



ISPCA

CARING FOR ALL ANIMALS

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

THE IRISH SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

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INTRODUCTION FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

When the Tánaiste addressed the nation from New York in March 2020, our world changed in a way that we never could have imagined. In Ireland, as in most countries in Europe, there followed months of COVID statistics, lockdown, release, more lockdowns and vaccinations.

The ISPCA, its management, staff and animal centres were profoundly affected by the pandemic. Many of our office staff began to work in part from home, public access to our centres was greatly restricted, rehoming of animals in our care became difficult and all in-person fundraising events had to be cancelled. Home checks and inspectors' visits to premises continued under strict COVID restrictions.

The resilience of the human spirit came to the fore - Board and Management meetings were held virtually either on Zoom or TEAMS, as were recruitment and procurement interviews from many corners of the globe. Our Animal Helpline continued to respond to calls from the public, and many of these resulted in inspections and, in some cases, continued to prosecution. Fundraising activities continued online.

2020 and 2021 saw some significant changes at Board and Management levels. In the absence of a CEO and the loss of some key Board members, the remaining Board members, in close cooperation with senior management and staff, were obliged to undertake many of the day-to-day administrative functions of the organisation.

In May 2022, we welcomed our new CEO, Dr Cyril Sullivan. With his fresh vision and guidance, we hope to achieve our objectives and improve the welfare and wellbeing of the lot of animals in Ireland.

Fiona Squibb
Chairperson
on behalf of the Board of Trustees

CEO REPORT



I am delighted to join the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ISPCA) as its new CEO. It is an excellent opportunity to lead the organisation at a critical time in its development. I know the charity has ambitious goals and I look forward to playing my part in making this happen - ensuring that the ISPCA will continue to deliver on its purpose, namely, to prevent cruelty to animals, promote animal welfare and proactively relieve animal suffering in Ireland.

While I was not here in 2021, the details contained in this report will affirm the excellent performance of the organisation, despite the challenges presented by COVID-19 and other matters. In fact, it was one of the ISPCA's busiest years, with management and staff handling the following in 2021: 1,820 animals were admitted into our care and 1,583 were successfully rehomed; 12,483 calls were received by the National Animal Cruelty Helpline and 2,746 investigations carried out by ISPCA Inspectors resulted in over 1,200 animals seized or surrendered. 11 cases were brought before the Irish courts and resulted in successful prosecutions.

For 2022 and beyond, I know that myself and the Senior Management Team will focus on a new strategy and, in conjunction with our Board of Trustees, our affiliates, our funders and our other partners, we will maintain and develop the quality and range of our services to animals in Ireland. We intend to remain Ireland's largest national animal welfare charity, and to leverage the experience and goodwill garnered from our experience of over 70 years to further improve and expand our services.

There remain many challenges facing animal welfare in Ireland, but I am confident that the ISPCA is ready to face them all by building on the legacy, support and credibility we have built over the years while providing leadership, transparency and accountability in everything we do.

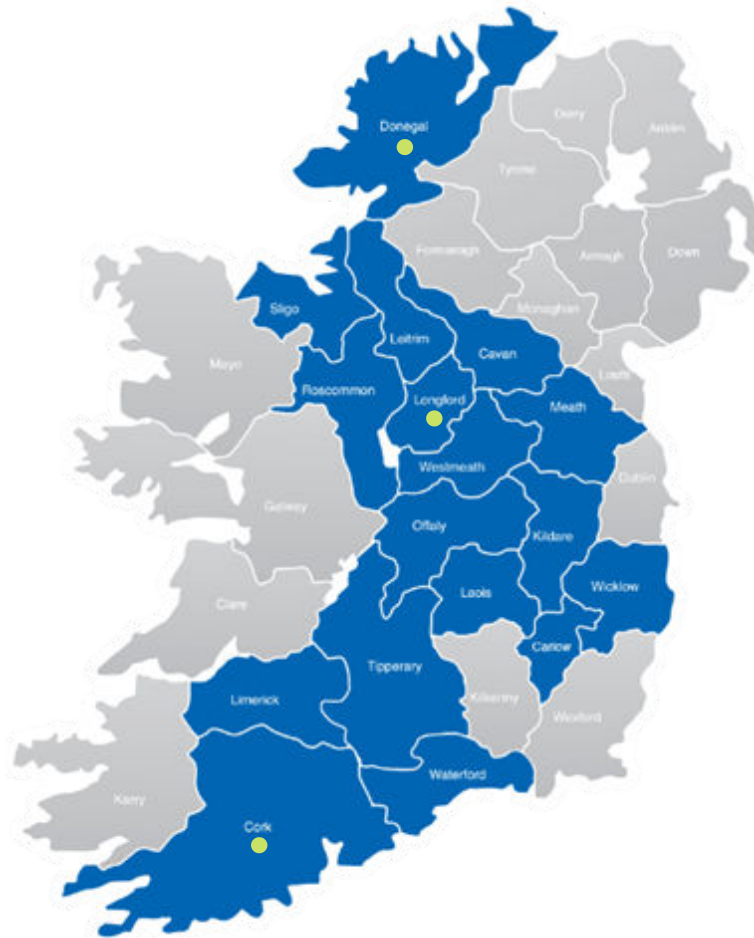
Dr Cyril Sullivan
CEO
June 2022

ORGANISATION OVERVIEW

Established in 1949 by local, voluntary animal welfare societies, the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ISPCA) currently has 50 employees and its main operations include three animal welfare centres and a national animal health and welfare inspectorate. The ISPCA's animal rescue and rehabilitation centres in Longford, Cork and Donegal support the Inspectorate and our affiliated members with the rescue, rehabilitation and responsible rehoming of neglected and abused animals.

