member, **RSPCA**
Michelle Charlton, Retired Chief Inspector, **RSPCA**
Susan Stow, former Trustee and Branch Secretary, **RSPCA West Dorset Branch**
Beverley Fawcett, Manager, **RSPCA Southport Branch**
Dominic Kerridge, Assistant Manager, **Bath Cats & Dogs Home & RSPCA Charity Shop**
Beverley Bacon, Deputy Manager, **RSPCA Little Valley**
Christine Pattison, Charity Shop Volunteer, **RSPCA**
Lynda Spires, Volunteer, **RSPCA**
Chris Elgar, Volunteer, **RSPCA Sherborne Branch**
Debra Brown, Former Volunteer, **RSPCA**
Sylwia Checinska, Former Volunteer, **RSPCA**
Dr Marc Abraham OBE, **Vet, Author, Campaigner**
Dr Alice Brough, **Former Industry Vet**
Dr Molly Vasanthakumar, **Former Industry Vet**

Dr Mark Jones, **Vet, Animal Welfare Advocate**

Professor Andrew Knight, School of Veterinary Medicine, **Murdoch University, Western Australia**

Dr Shailen Jasani, Emergency & Critical Care Specialist Vet, Founder, **Veterinary Vegan Network**

Dr Andre Menache, Vet, Scientist, Director, **Progressive Veterinary Association**

Dr Iain McGill, Vet, Scientist, Director, **Progressive Veterinary Association**

Dr Bronwen Eastwood, Vet, Director, **Progressive Veterinary Association**

Elliot Kneba, **Veterinarian**

Ines Bertinovec, **Veterinarian**

Deanne Baughn, **Veterinary Assistant**

Lucy Findlay, **RVN Veterinary Nurse**

Jo Ireson, **Vet Nurse**

Mark Eaton, Owner, **FRIEND Farm Animal Sanctuary**

Ella Barlow, Co-Founder, **Noo Beginnings Animal Sanctuary**

Billy Thompson, Founder, **The Retreat Animal Rescue**

Jan Garen, Trustee, **Wales Ape & Monkey Sanctuary**

Níá Ni Greine, Founder, **Heartstone Veganic Sanctuary**

Rose Gray, Community Fundraiser, **Holly Hedge Animal Sanctuary**

Cassie Fletcher, Trustee, **Animal Lifeline**

Bettina Christine Adank, **Organic Vegan Farmer**

Dr Neal Barnard, President, **Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine**

Dr Shireen Kassam, Founder & Director, **Plant-Based Health Professionals UK**

Dr Patrick Deckers, Orthopaedic Surgeon, Founder & Chairman, **Caring Doctors**

Dr Zahra Kassam, Consultant Oncologist, Founder & Director, **Plant-Based Canada**

Dr Gemma Newman, **General Practitioner, NHS**

Dr Christelle Blunden, **General Practitioner, NHS**

Dr Isabelle Benard, **General practitioner, NHS**

Dr Kush Naker, **Infectious Diseases Registrar, NHS**

Ayesha Smart, **Barrister, Crown Court Judge**

Samuel March, **Barrister**

Nicholas Taylor, Lawyer, Ambassador, **International Aid for the Protection & Welfare of Animals**

Jim Mason, **Attorney, Author**

Barbara Gardner, Founder & Chief Executive, **Animal Interfaith Alliance**

Dr Christina Nellist, President, **Pan Orthodox Concern for Animals**

John Ryder, Spokesperson, **Christian Vegetarians and Vegans**

Steve Hamon, Managing Director, **The Vegan Society**

Ingrid Newkirk, President, **People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals**

Rebecca Knowles, Founding Director, **Stockfree Farming**

Tina Matthews, Chair of Board, **Freedom for Animals**

Robert Read, Chief Operation Officer, **Captain Paul Watson Foundation UK**

Dr Melanie Joy, Founding President, **Beyond Carnism**

Jo-Anne McArthur, Founder & President, **We Animals**

Amy Jones, Founder, **Moving Animals**
Jane Land, Co-Founder & Board Chair, **Veganuary**
Anita Krajnc, Founder & Director, **Animal Save Movement**
Juliet Gellatley, Director, **Viva! Campaigns Ltd**
Iain Green, Director, **Animal Aid**
Dr Laila Kassam, Co-Founder & Co-Director, **Animal Think Tank**
Claire Palmer, Founder & Director, **Animal Justice Project**
Naomi Hallum, CEO, **Generation Vegan**
Robert Pownall, Founder & CEO, **Protect the Wild**
Laura Broxson, Founder, **National Animal Rights Association**
Cheryl Leahy, Executive Director, **Animal Outlook**
Stuart Evans, Founder & Director, **Animal Alliance Project**
Matthew Glover, Founder & Director, **Veg Capital**
Andy Shovel, Co-Founder, **THIS**
Klaus Mitchell, Founder & CEO, **Plant Based News**
Emilie Fitch, Co-Founder & CEO, **People for Better Food**
Dr Sailesh Rao, Executive Director, **Climate Healers**
Clare Farrell, Co-Founder, **Extinction Rebellion**
Michaela Andrews, Founder, **Plant Based Councils**
Nathan McGovern, Founder, **Plant Based Universities**
James Hattersley, Executive Director, **We The Free**
Wayne Hsiung, Co-Founder, **The Simple Heart**
Almira Tanner, Lead Organizer, **Direct Action Everywhere**
Eva Hamer, Co-President, **Pax Fauna**
Aidan Kankyoku, Co-President, **Pro-Animal Future**
Camille Labchuck, Executive Director, **Animal Justice**
Rose Patterson, Co-Director, **Animal Rising**
Anne Brummer, Co-Founder, **Sir Brian May's Save Me Trust**
Nicola Round, Co-Director, **Adfree Cities**
Tom Crompton, Co-Founder, **Common Cause Foundation**
Rick Holland, Director, **Confident Philanthropy**
Hope Bohanec, Executive Director, **Compassionate Living**
Mary Finelli, President, **Fish Feel**
David Sparrow, CEO, **The Vegan Food Group**
Indy Kaur, Founder & Director, **Plant Futures**
Robbie Lockie, Founder & Director, **Freedom Food Alliance**
Joey Carbstrong, **Animal Rights Influencer, Investigator, Filmmaker**
Alex Lockwood, **BAFTA-Winning Film Director**
Thomas Pickering, **Film Director**, Founder, **Running On Plants**
Roger Wolfson, **Screenwriter, Speechwriter**
Lauren Mee, Founder & Director, **Animal Advocacy Careers**

