





# Last call for entries to animal welfare awards

Monday 11 June 2012

Food and fashion companies have just days left to be in the running for a prestigious award which would highlight their commitment to animal welfare.

The closing date to enter this year's RSPCA Good Business Awards has been extended until Friday 29 June.

The awards, which have been running since 2005, are judged by a panel of industry experts and celebrate companies who put animal welfare at the heart of their business practices.

"By entering the RSPCA Good Business Awards, companies have the perfect opportunity to receive public and industry recognition for their commitment to animal welfare," says Good Business Awards manager Jane Martin.



"Over the last 10 years, animal welfare has remained a priority among consumers and spending on ethical goods and services have increased dramatically. Retailers would be foolish to ignore this.

"We want to reward companies that are exploring new ideas and developing interesting and innovative solutions to the promotion of animal welfare in food and fashion."

Previous winners include New Look, Marks and Spencer and George at Asda in the fashion category. They have consistently considered animal welfare in their procurement of raw materials and provide customers with information about the origins of their collections.

The Co-operative, Sainsbury's and Virgin Trains won awards in the food category for sourcing their products in an ethical way and paying close attention to the supply chain of their animal-derived items.

This year also marks the launch of a brand new 'Hot Topic' award, where the public vote for the animal welfare issue that means most to them, and retailers are asked to show what they are doing to meet these concerns. This gives retailers direct communication with their consumers about the great work they are doing for animal welfare.

The Good Business Awards culminate with a glitzy ceremony in London on October Wednesday 24th October 6pm to 8.30pm held at 1 Marylebone London. The winning companies are given a chance to mark their achievements and contribution to raising animal welfare standards in key industries.

#### **Press office**

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For more information and to enter log onto <a href="https://www.rspcagoodbusinessawards.com">www.rspcagoodbusinessawards.com</a> or to find out more ethical food and fashion go to <a href="https://www.goodthings.org.uk">www.goodthings.org.uk</a>

-Ends-

### **Notes to editors**

Interviews with RSPCA staff are available. Please contact the press office on 0300 123 0244/0288 or email press@rspca.org.uk

The RSPCA will only accept applications from fashion companies that:

- Do not use fur
- Do not use Karakul lambskin pelts
- Do not use exotic skins
- Have a policy on sourcing merino wool.

The RSPCA will only accept applications from retailers, restaurants pubs and caterers that:

- Do not sell or serve foie gras.
- Do not sell or serve white veal.
- Only sell or serve meat from animals that have been pre-stunned before slaughter.

Winners will be promoted on the RSPCA Good Business Awards website and achievements will be detailed on our consumer website www.goodthings.org.uk

Judges for the fashion category are Lisa Armstrong, fashion editor of The Times, Wayne Hemingway, designer and co founder of Red Or Dead and Shelly Vella, fashion director of Cosmopolitan magazine.

Judges for the food category are presenter of BBC's Full On food Richard Johnson, independent food consultant Dr Geoff Spriegel and Prof John Webster, Professor Emeritus at Bristol University.

Awards open for in the food category are:

- Caterer Award
- Independent Retailer Award

#### Supermarkets:

- Retailer of the Year
- Engagement Award
- Breakthrough Award
- Hot Topic Award

#### Restaurant & Pubs:

- Independent Restaurant
- Independent Pub
- Restaurant Chain
- Pub Chain

Awards open for entry to fashion retailers:

- Best Newcomer
- Small Company (249 employees or less)
- Large Company (250 employees or more)
- Innovation Award

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