The ISPCA National Animal Centre in Keenagh, Co Longford opened in 2002 and is accessible to our Inspectors from across Ireland. The Centre is designed to provide veterinary care and rehabilitation to all animals subjected to cruelty or neglect, and to return them to a state which enables them to be responsibly rehomed. The centre can house over 200 animals in need at any one time. During 2021, it admitted 1,279 animals into its care, with 1,255 of these rehomed.

The ISPCA Equine Rescue Centre in Mallow, Co Cork cares for many equines from the South of the country and collaborates closely with the equine unit in Longford. Following the huge increase in cruelty calls involving horses and ponies, the decision was taken to develop a centre for the rescue and rehabilitation of all equines. During 2021, 249 animals were admitted into its care, with 155 of these subsequently rehomed.



The ISPCA Animal Rehabilitation Centre in Ramelton, Co Donegal opened in 2018. Its state-of-the-art facilities include an animal treatment room, accommodation for small animals, large animals and aquatic wildlife such as seals, as well as stables, kennels and a cattery. All animals and species are welcome. In 2021, 296 animals were admitted into the Centre's care, with 173 successfully rehomed.

The Society currently has a team of nine uniformed Animal Welfare Inspectors covering 17 counties in Ireland. They are officers authorised under the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013, through a Service Level Agreement with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. They respond to complaints received via the ISPCA National Cruelty Helpline in Longford. While most of these complaints are dealt with by means of verbal or written advice, our inspectors will initiate prosecutions when necessary.

In addition to our animal welfare centres, the ISPCA operates a dog warden service on behalf of four Local Authorities: Donegal, Kildare, Laois and Wicklow. These services currently employ a Dog Warden Service Manager, seven Dog Wardens and three Kennel Assistants.

In addition to the animal welfare centres and our Inspectorate services, the ISPCA provides a range of other services such as our National Animal Welfare Helpline, our Dog Warden Service and a range of outreach education and training programmes.

The National Animal Cruelty Helpline operated by the ISPCA deals with many thousands of calls regarding animal welfare every year. The public has become more aware of animal welfare, and intolerant of what they perceive to be cruelty or neglect.

The ISPCA manages a Dog Warden Service, which guarantees the compassionate treatment of stray and unwanted dogs and enhances their prospect of finding a safe and caring home.

The ISPCA actively supports and provides a range of education and training outreach programmes for people that have intellectual difficulties, as well as physical and therapeutic programmes for the elderly by liaising with social workers and families in helping to facilitate the care of pets.



Join Our Fight
#EndCruelty

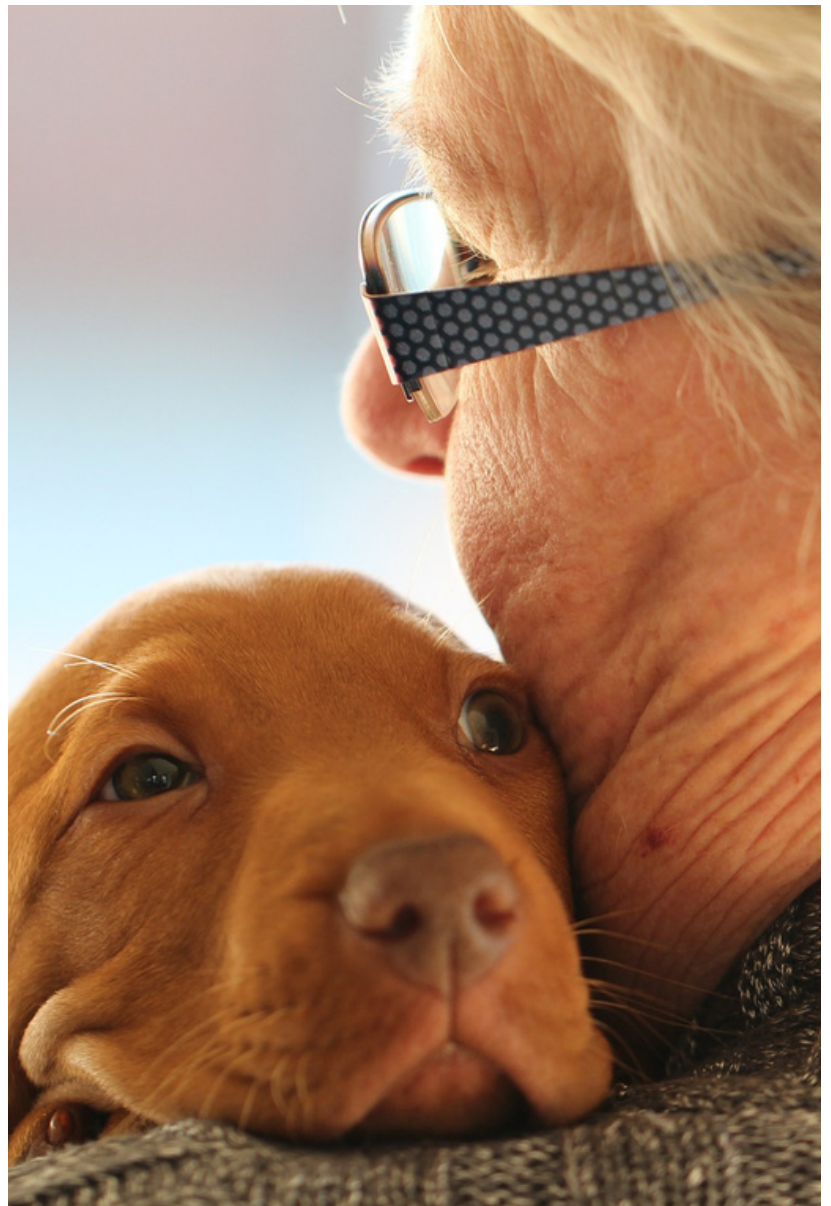
National Animal Cruelty Helpline
1890 515 515

