

IMPACT REPORT 2023

Securing Tomorrow:

How we're strengthening animal welfare today



The DSPCA:

Rescue Rehabilitate Rehome

Giving every animal the chance they deserve.

Board of Directors

Paul Connell – Chairperson

Roger Dungan

Robin Farrell (appointed 13 March 2023)

Mairead Fleming (resigned 6 March 2023)

David Freeman

Vanessa Kiely (appointed 23 May 2023)

Barbara Kirby (appointed 13 June 2023)

Keith Malcolm

Hazel McConnell

Sara O'Reilly (appointed 23 May 2023)

Company Secretary: Roger Dungan

Company Number: 3437

Registered Charity Number: 20001735

Registered Office:

Mount Venus Road, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16

Independent Auditors

Ormsby & Rhodes

Chartered Accountants & Statutory Audit Firm 9 Clare Street,
Dublin 2

Solicitors

Joynt & Crawford

8 Anglesea St, Temple Bar, Dublin 2

Mason Hayes Curran

Barrow Street, Dublin 4

Bankers

Allied Irish Banks

9 Terenure Road East, Rathgar, Dublin 6

Bank of Ireland

College Green, Dublin 2

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About Us

At the DSPCA, every animal matters

Every day, we rescue the abused, heal the broken, and find loving homes for animals who have known only fear and neglect. From dogs and cats to horses, goats, rabbits, birds and reptiles, if they need us, we are there.

Our mission is simple yet powerful: to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome - giving each animal not just a second chance, but the life they deserve. Together, we strive for a world where cruelty has no place and compassion leads the way.

Founded in 1840, the DSPCA is Ireland's oldest and largest animal welfare charity, dedicated to protecting animals through frontline rescue work, education, advocacy, and community outreach. Our shelter in Rathfarnham provides a safe haven for thousands of animals each year, while our dedicated teams work tirelessly to prevent cruelty, promote responsible pet ownership, and drive lasting change in animal welfare legislation. Through collaboration with government agencies, schools, and local communities, we are shaping a future where all animals are treated with kindness and respect.

None of this would be possible without you – our donors, volunteers, and supporters. Our 2023 Impact Report, Securing Tomorrow, is a testament to what we have achieved together, but there is still so much more to do. With your continued support, we can save even more lives and create a kinder future for all animals.

Every Life MattersEvery rescue is a promise

Our Mission

To promote and protect the welfare of all animals.

Through rescue, rehabilitation, and rehoming, we transform lives, giving every animal the safety, love, and dignity they deserve.

Our Vision

A country where all animals, domestic or wild, are treated with compassion and respect.

We believe in a future where no animal suffers, where compassion replaces cruelty, and where every life matters.

Our Values

At the DSPCA, our values are more than words – they guide everything we do. They define how we protect and care for animals, how we work with our community, and how we stand up for what's right. Every rescue, every rehoming, and every campaign is rooted in these principles.



Animals First

Animals and their welfare is at the heart of everything we do.



People Matter

We value and respect our staff, volunteers and supporters.



Inclusivity & Diversity

We promote and welcome social inclusion and diversity in the workplace.



Changing Mindsets

We are committed to making it socially unacceptable to mistreat an animal.



Stronger Laws, Better Lives

We advocate continuously to strengthen the law on animal welfare.



A Sustainable Future

We work towards a sustainable animal population through our range of neutering programmes.



Integrity & Accountability

We act ethically, transparently and adhere to the highest level of corporate governance and financial reporting.

Welcome from the Chair & CEO

Every day, animals across Dublin and the surrounding areas rely on us for rescue, care, and protection. Whether they are victims of cruelty, neglect, or abandonment, the DSPCA stands as their lifeline, providing hope and healing to those who need it most.



For over 180 years, the DSPCA has been at the heart of animal welfare in Ireland, rescuing, rehabilitating, and rehoming thousands of animals annually. But beyond individual rescues, our work is about something bigger – changing attitudes, strengthening laws, and making cruelty unacceptable in our society.

