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**Opening Extract from...**

# The Ralph Steadman Book of Dogs

Written by Ralph Steadman

Published by Atlantic Books

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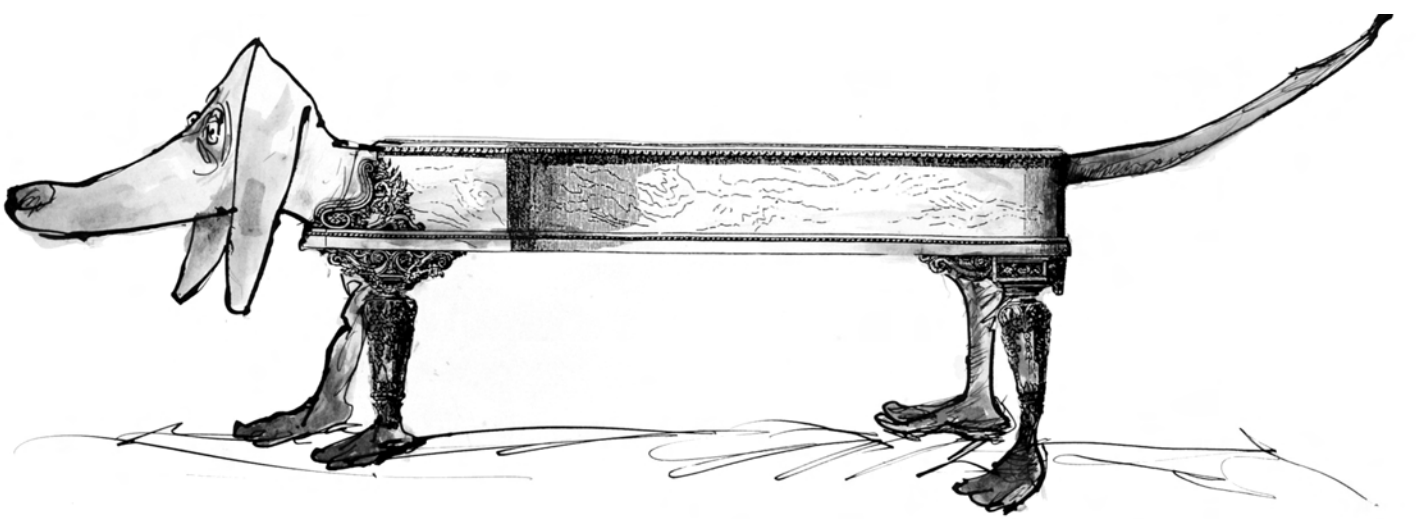
# The Ralph Steadman Book of Dogs



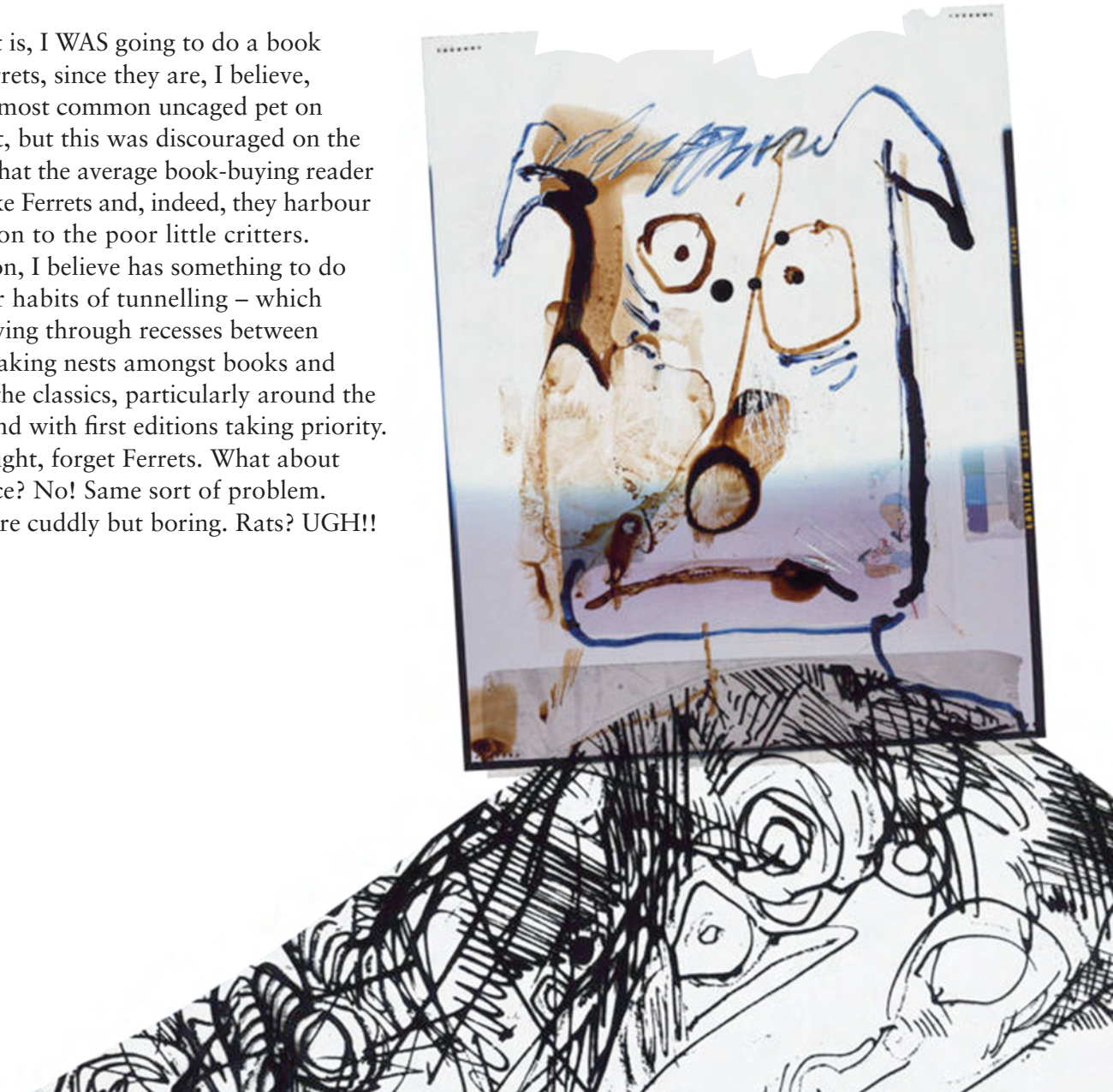

# DOUBLE DOG

# Introduction

To do another book about dogs in the wake of my three other books about dogs is, I am aware, a trifle excessive. Well, it would seem so but then I heard a report that there are, at least, fifty million more dogs in the United Kingdom alone and their owners are going to need more vital wisdom about these faithful but stupid creatures that will help them to sustain a sense of humour – not to mention proportion – if they are going to treat their mutts right and give them a half-decent life and, most importantly, see the funny side of their every action.



The point is, I WAS going to do a book about Ferrets, since they are, I believe, the third most common uncaged pet on the planet, but this was discouraged on the grounds that the average book-buying reader doesn't like Ferrets and, indeed, they harbour an aversion to the poor little critters. The reason, I believe has something to do with their habits of tunnelling – which means diving through recesses between books, making nests amongst books and chewing the classics, particularly around the edges – and with first editions taking priority. So, I thought, forget Ferrets. What about white mice? No! Same sort of problem. Rabbits are cuddly but boring. Rats? UGH!!





# DOUBLE DOG