



2022

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

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INTRODUCTION – BOARD OF TRUSTEES



2022 proved a transformative year for the ISPCA. There were a number of challenges faced in 2021 at a Board level that were worked through to a successful closure.

New Normal – While the lifting of restrictions following COVID-19 had a positive effect on Irish society, most animal welfare organisations across the country could not say the same. Our Inspectorate experienced an unprecedented increase in the number of dogs, particularly over the second half of 2022 and then into 2023, for many reasons, including the return to the office of many people across Ireland and the continuous financial pressures people were faced with as a result of the cost-of-living crisis and the war in Ukraine.

National Crisis – While many organisations were forced to close their doors, the ISPCA did not. The Board unanimously agreed that it went against our charitable purpose, and thus worked with the CEO to implement short-, medium- and long-term plans to ensure we could cater for the influx in the immediate and future, with income and budget in mind.

New Governance – The ISPCA Board of Trustees complement was restored in 2022 and into 2023. I would personally like to thank those members who stepped down in 2022 – Fiona Squibb, Marie O’Byrne and Noel O’Donoghue – for their time, insight and support.

Future-Proofed – It was a great pleasure to welcome Emily Ennis, Nora Duggan, Jillian Brennan and Pete Wedderburn as Trustees in 2022-23. The Board now brings a wealth of expertise across strategy, operational excellence, governance, sales and marketing, journalism, as well as veterinarian and animal welfare. I would like to personally thank Carmel Rooney for her continuous dedication in some of our most trying times.

Affiliates – We continue to prioritise building much-needed relationships with our affiliated members, for whom we have deep respect. Our affiliate members are primarily selfless volunteers who have dedicated most of their lives to protecting animals and preventing animal neglect and cruelty. They have a wealth of expertise and knowledge spanning many decades. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank each and every one of them for their work to date, and for sharing their insight and helping us deliver on our purpose.

Operational Excellence – In May 2022, we welcomed Dr Cyril Sullivan as our new CEO. Cyril hit the ground running and delivered on several key initiatives – too many to mention. His passion and drive, supported by his exceptional senior management team and by the wider team across the entire organisation, give great comfort to the Board that the ISPCA is in safe hands, stable and steady, with solid foundations, and well-positioned to deliver on its 2023-2027 strategy.

Kerry-Anne Pollock, Chairperson
on behalf of the **Board of Trustees**

CEO REPORT



It was a great privilege to join the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals as its new CEO in May 2022. With pandemic restrictions lifting at this time, I joined an organisation ready to be reinvigorated and transformed. The appointment of a new Chairperson and new Board of Trustees towards the end of 2022 presented the ISPCA with a perfect opportunity to create a new vision and operational strategy to guide us through the next few years.

I am delighted to report that a new Strategic Framework 2023-2027 has been developed for the ISPCA in late 2022. I want to acknowledge the terrific guidance and input from my colleagues on the Senior Management Team and from the Trustees. The Board approved the new Strategy towards the end of 2022 and we were honoured to have the Agriculture, Food and Marine Minister Charlie McConalogue (TD) join us for its launch in early 2023.

The Strategy provides me and the ISPCA's executive with a framework of ambitious and challenging objectives, which will help us meet the animal welfare needs of Irish society into the future. Our work will be guided by three strategic pillars – Prevention, Protection, Prosecution – aimed at reducing animal cruelty in Ireland and strengthening the effectiveness of our services in our Inspectorate and our Animal Welfare Centres.

In terms of our operations, 2022 was another busy year for the Society – we handled 9,317 calls from the public to our National Animal Cruelty Helpline, and our Inspectorate responded by carrying out 2,562 investigations, which resulted in 1,148 animals seized or surrendered and taken into care at our four Animal Welfare Centres across Ireland. The Inspectorate also brought 21 cases of animal cruelty before the courts. A notable step in our organisational expansion was adding the Waterford and Wicklow SPCAs to our national operations in early 2023.

All of our positive changes and growth opportunities were helped by kind and invaluable donations from the public and our supporters from all over Ireland. We also were very appreciative of an increased grant from our closest statutory partner, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. With this support, the ISPCA was able to rescue and rehome large numbers of neglected animals.