2023 marked a significant new chapter for the DSPCA with the appointment of our new CEO, Pat Watt. Bringing with him a wealth of experience from the commercial sector, Pat has already brought new energy, focus, and ambition to the organisation. Under his guidance, we have strengthened our governance framework to ensure that as the DSPCA grows, we remain accountable, transparent, and sustainable in everything we do.

The DSPCA has thrived under the guidance and support of volunteer Board members who have dedicated years of steadfast service to the organisation. They have been instrumental in the growth and success of the DSPCA, helping to expand our reach, increase our impact, and establish our impressive Rathfarnham campus. We extend our heartfelt thanks to those Board members who stepped down this year after years of dedication. Their commitment has played a pivotal role in ensuring the DSPCA continues to grow as a strong and trusted voice for animal welfare in Ireland.



We were also proud to welcome four new board members in 2023: Robin Farrell, Vanessa Kiely, Barbara Kirby, and Sara O'Reilly. Each of these individuals brings invaluable expertise and dedication to the DSPCA, ensuring we have the skills and knowledge to build a stronger, resilient organisation for the future. Their leadership will help us achieve our ambitious plans while safeguarding the core values that have defined the DSPCA for generations.

Despite ongoing challenges, 2023 was a year of impact and achievement. The demand for our services continued to rise, with an increasing number of animals requiring urgent intervention. From cases of extreme neglect to those simply left behind, our dedicated team worked tirelessly to ensure no animal was forgotten. Thanks to the unwavering generosity of our supporters, volunteers, and staff, we were able to provide life-saving veterinary care, expand our rehoming programmes, and advocate for stronger animal welfare protections.

We are proud of what we achieved this year: more than 2,800 animals were rescued, over 1,700 were rehomed, and nearly 760 were fostered; our veterinary team carried out over 3,000 neutering and spaying procedures; and we expanded our education programmes. These milestones were only possible because of you – our supporters, donors, and volunteers – who believe in a world where every animal is safe and valued.

As we look ahead, our mission remains clear: to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome vulnerable animals while driving lasting change in how animals are treated in Ireland. With your continued support, we can build on this progress and expand our impact, ensuring that no animal suffers in silence.

To everyone who has played a role in this journey – our dedicated staff, volunteers, donors, and advocates – thank you. Your compassion fuels our work, and together, we are making a lasting difference for animals in need.

What We Do & How We Work

The DSPCA's mission is built upon four fundamental pillars: Rescue, Rehabilitate, Rehome, and Prevent. Each pillar represents a critical aspect of our commitment to animal welfare, made possible through the unwavering support of our donors.

Rescue

On the frontline of animal protection

Every day, our team of four inspectors, who cover the Dublin area, are on the frontline saving animals from cruelty, neglect and abandonment.

Under the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013, our inspectors have the authority to intervene when an animal's welfare is at risk. They respond to reports of sick or injured animals, investigate cases of neglect, and rescue animals from dangerous or abusive situations.

Working closely with government agencies such as the Department of Agriculture and An Garda Síochána, our inspectors not only protect animals in need but also play a vital role in strengthening animal welfare laws in Ireland.

From pets left behind to wildlife in distress, our inspectors are a lifeline – ensuring no animal is forgotten.







vetering



Rehabilitate

Healing bodies, restoring trust

Rescue is just the beginning. Many animals need expert medical care and time to heal – both physically and emotionally. Our dedicated vets and animal care teams ensure each one receives the specialised treatment they need to recover.

From life-saving surgeries to round-the-clock care, our veterinary team – made up of four vets, four nurses, and two Animal Care Assistants – provide critical support to thousands of animals each year. Whether treating injuries, tackling illness, or performing over 3,000 neutering and spaying procedures annually, their expertise is vital in preparing animals for adoption or release.

This work is made possible by our dedicated volunteers, foster families, and our close partnership with UCD Veterinary School.

Together, we ensure every rescued animal has the best chance to heal, rebuild trust, and find a loving home.

Animals rescued by DSPCA inspectors, and in the care of the DSPCA veterinary team



Rehome

Finding homes, providing hope

Finding the right home changes everything. At the DSPCA, our expert adoptions team is dedicated to matching animals with families where they'll be safe, loved, and cherished.

