

Newsletter

of the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals



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Well - that was the summer!! Let us hope the autumn will be a drier and more animal friendly season. Because of the inclement weather, there is now a very real concern that there could be a shortage of fodder for farm animals in the coming months. This is an issue that the ISPCA will raise with our partners in the farm animal welfare early warning scheme in the coming weeks. We know that other stakeholders such as the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Irish Farmers Association are equally concerned and the ISPCA will continue to work with our partners to ensure that any potential animal suffering is avoided.

As I write we are still waiting for the inclusion of the dog breeding regulations into dog control legislation. We have been unable to establish what exactly the current delay is in introducing this much anticipated legislation. I am pleased to report that concerned politicians such as Denis Naughten TD and Andrew Doyle TD have raised this issue with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government – the ISPCA thanks them for their commitment to animal welfare.

On a happier note, our two day "Summer Festival" on the 19th and 20th of July proved to be a fantastic success and, unbelievably, the sun shone for the weekend. The first day had a strong equine theme whilst the second day was very much a family fun day with several thousand people in attendance over the weekend. Our

sincere thanks to all our supporters and sponsors who helped make the festival such a success and we look forward to welcoming them back to sunny Longford in 2009.

I was delighted to attend a ceremony hosted by Dogs Trust to mark the start of building of their state of the art Rehoming Centre at Finglas, Co Dublin. The ISPCA has worked with Dogs Trust since the dog welfare charity was established in Ireland in 2005. The ISPCA fully supports its mission to bring an end to the destruction of stray and abandoned dogs through a national neutering campaign, an education programme and, of course, the building of their Rehoming Centre in Dublin.

Sadly, recently released figures from government revealed that over 12,500 stray and abandoned dogs were destroyed in Ireland in 2007. That's the equivalent of 34 dogs every day. Shockingly our near neighbours in Scotland, a country with many similarities to our own, only destroyed 350 in the same period.

Finally, I would like to thank you, our supporters, without your help we simply could not do the work that we do for Ireland's cruelly treated and neglected animals. Remember – You can make a difference!

Go raibh mile maith agat.

Mark Beazley

MARK BEAZLEY Chief Executive Officer

Help us prevent cruelty to animals!!!

Contact our National Animal Cruelty Helpline on 1890 515 515 and help us stop the mistreatment of animals.

ISPCA Head Office,

National Animal Centre, Derryglogher Lodge, Keenagh, County Longford.

Phone: **043-25035** • Fax **043-25024**

E-mail: **info@ispca.ie** • Web: **www.ispca.ie**

ELOUISE

Elouise is a 15hh grey 20yr connemara mare. She was signed over to an ISPCA Animal Welfare Inspector in August 2008. As you can see from her picture, she is very underweight. Although Elouise was loved by her owner she had begun to lose condition and her owner could no longer cope with the needs of this elderly mare.



Upon examination by our equine vet it was discovered that Elouise's teeth had not been attended to and had developed sharp edges, hooks and waves which prevented her from chewing properly and therefore she was unable to receive adequate nutrition from the grass. Following extensive dental work, worming and the implementing of a special nutritional program, Elouise has started to gain weight and we are confident that she will make a full recovery.

Horses can easily live to thirty years of age and many live longer. It is vital that older equines receive adequate and appropriate nutrition. There are many feeds on the market designed especially for older equines. These are high in fibre and are easy to chew and digest. For equines with poor teeth, short alfalfa, sugar beet and soaked high fibre cubes can help your elderly equine obtain adequate fibre. Good quality grass in summer and a constant supply of good soft hay in winter is important. In wet and cold weather an outdoor rug will help your horse stay warm and dry.

Dental care is important for all equines but particularly for veterans. It is essential to the welfare of your equine that a qualified equine dentist checks their teeth at least once a year but preferably every six months. This helps your horse to maintain condition, reduces the chance of colic and prevents soreness and ulcers in the mouth which may affect the quality of life and cause problems while riding.

With proper care and some extra TLC your elderly horse can continue to enjoy life and return your attention with many years of love and affection. However please remember that your horse will not live forever and it is important to monitor the quality of life to prevent unnecessary suffering. When the time comes to say goodbye a dignified and painless end is the final gift you can offer your horse.

