



# THE Animal FOUNDATION

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2010

TEL: 045-522929  
VISITING HOURS: 2-4PM DAILY  
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## Dear Friends

Well that was the Winter that was. Thank heavens it is Spring again. Thank you so much everyone who sent Christmas donations and supported us in the Winter Raffle.

We are never more vulnerable than in the Winter months. The days are shorter and we are at our busiest. In the 25 days from 28th Dec to Jan 21st we spent 4309 euro on Veterinary Care alone responding to animals in trouble with the terrible weather. We lost only one animal; a cat hit by a car. She could have been saved had the people who found her not left her in their garden shed for a week to see if she would get better by herself.

Our own vulnerability became crystal clear to me during that awful weather when we could depend only on what we had and I thought we are lucky this year. What if this happens again and we have no raffle going on or no other event to look to and no resources to fall back on.

Friends I hope you will forgive me for enclosing a Standing Order form just in case you do not already donate in this way. We ask only 5 euro a month if you can manage it. I will go across the fields if I have to, in order to get the supplies the animals need. The Standing Orders are our safety net and after the Winter just gone, I feel the need of one greatly. If you already give in this way perhaps you might pass it on to a friend or family member. You can return the completed form to us and we will take it from there.

I hope the following will give you an insight into an average day in the life of our shelter. A band of friends together with hands and hearts, we are making a difference, be absolutely sure of it.

Thank you one and all for the love and commitment you show to our precious animals. Without you at our backs, we could only stand and watch them suffer. God bless you and keep you and yours. Let us now continue on our journey to;

“Let Gentleness Reign”

*Geraldine & Staff*

## Bridie

This precious little dog has been on a chain for the past five years since she was a puppy. She was kept as a guard dog. God help her she cannot mind herself. What her genius owners did not realise is that Bridie is profoundly deaf. She was only given up because the property was put up for sale and Bridie looked bad.

Well now! I knew the tips the House Doctor gives would come in useful someday.

Bridie is a work in progress. As you know many animals who suffer like this have the equivalent of a mental breakdown. She has the worst of it over her now and every day its onward and upwards from here on in.



## Far Away Tails

Just recently we received a beautiful letter from a lady in Germany who took one of our dogs many years ago. The dog's name was Jane and was so loved by the lady that she herself began to rescue animals because of her. Jane helped her socialise her rescued dogs and was her constant companion for over fourteen years. The lady had to have Jane put to sleep due to cancer and wrote to thank us for the gift of the beautiful Irish dog who changed her life.

We began to think of others who travelled far and wide with new owners. A great dog called Grandad ended his days in Spain where his owners took him to help his ageing joints.

Keerah was brought to Austria and I still have the letter from her devastated owner when she died a couple of years ago. He said Ireland would always be a magical place to him because of the lovely Keerah.

To get a letter like this when it is blowing a gale outside, and the pipes are frozen and you shiver and shake your way to the shops, is just such a lift. Animals I know are the finest ambassadors you could send anywhere.

## SPONSORED WALK

Sunday 9th May 2010 @ 3pm

Lets all walk together with our lovely dogs and help those living here who have no one, but you - to look out for them. The walk starts and ends at the Foundation and covers a distance of just over two miles. Refreshments will be available on your return. If you have no dog to walk - No Problem. Join us anyway your good self. Sponsorship forms are now available and we can get one out to you straight away.

# Little Miss Hissy - The Innocent



We never expected to have to go on rescuing the rescued. Our LMH uses up at least nine lives a week. The common sense gene is spectacularly absent in Miss Hissy. If we added up the man hours we spent looking up at her miaowing down at us from the most bizarre outposts. If there is a tile missing from the roof, she will find it and enter therein and panic. If a pipe is left unattended, she will have to check it out and get stuck. No tree has been neglected by her adventures and of

course the going up goes fine but she has no reverse gear or return button.

Always ready in a corner are ropes, nets and ladders. I used to think she will learn her lesson, but if you saw her little face when she realises her dilemma, you could not leave her. Just when you are going out the door is usually her chosen time. About 8 years ago we took her in as one kitten of a litter from a wild cat colony. Now was that one of our better ideas?

## Wishbone

This little Yorkshire Terrier is so tiny and so thin we can't believe he survived. As we often find the size of the animal is no reflection on the size of their hearts or their will to live.

He is about 14 years old and was found wandering in the country. He clearly had a good home at some time but must have been lost or stolen. He had no microchip or other ID. We have placed him in a foster home because he is smaller than our smallest cat and so frail that he needed very specific individual care and attention. He is doing well with all the fuss just for him. We are not in a hurry to make decisions for his future. Let him have peace and rest for a few months and then see what he wants to do- if indeed he wants to go anywhere at all.