From cats and dogs to rabbits, reptiles, and birds, we give animals of all shapes and sizes the chance to find their forever home. Each adoption is carefully guided by our team, ensuring families are fully supported in welcoming their new pet.

Our foster network plays a vital role too, caring for vulnerable kittens, puppies, pregnant mothers, and recovering animals until they're ready for adoption. This crucial step gives them the comfort, care, and socialisation they need to thrive.

For those unable to adopt, fostering is a rewarding way to make a lasting difference – offering animals a safe place on their journey to a forever home.

> DSPCA Animal Care staff in rehoming kennels,



Prevent

The best way to stop suffering is to prevent it

Through education, community services, and policy work, we're creating a future where all animals are treated with kindness and respect.

Education: Each year, we engage over 150,000 people through talks, tours, and kids' camps, promoting empathy, compassion, and responsible pet ownership at every age. Our sessions inspire lifelong animal advocates.

Neutering & Responsible Pet Ownership: Neutering helps reduce unwanted animals, prevents health issues, and ensures pets live longer, healthier lives – an essential part of responsible ownership.

Dog Training: Our dog training courses use positive reinforcement techniques to strengthen the bond between owners and dogs of all breeds and ages, helping families who are struggling with any behaviour problems.

Community Services: Our Mobile Veterinary Clinic offers affordable veterinary services to people in receipt of social welfare payments - carrying out routine health checks, vaccinations and microchipping.

Policy: We collaborate with government agencies to strengthen animal welfare laws, driving meaningful change for animal protection.

Together, these efforts are creating a future where cruelty is unacceptable, and every animal is safe and valued.



Every number tells a story

Behind every statistic is a life transformed. In 2023, we didn't just take in animals – we offered them hope, care, and a chance at a better future. From rescue to foster homes, and ultimately to adoption or rehabilitation, each step is a new beginning. These numbers represent more than just intake and adoption; they represent the incredible journey of recovery, love, and second chances for animals in need.

Why We Do It

DSPCA key stats

By working together, we're not just saving lives we're giving every animal a brighter tomorrow.

In 2023, we were honoured to help thousands of animals find safety, comfort, and a new beginning. From rescue to foster care to adoption, we've been a crucial part of their journey. Here's a breakdown of the incredible work we did together:



Cats

1,180 Rescued

419 Fostered

860 Adopted

More than 73% of the cats we took in found their forever homes, thanks to our foster network and adoption efforts.



877 Rescued

333 Fostered

741 Adopted

85% of our dogs were adopted - a testament to the hard work of our team and the loving families who opened their homes.



Equine

6 Rescued

5 Adopted

With an 83% adoption rate, most of our horses, donkeys, and ponies moved on to pastures new.



Small Animals

190 Rescued

16 Fostered

152 Adopted

80% of our rabbits, guinea pigs, reptiles and birds found their new perfect home.



Wildlife

520 Rescued

Wildlife casualties rescued by our inspectors are rehabilitated and released back to their natural habitats.



Farm Animals

56 Rescued

All our rescued pigs, goats, sheep, chickens, ducks and geese are safely living out their lives at our shelter.





Our Impact

Every animal we rescue has a story – one of struggle, survival, and, ultimately, hope. These case studies highlight the vital work of the DSPCA across our four pillars: Rescue, Rehabilitate, Rehome, and Prevent. They show the desperate need that exists, the actions we take, and the life-changing impact made possible by our supporters.

Animal Care staff socialising dogs in the play area

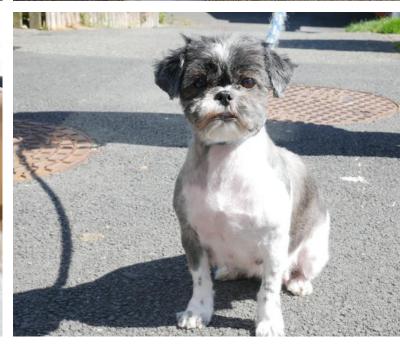












Animals rescued from Reynoldstown Farm, including Juno the Shih Tzu (bottom left). Juno today (bottom right).

