

ANNUAL REPORT

2019

Another successful year in which our volunteers have worked extremely hard to care for the sick and abandoned cats and dogs of Laois.

CATS

Despite running several subsidised neutering schemes throughout the year the number of abandoned kittens seems to increase every year. Unfortunately so many owners still fail to have their females spayed and then give away the kittens to people who will probably not spay the females. It is estimated that one unspayed female could be responsible for 20,000 in just 5 years if all of her offspring go on to have kittens.

All the kittens rehomed by Laois SPCA are fully vaccinated. Approx. Cost 50 euro

Wormed and de-flead	10
Neutered/spayed	55/70

Plus food and often further veterinary treatment for cat flu etc.

And all we ask for is a donation of 40 euro!! 167 cats/kittens were rehomed.

Number of owned cats neutered/spayed under schemes	348
Number of fostered cats and kittens neutered/spayed	164
TNR (trap, neuter and return) for feral cats	225
Total	737

We are continually receiving requests from the public to neuter wild cats in their gardens and providing they will agree to feed them we will cover the cost of neutering (although donations towards the cost are always appreciated). However too many people wait until the numbers increase and we are asked to trap large numbers that our funds cannot cope with. Please advise us when 1 or 2 appear and we can deal with the problem then.

We are finding kittens abandoned and in a horrendous condition which often leads to the removal of an eye and these are friendly, once owned kittens that owners would not even seek veterinary attention and treat with antibiotic cream before the infection became serious. It is beyond our understanding how a human can leave an animal in that state.

DOGS

We take as many dogs a foster space will allow from Laois Dog Pound but priority has to be given to abandoned puppies found in the county .We cannot take in dogs that are abandoned, these go first to the pound for 5 days to give the owner chance to reclaim them and then we, or other rescues, take them to rehome. We continue to pay half the cost of neutering for those dogs rehomed directly from the pound.

In 2019 26 dogs were rehomed by the Laois SPCA.

We were able to raise sufficient funds to run a half cost neutering scheme for dogs that had been taken in by the public as private rescues. 67 dogs were neutered under these schemes.

THANKS

We are only able to rescue and rehabilitate all these animals with the help of The Department of Agriculture whose grant of 17k was greatly appreciated and to the wonderful support we have from members of the public who donate through Paypal, Facebook, and other means, however large or small the donation they are all greatly appreciated. We also have a few great people who run their own fundraising events for us and supply raffle prizes for our events which are always welcomed. We also thank those people who support us on our annual bucket collection day and our collection boxes on shop counters throughout the county. However you support us we thank you.

We have wonderful volunteers who help in our charity shop, foster animals, help with TNR and collect injured animals from the roadside at all hours of the day and night- and not one of them is paid a cent for their time, without them there would not be a Laois SPCA,

We would also like to thank Raven Haven who are always willing to assist with swans and large birds and last but not least we thank Peter who keeps our website up to date and assists with IT problems.

We are in urgent need of more help with fostering both cats and dogs (all food, blankets, crate can be supplied and all vet bills are paid by us.

We also need more help with TNR- setting traps then taking contents to the vet, collecting again in an evening, keeping in trap overnight in a covered area and releasing next day. Because of the shortage of help many of the kittens are becoming too old to tame and have to be neutered and left out to continue life as a feral.

If you could help please contact us, we would be delighted to hear from you.