

IMPACT REPORT 2024



Answering the call

Protecting Dublin's
animals with compassion,
courage and care.



In 2024, every call was a cry for help – and we answered them all.

From rescuing the abused to bringing cruelty to justice, the DSPCA stood on the frontline of compassion.

Together, we saved lives, restored hope, and proved that every animal matters.

Board of Directors

Hazel McConnell (*resigned 14 August 2024*)
Robin Farrell
Vanessa Kiely
Keith Malcolm (*resigned 26 June 2024*)
Eimear Doireann Murray (*appointed 24 October 2024*)
David Freeman
Paul Connell (*Chairperson*)
Roger Dungan (*resigned 26 June 2024*)
Sara O'Reilly
Barbara Kirby
Andrew Shannon (*appointed 24 October 2024*)
Maribe Fallon (*appointed 21 January 2025*)

Company Secretary: Sara O'Reilly

Company Number: 3437

Registered Charity Number: 20001735

Registered Office:

Mount Venus Road
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Dublin 16

Independent Auditors

Ormsby & Rhodes Limited
Chartered Accountants &
Statutory Audit Firm
9 Clare Street
Dublin 2

Solicitors

Mason Hayes Curran
South Bank House
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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2024 in numbers

– every call, every life, every second chance.
Here's what your support achieved:

-  **2,544** inspector and ambulance callouts
– up  95% on 2023

-  **300** animals rescued through cruelty calls

-  **12** cruelty cases prepared for court

-  **1,909** animals rehomed  from 1,758 in 2023
 - 900 cats
 - 750 dogs
 - 9 equines
 - 250 small animals

-  **5,677** veterinary consultations

-  **52** mobile clinics

-  **1,200** mobile clinic consults

-  **1,364** spay/neuter surgeries
 - 400 cat spays / 411 cat neuters
 - 287 dog spays / 266 dog neuters

-  **83** rabbits, **7** ferrets treated

-  **146** cats through Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR)

-  **3,125** participants in our Training & Education programmes



- 120** animals given new homes through adoption
- 167** animals fostered in loving homes for essential respite
- 46** volunteer hours to support the shelter
- 56** school groups joined us for educational tours
- 120** species of animal treated
- 27%** increase in total income vs 2023
- 350+** dogs trained through DSPCA's dog training programme
- €5.9 million** generated in total to care for Dublin's animals
- €2.9 million** raised by people like you to support our vital work
- 4 inspectors** on the road working to protect animals across Dublin
- 4 vets** delivering expert medical care to a wide variety of animals and needs
- 4 veterinary nurses** supporting lifesaving treatments

In 2024, calls for help almost doubled – and we answered every one. From rescuing animals in danger to helping families learn better care, your support made each of these numbers a story of hope.

What drives us forward

Every rescue, every recovery, every moment of care begins with a purpose. At the DSPCA, our mission, vision and values aren't just words, they are the actions that guide every call we answer. They define who we are, how we work, and why we'll never stop standing up for Dublin's animals.

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.

Every call we answer, every life we save, every act of kindness we inspire brings us closer to an Ireland where cruelty has no place and compassion always wins.

Our Vision

A future where every animal – domestic or wild – is safe, valued, free from suffering, and treated with compassion and respect.

We believe in a future where no animal suffers, where cruelty is no longer tolerated, and where every life is valued.

A future where rescue is no longer the last hope, because empathy, education and prevention have taken root in every community.

Our Values



Animals first

The welfare of animals is at the heart of everything we do. We act decisively and compassionately to rescue those in danger and ensure their safety and dignity.



People matter

We value and respect our staff, volunteers and supporters.



Stand for justice

We hold cruelty to account, using our powers under the Animal Health and Welfare Act to seek justice for the voiceless.



Empower change

Through education, training and community outreach, we help people become part of the solution – preventing cruelty before it begins.



Act with integrity

We are transparent, accountable and guided by the highest standards in everything we do.



A sustainable future

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

Welcome from the Chair & CEO

2024 was a year that reminded us why the DSPCA exists – and why your support matters more than ever. Across Dublin and beyond, the need for rescue, protection and advocacy continues to grow. And this year, thanks to your generosity, we were able to answer that call with greater strength, greater reach, and greater impact.



