

Newsletter

of the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals



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ISPCA Update

Summer is now well and truly here and the long dark days of winter are, thankfully, a distant memory. The first half of 2008 has, unfortunately, seen no let up in the number of reports of cruelty and neglect received by the ISPCA. One positive aspect of this is the increasing willingness by members of the public to report such matters to us. I remain heartened by the continuing co-operation between the ISPCA and other animal welfare organisations and I feel there is a genuine willingness by all concerned to progress the cause of practical and responsible animal welfare in Ireland.

Following the last general election the program for government stated that all animal welfare matters would fall under the remit of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and that an Animal Health and Welfare Bill would be drafted accordingly. The ISPCA strongly voiced its demand that any draft bill must be circulated to all stakeholders for consultation and submissions prior to enactment. I am pleased that such a consultation process has begun and it is hoped that it will result in strong, practical and enforceable legislation for the benefit of all animals.

The coming months should prove to be an exciting and busy time for the ISPCA; our two day "Summer Festival" is planned for the 19th and 20th of July. The first day will have a strong equine theme whilst the sec-

ond day will be very much a family fun day with many activities for our younger (and not so young) supporters. It is hoped that we will be joined by large numbers of the general public over the two days as well as a number of 'surprise' celebrities.

Whilst our Inspectors continue to work with the owners of animals who need our intervention in order to improve their situation, on occasion prosecution is the only course of action left to us. Highlighted in this edition are a number of cases which show the continuing requirement for an expanded pro-active ISPCA Inspectorate.

As always, I would like to thank all our volunteers and our member societies for the wonderful work they continue to do in the name of animal welfare. In particular I would like to thank our Chairperson, Ms Barbara Bent and the ISPCA Council for their continued commitment to the ISPCA. Most importantly 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.

Go raibh mile maith agat.

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@ispc.ie** • Web: **www.ispc.ie**

Ireland's first Otter Sanctuary

Exciting news at the ISPCA as "Billy" arrives at the National Animal Centre.



Photograph by Carmel Murray

The Sanctuary is constructed on a two-acre site containing a small lake where Billy can enjoy life in a natural and safe environment. Billy's development was damaged due to severe malnutrition and as a result, his front paw was deformed making it impossible for him to survive in the wild. In recent times, Otter numbers have been on the decline in

the Midlands, which is mainly caused by pollution, poisoning, shooting and netting on our lakes and rivers. The ISPCA is delighted to have this facility to provide a safe and natural environment for sick and injured Otters. The ISPCA is open seven days a week between 11:30 and 5pm when visitors can observe Billy and learn more about Otters.

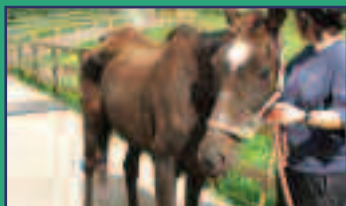
Midnight's story...



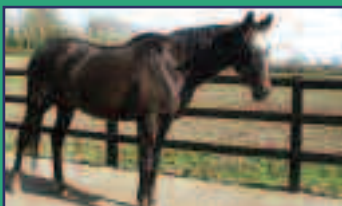
On Rescue

Midnight was admitted to the ISPCA National Animal Centre in March of this year in an appalling condition. He was severely emaciated and his right front leg was missing from just above the elbow and leaving a grossly infected, swollen stump. It is most probable that Midnight was caught in some sort of mechanical trap or snare and may even have had to bite off his own leg in a desperate effort to escape death. Such was the extent of the infection that it was necessary to surgically remove the rest of his leg including the shoulder blade. Thankfully, Midnight is making a remarkable recovery at the ISPCA and there is no reason why he should not go on to live a full and active life when a new home is found for him.