Tania Luna, Co-Founder, **Scarlet Spark**
Tim Barford, Director, **VegFest UK**
Ruth Jenkins, Founder, **Vegan-Inclusive Education**
Liz Flynn, Founder & Director, **Vegan and Animal Rights Conference**
Dr Chris Bryant, Director, **Bryant Research**
Jess Swallow, CEO & Founder, **The Vegan Inclusion Co.**
Dr Iris Bergmann, Scholar, Founder, **Interspecies**
Jamie Woodhouse, Founder, **Sentientism**
James Morgan, Executive Director, **Vegan Hacktivists**
Kate Rodman, Co-Founder, **Violet Studios**
Professor Emeritus, Marc Bekoff, **University of Colorado**
Professor Martha C Nussbaum, **University of Chicago**
Professor Alasdair Cochrane, **University of Sheffield**
Professor Amir Kassam, OBE, **University of Reading**
Professor Michael Hassell, CBE, **Imperial College London**
Professor Louise Haywood, **University of Cambridge**
Professor Claire Parkinson, **Edge Hill University**
Professor Nicholas Royle, **University of Sussex**
Professor Arran Stibbe, **University of Gloucestershire**
Professor Barry Smart, **University of Portsmouth**
Professor Kay Peggs, **Kingston University**
Professor Caroline Clarke, **The Open University**
Professor Enrico Spacone, **Università di Chieti Pescara**
Professor Justin Marceau, Animal Activist Defense Project, **University of Denver**
Professor Robert C. Jones, **California State University**
Professor Esther K Papies, **Radboud University**
Associate Professor Emerita, Alexandra Isfahani-Hammond, **University of California, San Diego**
Associate Professor Yamini Narayanan, **Deakin University, Australia**
Associate Professor Paul Dennis, **University of Queensland, Australia**
Dr Hayden Wilkinson, **University of Oxford**
Dr Kristof Dhont, **University of Kent, PHAIR Society**
Dr Richard Twine, **Edge Hill University**
Dr Richard J White, **Sheffield Hallam University**
Dr Christine Lewis, **Edge Hill University**
Dr John Miller, **University of Sheffield**
Dr Jack Waverley, **University of Manchester**
Dr William Gildea, **University of Warwick**
Dr Matthew Cole, **The Open University**
Dr Beth Malory, **University College London**
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Dr Kristof Dhont, **University of Kent**
Dr Elia Valentini, **University of Essex**
Dr Josh Milburn, **Loughborough University**
Dr Michael Daw, **University of Northampton**
Dr William P Kay, **Cardiff University**
Dr Dominic O'Key, **University of Sheffield**
Dr Michael Kilmister, **University of Reading**
Dr Emma Major, **University of York**
Dr Luiz Silva Souza, **Kingston University**
Dr Luke Doggett, **Kingston University**
Dr Ian Sturrock, **Teesside University**
Dr Mara-Daria Cojocaru, **Munich School of Philosophy**
Dr Brian Jones, **Hong Kong University**
Dr Adam Cardilini, **Deakin University, Victoria, Australia**
Dr Matthew Ruby, **La Trobe University, Australia**
Dr Carla Riverola, **Griffith University**
Dr Paula Arcari, **Author, Scholar**
Clare Mann, **Psychologist**
Bel Jacobs, **Founder, The Empathy Project**
Deborah Curtis, **Creative Director, The Great Imagining**
Rob Baylis, **Chartered Environmentalist, Podcast Host**
Shreena Shah, **Co-founder, Vegan Bites**
Vicky Akehurst, Retired Shoreham Assistant Manager, **Dogs Trust**
Billie Craig, Hertfordshire Assistant Manager, **Blue Cross**
Anastasia Dunn, Undercover Investigator of Orcas in Captivity
Rebecca Lewis, Athlete & Animal Rescuer
Lara Robinson, Animal Behaviourist
Faye Edmonds, Animal Care Assistant
Fiona French, Disabled Chicken Rescuer
S E Upcoming, Marine Biologist
Chloe Aridjis, Writer
Jay Griffiths, Writer
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