Pat Watt
Chief Executive Officer

Our inspectors responded to 2,544 callouts – almost double the volume of the previous year – ensuring animals in crisis were not left to suffer alone. Our teams brought 300 animals into safety through cruelty investigations and prepared multiple cases for submission to the authorities. Every one of these actions represents a life changed, a future protected, a moment where compassion prevailed.

In our shelter and veterinary hospital, 2,819 animals across all species were taken into our care, and thousands more received the treatment, rehabilitation and care they needed. With over 5,600 initial veterinary consultations, 1,364 surgeries, and 1,909 successful rehoming, 2024 became a year where hope was restored again and again. Families were created, second chances were made possible, and lives once marked by fear became stories of recovery.

It was also a year of investment and rebuilding. We completed a major extension to our rehoming facilities, giving us the capacity to care for more animals with dignity and comfort. We modernised our systems, strengthened governance, welcomed exceptional new board members, and continued building a resilient organisation capable of meeting rising demand. Our sustainability upgrades – including energy improvements and environmental initiatives – reflect our long-term commitment to operating responsibly and with foresight.



Paul Connell
Chairperson, Board of Trustees

And importantly, 2024 marked the first full year of renewed leadership. Together with our Board, staff and volunteers, we have been laying the foundations for the next chapter of the DSPCA; one that is ambitious, forward-looking, community-centred, and unwavering in its commitment to animal welfare. We have set the groundwork for the strategic developments that will carry this organisation into the future: strengthening our services, expanding our reach, and deepening our impact.

But none of this – not a single rescue, surgery, or second chance – would have been possible without you. More than 70% of our income comes directly from public support. Your donations, your belief in our mission, your compassion – these are the forces that keep our ambulances on the road, our veterinary hospital running, and our shelter doors open, keeping hope alive for thousands of animals each year.

At the same time, it is the dedication, courage and compassion of our inspectors, veterinary teams, animal care staff and volunteers who bring this work to life every single day. Together, your continued support and their commitment form the powerful partnership that not only makes rescue, recovery and rehoming possible today, but helps us build an organisation ready to meet rising need with courage, care, and excellence.

On behalf of everyone at the DSPCA – our teams, our volunteers, our Board and, most of all, the animals whose lives you transform – thank you for standing with us. Because of you, thousands of animals each year are given safety, care and the chance of a better future.

What we do & how we work

Answering every call for help

Every day, the DSPCA stands on the frontline of animal welfare – rescuing those in danger, healing the injured, finding loving homes, and preventing suffering before it starts.

Our work is built on four powerful pillars that together protect thousands of animals each year. In 2024, as calls for help nearly doubled, these pillars became more vital than ever.

Rescue

On the frontline of compassion

When an animal is abandoned, injured, or abused, our inspectors are their lifeline.

In 2024, our four inspectors responded to 2,544 calls for help – almost double the previous year – rescuing 300 animals from cruelty and neglect.

Working alongside the Department of Agriculture and An Garda Síochána, we not only save lives but also seek justice for those who cannot speak for themselves, with 12 cruelty cases brought before the courts.

Every rescue begins with a call, and ends with hope.



Rehabilitate

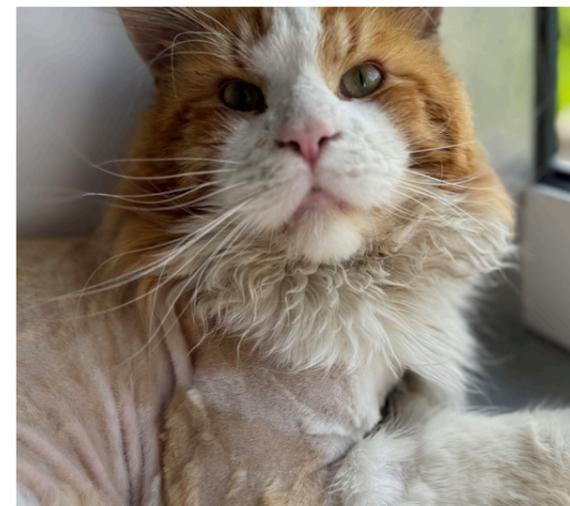
Healing bodies, restoring trust

Rescue is just the first step. Every animal we save needs expert medical care and patience to heal.