With fresh energy and new resources, the ISPCA was able to traverse another difficult year in 2022 and leverage its long-term support, partnerships and credibility to face challenges presented by a post-COVID-19 Ireland. However, as I write this, we are working our way through a difficult 2023 and a national crisis in companion animal welfare, which resulted in an unprecedented increase in the number of dogs being rescued to date. Notwithstanding these great challenges, we take great comfort from the response of our donors, the general public and our corporate partners – with their steadfast support and invaluable contributions, we are confident that we will succeed through this crisis.

With the support of the Board and the continued dedication and commitment of the ISPCA Senior Management Team and all of our staff, I am confident that we will succeed in further nurturing the organisation's resilience and strength, and work to sustain the highest standards of animal welfare in Ireland for many years to come.

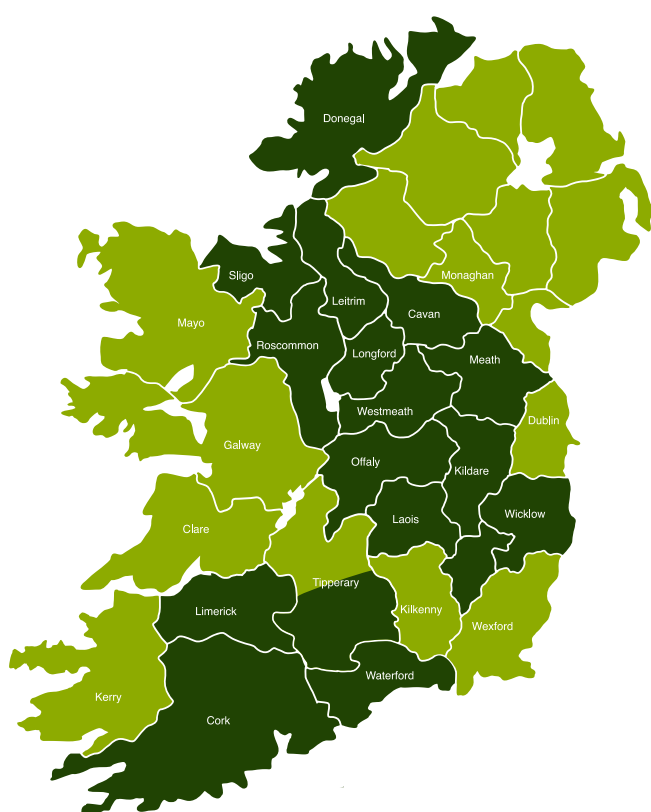


"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by
the way its animals are treated."
(Mahadma Gandhi)

ORGANISATION OVERVIEW

Established in 1949, the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ISPCA) currently has 50 employees (39 full-time and 11 part-time). 9 staff currently work in administration, 9 in the inspectorate team, 22 in our animal centres, and 10 in the dog warden service.

Our main operations include three animal welfare centres in Longford, Cork and Donegal, a national animal health and welfare inspectorate and the National Animal Welfare Helpline – the first port of call for reporting animal cruelty, abuse and neglect. The Dog Warden service operates in Donegal, Kildare, Laois and Wicklow and supports a number of affiliated members across Ireland.



The **ISPCA National Animal Centre** in Keenagh, Co Longford is used by 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. This centre can house over 200 animals and, during 2022, admitted **705** animals into its care, with 679 of these rehomed, while 219 remained at year-end.

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. **307** animals were admitted here in 2022, while 299 were rehomed and 57 remained in care into 2023.

The **ISPCA Animal Rehabilitation Centre** in Ramelton, Co Donegal provides accommodation for small animals as well as large animals, and houses aquatic wildlife such as seals, alongside many animals in its stables, kennels and a cattery. In 2022, **237** animals were admitted into the Centre's care, with 217 successfully rehomed and 79 remaining.

The **Dog Warden Service** guarantees the compassionate treatment of stray and unwanted dogs and enhances their prospect of finding a safe and caring home. The ISPCA currently employs a Dog Warden Service Manager, seven Dog Wardens and three Kennel Assistants. This service admitted **563** dogs in 2022, added to the existing 221 in the various pounds, 538 of which were successfully reclaimed and rehomed. Due to high rates of pet abandonment and straying across the country, 248 dogs continued to remain in care at the end of 2022.