Rescue: Reynoldstown Farm

Justice for 140 neglected animals.

In 2023, after two years of relentless work, the DSPCA finally secured justice for one of the most shocking cases of animal neglect in our history.

This case, which began in April 2021, saw our inspectors rescue over 140 animals from unimaginable cruelty at Reynoldstown Farm. However, securing their safety was just the beginning - bringing those responsible to justice would take two more years of determined investigation and legal action.

Throughout 2021 and 2022, the DSPCA's inspectors meticulously gathered evidence, built a strong case, and worked closely with authorities to ensure the perpetrators were held accountable. In 2023, the case finally went to court, and the 74-year-old Dublin woman responsible for this suffering pleaded guilty to 10 charges of animal cruelty. She received a six-month suspended sentence and a five-year ban from working with animals. The judge described the case as "appalling and beyond one's wildest supposition."

This ruling was a significant victory for animal welfare, made possible by the expertise, persistence, and dedication of the DSPCA's inspectors who, as authorised officers under the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013, have statutory powers that allowed them to:

- · Intervene and rescue the animals, ensuring immediate veterinary treatment and safety
- · Gather extensive evidence, which was crucial in securing the conviction
- · Work with legal authorities to ensure this case reached the courts

Animal rescue doesn't end when an animal is saved – it requires tireless work to ensure justice is served and future cruelty is prevented. Without the dedication of our inspectors and the support of donors like you, this case may never have reached a courtroom. **Because of your support, these** animals were not only saved, but their suffering was recognised, and those responsible were held accountable.







Rex the Bichon, with thick matted fur, removed by the veterinary team. Bottom: Rex today.

Rehabilitate: **Rex** -

From Neglect to New Beginnings

When Rex arrived at the DSPCA in February 2023, he was unrecognisable. Confined in a tiny, filthy cage, his entire body was covered in thick, matted fur, some pieces measuring up to 12 inches long. His world had been one of isolation and suffering, and it had taken a devastating toll - both physically and emotionally.

> Our expert veterinary team immediately sedated Rex to safely remove the painful matting that restricted his movement. Beneath the tangled fur, they discovered sores and skin irritation, the result of years of neglect. But his physical recovery was just the first step. Rex had endured such extreme confinement that he had developed severe anxiety and compulsive behaviours, constantly spinning, circling, and chasing his tail.

His rehabilitation required more than just medical care – it took time, patience, and expert behavioural support. Our dedicated animal care team worked tirelessly with Rex, helping him adjust to freedom, rebuild trust in humans, and find confidence in the world around him. Slowly, his anxious pacing lessened, and he began to experience life as a dog should - walking in the fresh air, exploring his surroundings, and enjoying gentle affection.

Rex's journey was not easy, but thanks to the expert rehabilitation and unwavering care provided by the DSPCA, he got the second chance he so desperately needed. His transformation is proof that rescue is only the beginning - true recovery takes dedication, expertise, and the generosity of those who support our mission. Because of you, Rex was not just saved - he was given the chance to truly live.



DSPCA Impact in **Numbers**

Every rescue, every treatment, every act of kindness - it all adds up. Behind every number is a life saved, a lesson taught, or a second chance given. In 2023, thanks to your support, the DSPCA made a tangible difference for animals and communities across Dublin. Here's how your generosity transformed lives:

4 Inspectors

working to protect animals across Dublin.

18,459 volunteer

hours dedicated to supporting animals.

4 vets

delivering expert medical care.

75 companies

volunteered with us to make a difference.

4 veterinary nurses

supporting lifesaving treatments.

306 school

groups joined us for educational tours.

752 animals

cared for in 1,089 foster homes.

26 different species

of animal received veterinary treatment.

2,285 animals rescued

and cared for by our expert teams.

1758 animals adopted

into their forever homes.

420,000+ people

reached with animal welfare advice.

1,905 dogs

trained through DSPCA's dog training programme.

212 people

completed an adult education course.

€1,242,033

raised by people like you to support our vital work.

6,479 hotel stays

and 2,783 day care bookings - funding our rescue work.







