

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Offaly Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ltd.

Email: offalyspca@live.com

Phone: 086 378 5584

Website: offalyspca.ie

Address: Market Square, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT THE OSPCA _____	3
BOARD MEMBERS _____	4
CAT AND KITTEN PROGRAMME 2023 _____	5
FERAL CAT PROGRAMME _____	6
DOG PROGRAMME 2023 _____	7
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS _____	8
FINANCIAL REPORT 2023 _____	9
EDUCATION PROGRAMME _____	11
A BIG THANK YOU ... _____	12

ABOUT THE OSPCA

Established in 1981, the Offaly Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (OSPCA) is a voluntary rescue charity managed and run completely by a small group of volunteers.

The aim of our charity is to prevent suffering, provide assistance to sick/injured and stray animals, and where possible to improve the lives of companion animals by providing subsidised special neutering schemes at various times throughout the year depending on the availability of funds.

“Until one has loved an animal, a part of one’s soul remains unawakened” - Anatole France

Offaly SPCA is registered as a supplier of companion animals through the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Registration Number: SPT200001C
OSPCA Registered Charity Number: CRA20033828

BOARD MEMBERS

The five members of the 2023 Board were:

- Jane Lewis - Chairperson
- Caroline Meally - Secretary
- Marion Tully - Dog Programme
- Shirley Mahon - Cat & Kitten Programme
- Colette Coates - Treasurer

Premises:

We are still very fortunate to have our office in Market Place. We would like to extend our gratitude to Mr. Tom Stokes for leasing us our office at a very favourable rate. Without these premises we would not be able to conduct our charity as efficiently as we do each week.

We are also very grateful to the Community Employment Scheme for providing us with Jane and Marion for another year. Their work and commitment to our organisation is very much appreciated and we hope they will be with us for yet another year.



CAT AND KITTEN PROGRAMME 2023

We began 2023 by asking whether, whether this year will finally be the year when all the hard work, neutering campaigns for domestic pets & feral cats, rescued cats/kittens in greatest need of help will “finally pay off?”

In 2023, we hoped to see results reflected in a reduction of calls, numbers and the general heavy work load. We queried whether “*We were there yet?*” and regrettably the response was “*No.! Not by a long shot*”.

Each year, seems to be busier than the previous year, and 2023 was no exception. There were more kittens needing our help. More calls to be answered. More to be done. And yet for all that we kept going. It’s the cats and kittens that motivate us to keep going, to keep doing our very best, to help as many as we possibly can.

During the past year we paid or part paid for the neutering of 1281 cats or kitten’s. This figure is a combination of adopted cats/kittens. We continued to Trap Neuter and Return (TNR) and provided over 800 neutering vouchers to Offaly residents for both domestic pets and feral cats. For a very small animal rescue charity, which is are managed and run entirely by volunteers, those numbers are very high.

We have no animal shelter for any animals. We have no paid staff. We are all “unpaid volunteers”. Each and every volunteer is dedicated to the welfare of animals.....all animals. Every life saved is due to the determination of our volunteers to make a difference. Fosterers reach out to offer their care and hard work to make a difference. Why? Because they care. Our fosterers are the heart and soul of the OSCPA. No matter how much hard work is done; it is the behind the scenes work of fosterers that keeps the OSPCA going and gives the animals what they need most.....a safe, comfortable, loving, caring space to rest, recover, recuperate in safety, free from fear, pain, trauma and hunger.

Thank you to our greatly valued and appreciated fosterers, to our all too few volunteers who deal with TNR’s, to those that take call after call from every corner of Offaly, to every person who stretches out their hand to help in every way both great and small..... **we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.** Without “*YOU*” we wouldn’t be who we are.

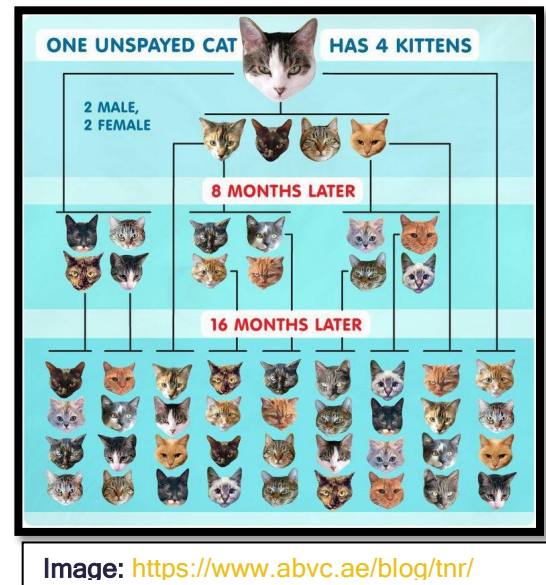
FERAL CAT PROGRAMME

A “feral” cat is a cat that has never been handled as a kitten and through no fault of its own is not tame.