GOVERNANCE

The ISPCA Board and Senior Management Team are committed to the principles of good governance and believe in openness, transparency and accountability.

Our Society aims to fully comply with the Charity Regulatory Authority's Fundraising Guidelines and adheres to Ireland's Charities Institute Codes of Practice on Fundraising.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2022
2022

Carmel Rooney
Kerry Anne Pollock

APPOINTED

NOV 2022
NOV 2022
DEC 2022
JAN 2023

Jillian Brennan
Nora Duggan
Emily Ennis
Pete Wedderburn

RESIGNED

OCT 2022
OCT 2022
NOV 2022

Marie O'Byrne
Fiona Squibb
Noel O'Donoghue

AUDITORS Crowleys DFK Unlimited
16/17 College Green, Dublin

SOLICITORS Patrick F O'Reilly & Co
9/10 Sth Great George's St, Dublin

AFFILIATES

As of 2022, the ISPCA is the umbrella organisation for 15 affiliated local animal welfare organisations across most counties in Ireland and, as such, provides support to a dedicated and committed core of hard-working volunteers. All of our Member Societies carry out valiant work in many areas of animal welfare and collectively rescue, rehome and treat thousands upon thousands of animals every year.

**Cat and Dog Protection
Association of Ireland**
info@cdpa.ie, cdpa.ie

Louth SPCA
info@louthspca.ie
louthspca.ie

Cavan SPCA
facebook.com/cavan.spca.3
cavanspca.ie

Kildare and West Wicklow SPCA
kwwspca@gmail.com
kwwspca.ie

Kilkenny SPCA
info@kilkennyspca.ie
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Laois SPCA
lspcarescue@gmail.com
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Limerick Animal Welfare
lawsanctuary@gmail.com
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Limerick SPCA
Hyde Road, Limerick

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ncdspca.org

Offaly SPCA
offalyspca@live.com
offalyspca.com

Roscommon SPCA
spca@roscommonspca.ie
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**Tipperary
Friends of Animals SPCA**
tipperaryfoaspca@eircom.net

Westmeath SPCA
westmeathspca@gmail.com
westmeathspca.wordpress.com

Wexford SPCA
info@wexfordspca.ie
wexfordspca.ie

ANIMAL WELFARE INSPECTORATE



We are immensely proud of the diligent work of our ISPCA Inspectors, who are at the forefront of animal welfare in Ireland and work closely with other authorities and agencies, such as the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine, An Garda Síochána and local authorities on many enforcement and prosecution actions every year.

The Society's Inspectorate comprises 9 Inspectors covering 16 counties, including a Chief Inspector, a Superintendent Inspector and 4 Senior Inspectors.

In 2022, they dealt with:

- **9,317** complaints received through the National Animal Cruelty Helpline
- **2,562** animal cruelty investigations
- **1,148** animals seized or surrendered and taken into care, of which 682 dogs, 246 cats, 45 equines and 175 of other species
- **21** prosecution cases



In the vast majority of cases, our officers find a solution by working with the owners of the animals; however, they will initiate prosecutions when necessary. Our new Strategic Framework looks to expand our Inspectorate Services into the West of Ireland by 2027.

FUNDING

Our total 2022 income across all funding and fundraising streams was €1,569,838 from donations and legacies, €995,219 derived from charitable activities, added to assets and reserves totalling €2,673,583.

STATUTORY

Our main statutory grant comes from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, which in 2022 awarded the ISPCA a total of **€668,500** and was distributed as follows:

National Animal Centre Longford	€615,000
Animal Rehabilitation Centre Donegal	€12,000
Equine Rescue Centre Cork	€41,500

In 2022, the Department committed to doubling the funding allocated to animal welfare charities and the ISPCA welcomed a 44% increase in its 2023 grant. In thanking Minister Charlie McConalogue and his Department for their commitment to improving the welfare of all animals, ISPCA CEO Dr Cyril Sullivan said at the time,

"We are very grateful for next year's allocation, which will make a significant difference to the ISPCA's work."



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

We also receive funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development and four local authorities – this is key to the provision of our services to the public. In 2022, we received a **€35,000** award from the Department of Rural and Community Development, and **€750,000** came from Local Government authorities in Wicklow, Kildare, Laois and Donegal.