The ISPCA wishes to thank all of the people who kindly
donated or remembered us in their will.

ISPCA
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The Society is recognised as a Charitable Organisation by the Revenue Commissioners, CHY5675, and is registered with the Charities Regulatory Authority, Registered Charity Number 20008734.

[f /irish.spca](#) [@ispca_official](#) [@ISPCA1](#)
www.ispca.ie



GOVERNANCE

The ISPCA Board and Senior Management Team are committed to the principles of good governance and believes in openness, transparency and accountability. The ISPCA aims to fully comply with the Charity Regulatory Authority's Fundraising Guidelines and to adhere to Charities Institute Ireland Codes of Practice on Fundraising.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In 2021 the composition of the ISPCA Board of Directors was as follows:

Chairperson: **Noel O'Donoghue, Kilkenny SPCA**
(1/1-19/10/2020; 26/3/2021 to date)

Chairperson: **Fiona Squibb, Louth SPCA**
(10/11/2020 to date)

Marie O'Byrne, North Co Dublin SPCA
(30/07/2008 to date)

Carmel Rooney, Cat and Dog Protection Society
(14/11/2020 to date)

Kerry - Anne Pollock
(1/12/2021 to date)

The above were members of the ISPCA Board of Directors at the end of 2021.

Other Board members in 2021 included:

David Skelly (29/4/2020 – 8/3/2021)

Christina Petris (17/4/2020 – 10/3/2021)

Seamus Counihan (20/4/2020 – 30/5/2021)

Tony Ross (29/4/2020 – 10/3/2021)

Michelle Quinlivan, Waterford SPCA
(14/11/2020 – 20/9/2021)

Anne-Marie Kavanagh (23/1/2018 – 7/1/2021)

Chairperson: Helen Dooley
(24/3/2012 – 28/2/2021)

Darragh McDonald (14/3/2018 – 30/3/2021)

Conor Walsh (14/3/2018 – 28/2/2021)

Tracey Long, Kildare and West Wicklow SPCA
(25/5/2011 – 11/3/2021)

ANIMAL WELFARE SERVICES

The animal welfare activities of the ISPCA are organised into four core service pillars, with a view to achieving our mission as effectively as possible.

Prevention and Enforcement

Our overall aim is to prevent cruelty and alleviate suffering of animals by continuing to develop an effective and efficient Inspectorate service.

Our dedicated team of Inspectors draw on their extensive animal welfare knowledge, and training in order to make the appropriate interventions by using their legislative powers so as to ensure a meaningful impact. Where possible, we work with other agencies and stakeholders to provide viable solutions.

Rescue, Rehabilitation and Rehoming

We aim to rescue, treat and rehabilitate those animals most in need, as well as responsibly rehome as many animals that come into our care.

To deliver this service, we foster strong relationships with affiliated members and other like-minded welfare organisations in Ireland. We also work with the public and veterinary professionals to support the needs of companion animals.

Education

We provide extensive advice and information through our public-facing communications in order to equip pet owners with essential knowledge about how to look after their pets appropriately.

In order to develop a comprehensive education programme on responsible pet ownership and animal welfare across Ireland, we engage with parents, teachers, vets and others through a network of education officers nationwide.

Advocacy & Engagement

ISPCA is a strong voice promoting kindness to all animals including companion, farm and wild animals, as well as animals used in entertainment, sport and research.

We maintain strong relationships with service partners, regulatory authorities, policymakers and media organisations. We continuously and effectively engage with all of our key stakeholders in order to increase awareness of animal welfare issues in Ireland.