Cats are prolific breeders. A female cat can produce up to three litters of kittens, every year, and each litter can produce 3-7 kittens. By the time the cat is having her third litter of the season; her first litter are themselves starting to breed and have their own kittens too.

The multiplication from just one unneutered female cat; in a yard or garden, can grow from just 1 cat to 36 in just 14 months. The life of a feral cat is generally one of hardship, suffering and misery.

Despite extraordinarily generous subsidising from the OSPCAOffaly is sadly no exception when it comes to very large numbers of feral cats. This fact is borne out by the volume of calls to our cat and kitten number.



The offer of a humane cat trap and a voucher for just €10 per cat for neutering and spaying is available from our office.

In 2023, our volunteers trapped 255 cats, whose neutering/spaying costs were fully covered by the OSPCA. We also provided hundreds of €10 “feral” cat neutering vouchers, to help lessen the feral cat population. Sadly, this population continues to increase, despite our best efforts. We simply don’t have enough volunteers to assist with trapping cats for neutering and spaying. Please contact our office help with our feral cat programme, on 086 378 5584, if you can help.

Ideally, we would like National awareness raising and media campaigns, to help people understand the plight of feral cats, and for them to know how they could assist to alleviate the problem.

DOG PROGRAMME 2023

In 2023, the OSPCA rehomed 33 dogs & puppies. We also reunited over 75 'lost/stray' dogs with owners, mainly through social media. A lot of the 'lost/stray' dogs unfortunately can be connected with weather conditions, for example, storms, breakages in fencing, gates blowing open and also around Halloween.

We have been inundated with phone calls from all corners of the country with people looking to adopt dogs. It seems everybody wanted a dog during COVID and unfortunately, it appears that people are so desperate for dogs, that they were actually stealing them from their owners at any available opportunity, such was the shortage.

Our rehoming procedure included discussing the suitability of a particular dog, and the commitment of the prospective adoptive family. A home check was always carried out prior to an adoption taking place. It is stressed to people adopting from us that a rescue dog may/will take time to settle into a new environment, and we are always available to help or advise with any problems that may arise during the settling in period. On the rare occasions a dog doesn't settle with their new family, we insist the dog to be returned to us.

All dogs taken into our care are treated for parasites, fully vaccinated, neutered and microchipped. We ask for an adoption donation of €200, which partially covers the cost of the vet treatment.

The OSPCA dog programme is committed to educating the public regarding dog welfare, in particular the importance of neutering and microchipping, and ensuring dogs are identifiable by collar/ID tag. In 2023, we offered subsidised neutering for female dogs and also subsidised microchipping for both male and female dogs. We liaised with neighbouring dog rescues, exchanging general information including lost/found dogs, enquiries about specific breeds or problems in a particular area.

As always, the volunteers and foster families involved with the dog programme are a very important part of the team, and we are grateful for their time and support. Without these dedicated people we could not help the dogs that come into our care.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

OFFALY SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS LTD.,

Financial Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2023</u>
Veterinary Fees(neuter&spay)	€ 44,985.47	Collection Boxes	€ 6,001.00
Veterinary Fees(general)	€ 11,424.00	Church gate collections	€ 3,975.00
Maintenance cost of animals	€ 1,829.00	Dog Adoptions	€ 3,920.00
Fundraising costs(calendars,badges,tokens)	€ -	Cat Adoptions	€ 5,290.00
ISPCA Affiliation and insurance	€ 1,352.00	Dept of Agri Food And The Marine	€ 42,425.00
Telephone	€ 3,112.00	Donations From Schools	€ 941.00
Stationary & Postage	€ 18.00	D.Debit Donations	€ 295.00
Bank Charges	€ 522.00	General Donations	€ 11,863.00
A.G.M / Meeting Costs		Facebook Donations	€ 1,731.00
Accountancy Fees	€ -	Cat Vouchers	€ 9,830.00
Water Rates	€ 105.00	Dog Vouchers	€ 2,310.00
Rent	€ 2,340.00	Christmas Raffle	€ 425.00
Electricity	€ 962.00	Micrichip Vouchers	€ 80.00
Recruitment expences	€ 2,200.00	Corner Closet	€ 3,806.00
		Offaly County Council grant.	€ 1,500.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	€ 68,849.47	TOTAL INCOME	€ 94,392.00
		PROFIT FOR YEAR	€ 25,542.53

