

THE Animal FOUNDATION

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VISITING HOURS: 2-4PM DAILY

LOUGH ANDYS HOUSE,

SOUTH GREEN ROAD, KILDARE TOWN.

Web: www.animalfoundation.ie

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2010

Dear Friends Tadhg

Hello Dear Friends,

What a rollercoaster of a year we have all had in this little country of ours. I hope the following pages will lift your spirits. I realise many of you missed our "Thanksgiving Service". Well it did our hearts good. The music by a couple called

"Unity" was just wonderful. The prayers were our own and from the heart. Everything we tried to do this past couple of years to raise money was so difficult with the understandable atmosphere of fear that exists in Ireland at the moment.

Always in the past when my back has been to the wall, I was dazed for a while. Then I remembered. Give thanks for what you do have. I dried my tears at having to close down one of our yards, picked myself up and organised our first "Thanksgiving Service". Do not miss it next year please friends, it will take place on a Sunday around World Animal Week. We are no better off in any material way, but since that Sunday I have a peaceful feeling that everything will work out just fine in time.

Each one of you were prayed for, thought about and remembered

Geraldine & Staff



I feel I have seen his face a thousand times. On farms or tied up in back yards, or like Winston on a roadside buried under snow. The brown in his eyes is not visible, his pupils are so large and blue from pure fear and alarm

Nothing goes to my heart more than any old animal that has never known kindness from a human. Tadhg watched our hands all the time and went to bite us if we even tried to move his blanket to make him more comfortable. Each Vet visit was a feat of logistics to get him there with the least possible stress.

Its now four months since we took him from the burned out house he was trying to protect. No one came back for him, yet still he remained faithful to his post.

We have only one wish for him - for what remains of his life to be comfortable, warm and safe with no watching or waiting. Just sleep knowing all is well with the world and it is his turn to rest. He barked for the first time this week when he saw Michael and Ute arrive. They must have special go-slow tyres on their vans that an old boy like him can keep up with when he is having one of his energetic days.

Winter Raffle.

This year dear friends we thought it best to return to the more traditional ticket format in the hope it makes it easier to sell them. The draw date is not until Sunday 27th March 2011 so there is plenty of time.

With a bleak budget in the middle of a harsh winter, more than ever, animals will need our help. Please, please do your best with the tickets so we have an income to meet the needs of poor animals caught up as always in a mess created by us humans.

Thank you from my heart to all of you who continue to try so hard to help our shelter, year in, year out. I know it can't be easy.

Thank you so much.

OÍCHE



I hope it is not wrong to pray for land. If it is, I am indeed a sinner of grave proportions. When I see wildlife killed on a road, or when we release them from snares and traps, its like a knife in my heart.

If we do not soon begin to respect and cherish our wildlife, our children's

children will only be able to see foxes and badgers in a zoo.

Oiche was an orphaned fox cub. She was hand reared by Daniel. This was a long process and we had to wait until she was old enough to be released and also find a safe release site. It is so difficult to let them off to the unknown even in a protected area but you must respect their species and pray it works out for them.

I keep dreaming of lots of acres of woodland for the midlands where we could take wildlife and release them there where they need fear no traps or snares, no cages and no roads. A place where they can live safely among their own species.

Around the same time we rescued a young pregnant female badger from a snare. It had been around her waist. Despite three great Vets working on her simultaneously,

she died along with her unborn litter. That Sunday night will stand out in our minds as one of the most sad events we ever endured together.



Our Equine Adventure

“We can do no great things, only small things with great love” ...Mother Teresa

Knowing so many beautiful horses and ponies were being abandoned, we felt powerless to intervene - having little grazing and little equine knowledge. Fate intervened however and Daniel learned from one of the websites that a Donkey and his goat companion were in a Pound in Kilkenny and were due to be put down. We thought if we started small and started somewhere, it would somehow work out ok

A horsebox was borrowed and two of our team headed off to take out the Donkey and Goat. A person who had been observing them before they were seized, said they were inseparable so that alone limited their re-homing chances.

Some hours later the horsebox returned and I thought there seemed to be a lot of noise coming from within for only two animals. Inside along with the donkey and goat were two beautiful chestnut ponies, both of whom were to be put down that day also.