## Peggy & Lucy

Just before Christmas, a country market was taking place in a nearby town. One stall holder must have brought young chickens to sell. Well clearly his mind must have been elsewhere. Our Peggy and Lucy went on walkabout. Down the town they walked, only chickens of about 18 weeks old and where should they come to a halt only outside an off licence. There they pondered life and the pavement, until the girl working inside could see no harm come to them and invited them in. They remained in the store room until we arrived. Peggy and Lucy had their own plans for Christmas and it did not

involve bread sauce. They now share a home with Sarah from the last newsletter and live happily in the country with Lisa and James well away from the temptations of drink in the town.



## Cat With No Name

When Lisa opened the pet carrier containing the cat just brought in and went "Oh.No". I was afraid to ask. Get a vet straight away she said, "this cat has no face"

I could not believe what had just been surrendered to us. A cat whose face was eaten away by cancer. There was no debate, she was brought to be put to sleep straight away- to end the awful pain she

was enduring. I am so grateful for kind vets and euthanasia. All our merry banter left us that day.

This cat was not difficult to handle and clearly had given her owners many years of companionship. Surely it was possible to bring her for treatment long before she came to such a shocking state. This was an obscene act of neglect.

## Dog Trainer Extraordinaire

### John Rogerson ... Crime Scene Investigation

We are honoured again this year to host a four day Dog Training Course with the world renowned John Rogerson. This year the focus will be on working with your dog to solve problems and detect hidden objects. A course with John Rogerson is one of your "must do's" in life if you love the company of dogs. I know it opened up a whole new world for me when I did one.

Only fourteen places are available for the only course this year which takes place from 8th to 11th July 2010. For details: Tel. Grace 086 1953 158

## Whisper

Its five days now since she came in and still the washing piles high. This frame of what should be a magnificent dog, makes no sound. She is so defeated from years of abuse, she has no concept of a bed and that its for sleep and comfort. All dignity is gone and she just soils where she sleeps and expects repercussions at our every turn. I have yet to find her asleep – she remains ever watchful.

The medication to build her up and clear the ulcers on her skin is easily given. After pure starvation she does not closely examine the food offered. We are starting

to feel downhearted at our lack of progress. If she recognises one of us, she gives no sign of it, she never looks at us only ever into that faraway place of hers. It is time to send for our Healers.

A couple of days later and she is standing up and looks at us for the first time. Her bed has not been soiled and she sniffs the food on offer. It is time for smiles all round. She turned that vital corner. A couple more days and we might have a wag of a tail.



Wish her well dear friends as we wait for Old Father Time to work his magic.

## Mornay

A man out fishing found her. She had been placed in an overflow drain to a canal. She had been tied to a concrete block. Her owner's great plan was that the next flood or water release, would drown her. Knowing this might take a few days or so, I wonder what his thoughts were as he went about his business and people said ordinary things like "awful weather we are having". Did he even once allow

the thought into his head of going back for her and at least release her from the block. She had no idea of the danger she was in, she just knew she was afraid.

She is here safe now thank God. She is only about 8 months old. She was neutered last week and soon she will be ready for a new home. Right now she just wants to play and God know there is no shortage of playmates here.



## Spook

We were called to Spook after he was seen over a period of days hiding behind a headstone in a graveyard. There were no houses anywhere near so I don't know how he managed for food. It is certainly not a place a dog on his own would choose so he must have been dropped off there. Dogs stay near where they are left in the belief that someone is coming back for them.

Spook, bless him, thought so too, and fought tooth and nail to avoid coming with us.

He is a difficult dog to get to know, but when you get into his good books, he is a great dog. He is greatly loved by us here and I fear it may be too big a bridge for him to cross to trust a new owner. I hope I am proved wrong on this one.

## Kingston

The struggle to get care of Kingston went on for days. His owner tried everything possible to avoid letting us see him and denied ever having a dog. The neighbour who reported it was adamant that she knew a puppy was living there and was in very poor condition when she last saw him.

When this little scrap was finally handed over, we were told he was just under a year old – he was barely the size of a three month old German Shepherd. His spine was curved and we hoped he was younger than the owner said so we would have a chance to repair the harm with good nutrition. He was so thin and covered in lice we had to wrap him in a towel to lift him to avoid hurting him. His eyes belonged in the face of an old dog.

This beautiful breed of dog feel things so deeply. Soon however the puppy in him



won out and he began to copy the other dogs and forget himself for a while. Always though he would have to sleep right next to the door just to know he could escape if he had to. We did what we do best," nursing care" and soon we had a stunning young German Shepherd on our hands who had missed out on the vital early training and development. A lady from German Shepherd rescue in the UK responded to us and offered to bring Kingston the rest of his journey from fearfulness.