The ISPCA – We Care For All Animals



Here is one example of how your donation has helped save the life of an animal that desperately needed our help. The mare pictured here, before and after, now called Breeze by ISPCA staff, was discovered in an extremely emaciated condition by ISPCA Inspector Brendan Hughes and was immediately taken into the care of the ISPCA National Animal Centre. Thankfully Breeze made a full recovery after months of veterinary care and reha-



bilitation. She is now looking for a new home. The owner, a man with an address in Co. Laois pleaded guilty to the charge and was convicted at Portlaoise District Court of cruelty to a horse. Judge Hamill ordered the man to pay expenses to the ISPCA and fined him €260. He was also ordered to be available to The ISPCA at any time in order for animals in his care to be inspected and warned that failing to co-operate would result in a jail sentence. Your support means that we can continue to do our vital work on behalf of all animals.

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A STANDING ORDER

Name of your Bank: _____

Address of your Bank: _____

Bank Instructions - Please pay the following amount: € _____

On the same day every month, starting on the _____

until further notice

Sort Code: _____

Account No.: _____

Account Holder's Name: _____

Account Holder's Address: _____

E-mail:* _____

Tel No.: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Important: if your employer offers matching gifts for contributions made by employees, please tell us the name and phone number of your company:

Company name: _____

Company phone: _____

Credit: ISPCA **Bank:** AIB, 40/42 Ranelagh, Dublin 6 **Account No:** 0814-0041 **Sort Code:** 93-12-92

PLEASE RETURN TO:

ISPCA Head Office, National Animal Centre, Derryglogher Lodge, Keenagh, County Longford.

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A ONCE OFF DONATION

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Address: _____

E-mail:* _____

Tel No.: _____

If you donate over €21 per month the ISPCA can claim tax back on your donation. Or donate online www.ispca.ie

*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.

Woman convicted of animal cruelty

A woman was convicted of animal cruelty at a special sitting of Portlaoise District Court. The charges related to large numbers of dogs which she kept in appalling conditions at a rented house in Abbeyleix, Co. Laois.

A total of 46 dogs, predominantly Greyhound and Saluki types, were removed from the property by ISPCA personnel. 19 dogs were found in a yard strewn with a deep layer of faeces and old animal bones. These dogs were removed on veterinary advice and a further 8 were handed over by the accused. In addition to their desperate living conditions many of



these dogs were found to have serious injuries from fighting.

In the course of further searches it was discovered that many more dogs were being kept in squalid conditions within the house and a further 19 more were removed.

Judge Houghton imposed fines of €500 and banned the accused from owning, keeping or being in charge of any dog or dogs for the remainder of her life. He also imposed an order allowing the ISPCA to re-home the 46 dogs which had been removed.

Pedigree Dog Adoption Drive

Ireland's first annual Pedigree Dog Adoption Drive has successfully helped many dog welfare organisations across Ireland. Since its launch in January, the campaign has helped give thousands of homeless dogs across the country new "leashes" on life. The Adoption Drive was a national campaign to raise awareness of the plight of homeless dogs by encouraging people in Ireland to adopt a dog from their local shelter or welfare organisation. Also, to raise money for dog welfare organisations nationwide, Pedigree donated 1.5 cent for every purchase of a Pedigree product through to the end of March. Caroline Morahan, Campaign Spokesperson said "I am delighted the Pedigree Adoption Drive has raised significant funds for dog welfare organisations across Ireland. Most shelters and rescue organisations are in desperate need of help, that's why I want to thank everyone who



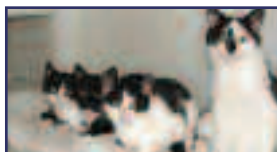
Pictured here Caroline Morahan with Sally and Azra, both sisters who were successfully rehomed together

has supported this campaign and helped find dogs loving new homes". Visit www.pedigreeadoptiondrive.ie for further information.

Spotlight on Laois SPCA

As well as our annual sponsored dog walk our other major fundraising event this year was a sponsored leg wax in Mountmellick when several of Mountmellick's bravest men suffered the torture of the excruciating pain with a smile on their faces raising €2800 in the process. We are now looking for ideas to follow on from this year's event!

At the moment the oldest kittens we have are 6 weeks. Dare we think our neutering schemes are taking effect or is this just the lull before the storm? We held several "spay weeks" this last year thanks to the cooperation of two of the local vets but although we have had to set a limit on the number of cats to be neutered this limit was not reached on any occasion. We do not have a cattery now and only a few foster homes so we work on the principal that the Laois SPCA helps those who help themselves.