And so another journey had begun for us. In the months that followed, the horsebox has been borrowed many times and we have either found homes for those we took or have rented grazing for them. The poor ragged defeated creatures we unloaded each time, are now full of spirit and speed, their coats shining and not a bone in sight.

Stanley and Oliver

Stanley the Donkey and Oliver the Goat got along the finest for a couple of months and then we began to notice a bullying trend begin between them. We made absolutely certain of this before taking the decision to separate them. Oliver being the youngest and smallest had to be sorted first. We introduced him to Heidi and her son Clancy. Clancy and Oliver were all up for play but it took several days for Heidi to satisfy herself that Oliver was fit company for her precious son. I love watching them graze together. Heidi has one either side of her and she never lets either one wander far from view.

The Donkey Sanctuary in Mallow kindly agreed to take Stanley. He needed Donkey company and donkey manners and was tricky to handle sometimes. Their knowledge and experience saved the day and we know he is in the best possible hands. I take my hat off to their people. They were so professional and helpful to deal with. An excellent organisation,



Feather and Snow

The Cobb "Snow" kept faith with her through her illness. They must be together a long time. We were told she was disabled on the bank for almost a week with discarded hooks and fishing line which cut into her legs and face as she tried to free herself. Instead of attacking us when we were lifting and placing her in a bag, her partner simply watched. When we began to walk away with her, her partner Snow followed us. He did not even resist having a bag placed over him, all that mattered was to be with Feather.

She rested and healed here for

just over four weeks and then we released them on a

quiet stretch of canal near where friends of ours lived.

There they stayed for about ten days and one day they simply left. They stop off at the canal from time to time for little rest and then away again.

I feel a great sense of honour when we are allowed to help Swans.

Their majesty and dignity is clearly evident even when their circumstances are difficult.



Our Little Monkey

A lovely lady knowing her neighbour was still in the barbaric habit of bleeding greyhounds with kittens managed to snatch up the plastic bag before the greyhounds realised it was there. There were three inside barely alive from lack of oxygen and rough handling. They must have been bruised all over. One died a day later at the Vets, another made a full recovery and found a new home but the remaining one is called "Monkey" has suffered some brain damage. Her sight is poor and has a slight shake in her head. She is very small for her age but full of zest for life and curiosity. Lisa has done all the early nursing and Monkey is now independent. She cannot go however to a very busy household, she will need someplace quiet and peaceful where her unique needs can be catered for. If such a person is reading this, please get in touch.



Ely and Mojo

A friend has a sign in her kitchen saying "Teenagers – Now who thought that was a good idea". I am of the same opinion regarding baby greyhounds. A very nice man was building a house.

When he called to view progress one evening, he saw Ely and Mojo cowering behind some blocks. He went into town at great speed and brought them back some food. Although they were starving, at only ten weeks, they already knew about fear and watched for a beating that did not happen. Later that

day they came to live with us. As puppies do, they lull you into a false sense of security by much sleeping and eating for a couple of days. Then God Help us, someone presses the fun button and off they go. The older dogs are in a huff with us for allowing such unruly ruffians onto the premises. Break it, drag it, pull it, chew it. Then a snooze before the next

onslaught. Bless them, when their skin clears up and they put on weight they will look like the mighty warriors they already think they are.



Yousef

We must have walked miles looking for him. The women who rang earlier described meowing. This had now died away and we were on a blind search. Only one hour of daylight left. A security man at the landfill said he had seen a cat "in a terrible state" a few days previously. "Must be dead by now" he said. I thought, well you are a big help.

I sat down while the young legs went ahead of me. I silently asked God to let us find this cat today before it was too late. After a few minutes, in the quiet I heard a sound. Very faint but not far off. There he was just a few feet away burrowed down among some refuse, the object of all our concern. It looked like he had just laid down and thought, this is a good a place to die as any and waited for it to arrive. His eyes were almost lifeless, yet he looked at me as if to say, "I know, it's ok, just leave me here.

Whatever his resignations were, I could not leave him there to die among the refuse as if his life counted for nothing.

Within an hour he was on a drip, within a day he was standing, now eight weeks later, he is king of the castle. Yousef is less than five years, yet behaves like one much older. He is wise beyond his years and we treasure him.