FINANCIAL REPORT 2023

Colette Coates - Treasurer

2023 proved to be a very successful financial year for us. Everyone continued to help keep costs down whenever possible.



We were able to continue offering vouchers to members of the public with medical cards to help with the cost of feline neutering. This in turn, we always hope, will reduce the number of unwanted cats and kittens in the future. We still continue to neuter all animals rehomed. This year we also microchipped 76% of cats adopted. This was done whilst the cats were being neutered thus leaving it less stressful on the cats. In 2024, we will be microchipping all cats rehomed. We feel this was a well worthwhile exercise and would hope it would become compulsory for all cats to be micro chipped by law as it is for dogs. It would be nice to think we were ahead of the posse on this one.

As you can see from our financial accounts the cost of keeping animals in our care has decreased in 2023. This was down to a few different factors.

1. We received donations of food on a continuous basis from our food bins, located in Tesco Tullamore and Tesco Edenderry. Huge thanks to all the customers in these shops and of course Tesco for supporting us.
2. Some schools and large companies also donated food to help keep our costs down. A special word of thanks to Charleville school who organise a food collection in October every year. Head teacher, Gloria Mollenson, is a huge animal lover and makes it a massive success every year.

3. And finally, thank you to members of the public who call into our office and donate food for which we are very grateful.

Department Of Agriculture Food and the Marine

We were delighted to start the year with an ex-gratia payment of €40,825, which was received in December 2022. This was an increase on 2021 of €15,325. We are very grateful to The Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine for this ex-Gracia payment. This award coupled with an additional €51,967 which came from our fundraising efforts and generous donations from supporters and members of the public enabled to carry out our work and still have an amount in the pot to start off with in 2024.

If anyone has any questions on our finances, please feel free to contact me through the office.

Please note - the figure for the ex-Gratia payment in the report is different from the figure on the Profit & Loss statement. The reason for this is the figure in the report is the amount received in 2022 but for use in 2023. The figure in the Profit & Loss statement is the amount received in 2023 but for use in 2024.

EDUCATION PROGRAMME

- will be relaunched in 2024!!!



Sadly, we did not have enough volunteers for a full programme in 2023 but hope to get enthusiastic volunteers in the coming year 😊

Programme Information

Our Education Officer is happy to work with all ages and will create an age/ability appropriate session to suit each group. The programme teaches compassion and responsible behaviour towards animals and the environment we all share. The OSPCA believes that raising young people's awareness is the best insurance against animal cruelty, neglect and abandonment. Our Education Service plays a leading role in raising public awareness.

If you wish for your school to participate, please contact our office at offalyspca@live.com Our Education Officer will contact you to arrange a suitable time to attend and deliver a short workshop at your school. Workshops are approx. 30-45 minutes in duration. The workshops will be age appropriate, fun, interactive and use the theme of responsible pet ownership. We have a variety of topics we can discuss with your class and we will tailor each programme for your group of students.

A BIG THANK YOU ...

The OSPCA on behalf of all the animals in our care in 2023 would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who supported us and made our work possible.

Thank you to the following:

- Our Board members.
- Our committee members (& their families for their unwavering support)
- The Department of Food Agriculture and the Marine - who fund our vital work
- The Veterinary practices in Offaly who continue to support us each year
- Our wonderful fosterers without whom our rescues could not thrive
- Tom Stokes for leasing our office to us at an advantageous rate
- All those who fundraised in numerous ways in 2023
- Our Church Gate Collectors
- Our Auditor
- The people of Offaly who are always there in our times of need
- The business in Offaly who have supported us in throughout 2023

.. and last but certainly not least a MASSIVE THANK YOU to our volunteers, without YOU ALL we could not continue to save, support and rehome animals in Offaly