Our veterinary hospital carried out 5,677 consultations in 2024, including 1,364 life-changing spay and neuter surgeries, 162 x-rays, and 138 dentals.

From rabbits and ferrets to horses and dogs, each animal receives the specialist care they need to recover and rediscover trust.

Behind every treatment is a promise: we never give up on a life once it's in our hands.



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

Rehome

Finding homes, creating futures

Finding the right home transforms everything.

In 2024, **1,909 animals** began new lives – **900 cats, 750 dogs, 9 equines, and 250 small animals** – each one matched with a family ready to give love and safety.

Our foster network gives vulnerable kittens, puppies, and recovering animals the chance to heal in a home environment before adoption.

Every adoption is a partnership; between DSPCA, the family, and the community that believes every animal deserves a home.

Sadhbh Milton, cat rehabilitation



Prevent

Stopping suffering before it starts

The best rescue is the one that never needs to happen.

Through education, training, and community outreach, we work to prevent cruelty and neglect at the source.

Our team delivers courses for pet owners and professionals, teaches responsible ownership, and supports Trap-Neuter-Return programmes – 146 community cats were spayed or neutered in 2024 alone.

From classrooms to clinics, we're shaping a future built on empathy, knowledge, and care.

Together, these four pillars form the foundation of everything we do; a cycle of **rescue, recovery, rehabilitation and prevention** that saves lives and creates lasting change for Dublin's animals.

Your compassion in action

Every rescue, every recovery, every new beginning starts with you.

Over 70% of the DSPCA's funding comes from donations from people who believe that compassion should be more than a feeling, it should be an action.

In 2024, your generosity made extraordinary things possible: our Mobile Vet Clinic returned to the road, our rehoming facilities expanded, our volunteer network grew stronger than ever, and our campus became greener and more sustainable.

These stories are proof of what happens when kindness meets action. They are your impact – brought to life.



Shane Lawlor, DSPCA Inspector

DSPCA Mobile Vet Clinic: Care on the move



DSPCA Veterinary team caring for farm animals

When veterinary care is out of reach, our mobile clinic brings help into communities, preventing suffering and building trust.

In 2024, as the cost-of-living rose and pet owners felt the squeeze, our frontline mission at DSPCA became clearer than ever: no animal should go without care because of cost.

Our Mobile Vet Clinic, returning to the road across Dublin, lives that mission.

Operating twice a week in Clondalkin (D22) and Tallaght (D24) for pet owners in receipt of means-tested benefits, the clinic offers routine health checks, vaccinations and micro-chipping at a subsidised rate.

For many families in these communities, the clinic means the difference between a healthy pet and an animal silently suffering. It also means an earlier intervention, catching illnesses before they escalate, avoiding surrender or cruelty calls later.

Because of your support, we transported the clinic, staffed it, and kept it running, delivering vital care in neighbourhoods where it counts. Every check-up, every microchip, every vaccination helps reduce unwanted admissions and strengthens the safety net around pets and their families.

Because you gave, more pets were examined, more illnesses caught early, more owners felt supported, and more animals stayed safe in loving homes.

Left to right: Manus Byrne – volunteer; Caroline Mothersill – Small Animals and Exotics Manager; Robyn Bolster – Small Animals and Exotics carer



Rehoming expansion: Room to care, space to hope

In 2024, the demand for help reached heartbreaking new levels.

More animals than ever arrived at our gates, frightened, abandoned, or no longer wanted. From dogs and cats, to rabbits, guinea pigs, turtles, ponies and donkeys, every space filled faster than we could make it ready.

Something had to change.