Jordan when he arrived in the shelter (top left). Jordan happy in his forever home (top right and bottom).

Rehome: Jordan -

500 Days of Waiting for a Second Chance

For 500 days, Jordan, a terrified stray with a severe skin condition, waited at the DSPCA shelter for someone to give him a home. When he first arrived, he was so scared he tried to jump out of a window during his veterinary exam.



Jordan's road to adoption wasn't easy. It took months of patient work from our adoptions team to help him trust humans again. He needed structure, routine, and reassurance before he could even go for a simple walk. But slowly, he gained confidence and began to feel safe.

Despite countless appeals, no one came forward to adopt Jordan. Then, one day, a family expressed interest – but sadly never showed up. A photo of him waiting in his kennel, dressed up in his bowtie, touched hearts everywhere. The internet fell in love with Jordan, and soon, the perfect family stepped forward.

Now, Jordan is thriving in his forever home. He's even brave enough to jump on the couch - a small act that represents how far he has come. His story is proof that, no matter how long it takes, the DSPCA never gives up on an animal in need.







Vets working at Equine Worming Clinic, as part of the DSPCA outreach programme

Prevent: **Equine Worming Clinics – Stopping Suffering Before it Starts**

Prevention is one of the most powerful tools in animal welfare. Instead of waiting until animals are sick, malnourished, or abandoned, the DSPCA takes action to stop suffering before it happens. Our Equine Worming Clinics are a perfect example providing essential veterinary care, education, and support to horse owners in vulnerable communities.

> In 2023, we partnered with St. Joseph's Horse and Pony Club in Finglas to host another successful Equine Worming Clinic. Our team, alongside Highfield Veterinary, provided worming treatments to 27 horses, protecting them from parasitic infections that can cause severe weight loss, malnutrition, and illness. But these clinics go beyond medical treatment - they provide crucial education on proper horse care, nutrition, and welfare, ensuring that owners have the knowledge and resources to keep their animals healthy long-term.

> For many horse owners in urban and rural communities, access to veterinary care can be limited or expensive, making the DSPCA's outreach programmes a lifeline for both animals and the people who care for them. Through ongoing initiatives like microchipping, castration services, and community engagement, we work to prevent neglect before it begins - reducing the number of animals who end up in crisis situations.

These clinics only happen because of the generosity of our supporters. Every donation to the DSPCA helps fund vital preventative care, ensuring that animals receive proper medical attention before serious problems arise. By investing in prevention, we are not just treating animals, we are creating long-term change, empowering communities, and protecting future generations of animals from unnecessary suffering.

Because of you, these horses didn't need rescuing - they got the care they needed in time.

Financial Review 2023

Every donation, every grant, and every service we provide plays a crucial role in funding our lifesaving work. In 2023, the DSPCA continued to operate on a diverse and sustainable funding model, ensuring we could rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome thousands of animals in need. Our income came from a mix of vital services, public donations, fundraising efforts, grants, and legacy gifts - a testament to the trust and generosity of our supporters. Every euro raised was carefully managed to maximise our impact, allowing us to provide essential veterinary care, expand our education programmes, and respond to cases of cruelty and neglect. Your support makes all the difference, and together, we are securing a brighter future for Ireland's animals.

In 2023 we raised

€4.65million



Income & Expenditure Summary

	2023	2022
INCOME		
Grants	945,370	895,938
Fundraising	1,242,033	1,214,846
Legacy Giving	367,883	662,787
Voluntary contributions	588,413	518,098
Rental Income	47,000	46,000
Sale of Goods and Animal Boarding	1,462,749	1,269,130
	4,653,448	4,606,799
EXPENDITURE	4,260,143	3,533,877
Operating Surplus	393,305	1,072,922

Powered by You: The Lifeline for Dublin's Animals

The DSPCA simply wouldn't exist without the generosity of our incredible community of supporters. While we receive some of our funding from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) to support our animal welfare work, the vast majority of what we do relies on **you** – our donors, fundraisers, volunteers, and advocates.