FUNDRAISING

In addition to public funding, the ISPCA is dependent on generous donations from kind private individuals, corporate support and bequests.

LEGACIES & DONATIONS

Our overall income in 2022 was **€3,631,550**, of which **€1,569,838** came from donations and gifts, including legacies, which totalled **€732,438**. The ISPCA is grateful to all those benefactors who provide extremely generous donations through gifts in wills. They are critical to helping us rescue animals suffering from neglect and abuse. Private and corporate donations totalled **€837,400** across all supports and pledges.

MARKETING & EVENTS

Charitable and other trading activities brought in a total of **€995,219**.

EXPENDITURE

For the purpose of promoting our activities and raising further funds for the organisation, the following funds were used to subsidise a range of income-generating activities:

Staff and staff-related	€ 1,855,272
Animal care and housing	€ 829,045
Administration	€ 298,821
Fees	€ 161,478
Fundraising costs	€ 102,872
Events logistical and organisation costs	€99,484
Advertising and promotions	€1,345
Digital and website costs	€9,339



"We don't have two hearts, one for animals and one for humans;
we have one heart or we don't have any."
(Alphonse de Lamartine)

2022 FACTS & FIGURES

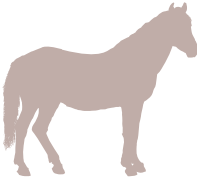



ANIMAL WELFARE CENTRES

ISPCA National Animal Centre
Derryglogher Keenagh
Co Longford

ISPCA Equine Rescue Centre
Dromsligo, Mallow
Co Cork

ISPCA Animal Rehabilitation Centre
Barrack, Ballygare Ramelton
Co Donegal

The ISPCA's three animal rescue and rehabilitation centres support the ISPCA Inspectorate with the rescue, rehabilitation and responsible rehoming of cruelly treated, neglected and abused animals. They also support the ISPCA's 15 Member Societies and other animal welfare organisations throughout Ireland. The three centres admitted 1,249 animals during 2022, in addition to the 301 animals already in care at year-start:

2022	TOTAL				
ADMITTED	1,249	212	676	288	73
REHOMED	1,195	221	615	288	71
REMAINING	355	54	202	96	3

Like other animal welfare groups, the ISPCA experienced a rise in abandoned animals over 2022 and there is a constant demand for spaces across our three centres. The ISPCA also deals with animal cruelty prosecution cases, which means many of our animals must be kept for long periods during court proceedings.

Our centres become temporary homes to many of the most abused and neglected animals in the country and, as such, their rehabilitation prior to rehoming can be protracted. This is especially prevalent in our equine section, where many months of care and expensive veterinary and farrier treatments are required.

In 2022, in the context of the return to the office of many fosterers and adopters, as well as the sharp rise in living costs, the ISPCA, along with all other animal organisations in Ireland, experienced a higher rate of abandonment and difficulties in rehoming many of our animals.

ANIMAL WELFARE HELPLINE

ACTIONS AND OUTCOMES

The [National Animal Cruelty Helpline](#) deals with many thousands of calls every year and the resulting registered complaints are progressed for further investigation by our local inspectorate members. The volume of calls received through our Helpline and the outcomes of the subsequent complaints progressed in 2022 are summarised in the charts below.

