



Laois SPCA

Annual Report

2014

Registered Charity No 20064266

Another busy year for the Laois SPCA with more requests than ever before for help with neutering costs. We also received many requests to take in stray dogs but unless sick or injured these were referred to the Pound, according to the law.

DOGS A horrendous year for stray dogs. Many were taken into the Pound but we heard of many cases where people finding dogs refused to allow them to go to the Pound and kept them without notifying the Dog Warden. Many of these could have been people's pets that were genuinely lost. We welcome the introduction of compulsory microchipping and hope that it will be enforced.

We continued to offer half cost neutering for female dogs adopted from the Pound and extended this to include the males.

Our assistance with neutering costs for people with medical cards continued and we issued 43 vouchers during the year.

A total of 43 dogs and puppies were rehomed in 2014 and all adults were neutered and all, including puppies, were vaccinated and microchipped.

Many of the dogs that were rehomed had come into our care as road traffic accidents that were never reclaimed by their owners. Several had broken bones that needed many

weeks of cage rest and it is only through our dedicated fosterers that we were able to care for them.

We would also like to record our thanks to Dogs Trust who issued vouchers through the vets for neutering dogs in the county and to the staff in Laois dog pound who have made such an effort this year to rehome as many dogs as possible from the pound.

CATS Some of our local vets were again very cooperative in reducing their prices for cat neutering which meant that with our additional subsidy anyone with a medical card was able to have their cat neutered or spayed for 10 euro. Many people availed of this offer but many more will still expect us to take their unwanted kittens again in the Spring.

We really appreciate the help we receive from several vets for their part in helping to reduce the number of unwanted cat and kittens.

A total of 321 vouchers were issued during the year. Over fifteen thousand euro was spent on neutering domestic cats and in addition 119 feral cats were trapped, neutered, treated for parasites and returned at a cost of nearly five thousand euro to us but at no expense to their carers. This is an ongoing arrangement for ferals – if you are prepared to have them back after neutering and feed them, we will pay the full cost of the operation. This TNR system has been proved to be the only humane and successful way to reduce the feral cat population.

A total of 134 cats and kittens were rehomed during the year and all were neutered and vaccinated before being rehomed. This is the only way to make sure that all kittens which we rehomed are not responsible for increasing the cat population. Early neutering has been trialed throughout the world and found to be successful – no more dangerous than allowing kittens to produce kittens.

HORSES We received many calls regarding horses and donkeys in a poor condition or without food and water. Complaints re small numbers were passed to the ISPCA and larger numbers to the Department of Agriculture Helpline at their request.

OTHERS We had several cases of stray rabbits which were taken into our care, neutered and rehomed.

Several calls regarding wild life such as a pine marten, fox cub and several swans were passed to Kildare Animal Foundation and we are extremely grateful to them for taking over these cases and to Raven Haven who have attended several injured swans and cared for them.

THANKS We could not continue to do the work we do without the wonderful people who give up their time in various ways to help the society.

As we do not have kennels or a cattery we rely on volunteers who give over their homes to look after these unwanted or sick animals, without them we would not exist and their only reward is to see a sick or nervous animal enter their home and then go out weeks, or sometimes months later to a new home and a happier life.

We have two members who foster cats and dogs and also go out at a minutes notice to attend injured animals reported by the public. These people are not always available and we have to ask the public to take the animal to the vets for treatment themselves, but at no cost to them. Most are cooperative, some see it as “our job” to attend immediately. Thank you to those who help.

The Laois Nationalist are very good at promoting our work and are always willing to advertise our neutering offers as well as appeals for help and give us a section of the paper every week for photographs of animals that need new homes.

We also appreciate the help of Portlaoise Parish newsletter for advertising our neutering programmes.

Our main means of financial support is our charity shop in Hynds Square, Portlaoise which is manned entirely by volunteers who do a great job in keeping the shop running under the guidance of the shop manager who is also a volunteer.

Other volunteers give their time to go out in all weather to set traps and bring in feral cats. This is far from a glamorous job and we appreciate their help.

Last but not least are the behind the scenes people who keep Facebook and the website up to date and attend to the ever increasing amount of paperwork that any charity now has to complete.

Of course we could not run the society without money and we appreciate the grant given to us by the Department of Agriculture which covers about 20% of our annual expenditure. The remainder comes from fundraising and donations and the occasional legacy when people kindly remember us in their will. A big thank you to all who have sent

donations, however small, they are all so welcome. And to all who have helped with bucket collections etc.

We have held food appeals in Laois Shopping Centre, Supervalu Portarlinton and several shops in the county have our collection boxes on their counters and it is great to get support from local businesses.

So to everyone who has helped us in any way this last year we do appreciate it and hope we can count on your continued support in the future.