

Laois SPCA

Annual Report 2022

Another year of increased workload as, like all other rescues, we suffered the effects of all the dogs bought during Covid and now not wanted as people returned to work as well as the usual excuses as to why the dog must go. Unfortunately there have been more people being evicted from their homes and not being able to find dog friendly accommodation and we do sympathise with these people as their pets were part of the family. We help where we can but are constantly advertising for more fosterers without much success.

We will advertise private rehoming provided that the dog is vaccinated, microchipped and neutered but few of them are.

We organised a half-price dog neutering scheme in March where over 80 vouchers were issued to try and reduce the numbers of unwanted puppies and continue to give half cost vouchers to people rehoming a dog from Laois Dog Pound

In 2022 37 dogs were rehomed all having been vaccinated, microchipped and neutered for adult dogs and a follow up to make sure puppies were neutered at the appropriate time. There were often extensive veterinary treatments needed for broken bones, severe skin infections and malnutrition. We thank the fosterers for all the time, care and patience they gave to these dogs, many who were terrified of their own shadow, and their reward was to see these dogs heading off to a new home where they will forever be cared for.

The cat situation has been disappointing to us as although we neutered or part paid for the neutering of 1299 cats during the year (970 through the schemes, 206 before rehoming and 123 under TNR) and had hoped that 2023 would be a kitten free year we still see them found everywhere, in ditches, sheds ,in cavity walls and dumped in cardboard boxes, whatever would the situation have been without the 3 neutering schemes we ran during the year. We still rely entirely on foster homes which for most of the year are at capacity and overloading our fosterers runs the risk of spreading infections to all in the house.

200 cats were rehomed during 2022 and at the end of the year we decided that from 1st. January 2023 cats and kittens would be microchipped before rehoming.

No rescue enjoys closing its doors to new animals and has to prioritise depending on the condition of the animal but they cannot do the impossible as most are run by volunteers who have jobs to pay their bills as well as their own families so we would ask for a little more understanding from some of the public who demand that we take any animal they

find or do not need in their family any more. The country is at crisis point with unwanted animals- please help us to help you.

We have a long list of thank-yous:-

Firstly to our own volunteers who take animals into their own homes to care for them and give them a second chance of a good life, we couldn't operate without them.

Our Cat Co-Ordinator and Dog Co-Ordinator who have the key roles in the society and have seen the roles increase from a manageable volunteering opportunity to a full time 24/7 roll under extreme pressure. We constantly appeal for more help but little is forthcoming. We had hoped with more people working from home some may find time to foster a kitten or puppy or help in some way but few come forward.

Just a few people have been busy trapping feral cats under our TNR scheme and have been out in all weathers with traps and transporting to and from vets - the only way to go to reduce the number of feral cats, many of which were not born feral but were abandoned by their owners.

Next we must thank the Department of Agriculture for their Animal Welfare Grant paid to us in December, This was significantly increased for our use in 2023 which we welcomed as the vet costs have increased, some beyond reason.

We thank the vets in County Laois for their co-operation with our cat neutering schemes and those who have taken in our cats at no previous notice that have arrived in the traps in various moods and states of disarray!

Our own followers who have supported us on fundraising such as raffles and donations towards the care of bad welfare cases, some people's generosity astounds us. Most of our fundraising events tend to be on-line now (thank you Covid and the unreliable Irish weather)) but we thank the shopkeepers throughout the county who allow us to have the collection boxes on their counters. Some may not individually raise too much but all added together raised over 6k in 2022. There are so many different methods of payments to us in this era of technology that we miss thank yous to some who contribute but please be assured that we appreciate every cent you send.

Our charity shop in Hynds Square continues to be a valuable fundraiser and we thank the Shop Manager and all the volunteers who give their time to help the animals, and the people who have donated some beautiful things for us to sell.

Animal Welfare is an area where you tend to see the results of the worst of humanity but it is great to see there are so many good people who do what they can to help and we really do thank you all.