YOU CAN HELP THE ISPCA PREVENT CRUELTY TO ALL ANIMALS

Please contact the National Animal Cruelty Helpline on 1890 515 515 and help us stop the mistreatment of animals.

Last year 5,700 calls were made to the ISPCA Animal Cruelty Helpline, 1,175 of these calls required ISPCA intervention. At present we have 5 animal welfare inspectors who are stretched beyond their limits and we are unable to provide a full-time presence in many areas. The ISPCA Inspectorate provides an extremely valuable service.

We received a once-off grant from the government in December 2007 for €100,000, to run all of our services in 2008; which although is very much appreciated only meets a fraction of our operating costs. While we must continue our vital work, we cannot do so without the support of members of the public, and organisations willing to help. Your donation can make a difference and help save an animal in distress.

Thank you for your continued support.
www.ispc.ie

Sheba's Story...

A Donegal man was convicted of cruelty to a lurcher cross dog at Donegal District court on 16th July 2008. ISPCA Inspector Kevin McGinley called to the accused's property after having received a report from a concerned member of the public. The owner surrendered the dog to the care of the ISPCA which received immediate veterinary assessment and attention. The court heard that the dog, a bitch, was weighed by veterinary surgeons and was found to weigh just 16kg. The vet was of the opinion that a dog of this breed and sex should weigh in excess of 20 kg. The dog, now named Sheba, subsequently gained 8.5kg while in the care of the ISPCA. Judge Kilrane fined the accused €300 and ordered him to pay expenses of €200 to the Irish Society for the Prevention of



Before



After

Cruelty to Animals. Inspector McGinley said "We are pleased with the outcome of this case. People have a responsibility to their animals and should not keep pets if they are unable to offer them appropriate and necessary care".

Sheba is a lovable, friendly and energetic young dog looking for a second chance and is currently waiting at the ISPCA for a new home. Visit www.ispca.ie, email info@ispca.ie or call (043) 25035 for more information on the many animals looking for good homes.

Look After Your Pet This Halloween

Halloween can be a scary time for many pets, especially dogs and cats. The Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals wants to help ensure your pet's safety and wellbeing during this time by providing you with tips on how to protect your pet from the usual Halloween festivities such as fireworks, trick or treat or scary costumes.

Dogs and cats tend to be fearful of unusual things, including children dressed up in Halloween costumes and of course fireworks. Help your pet stay safe and calm by securing him in your house in a room away from the main door, if possible. Provide your pet with lots of interactive toys to play with. You may also turn on a TV or radio to help mask the sounds of the doorbell and of children's "trick or treat" calls. If your pet starts to bark, howl or whine at the noise please be careful not to coo and cuddle your pet with comments such as, "It's okay, they'll be gone soon," because you will be reinforcing your pet's barking and fearfulness. The best thing to do would be to redirect your pet's attention back to you and reward your pet with praise, treats and toys when he does

not pay attention to the doorbell or children.

Please ensure your pets always have effective identification. The ISPCA recommends that you have your pet micro chipped and ensure that there is an ID tag on the collar in the event your pet escapes from the house.

If you have recently adopted a dog or cat, it is important for the animal to be comfortable in the room in which you will be putting the animal throughout the Halloween evening. You can put your pet's food, water, bed, and toys in this room to help the animal adjust. Play with your pet in this room frequently. Have a friend practice ringing the doorbell and use the techniques mentioned above to get your animal's attention away from the sound of the doorbell. For your cat's safety, please keep him or her indoors.

If you suspect that an animal is subject to cruel treatment, please contact your local Gardai or call the **ISPCA National Animal Helpline on 1890 515 515**. Please help us stop the mistreatment of animals.

Give a cat a home

Cats and kittens make great pets and bring such joy, love and amusement to your home. We have many cats and kittens at the ISPCA currently looking for a good home. Before adopting a cute ball of fluff, keep in mind they can live for twenty years or more and will require annual vaccinations, regular worm and flea treatment and possible veterinary treatments for any illness. Not forgetting feeding, grooming and a boarding cattery when you go on holiday. If you are not put off by the responsibility of owning a cat or kitten, then you can rest assured that your new edition to the family will bring lots of happiness. Visit the ISPCA any day between 11:30 and 4pm, email info@ispca.ie for more info, visit www.ispca.ie or call (043) 25035.



The Kilkenny SPCA and what we are all about!