FUNDING

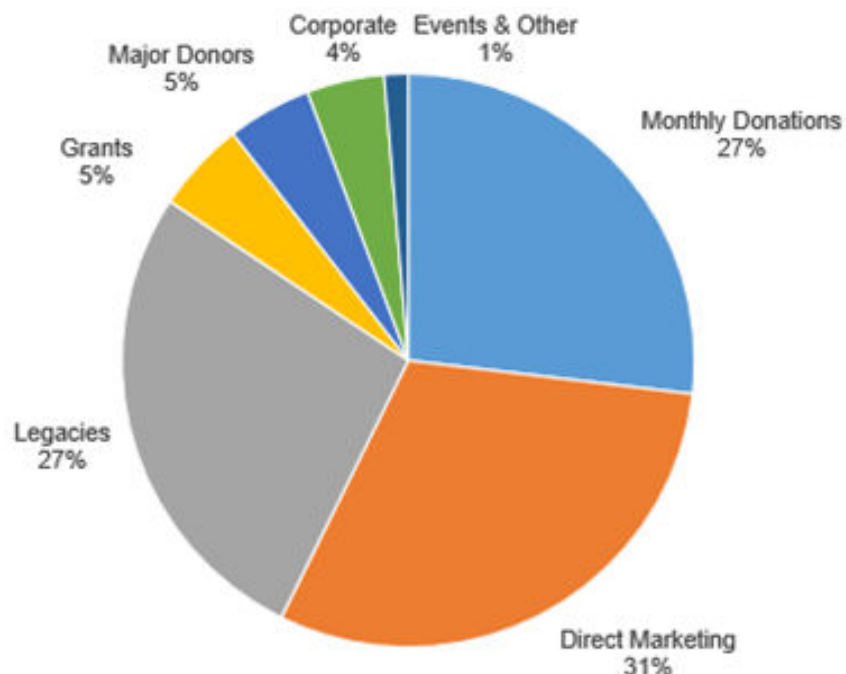


**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

In 2021 the ISPCA received €668,500 in funding from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Minister Charlie McConalogue said on awarding grants on the inaugural 2021 Animal Welfare Awareness Day in

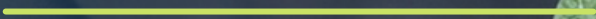
Ireland: "These organisations play such a crucial role in ensuring all our animals are cared for and protected. This is frontline work that we can all be proud of." The ISPCA is very grateful to the Minister and the Department for their continued support to the ISPCA in its mission to prevent cruelty to animals and to improve animal welfare in Ireland. The ISPCA also receives funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development and four local authorities that is key to the provision of our services to the public.

In addition to public funding, the ISPCA is also dependent on very generous donations from kind private individuals, corporate support, fundraising initiatives and bequests (or gifts in wills). In 2021, our generous supporters, corporate partners, trusts and foundations contributed €1,057,276 in donations, monthly pledges, sponsorships and legacies. Whilst this represented a (significant) decline (32%) year-on-year due to reduced legacy and tax income, funds donated by members of the public and other income-generating activities showed growth. This fantastic support for the ISPCA continued on the back of a very successful year in 2020 with people continuing to respond generously despite difficulties being suffered by many due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. This is where our fundraising income came from in 2021:



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MAKING AN IMPACT

2021 SAMPLE RESCUE CASES



Five kittens dumped outside ISPCA gates

A senior Animal Care Assistant at the ISPCA in Longford discovered a cage dumped at the road entrance of the National Animal Centre last year. Inside, he discovered 5 kittens that were soaking wet and at risk of hypothermia. The kittens were no more than five weeks old. Although these kittens experienced a traumatic start in life, they thrived in ISPCA care and have been responsibly rehomed somewhere they are now loved and cared for.

It is an offence to abandon an animal, and pet owners need to be aware that they have a responsibility to ensure there are proper provisions in place for their welfare.



Man banned from keeping equines

On a site visit in County Waterford, an ISPCA Inspector discovered 2 ponies in distress. They were immediately removed to our Equine Rescue Centre in Mallow for urgent veterinary assessment, which found that one was morbidly obese and suffering from laminitis, with overgrown hooves and a skin condition. The other, sadly, had to be euthanised in order to prevent further suffering.

Following urgent farrier care and a strict diet in ISPCA care, Bumble, the remaining female pony, made a full recovery and was later rehomed. Regular hoof trimming by a qualified farrier is recommended every six to eight weeks; this allows to identify any hoof problems and correct issues along with dietary management.

The ISPCA worked this case in collaboration with our affiliated member organisation, the Waterford SPCA. Without vital logistical support from local affiliates, the ISPCA would not be able to operate effectively. The ensuing court case was prosecuted by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and it highlights the impact of our collaboration with the Department on the protection of animals who need us the most. The owner in question was banned from owning any equines and was ordered to pay the ISPCA €3,000 in costs.