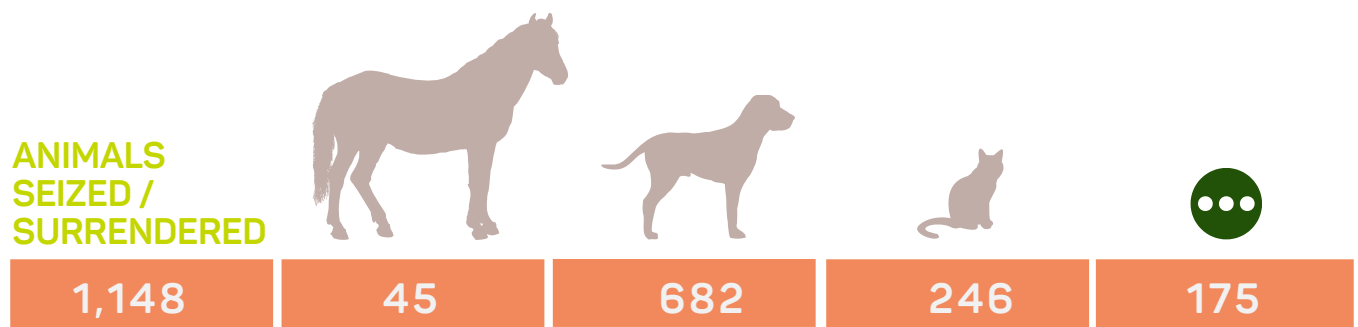
COMPLAINTS

RECEIVED	9,317
PROGRESSED	2,562
ACTIONED	1,169

INVESTIGATIONS

ADVICE	1,405
HOME VISITS	55
REVISITED	1,220

OUTCOMES



LEGAL ACTION

21 files were submitted and subsequently finalised in District Courts throughout Ireland. The charges varied from failure to safeguard the health and welfare of animals, neglect, causing unnecessary suffering, cruelty leading to starvation and death, abandonment, theft, and operating illegal and improper breeding facilities. Cases outcomes in 2022 ranged from fines, orders of disqualification from owning animals (sometimes for life), and payments of veterinary and legal costs in relation to seized and surrendered animals, as well as custodial sentences (some suspended).

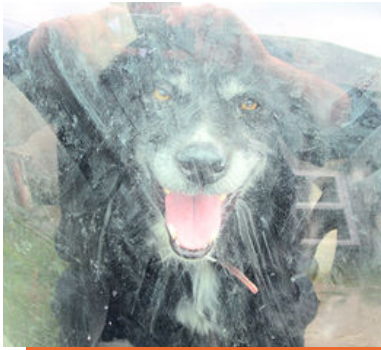
Since the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013 came into force, the ISPCA has handled:

- 132,590** calls through the National Animal Cruelty Helpline
- 29,030** investigations carried out by ISPCA Inspectors
- 9,243** animals seized/surrendered and admitted
- 124** cases finalised in courts across Ireland

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

ANIMAL CRUELTY

In September 2022, a Donegal man was convicted after the discovery of a number of animals of different species in various states of neglect on the farm. The accused had previously received a two-year disqualification from keeping animals and a suspended jail sentence in 2016. The judge also ordered a 10-year ban and instructed that the Department of Agriculture ensure that no animals were to be kept on the property of the defendant, who was sentenced to a total of four months in jail, suspended for 12 months.



On passing sentence, the judge in this case described it as “horrendous” and “disturbing.” ISPCA Senior Inspector Kevin McGinley said at the time: “This has been a prolonged and challenging case involving a persistent offender.

The ISPCA would like to thank the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine for prosecuting this case, and also DAFM veterinary and technical staff, along with An Garda Síochána, for their assistance, which ultimately led to a successful prosecution and conviction in this case”.

PUPPY FARMS

Significant ISPCA and joint operations in 2022 included the dismantling of a number of illegal puppy farms and breeding operations. In these illegal breeding facilities, animals are imprisoned and bred in horrific conditions, leading lonely lives, caged, without adequate food or nourishment, daylight, fresh air, or exercise.

One such case involved a Waterford man who was convicted of operating an illegal breeding facility, where 42 dogs and puppies were found to be living in terrible conditions. A 3-month custodial sentence and €4,770 in fines were ordered.



29 dogs and puppies were surrendered and taken into the care of Waterford SPCA. A closure notice by Waterford County Council was executed and the man was disqualified from owning dogs for life.

Cruelty and neglect cause serious health problems for dogs and puppies. Many suffer from psychological trauma and have behavioural issues. In this particular case, months of rehabilitation were needed before any of the adult dogs were ready to be rehomed.

Sometimes the ISPCA is called to assist with animal-related breaches in larger criminal operations alongside members of the Garda Síochána, such as was the case in Operation Tara, where we assisted Laois Gardaí with seizing and rescuing animals in distress found on site.

MAKING AN IMPACT

RESCUE CASES



Lucky

Every year during kitten season, hundreds of tiny kittens are left vulnerable and in need of care. The ones that are lucky enough to survive arrive at our rescue centres needing round-the-clock care.