The Kilkenny SPCA celebrated their 125th birthday not so long ago. Founded in 1882, we are one of the oldest SPCA's on the island of Ireland. Our aim is to create a better life for all creatures, to raise awareness in the County of Kilkenny and beyond, on the issues of animal welfare, animal cruelty and the prevention of it. To give some idea of the scale of involvement of Kilkenny SPCA in the day to day running of the society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, our dedicated call centre alone, received in excess of 2800 animal welfare related calls since June 2007. There has been a substantial increase in the numbers of cats, dogs and rabbits neutered under our assisted neutering scheme.

Act.Jerpoint Glass Studio in Bennetsbridge aided the society very generously by organising the Animal Kingdom Arts exhibition during the month of August and early September. They invited almost thirty visual artists to create an outstanding collection of pieces of art, relating to the animal kingdom. 50% of the proceeds were donated to the Kilkenny SPCA. As part of the re-branding of KSPCA in to 'Kilkenny SPCA' we have a new logo, a completely re-designed website www.kilkennyspca.ie kindly donated by Intrade Solutions and Brandbox Creative, a series of new informa-

tion leaflets on animal care, and donations to Kilkenny SPCA, and a quarterly newsletter.



We aim to continually raise the profile of Kilkenny SPCA and the pivotal work the society does for all animals in need. We have to go with the times and have changed from a 'last millennium society' to a 21st century caring, functional and cost effective organisation. In the very near future we will convert the Kilkenny SPCA to a limited company. During World Animal Week we will launch our 2009 calendar at Langton's in Kilkenny. Bennetsbridge photographer Suzanna Crampton donated all the splendid images for this calendar, the animals donated their time to pose willingly for Suzanna. Our dedicated volunteers and directors will live up to our tagline.

"Simply, because we care"

Spotlight on Louth SPCA

Louth SPCA has been in existence for over 50 years, going from strength to strength. We have raised our profile through media such as local newspapers and radio stations. We, like other charitable welfare organisations, have to fundraise and our supporters do a great job in assisting us with this vital aspect of our work.

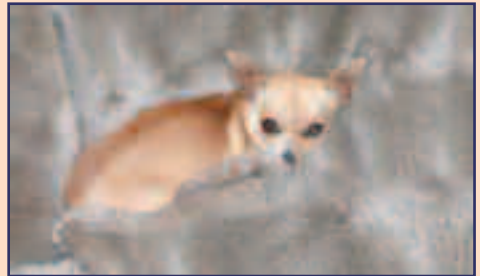
We believe that children really are the future so we are delighted to go into schools and colleges to answer questions and help with projects. The Inspector's own dog is well known and she is a rescue dog from a puppy farm. The children in return regularly raise money for the society with imaginative ideas like a curry chip day!

We have agreements with local vets in Louth who assist us in the neutering of animals using a voucher scheme, this has continued to be a success for several years. We have found that more people need assistance with general maintenance of their animals due to limited finances, the Inspector will visit these people and provide them with food, a yearly health check and vaccination. We have found this to benefit the animals and their owners by helping them to stay together. We also kennel animals when their owners may need a stay in hospital or respite care, this offers peace of mind to the owner and is one less stress for the family.

The Inspector will tell you that no two days are the same, she should have known that from her first day when she was called to res-

cue a swan in the middle of town. The Garda ran away from the swan, the photographer was there to capture the whole thing and the Inspector who had never caught a swan before went armed with her towel and caught the swan receiving a round of applause from all watching. Little did she know that 6 years ago volunteering one day a week would lead to working six or seven days a week as a voluntary Inspector.

Fiona Squibb our Inspector has worked hard to forge good working relationships with the local Dog Wardens, An Garda Siochana, The Dept of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, local Dog Groomers and various animal rescuers. Without them the job would be much harder, so Thank You all!

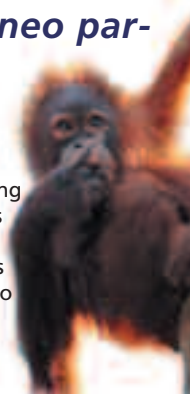


This little fella was found on a very busy road living in a bag of shoes, as you can see his hard life is no more!

If you wish to become a member of Louth SPCA or to donate money please call 042 - 9335045.