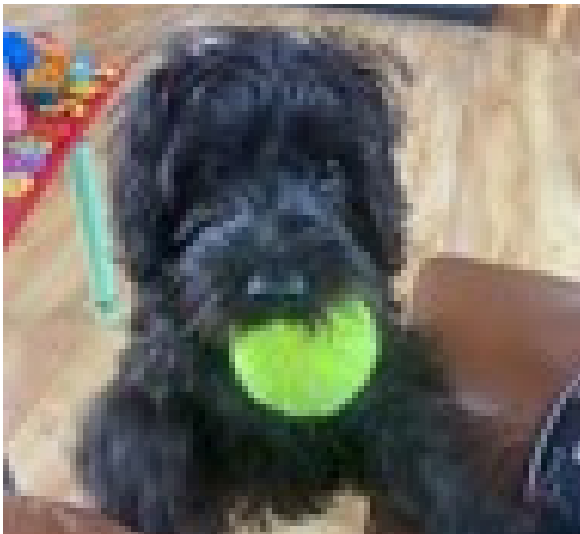
HAPPY TAILS



Willow

Willow was found as a kitten by a member of the public outside of a shopping centre, scared and dodging traffic. She was brought to the ISPCA and soon found a loving new home.

We were delighted to receive this update from her new family: "She is still so playful and likes to play every day. She is definitely the Queen of Sheeba and the boss of the house! She still has her cute little baby face! She's not a cuddle bug, but I love her!"



Teddy

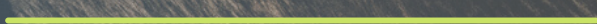
Teddy was adopted from the ISPCA and we were so excited to hear about his new home last year.

His family sent in a lovely update: "Teddy joined us in his forever home, and he settled in right away. He is so loveable and fun. He loves the company of our other furry family member, Coco. He is great with the kids and we can't imagine him not being here now. He loves to play ball and with socks."



Cooper

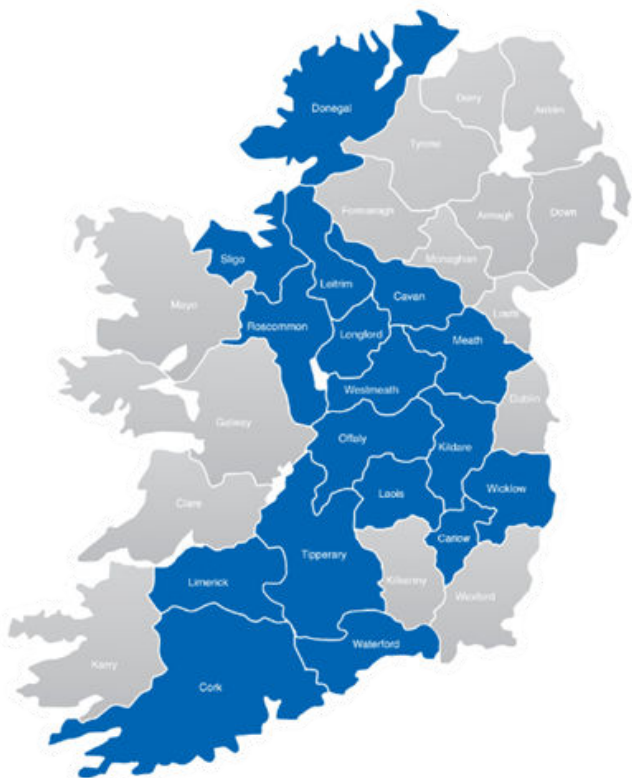
Cooper was rescued with a large open wound. He was visibly trembling and in shock and so weak he could barely stand. He was treated with strong antibiotics and painkillers and was put on a special feeding programme to help him regain weight. We were delighted to see how well Cooper is doing in his family: "Huge thanks to the dedicated ISPCA team who brought Cooper through rehab. Their incredible work meant that he found a perfect new home with our family".



2021 FACTS & FIGURES

ANIMAL WELFARE CENTRES

The ISPCA's three animal rescue and rehabilitation centres support the ISPCA Inspectorate and our affiliated members with the rescue, rehabilitation and responsible rehoming of cruelly treated, neglected and abused animals. They also support the ISPCA's 17 Member Societies and other animal welfare organisations throughout Ireland.

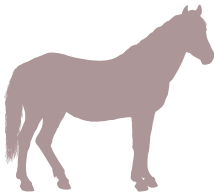





ISPCA National Animal Centre
 Derryglogher
 Keenagh
 Co Longford

ISPCA Equine Rescue Centre
 Dromsligo, Mallow
 Co Cork

ISPCA Animal Rehabilitation Centre
 Barrack, Ballyare
 Ramelton
 Co Donegal

The ISPCA's three animal centres managed over 1,800 animals during 2021 as summarised below:

	2021	TOTAL				
ADMITTED	1 824	1 824	167	746	707	204
REHOMED	1 583	1 583	132	709	577	165
REMAINING	299	299	59	140	96	4

ANIMAL WELFARE HELPLINE

The National Animal Cruelty Helpline operated by the ISPCA deals with many thousands of calls regarding animal welfare. The public has become more aware of animal welfare and intolerant of what they perceive to be cruelty or neglect. Consequently, the volume of calls to the ISPCA continues to increase.