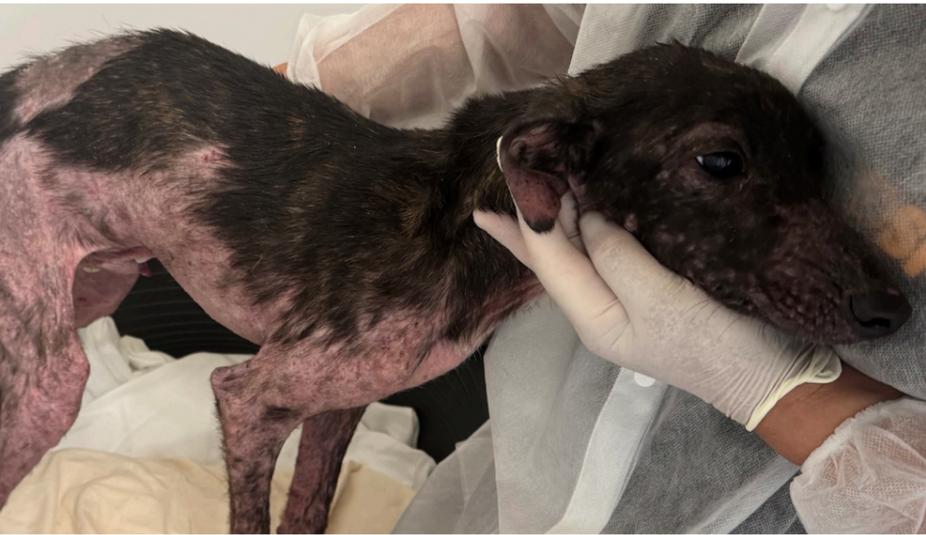
And thanks to your support, it did.

We completed a major extension to our rehoming facility, creating the space, comfort and care those animals desperately needed. The new building means we can admit more animals safely, give them the time and attention they need to heal, and welcome adopters into calm, inviting spaces where connections can grow.

Here, animals are no longer just waiting. They are learning to trust again. They are re-discovering joy. They are finding families.

Thank you for helping us to create more room to care. Every extra kennel, every quiet space, every happy adoption story started with your generosity.





Reinvigorating Volunteering: The power of people

Volunteers have always been at the heart of the DSPCA, but in 2024, that heart grew stronger.

Like many organisations, COVID-19 reduced volunteer capacity dramatically. Numbers fell, routines changed, and rebuilding a skilled, reliable network took time. This past year marked a turning point: not just a return to old strength, but the creation of a new, modern volunteering programme: structured, supportive, and thriving.

Over the past year, the programme was redesigned from the ground up. New onboarding pathways, clearer expectations, and improved systems including a Volunteer Buddy system, created a smoother, more transparent experience for everyone. Volunteers now attend Touch, Feel, See open days, followed by an orientation session, which are run twice-monthly, where they tour the shelter, meet the team, and learn what the work truly involves.

People join with their eyes open – ready, willing, and committed.

Once trained, volunteers play an essential role in daily life at the shelter: walking dogs, cleaning kennels, socialising nervous animals, supporting events, helping in rehoming, and offering care, compassion and time. Many later move into paid roles – proof of how deeply the DSPCA touches the

people who enter its gates.

Today, 700 active volunteers form a community as strong as it is compassionate, connected through WhatsApp and Facebook groups, sharing advice, rallying when animals go missing, celebrating every adoption. Friendships form. Skills grow. Lives – both human and animal – change.

The DSPCA could not operate at the scale it does without these people.

They are the hands that comfort, the footsteps beside a frightened dog, the quiet force behind every second chance.

Because volunteers give, hope continues.



“You don’t just volunteer here, you belong here.”



Jessie: From starvation to second chance

When DSPCA inspectors rescued Jessie in early November, she was one of the most severe cases they had seen in years. Emaciated, terrified and shut down, she weighed just 12kg, with a body condition score of 1 out of 9.

Back at the shelter, our veterinary team began a carefully managed recovery plan. Progress was slow and fragile, and Jessie needed gentle encouragement simply to eat. But staff and volunteers stayed beside her, helping her rediscover safety and trust.

Gradually, Jessie transformed. Her body filled out, her coat grew glossy, and her confidence returned. The dog who once cowered in silence became curious, affectionate, and playful.

By the time she was ready for adoption, Jessie weighed a healthy 20kg; a recovery that was both physical and emotional. Today, she is thriving in a loving forever home.

Because of you, Jessie didn't just survive – she found a future.

“From 12kg of despair to 20kg of hope.”



Jessie, before her treatment, and thriving afterwards

Top: Phoenix when she was first rescued
Bottom: Successfully healing from her burns



Phoenix: **Rising from the ashes**

Phoenix was reported to us after suffering severe burns near a local newsagent. Too frightened to be caught immediately, she evaded rescue for two weeks while inspectors and volunteers worked tirelessly to trap her safely.