Lucky was only a few days old when he was found all alone. Lucky is blind in both eyes, but that doesn't hold him back. With food in his belly and a clean, safe place to sleep, he can grow to be the playful, happy kitten he's meant to be.

But he's just one of many unwanted kittens and scores of helpless, heavily pregnant mums coming into our rescue centres.

This gentle little pony strayed onto a busy road in May 2022. She was found trembling and in pain, with many wounds to her face and neck. She was named 'May' and brought to the ISPCA National Animal Centre for urgent treatment. The vet removed all dead skin from old wounds and treated her for life-threatening infections. Throughout this painful process, this gentle young filly never showed any fear or aggression.

We cannot imagine what May has endured in her short life but we know that the life ahead of her will be nothing like the past. Thanks to donations for her care from compassionate ISPCA supporters she will be lovingly cared for until she heals outside and in.

May is now safe and happy in the meadows at the National Animal Centre.



May

HAPPY TAILS



Tilly was adopted from the ISPCA in May 2022 and is truly a special dog, says her dog mum, Mairead. She just wants to give kisses to all humans and play with every dog that she meets.

Mairead drives a minibus taking special-needs kids to school. Tilly rides on the bus every day and the kids adore her. She's like an unofficial therapy dog.



Dale and Aoife adopted Dougal in April 2022 and his new dog parents say he's just made their lives infinitely better.

"He's the first thing I want to see in the morning and when I get home from work, and I just wanted to reiterate we are eternally grateful and you will definitely be hearing from us in the future", said Dale.

Dougal definitely landed on his paws and is living his best life.



Beckham was surrendered and was fully rehabilitated at our Donegal Animal Centre. He soon found a perfect new home and it didn't take him long to find his feet and settle right in. The family fell in love with his quiet and gentle nature. "He loves his walks and he's happy to go anywhere in the car. He quickly became a special part of the family. We are so happy to be a part of his path to a healthy and happy life. He's regained his singing voice and has a sassy personality."



"Until one has loved an animal a part of one's soul remains unawakened."
Anatole France

ADVOCACY



Having campaigned for adopt-don't-shop and dog-specific welfare legislation for many years, we fully supported and consulted in the [Animal Health and Welfare \(Dogs\) Bill 2022](#) brought forward by Senator Lynn Boylan and finally adopted in December 2022.



Alongside An Garda Síochána and the Dublin Fire Brigade, we collaborated in the campaign on fireworks misuse launched by Justice Minister Helen McEntee in October 2022. Dr Cyril Sullivan, ISPCA CEO, said at the time,

“Fireworks cause significant distress to our pets, and to livestock and wildlife. The ISPCA is asking people to consider the effect it can have on animal welfare. We advise pet and animal owners to keep their pets indoors on Halloween night, if possible”.

The ISPCA's advocacy work for the advancement and enforcement of animal welfare is at the centre of our efforts to educate the public and engage with the various animal-related industries. Our efforts, alongside those of our national and international partners, are aimed at improving animal welfare in Ireland through engagement and collaboration with all the relevant stakeholders for the benefit of both animals and society.

Among last year's other notable developments in relation to animal welfare in Ireland were the overall [ban on fur farming](#) and the adoption of the [Animal Health and Welfare and Forestry Act 2022](#). We were extremely honoured to be involved in this fundamentally important welfare legislation, and we continue to actively campaign both nationally and internationally against perennial issues, such as 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 the pet trade, seal hunting, live cattle exports to the Middle East and dog breeding, to name but a few.

In October 2022, we were honoured to participate in the launch of the Oireachtas' Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine report on 'Issues Impacting Dog Welfare in Ireland'.



The Committee called for an overhaul of legislation relating to dog ownership, welfare and breeding and recommended the following changes the ISPCA advocates for:

- a ban on cropped ears
- regulation of canine fertility
- a ban on artificial insemination
- enhanced enforcement and prosecution of illegal dog breeding
- standardisation and centralisation of microchipping information
- updating the dog licencing rules and processes.

The ISPCA also supports the centralisation of regulation and enforcement under one statutory entity.