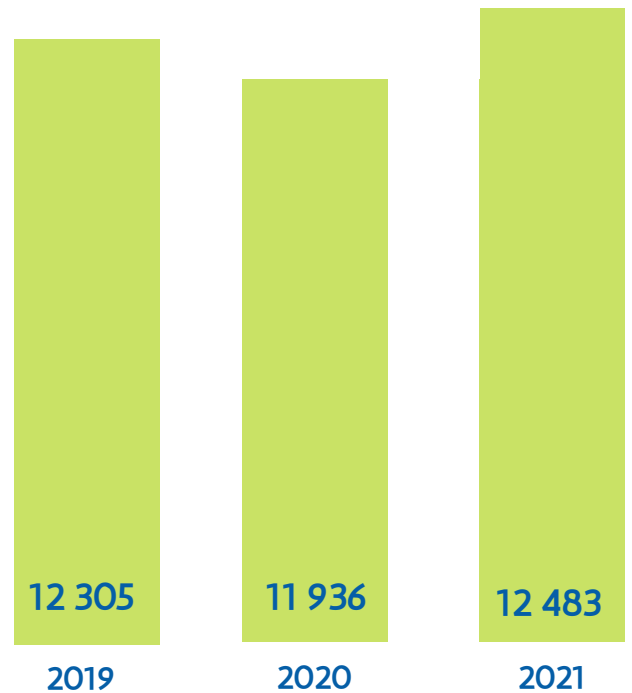
The ISPCA receives tens of thousands of queries each year from members of public needing help and advice about animals and the official complaints are progressed from these contacts for further investigation by our local inspectorate members.

The volume of calls received and progressed in 2021 is summarised in the charts below.

COMPLAINTS

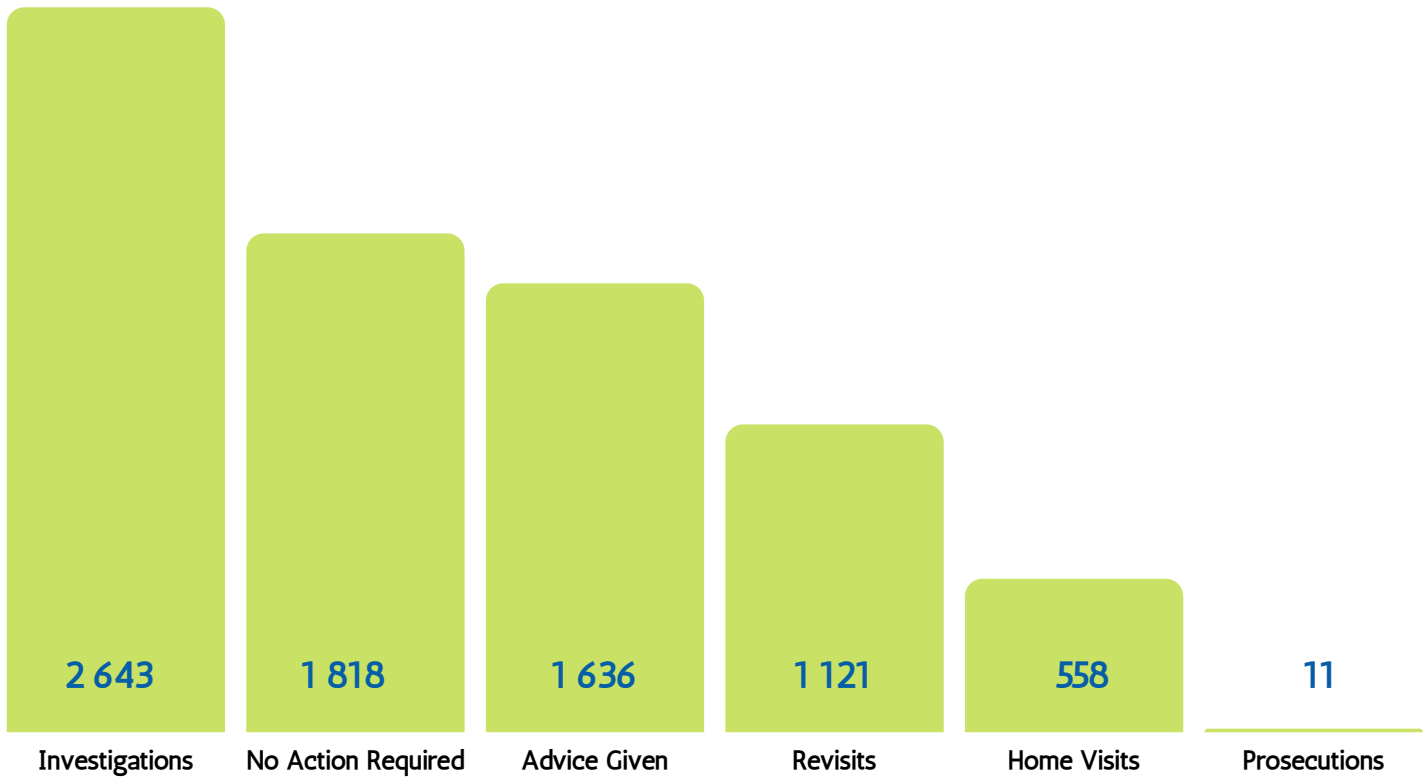


HELPLINE CALLS



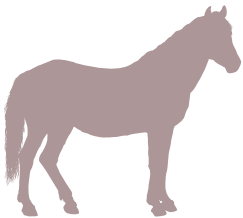
COMPLAINTS AND OUTCOMES

In 2021, a total number of 3,695 complaints were logged by the ISPCA. These resulted in the following outcomes:



ANIMALS

SEIZED / SURRENDERED



25

42



217

497



80

196

COURT CASES

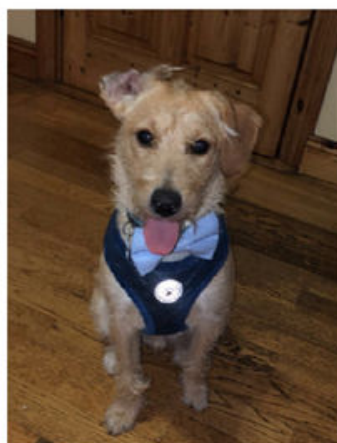
11 files were submitted and subsequently finalised in the Newcastle West, Carrick-On-Suir, Naas, Ennis, Carlow, Dungarvan, Navan, Athy, Athlone, Letterkenny, Bray, Youghal, Bray, Carlow, Nenagh and Waterford District Courts on charges of failure to safeguard the health and welfare of animals, causing unnecessary suffering, abandonment and theft. The cases resulted in the imposition of fines, disqualification orders, bans and payments of veterinary and legal costs in relation to seized and surrendered animals.

ILLEGAL PUPPY FARMS

One of our biggest operations in 2021 was uncovering a number of illegal puppy farms across the territory of Ireland.



The ISPCA Animal Welfare Inspectors have rescued more than three hundred dogs and puppies from illegal puppy farms, often run by people who only care for the money they make from the animals they imprison. These poor animals live sad and lonely lives in the most horrific conditions imaginable. They are often caged, with no room to move or escape and without adequate food or nourishment, daylight, fresh air, or exercise.



Cruelty and neglect cause serious health problems for these dogs and puppies. Many also suffer from psychological trauma and have behavioural issues. Lucky survivors were rescued, their injuries were treated, and they were cleaned, fed, and comforted. All are now safe and in loving new homes.



ADVOCACY

The ISPCA's advocacy work is continuing to see real progress. Animal welfare is an important societal issue and citizens in Ireland expect animal welfare to be at the forefront of government policy. It is why we maintain an open and informed dialogue with relevant stakeholders. At all times, our objectives are to ensure that evidence-based and ethically-sound policies govern all aspects of our work and these are promoted through our communications channels, and stakeholder engagement. We do this by providing authoritative and constructive guidelines regarding animal protection issues and by delivering effective campaigns that enhance the welfare of animals in Ireland to our partners, supporters, volunteers and donors.

The ISPCA continues to actively campaign both nationally and internationally against the live export of horses for slaughter, the plight of circus animals, exotic animal legislation, stray and unwanted cats and dogs, the Irish greyhound industry, hare coursing, whaling, bullfighting, wild birds for pet trade, seal hunting, live cattle exports to the Middle East and dog breeding, to name but a few.

We supported a wide range of animal welfare issues over 2021, and we are delighted to see essential changes to Ireland's animal welfare legislation, which we have lobbied for and contributed to over the previous years.

In February 2021, the ISPCA welcomed the Department of Agriculture's new Animal Welfare Strategy 2021-2025, which shows a clear commitment to animal welfare. It sets out how we will improve animal welfare in Ireland through engagement and collaboration for the benefit of both animals and society. The ISPCA fully supports the One Health / One Welfare approach, which recognises that the welfare of animals and people are inextricably linked, and that all animals should have a life worth living.

As per our own advocacy goals, we are pleased to acknowledge and welcome the creation of a dedicated Animal Welfare Division within the Department of Agriculture, the establishment of stakeholder consultation to support the development of outdoor reared poultry and pigs and a commitment to reducing tail docking in pigs. The ISPCA welcomes the pledge to further enhance the monitoring of live exports, which we believe should be phased out and replaced with the export of meat products only.

The most notable development in relation to animal welfare in Ireland over 2021 was the overall ban on fur farming. In 2019, following a campaign by the ISPCA and other welfare organisations to ban fur farming in Ireland, it was announced that the government will introduce legislation to phase out fur farming over the next few years. The ISPCA was heavily involved in this campaign to persuade regulatory authorities that a ban was the only way to deal with the serious animal welfare issues faced by farmed mink. The resulting Animal Health and Welfare and Forestry (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2021 was a key part of the programme for government agreement and was listed as a priority bill in the 2021 legislative programme. The Animal Health and Welfare and Forestry (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2022 banning fur farming in the Republic of Ireland was passed in March 2022 and signed into law by the President of Ireland on the 4th of April 2022.

AWARENESS

The ISPCA aims to prevent cruelty, neglect and abuse of animals and to promote compassion for all.