Stray (not always feral) cats are a problem as people feed them for months and do nothing else;

then when the numbers get out of hand ring us to take them away and euthanase them. We explain that we are for the prevention of cruelty not to dispose of wild animals. We

will, of course, assist with the cost of neutering if the cats can be returned to site but usually people do not want them back. We are indebted to Brendan Hughes, the ISPCA Inspector who has worked with us on several prosecutions for animal cruelty and is always willing to give us advice and keep us within the law.

We are working well with the Early Warning Scheme with the Dept. of Agriculture and the IFA. Sometimes a disaster can be averted by working with a farmer who has got into difficulties and the outcome is beneficial for farmer and animals. Last October we held our annual Garda awards for Gardai who have cooperated with us on welfare cases and this seems to have improved the liaison between our Society and the Gardai.

We now have our own website www.freewebs.com/ispca. The website is updated regularly by our members and we have news of forthcoming events, animals for rehoming and a lost and found section. We would also welcome the opportunity to talk to more schools, youth groups etc about animal welfare as the children of Ireland are our hope for the future.

Dorothy Walker LSPCA Chairperson

Thank You Mini-Marathon Runners

The ISPCA would like to sincerely thank everyone who participated in the Flora Women's Mini Marathon in Dublin on June 2nd to help raise much needed funds to support animal welfare. Your support is greatly appreciated.



*Rosanna Davison participating for the ISPCA
T-shirts kindly sponsored by Pedigree
Photograph compliments of Sheehan Images*

Dates for your diary

- ISPCA Annual Festival
19th & 20th July 2008
- RDS Horseshow – please visit our exhibition stand #B1a in the main hall from 6th to 10th August (near Holmestead Saddlery)
- Pet Expo Dublin 17th – 19th October – Visit our stand E11/E12
- Pet Expo Cork 5th & 6th July – Visit our stand # 77 & 79
- Join the ISPCA Borneo Challenge
4th – 14th October 2008

Full details are available on www.ispca.ie or email fundraising@ispca.ie

Wexford SPCA Update

The Wexford SPCA works from our local Vet Centre where we have our small office and a holding Cattery and Kennels. This is proving to be a very good location for the society as not only have we 24/7 access to our excellent Veterinary Surgeon but we are in daily contact with the animal caring clients of the practice, which in turn benefits our re-homing.

The responsibilities within our Board of Directors are broken into different areas - Re-homing, Cruelty Calls, Fundraising, Administration, Junior Liaison, Educational, and PR. We are finding this very beneficial as every member of the Board has specific responsibilities.

The bulk of our work as in most SPCA's is re-homing abandoned and stray cats and dogs. However we are lucky to have a very good part-time Inspector who not only investigates alleged complaints of Cruelty but does the bulk of our home-checking, both before we re-home an animal and a few weeks after to confirm both "man and beast" are happy with each other.

On a very warm sunny day while driving home from Dublin, a member of the Wexford SPCA was passed on a roundabout by a UK Dog transporter van whose side door was open. Suddenly out of the van shot a young lurcher and landed on the road right in front of her. In her wish not to run over the little guy she in turn was nearly run over by a juggernaut coming behind her. The lurcher, named Muscles was absolutely terrified and took months of TLC to recover from the trauma. He is still terrified of cars and obviously was dreadfully abused. Believe it or not, he is even camera shy, the minute the camera appears he disappears. He now has a lovely home with numerous companions who share not only his bed but his armchair.

Our Educational Programme and Junior members are our future and Wexford Society contributes a lot of time and finance to both areas. We have recently put a few Power Point Presentations together for the different age groups and intend doing a greatly increased Schools Programme in the Autumn.. Most schools have Lap Tops, Screens and Power Point available to us. We strongly believe the future of Animal Welfare is through Education.