AWARENESS

Our periodic campaigns involve collaborating with veterinary professionals and other animal welfare experts to promote responsible pet ownership. Some of our initiatives in 2022 included the year-round **Thoughtful Gifts** drive, which pays for treatment or food for animals in our care, and is a particularly great festive gift option for loved ones. We run a successful **Giving Tuesday** social media campaign throughout the year.



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. **National Animal Welfare Awareness Day** every December is always a big date in the ISPCA calendar, and in 2022 we celebrated it with our statutory advocacy and funding partner, the DAFM. We also supported DAFM's avian flu awareness and education campaign in late 2022.

September's **International Legacy Giving Day**, hosted in 2022 by GAA legend Pat Spillane, is another important milestone every year as it gives the ISPCA and other charities the opportunity to mark the importance of charitable legacy gifts towards important causes such as animal welfare, and also celebrate the contribution of legacy gifters towards charitable goals that benefit everybody in society.

ISPCA Ambassador Rosanna Davison and animal advocate Michele McGrath joined the ISPCA in celebrating **World Animal Day 2022** with an awareness event in Stephen's Green Park in October.

Our various awareness campaigns and events ultimately support our fundraising activities, which in turn support animal care, treatment and rehabilitation in our centres.



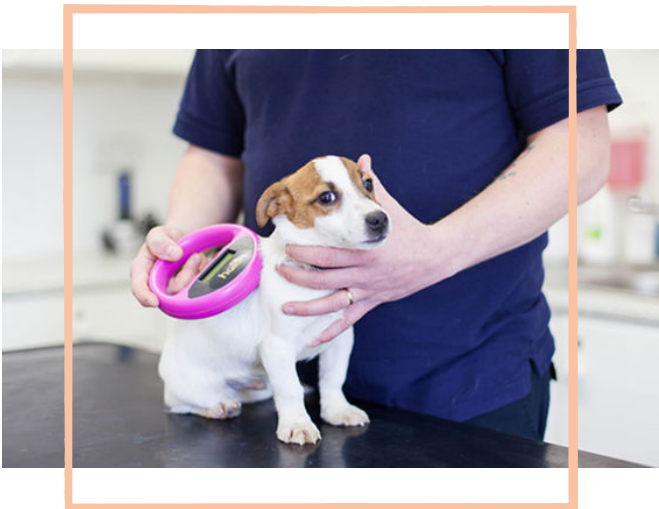
When people buy from charities such as ours, they can be sure that all proceeds are reinvested into our services for the overheads, vehicles and all staff costs that go towards our inspections, home visits, emergency and daily needs of the animals in our care.

Our **responsible ownership** campaigns run all year long and ISPCA staff are always diligent and proactive in conveying clear and useful advice on how pet owners and parents can improve the lives of their animals and keep them out of harm's way.

At any given time, we advise that all **sweets** must be kept out of reach of all animals. Though some species seem to enjoy them, sweets can be harmful to animals' health even in small quantities. A favourite with some pets, chocolate, for example, can be toxic, while various food chemicals can cause symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhoea, increased heart rate and seizures.

Indoor hazards and accidents are a recurrent problem. We advise owners and fosterers to be extra careful with candles, lanterns, electricals and decorations, especially around curious young pets unaccustomed to life indoors.

Outdoor life can be equally unsafe, especially around community special occasions and celebrations. We strongly advise owners and fosterers to have their pets **microchipped**. Not only is it the law in most cases, but if your pet becomes lost it is the first step any rescue or vet will take, thus saving a lot of grief and resources in the process of finding a lost or injured pet as quickly as possible.



Protecting pets, especially outdoor animals is always important when **celebrations** involve fireworks and other loud noises. Horses should be securely stabled or moved to a different location during fireworks displays or bonfires in the area so as to not get spooked. Birds and small mammals should be kept indoors with a blanket covering their cages or hutch to act as a sound barrier.

The ISPCA would like to remind the public to be aware of the dangers that fun occasions such as Halloween pose to the wellbeing of all animals and to take extra measures to safeguard the safety of not only domestic pets, but farm animals and wildlife too. Some pets can be terrified by the sound of fireworks, so provide a hiding place where your pets can feel safe and reassured. Soundproof the room and play calming music to drown out **fireworks** noises. Walking dogs during daylight can help avoid trick-or-treaters and having to go outside while fireworks are set off. At all times, we advise owners against dressing up their pets in outfits or costumes as this can cause them stress and restricts them from showing their natural behaviour and how they may be feeling.