Once rescued, Phoenix required intensive pain relief and wound care. When she was strong enough, our veterinary team performed a skin graft to repair the area around her eye and chin.

Slowly, through weeks of treatment, her wounds healed. Her coat grew back, her eyes brightened, her spirit returned. Despite everything she had suffered, she remained gentle, trusting and brave – a true little warrior. The terrified stray who once hid in alleyways became a confident, affectionate cat ready for a second chance.

Today, Phoenix is thriving in her forever home; safe, loved, and cherished by her new family.

Because of your support, Phoenix didn't just survive cruelty, she overcame it.

“From burned and broken to safe and loved.”



Financial Summary 2024

Every euro we receive tells a story of compassion and commitment.

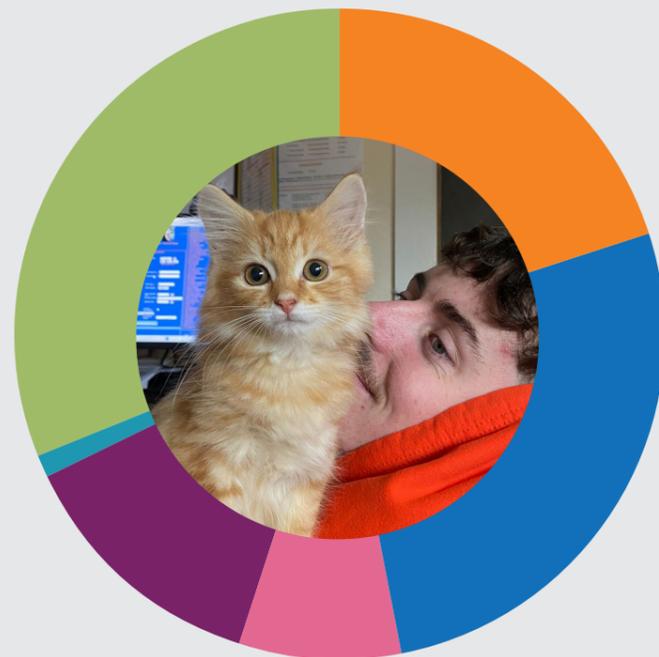
In 2024, the DSPCA raised €5.9 million, an increase of 27% on 2023. This growth was driven primarily by a rise in legacy giving and public donations. This extraordinary generosity and trust from our supporters reflects the deep belief our community has in our mission and the animals we protect.

Whether through grants, fundraising events, legacy gifts, or monthly donations, every contribution plays a vital role in keeping our work alive. More than 70% of the DSPCA's income comes directly from public support – proof of the confidence our community places in us.

Our funding model: A snapshot of 2024 income

How we generated funds in 2024

- Grants **20%**
- Fundraising **24%**
- Legacy Giving **24%**
- Voluntary Contributions **10%**
- Rental Income **1%**
- Sale of Goods and Animal Boarding **25%**



The DSPCA's funding model remains both diverse and community driven. In 2024, income grew across almost every area, with legacy income tripling to become one of our strongest sources of support. Government grants remain a vital part of our funding model, with statutory funding covering some of our core welfare services, while donations, legacies and fundraising give us the flexibility to go further – reaching more animals, investing in services, and innovating for the future.

How your support was put to work:

The funds entrusted to us in 2024 were used with care, purpose, and a clear focus on impact. Of the €5,898,215 generated during the year, 86.3% (€5,089,784) was invested directly into frontline animal welfare – from urgent rescues and emergency veterinary treatment to rehabilitation, rehoming, education and prevention programmes.

These are the services that protect animals every day: keeping inspectors on the road, ensuring our shelter and veterinary teams can respond to cruelty and neglect, and delivering the education that prevents suffering before it begins.

The remaining funds supported essential operations, fundraising, and governance – the infrastructure that keeps the DSPCA safe, accountable, and equipped for the rising demand we continue to face.

A modest surplus of €621,570 strengthened our reserves, ensuring we can respond quickly to emergencies and plan responsibly for the future.

Stronger, smarter, and future-focused

Good governance is the foundation that allows the DSPCA to protect animals every day. In 2024, we continued to strengthen that foundation, renewing structures, expanding expertise, and ensuring that every aspect of our work meets the highest standards of transparency, integrity, and accountability.