Our campaigns involve collaborating with veterinary professionals and other animal welfare professionals to promote responsible pet ownership. Some of the events we promoted in 2021 were fundraising through the Vhi Virtual Women's Mini Marathon 2021, the 'Bring Your Dog to Work Day 2021' And the inaugural 2021 Animal Welfare Awareness Day in Ireland.



Other activities included awareness and advice on topics such as pet microchipping, safety for pets in lockdown, at Halloween and at Christmas, and awareness of the suffering of animals in puppy farms.

The ISPCA believes that raising young people's awareness is the best insurance against cruelty to animals in the future. This is why education is paramount to furthering the ISPCA's objectives in preventing cruelty and promoting kindness to animals. School visits to the ISPCA National Animal Centre are an integral part of our education programme, as we believe that children are the key to the future of animal welfare in Ireland. ISPCA work experience programmes have provided many opportunities for students in different areas such as office work and animal care. Our ultimate objective going forward is to deliver a learning programme on animal welfare in primary and secondary schools, as part is an integral part of the school curriculum in all schools in Ireland.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

The ISPCA could not carry out its work without our dedicated team of volunteers. Our volunteers are essential to the ISPCA's work of rescuing, rehabilitating and responsibly rehoming some of Ireland's most cruelly treated, neglected and abused animals. The love and care volunteers give to the rescued animals that come into our centres go a long way toward allowing those animals to eventually be adopted by new families, in homes where they finally can be happy and safe.

Despite the restrictions imposed by COVID-19 on our volunteers during 2021, the ISPCA is delighted to see everyone return in 2022. Volunteers who help walk, feed and look after the animals in ISPCA care are helping our fight to end animal cruelty. ISPCA volunteers also meet and work with like-minded animal lovers, and gain valuable experience working in an animal welfare environment.

We recognise and acknowledge the commitment, talents and contribution of ISPCA volunteers, and we always aim to ensure that volunteers have positive and rewarding experiences in their work with the ISPCA.



AFFILIATES

The ISPCA is the umbrella organisation for 17 affiliated local animal welfare organisations and, as such, provides support to a dedicated and committed core of hard-working volunteers. ISPCA Member Societies carry out valiant work in many areas of animal welfare on a voluntary basis. Collectively, the ISPCA-affiliated societies rescue, rehome, and treat thousands of animals across Ireland every year.

Cat and Dog Protection Association of Ireland
01 8880828
info@cdpa.ie
cdpa.ie

Louth SPCA
042 9335045
info@louthspca.ie
louthspca.ie

Cavan SPCA
086 8916186
facebook.com/cavan.spcas
cavanspca.ie

Donegal SPCA
086 6054943
donegalspca2015@gmail.com
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Kildare and West Wicklow SPCA
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Kilkenny SPCA
056 7771635
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Laois SPCA
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lspca.ie

Limerick Animal Welfare
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086 8133707
tipperaryfoaspca@eircom.net

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MEMBERSHIPS



Together with other members in our national and international animal welfare networks, the ISPCA advocates each year on a number of animal welfare issues in Ireland and Europe. Our campaigns look for legislative changes, public awareness and education, as well as donations to secure improved welfare conditions for all animals.



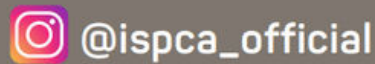
As well as working for better protection for animals in Ireland, the ISPCA is a member of Eurogroup for Animals, Europe's largest animal welfare lobbying group based in Brussels. With 70 member organisations in 25 EU member states, alongside the UK, Switzerland, Norway, Australia and the USA, Eurogroup challenges EU decision-makers to bring about positive change for animals by using coordinated advocacy and organising joint campaigns. The ISPCA has partnered Eurogroup on many European campaigns since joining in 2016.



The ISPCA is a member of The Association of Dogs and Cats Homes (ADCH), an umbrella group for dog and cat rescue and rehoming groups across Ireland and the British Isles. The ADCH promotes best practices in animal welfare and rehoming for dogs and cats. Their goal is to help all members work for the benefit of the animals in their care, through education, networking, and establishing and sharing best practice.



The ISPCA is a member of the Irish Pet Advertising Advisory Group (IPAAG), which works to improve the welfare of animals advertised for sale online. IPAAG introduced a set of minimum standards for websites to ensure that the welfare of animals sold online is protected and that any illegal activity is identified and investigated. In addition to providing standards for the online advertising of animals, IPAAG also educates the buyer on what criteria to use to identify a responsible breeder or seller.



www.ispca.ie

THE ISPCA IS RECOGNISED AS A CHARITABLE ORGANISATION BY THE REVENUE COMMISSIONERS, CHY5619, AND IS REGISTERED WITH THE CHARITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY, REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 20008734. ISPCA AND AN CUMANN ÉIREANNACH UM FHÓIRITHINT AR AINMHITHE ARE THE REGISTERED BUSINESS NAMES OF THE IRISH SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS, A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE, REGISTERED IN IRELAND WITH THE COMPANY NUMBER 460571.

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