Good luck Borneo participants

who are setting off from 4th – 14th October for the trip of a lifetime. Not only will they be raising funds for some of Irelands most cruelly treated, neglected and abused animals they will also be helping to support the indigenous habitat and animals of North East Asia.



A Date for your Diary

Please visit our exhibition stand at **The Over 50s Show** which will be held at the RDS, Dublin 10th – 12th October and at **Pet Expo** which will be held at the RDS, Dublin 17th – 19th October and support our work

Are you up to the Challenge?

Interested in taking part in our **Mongolian Horse Riding Charity Challenge** September 2009
Email clare@ispca.ie for further details.

Thousands flock to attend ISPCA Annual Festival in Co. Longford

The ISPCA National Animal Centre held its most successful event to-date with thousands of animal enthusiasts travelling to Keenagh, Co. Longford for the Annual Festival held on 19th & 20th July. The atmosphere was electric as the sun beamed down on the crowd. Four well-known celebrity faces from Fair City; Gerald Byrne (aka Malachy Costello), Aisling O'Neill (Carol Meehan), Tom Hopkins (Christy Phelan) and Jenny Kavanagh (who plays Cleo) mingled with the crowd and RTE's Caroline Morahan also came along to show her support on the day.

The day kicked off to a great start with live entertainment from the Whiskey River Band followed by some tunes by the one and only Country Legend Mick Flavin. Simon Casey wooed the crowd with some well known songs and Celtic Rhythm really stepped it out with some Irish dancing to really get the crowd moving. There were lots of DJ sounds from Ciaran Nugent and his helpers which created a wonderful party atmosphere throughout the day.

One of the day's most popular events was the ISPCA Dog Show with proud dog owners travelling from as far as the UK to show off their pets. There were two sections in the Dog Show, a novelty section and a pedigree section and owners brought every size and breed of dog imaginable to the competition. Children were a central part of the day and they were treated to a variety of activities from Ireland's largest bouncy castle, Quasar Maze, bungee trampoline, face painting, mini golf and lots more that entertained them on the day. The Centre also hosted a successful Equine Awareness Day on the Saturday with a large crowd of horse owners visiting to learn about Positive Horsemanship, Equine Touch, Donkey Care, Equine Psychology, Farrier and Equine Dentistry.

The National Animal Centre is a home to some of Ireland's most cruelly treated and abandoned animals and the Annual Festival was a great opportunity for the public to learn about their life stories and to consider adopting a pet from the Centre rather than buying one. The kennels were open to visitors and it was one of the busiest areas on the day with hundreds queuing at a time to see the ISPCA's variety of dogs and puppies looking for good homes.

The Annual Festival was a memorable weekend for every age group. The ISPCA is hugely appreciative of the magnificent local and national support received throughout the weekend. The staff and a team of incredible volunteers put a huge amount of effort into ensuring the festival was a resounding success and we couldn't have asked for more. We are looking forward to seeing everyone back again next year.



Eurogroup News - Slaughter proposals hailed as boost to animal welfare

The ISPCA and Eurogroup for Animals has welcomed European Commission proposals to overhaul the current slaughter directive with improvements such as introducing animal welfare officers in slaughterhouses and requiring all staff working with animals to have their competence assessed. The planned revision of directive 93/119/EC on the protection of animals at the time of slaughter or killing also includes the creation of animal welfare reference centres in each member state, which can be used to get technical advice. They will also be responsible for assessing new methods, equipment and technologies.

Sonja Van Tichelen, director of Eurogroup for Animals, said: "These proposals are a step in the right direction and will benefit millions of animals. It is unacceptable in a civilised society that animals have to suffer in their final moments. So much of their suffering can be avoided or decreased by having well-trained staff and by using appropriate stunning techniques."

"These plans also mean that the industry will have to take up responsibility for the welfare of animals. The appointment of an animal welfare

officer who will be responsible for supervising the treatment of animals in slaughterhouses will do much to benefit them." The animal welfare officer must be available at all times when there are live animals on the premises and have the authority to take whatever action which may be necessary to safeguard the welfare of animals.

Although the Commission proposal would be a significant improvement of the current directive, there is still scope to reduce suffering at slaughter even further. The ISPCA and Eurogroup are calling for the phasing out of live-shackling, which involves hanging poultry upside down while alive. Currently poultry are shackled on automated lines whenever electrical water baths are used to stun the animals. This causes the birds to suffer stress, pain and injuries. In addition the ISPCA and Eurogroup would like to see a timetable for the introduction of standards for killing farmed fish. With the rapid increase of fish farming, these standards are urgently required.