Love for all living beings is the noblest quality of man.
(Charles Darwin)

OUR VOLUNTEERS

The ISPCA has a large and dedicated team of volunteers, who are essential to our work of rescuing, rehabilitating and responsibly rehoming some of Ireland's neglected and abused animals. They walk, feed and look after the animals in ISPCA care and are helping our fight to end animal cruelty. We are ever grateful for their invaluable commitment, talent and contribution, and we always aim to ensure they have positive and rewarding experiences when working with and on behalf of our organisation.



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.

The ISPCA is always looking for dedicated volunteers to help out at our National Animal Centre in Longford, our Equine Rescue Centre in Mallow, our Animal Rehabilitation Centre in Donegal and as well as our affiliated member societies who carry out vital work in many counties across Ireland.

GOALS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Over 2022, a rejuvenated ISPCA committed to assessing and improving its structures and resources at governance, management, organisational and operational levels so as to become a role model in terms of best practices. The Trustees, the Management team and the staff have consulted and committed to delivering a number of key ambitions during its new strategic and operational cycle from 2023 onwards.

The animal welfare activities of the ISPCA are organised into core service pillars, with a view to achieving our mission as effectively as possible on the key principles of preventing, protecting and prosecuting instances and cases of animal abuse brought to our attention by the public, via the Animal Welfare Helpline and through our Inspectorate service.

Like most public-funded and public-facing organisations providing services, in the aftermath of the great disruption caused by COVID-19, the year 2022 was also an opportunity to reassess and reorganise services, operations and strategies so as to achieve a high standard of service provision, efficacy and efficiency in a changed environment, one that suffered from the consequences of other great crises in society, such as the increased cost of living, impacted resources and funding and a substantial shift in how people in Ireland live and work, and the extent to how all these affected the ISPCA's work in 2022.

In order to support our range of reactive services, we have decided to expand our education and advocacy services across the country via partnerships with schools, colleges and universities. For the purpose of strengthening our operational reach and efficacy, we have committed to developing our relationships with our affiliate members to use our synergies and foster closer coordination towards common goals and joint projects.

During a complete overhauling of our operational capacity, it was also decided to increase our Inspectorate's capacity in order to reflect the increase in demand from Local Authorities and invest more resources into prosecution procedures. Stronger enforcement tools were identified that will permit the expansion of our Inspectors' resources and powers to monitor animal and pet owners' legal responsibilities.

Much of 2022 was also used to create effective strategies and implementation plans that will serve to enhance our range of animal welfare services throughout the Republic of Ireland. Specifically, this will be done by investing further in our three existing animal centres in Longford, Cork and Donegal and by adding two new animal welfare centres, with the overall aim to double capacity across our national operations. A new business model was researched whereby the ISPCA will be able to generate more awareness and income by developing our animal welfare centres as visitor attractions – this will allow the general public to witness the excellent work we do on the ground, and serve as places of education and advocacy.

The ISPCA believes that raising young people's awareness is the best insurance against cruelty to animals in the future and this is one of the strategic goals the ISPCA identified in 2022 as being integral to the next few years in terms of protection and prevention activities. Educating the young generation is paramount to furthering the ISPCA's objectives in promoting kindness to animals, and our ultimate target is to deliver a learning programme on animal welfare, as part of the curriculum in all schools in Ireland.

MEMBERSHIPS & CAUSES

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.

In 2022, the ISPCA contributed to the following national and international campaigns:



**EUROGROUP
FOR ANIMALS**

The ISPCA is a member of Eurogroup for Animals, Europe's largest animal welfare lobbying group since 2016. 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.



ADCH
Association of Dogs and Cats Home

The Association of Dogs and Cats Homes (ADCH) is an umbrella group for dog and cat rescue and rehoming groups across Ireland and the British Isles. It 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.



IPAAG
Irish Pet Advertising Advisory Group

The Irish Pet Advertising Advisory Group (IPAAG) works to improve the welfare of animals advertised for sale online. It 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. 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 (20008734).

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