

OBSESSIONS

We're Talking About ...

SHARED BY THE CATSTER TEAM

1 Cats on Stamps
It's time to start writing letters again, thanks to the USPS's

latest stamp booklet to be released in May. The stamps depict 20 of America's best-loved pets — and, naturally, that includes cats!

You'll be able to purchase the booklet at your local post office, and you can also get it at the World Stamp Show in New York on May 28th through June 4th. Admission is free!

"Without question, 'animals' remains the No. 1 subject favored by topical collectors worldwide, with cats and dogs heading the list," said Thomas Fortunato, Chairman of Marketing and Public Relations for the World Stamp Show. "Our favorite pets ... can be seen on thousands of stamps and philatelic items issued by the U.S. and other postal administrations."

Here are some fun cat-related stamp tidbits:

➔ In 2002, a campaign was creat-



ed to raise awareness of spay/neuter through stamps. The 37-cent stamps featured a photo of a kitten and puppy from a shelter.

➔ The *Animal Rescue: Adopt a Shelter Pet* sheet of commemorative 44-cent stamps was issued in 2010 featuring images of five cats and five dogs adopted from shelters.

➔ A 1-cent stamp featuring a highly stylized digital image of a bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) was released in 2012.

➔ The Siberian tiger is on a large variety of stamps because of its popularity and its status as an endangered species.

➔ The joint issue from Indonesia and Turkey in 2008 feature the Flat-Headed Cat, an unusual cat from Asia that has a weasel-like appearance, reddish-brown fur, and a flat skull.

For more information about USPS's animal stamps, go to uspsstamps.com/topics/animals. For more information on the World Stamp Show, visit NY2016.org.

— Annie



2 I Nose You
Precious Metal Prints' dog nose pendants

certainly fall into the category of unique, stylish, and personal gifts — they certainly caught my eye. Owner Grant Barton explained that the pendants are made of fine silver (99.9 percent pure), and an 18-inch sterling silver chain is included with the completed pendant. Not a silver person? The company also offers a gold vermeil version, which is 24k gold plated over fine silver.

The impressions are not that hard to do, either. Just purchase a kit at the website, follow the instructions to take the impression, and send it back to the company. "We make the pendant, stamp up to three initials on the back, and send it back," Grant said. "The entire process takes approximately three to four weeks." Impressions can be made of any of your furry friends' noses and even those that are not so furry. "We have done an otter nose pendant and a pot bellied pig nose pendant!" Grant said. \$79.99 (silver)/\$109.99 (gold); preciousmetalprints.com

— Melissa