Fundraising is crucial and probably the most difficult area we have to deal with, if only we could do our work and not have to worry about where the funds are coming from, however we don't live in an ideal world so unfortunately we have to get on with it. We hope that if the public think we do a good job with the animals we rescue that they will continue to support us. A sharing of ideas and experiences is what we would like to do with all affiliated SPCA's around the country and feel with modern communications this is quiet easy now. If you would like to contact the WSPCA please email wexford_spca@eircom.net



Dog Fighting in Longford



In recent months the ISPCA have received a large numbers of calls highlighting concerns from the public regarding Pit Bull Terrier type dogs within the Longford area.

ISPCA Inspector Niamh Byrne said "The presence of this breed of dog in the Longford area appears to be popular which is of concern. Where located, most of the dogs have shown the type of injury or scarring indicative of what you would expect to find as a result of involvement in dog fighting. The presence of such an activity in this area is becoming increasingly evident".

The dogs pictured in the accompanying photographs were removed from a property in St. Michael's Road, Longford last December by ISPCA Inspector Niamh Byrne and Chief Inspector Conor Dowling accompanied by Gardai.

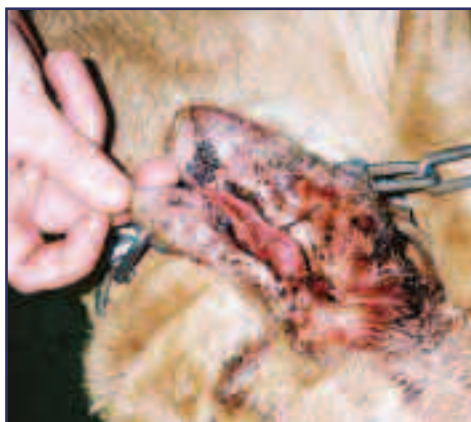
ISPCA Chief Inspector Conor Dowling said "Both of these dogs had clearly been engaged in fighting and were badly injured with puncture wounds and tears to their heads, ears and front legs. They were also in poor physical condition."

One of these dogs was humanely euthanased

on veterinary advice due to the extent of its injuries. The other later died, most likely due to shock. Chief Inspector Dowling added "Although dogs sometimes die in the course of a fight, it is more common for them to die later when their adrenalin levels decline and the body goes into shock. We have come across dogs that have recently been involved in organised dog fights which are completely unresponsive due to shock and stress".

The ISPCA considers the existing archaic animal welfare legislation, dating back almost a century, to be insufficient to allow animal protection agencies and Gardai to adequately tackle this serious cruelty issue. The organisation welcomes the imminent draft publication of a new Animal Welfare Bill that will completely revamp Irish animal welfare law.

Anybody who wishes to report an incident of animal cruelty or has any information on cruel activities should contact the ISPCA Animal Cruelty Helpline on Lo Call 1890 515 515 or their local Garda Station.



How You Can Help

Thoughtful Gifts & ISPCA Merchandise

Thoughtful gifts are a great way to help the many animals that depend on you and us – and they also make fantastic gifts! Simply choose the item you would like to gift, and we'll make sure the money goes where it's really needed. You will receive a personalised certificate to keep, or give to your friend! Also check out our wide variety of merchandise for sale. Visit our website www.ispca.ie for full details.

ISPCA Pet Beds and Online Shop

Purchase an ISPCA Pet Bed and you will be helping animals all over Ireland who suffer neglect and cruelty every day. Your pet will

have somewhere warm and safe to sleep tonight. Not all pets are so lucky!!!

Wedding Favours

Why not give your guests a really memorable and worth while gift, instead of sugared almonds or chocolates? The ISPCA has a variety of favours available, with all proceeds going to the charity. Full details on www.ispca.ie

Borneo Challenge

Good luck to all the participants completing the ISPCA Borneo Challenge in October. We will keep you posted on how they got on in the autumn newsletter!!!

It helps to neuter



Due to the overwhelming volume of stray and unwanted dogs in Ireland, thousands are being destroyed in our pounds each year. This is a shameful situation and one which will only be improved when people accept their responsibility as dog owners in areas such as neutering and control. It is time that we all started to recognise this very important animal welfare issue.

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, either give it to somebody who you feel would be interested in reading it or why not drop it into a waiting room near you.

What will your legacy be

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.



ISPCA Head Office,

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