As a company limited by guarantee, the DSPCA is overseen by a voluntary Board of Trustees, each bringing specialist knowledge to guide our strategic direction. This year, we welcomed three new board members: Doireann Murray, Andrew Shannon, and Maribe Fallon, whose experience further strengthens the leadership and oversight of the organisation.

Our CEO, Pat, completed his first full year in post and began the development of a new organisational strategy, focused on long-term sustainability, improved outcomes for animals, and greater community impact. This work is already shaping how we plan, prioritise, and invest for the future.

A renewed governance framework

2024 also saw significant progress in modernising our governance structures. We undertook a renewal of the organisation's constitution, ensuring that it reflects best practice and supports a growing, increasingly complex charity. With the support of Mason Hayes & Curran, we also reviewed and updated

key governance processes as part of our work towards Charities Institute Ireland (CII) accreditation – an important benchmark of excellence in charity governance in Ireland.

We continued to adhere to the Charities Governance Code, the Companies Act 2014, and all obligations connected to our inspectors' statutory powers under the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013. Our financial statements were independently audited, and our Board approved all accounts, reinforcing our commitment to transparency and responsible stewardship.

Accountability that protects animals

Every improvement in governance strengthens our ability to serve animals. Clear oversight, strong compliance, and effective leadership ensure that:

- funds are used responsibly
- decisions are made in the best interests of the animals we protect
- the organisation remains resilient in the face of increasing demand.

In 2024, our governance framework continued to evolve to support a modern, growing animal welfare charity, ensuring that when supporters give, they do so with complete confidence that their generosity is being used wisely, ethically, and with lasting impact.

Future priorities

Focused on impact.
Driven by compassion.
Ready for what comes next.

As the welfare landscape continues to evolve, the DSPCA is shaping a future built on stronger capacity, smarter prevention, and deeper partnerships. Our priorities for the years ahead reflect the challenges animals face – and the ambition of an organisation committed to meeting them.



Enhancing Emergency Response Capacity

With callouts rising year on year, we aim to strengthen our inspectorate and ambulance services – ensuring we can respond faster, reach more animals in crisis, and support communities experiencing higher levels of neglect and abandonment.



Expanding Affordable Access to Veterinary Care

Lack of access to basic treatment remains a leading cause of preventable suffering. We will focus on expanding low-cost and community-based veterinary support to help owners keep their animals healthy and safe, and to reduce the number of animals entering the shelter system.



Scaling Up Prevention & Education

We will grow our education and outreach programmes to reach more schools, families and communities. By teaching responsible ownership, animal-care skills and compassion from an early age, we can prevent cruelty before it happens.



Building a Sustainable, Future-Ready Campus

We will continue to develop a greener, more energy-efficient campus – reducing environmental impact, lowering long-term costs, and ensuring our facilities remain fit for purpose as demand grows.



Deepening Partnerships Across Ireland

Animal welfare challenges are becoming more complex. We will strengthen partnerships with local authorities, community groups, schools, and national welfare organisations to deliver joined-up solutions, share expertise, and advocate for better protection of animals at policy level.



Investing in Long-Term Organisational Strength

A modern charity requires strong governance, digital systems, data insight and financial resilience. Our priority is to continue strengthening these foundations so we can protect more animals, make better decisions, and operate with full transparency as we grow.

Stories of hope

These are the lives your compassion changed.

In 2024, more than 1900 animals left fear behind and found new homes, new families and new futures. These are just a few of them...



Rescued by our inspectors, Snoop was absolutely terrified. He was emaciated and completely shut down.



But with love, care and lots of reassurance, he slowly started to come out of his shell.



Bonkers the ferret had a severe injury to his neck, but following treatment from the veterinary team he's now back to full, energetic health.



Popcorn, a stray, injured in a suspected road accident, is now thriving after surgery and care from a loving home.



10 month old sisters Lola and Jasmine were surrendered by their owner, who no longer had time to look after them.

But for every life changed, there is another waiting.

The challenges ahead are real, but so is our determination. With your continued support, we will reach more animals, prevent more suffering, and build a future where kindness protects every life.

Thank you for being part of every rescue, every recovery, every new beginning.



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DSPCA

The Dublin Society for Prevention
of Cruelty to Animals