Volunteering at the ISPCA National Animal Centre – Give it a Swirl Day

Ireland's national day of volunteering which took place on Friday 26th September aimed to encourage people to get out and get active in their communities and get into the spirit of volunteering. A local artist and a group of volunteers offered their time at the ISPCA National Animal Centre for the day to create a "cat themed" mural masterpiece in the ISPCA cattery unit. The ISPCA is delighted with the result in the cattery and to be part of the Give it a Swirl event.

Give it a Swirl Day is a unique initiative as it concentrates on hands-on involvement rather than fundraising giving volunteers an immediate sense of achievement. The ISPCA would like to encourage organisations to make available once-off volunteering opportunities which benefit a charitable organisation.

If you are looking for fun volunteer work that will make a difference, be meaningful, rewarding and fulfilling, we want to meet you! The



ISPCA relies on a team of dedicated and committed volunteers who help us care for all of our animals to improve their lives. We also have an ongoing list of odd jobs that need to be done. We might need to clean out the storage room or paint a fence, cut grass or help with a fundraising initiative.

If you have any special skills or experience that you feel would benefit the ISPCA, we would love to hear from you. Contact Carmel at

(043) 25035 or email carmel@ispca.ie for an ISPCA Volunteer Application Form. We are located between Lanesborough and Ballymahon, Co. Longford and we are open

7 days a week between 11:30 and 4pm.

Visit our website www.ispca.ie for more information about the ISPCA.

ADCH Conference 2009

The Association of Dogs & Cats Homes (ADCH) 2009 conference will be held on the 22nd & 23rd April 2009 in Dublin. A brochure and booking forms will be available for download in early 2009 from the ADCH website www.adch.org.uk

The ADCH is delighted that the Dublin SPCA has agreed to act as their member host for this conference. They are planning two days of presentations and debates on topics at the heart of dog and cat welfare; this conference will be of importance and great benefit to all those involved in the rescue, care, and rehoming of dogs and cats throughout the UK, Ireland, and Channel Islands as well as others in Europe.

Put these dates in your diary now and visit the ADCH site again later in the year to obtain more details.

ISPCA HAY BARN APPEAL

Can you help?



Many Equines that come into our National Centre are in an appalling condition and it takes months to bring them back to health. During this time they require good quality hay to regain and maintain their health. We currently have a small stable unit with no storage facility for hay. We hope with your help, we can develop our current equine facilities and build a hay barn.

You can make a difference!!

Contact the ISPCA on 043-25035

Please Neuter

Did you know over 12,500 stray and abandoned dogs were put to sleep in Irish Dog Pounds in 2007 for want of a good home compared to 349 in Scotland? That's the equivalent of 34 dogs in Ireland every day. This is a shameful situation and one which will only be improved when we all accept responsibility as dog owners in areas such as neutering and control.

We need to recognise this very important animal welfare issue. One solution to this problem is spaying or neutering your pets. It is better for their health; they will live longer and tend to be less aggressive. You can help the ISPCA end this tragic loss of life. Visit www.ispca.ie for more information on how you can make a difference.

Thank You



Through your support you have helped us improve the lives of so many animals that desperately needed our help. All animals deserve a life free from misery, neglect and abuse and with your help, we can make a difference.

Please don't discard this newsletter once read. Why not give it to somebody you feel would be interested in reading it or drop it into a waiting room near you. Help us raise awareness for animal welfare in Ireland. Thank you.

What will your legacy be after you are gone?

Be remembered for doing something special to ensure your passion for animal welfare lives on by leaving a gift in your Will to the ISPCA. Your support will help us care for many animals that need our help long into the future. For a copy of our legacy brochure, email accounts@ispca.ie or call (043) 25035 for further information on how you can help.

*Please note that if you provide your e-mail address we will use it for sending you receipts and keeping you informed of our work.

Your information may also be used by the ISPCA to advise you of other activities and initiatives which may be of interest to you. If you do not wish to receive such information/newsletter, please tick here.

We sometimes allow other organisations whose aims are in sympathy with our own, or whose offers will benefit animal welfare, to contact our supporters. If you wish to receive this information, please tick here.