Aggie

A family had been evicted from their rented home. The house was in tatters and it would take many skips to take away the build up of refuse they left behind. More awful than that by far, was leaving behind a little terrier about to give birth. When we arrived she was already in labour and freezing cold. Our Vet was wonderful and good humoured even at such a late hour and immediately puy her on fluids in a lovely warm place. Eventually 5 little puppies struggled into the world and poor worn out Aggie thought each one just wonderful. Much time passed and her little family found new homes. A slightly tubby, neutered Aggie was then herself chosen by a lovely family. Hopefully the events of this year will soon seem like a distant memory



Troy

Troy is a shetland pony rescued from the Horse Pound. He stood away from the other ponies with his head down. We could not even interest him in apples. This little chap was away from all he knew because his owner surrendered him. He could not afford to keep him. Our journey with Troy is a work in progress and so very slow. A little cat has befriended him. We cannot yet put him with the other ponies as he is unbroken and volatile and one of them is pregnant. One to one and patience is needed.



Sunny

Meet our little Miss Sunshine. Sunny was re-homed from here ten years previously. Her owners had a series of hardships which forced them to move into a rented apartment and Sunny was returned to us.

I feared she might not make the adjustment but she is yet another example that you can indeed teach old dogs new tricks. She has settled in with the other older ladies and gentlemen we have here. Her middle age spread has disappeared as she tries always to be the first dog to the gate to see what's going on. We hope her retirement here will be a long and happy one.



THANK YOU

Fancy Dress: This annual event organised by Breda O'Connor took place on Sat. 23rd October. It was such an enjoyable event and we wish to thank Breda and her team for all the effort they put in to make it a success. Thank you everyone who attended.

OPEN DAY – THANK YOU

Thank you everyone who turned up to show your support. I honestly feel so bad that this event seems to attract only rain and wind for the past few years. I wonder if we are being fair to you, our loyal supporters in asking you to turn up under such conditions. With the climate being so unpredictable, it is difficult to know what kind of event to hold. We would welcome your input and suggestions.

We would like to acknowledge and thank local garden centres and those who bake and donate items of any kind and indeed for your precious time each year.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Higgins Furniture Hire, Doneaney, Kildare Town, 045 526300
..... Again this year, this company gave us free and full use of all the tables and chairs we needed which was a huge saving on the event.

Extraloo, Clondalkin, Dublin 22. Mr Paul Tierney has been so generous over the years with every single event. Tel. 01 467 3100

Signlab, Leixlip. Mr. Niall Rankin has been making low cost or free signs for us for years for any possible occasion. Tel. 01 624 6435

KFM

This radio station continues to be a huge help in highlighting not just events for our shelter but they follow up and highlight many areas of concern affecting the welfare of animals. Tel. 045 898999

Our Lotto Draw Ends.

We came to a decision not to renew our licence to operate a lotto draw. Despite our best efforts and a few dedicated people we simply could not make it a worthwhile endeavour. Our Jackpot was not won at time of close and it stands at €3,750.00. We have taken legal advice and understand this money can be used for prizes for other events. So in case you think we losing the plot, this is how we are in a position to offer a higher quality prize for our Winter Raffle this year. Thank you everyone who helped with our Lotto Draw.

Table Quiz Nights

This being the time of year for holding a Table Quiz I wonder if any of you would perhaps consider holding a Table Quiz for the Foundation in your local area. They can be great fun and we would be happy to help in any way we can. If you think you might be interested, please get in touch with us.

Thanks a million for all you do.

STANDING ORDERS

Thank you so much to everyone who responded to our last appeal for Standing Orders. Our Annual income has increased to just over €2,000 per year due to this commitment from your good selves. You can't imagine what a blessing this is to us. So often we had only what you sent by Standing Order. There are so many blanks in any fund-raising year. You must stand in line naturally with all the other charities and wait for your day and your permit. We only collect in designated places with full knowledge and permission of the appropriate authorities. You will NOT find us at traffic lights or on your doorstep. We know people have enough pressure without being accosted in the privacy of their own homes.

In case anyone would like a Standing Order form, we have plenty. Just ring and we will send one on to you. Or simply bring the following information to your Bank.

Our details: Account Name - Kildare Animal Foundation
Bank Name: - Bank of Ireland, The Square Kildare Town
Account No: - 51943527
Sort Code: - 901167