Every rescue, every medical treatment, every second chance we give an animal is made possible because of the kindness and dedication of people like you. Whether through donations, fundraising, leaving a gift in your will, or giving your time, you are the reason we can continue our life-saving work.

Together, we are securing a future where every animal is safe, loved, and protected.

We can't do it without you.

Governance & Compliance

The DSPCA is committed to the highest standards of governance, transparency, and ethical practice, ensuring that we operate with accountability and integrity in every aspect of our work. As Ireland's leading animal welfare charity, we take our responsibility to animals, supporters, and the public seriously.

As a company limited by guarantee, the DSPCA is overseen by a voluntary Board of Trustees, who bring a diverse range of expertise to guide the organisation's strategic direction. The Board meets regularly with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to ensure strong leadership, financial oversight, and compliance with all regulatory obligations.

Our financial accounts are independently audited annually, and our Board of Directors approves all financial statements, reinforcing our commitment to transparency. We adhere to the Charities Governance Code and operate in line with the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013, under which our inspectors have statutory powers to investigate and act on cases of cruelty and neglect.

2023 was a pivotal year for strengthening governance at the DSPCA. With the appointment of a new CEO, we focused on building more robust governance structures to put solid foundations in place for future growth. This included welcoming new Board members, enhancing our internal structures, and reinforcing compliance frameworks to ensure the organisation remains strong, sustainable, and accountable as it expands.

Commitment to Best Practices

Robust governance is essential to ensuring the DSPCA operates effectively, ethically, and with the highest levels of accountability. Our governance structures safeguard the ethical treatment of animals, responsible use of funds, and adherence to regulatory requirements. By continuously strengthening our governance framework, we ensure that every decision is made in the best interest of the animals we serve, and that donor contributions are used efficiently to drive real, lasting impact. The DSPCA remains committed to continuous improvement, regularly reviewing our policies, procedures, and compliance measures to align with best practices in the sector.

By upholding these principles, we ensure that every decision we make is in the best interests of the animals we serve – and that every donation is used effectively and responsibly to create lasting impact.

Future Priorities

Building a Stronger Future for Animal Welfare

As we look to 2024 and beyond, the DSPCA is focused on driving innovation, expanding our reach, and strengthening our impact for the animals who need us most. Our future is built on a foundation of sustainability, digital transformation, and community engagement, ensuring that we can rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome more animals than ever before.



Sustainability at Our Core

We are committed to reducing our environmental footprint while creating a more efficient, eco-friendly shelter. By investing in green initiatives, we are ensuring that our work remains sustainable for generations to come.



Embracing Digital Transformation

From streamlining adoption processes to enhancing supporter engagement, digital tools will help us connect with more people, raise more awareness, and provide even better care for animals in need.



Reinvigorating Volunteering

Volunteers are the heartbeat of the DSPCA. In 2024, we will launch new initiatives to attract, train, and empower volunteers, ensuring they play a vital role in rescue, rehabilitation, and community education.



Expanding the reach of our Mobile Vet Clinic

Many animals suffer simply because veterinary care is out of reach. Our Mobile Vet Clinic will bring essential care to communities, ensuring more animals receive the treatment they need – where they need it most.



Rehoming Extension: More Second Chances

Demand for our services is growing, and we refuse to turn animals away. A planned expansion of our rehoming facilities will allow us to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome more animals than ever before, giving them the second chance they deserve.

The DSPCA has always been a voice for the voiceless. With your continued support, we are not only protecting animals today - we are securing tomorrow for them. Together, we will build a future where every animal is safe, cared for, and loved. This is just the beginning. By working side by side, we can create lasting change for animals across Ireland and ensure a better, more compassionate world for generations to come.



Get In Touch

Be Part of Their Tomorrow

with someone who cares. The DSPCA is proud to stand on the front line for Ireland's animals - but we cannot do it alone. With only a portion of our income coming from the State, we rely on public support to fund the vast majority of our work.

Whether you choose to make a donation, fundraise, sponsor an animal, volunteer your time, become a your support helps us rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome

Gráinne O'Kelly

Director of Fundraising & Communications

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Together, we are not just saving lives, we are securing tomorrow for animals across Ireland.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