James and Daniel travelled with Kingston to the UK and arrived just as the country was about to become snowbound. The hardships they had, was made worthwhile when the lady rang to say she would be keeping Kingston herself and he would want for nothing ever again.

# The Disappointed Lives

We are often hugely affected by single acts of cruelty perpetrated on an animal, and carry the memory with us throughout our lives. If a fairy god mother were to appear to me and grant me three wishes. I could give her my answer in a second. The first would be : That all animals tied and locked up should be set free. The second: To completely re-vamp our shelter and finally my third wish would be: that I could somehow un-see what I have seen.

In the absence of a fairy godmother, I know there is still much we can do ourselves.

Imagine the life of a dog on a chain. Every day is the same, all the things he wants to see and smell, all the events going on in the house and outside the gate, he wants to investigate. All the cars and people he never

ever gets close to. He almost never gets touched. All his hopes in the early days are now replaced with the true and certain knowledge that nothing will change. Nothing to look forward to – to hope for. The weight of his captivity grows on his neck with each passing year and is matched only by the weight of his sadness.

As a happy puppy, he was introduced to his kennel and chain and thought at first it was just for a few minutes and how he protested. The back door closed to his cries and so it went on. Sometimes he still cannot believe what has happened. His owner seems a kind sort of a person and gives him food and water but will not relent and give him what he craves most of all. A life.

For the most part, these pet owners are not

bad people. They just do not understand the very essence of an animal's heart and mind. Those animals that have passed through the Foundation over the years have been an experience. The simple fear of running is ever present. They are so conditioned to being unable to move past their allotted span, we need to let another dog run with them to show them they are free to do so. We always have such loving dogs here that they will keep running back for them to urge them for another few steps until full flight is finally achieved.

That dear friends is always a sight that brings tears to my eyes. I grieve for all that has been lost to them for no good reason but we can only start from where we are and change this animal's future.

## Heidi & Clancy

On the 3rd January we received a great blessing. Late last year we took in a very thin young nanny goat. Our vet advised us she could well be pregnant and we would do well to build her up. Embracing this new task, we plied her with the finest fruit and veg. we could lay our hands on. My packet of cornflakes was not safe as all sought to outdo each other in the nutrition stakes. I did remind the enthusiasts it was only a goat we had and not a buffalo but they were people on a mission to fatten Heidi up or else.



All our efforts were rewarded when we went up that morning to see the other goats and sheep gathered around. We had prepared a shed with heat lamp and mountains of bedding and there the miracle of new life took place. Heidi and Clancy slept snuggled up close while the other animals formed a protective circle around them.

Well he is only gorgeous. A fine strong young kid and Heidi's pride and joy.

We called him Clancy after that great man of music Liam Clancy.

## Our New Lotto Endeavour

We have great hopes that our Lotto will in time bring great benefits to the shelter. Still in its infancy yet, we hope that in time if we can expand the number of ticket sellers we have, it could bring about real and lasting change to our buildings and grounds.

The draw takes place every two weeks and immediately afterwards we post out raffle result sheets and new books for the next draw. Most people start off by taking two books of ten tickets @ 1.00 each and gradually build up a regular base of people who want to take part.

We hope some people will try it for a couple of months and see if they can fit it into their lives. If you would like to take part, please ring or drop us a line.

## Winter Raffle Results

In order to meet a print deadline for this newsletter, we did not have the raffle results available to us on time. They are of course listed on our website, they will appear on our next newsletter and can of course be sent out to you if you wish. Tel. 045 522929.

## Open Day

Well Folks, our Open Day looms on the Horizon again. We have fixed the date provisionally for Sunday 18th July 2010. We really have been limited in recent years as many of the people we depended on have moved abroad, had babies, got married, got un-married and so on. We could do with more people to help on stalls or organise one for us or help us to find new attractions that won't cost very much to put in place. The old reliables like, cakes, tombola, plants and new items really work well if we have plenty of produce to sell. Don't forget to hoard your unwanted Christmas gifts for us.

If you would like to take part in any way in our Biggest Day of the Year, please let us know

## Mini Marathon

The fitter Ladies among our supporters and again getting limbered up to take part in the Womens Mini Marathon. Would you consider taking part in this event. It takes places on the June Bank Holiday weekend. T shirts and Sponsorship forms are available from the Marathon Queen herself: Michele 087 631 5082.

## Dates to Remember

April 2010 .....

Easter Fair  
Saturday 3rd April, 12 noon - 4pm  
Scoil Mhuire,  
Ballymanny, Newbridge

May 2010 .....

Spring Sponsored Walk  
Sunday 9th May

June 2010 .....

Mini Marathon  
Bank Holiday Monday

Next event in June to be confirmed.

Dog Show (Date to be agreed)

July 2010 .....

Open Day Sunday 18th July

Dog Training with  
John Rogerson 8-11 July