

Chairperson's Report. The chairperson and treasurer present their annual report and the financial statements for the period ending 31 December 2017.

The principal activity of Roscommon SPCA is working towards the day when all dogs and cats can enjoy a happy life, free from the threat of unnecessary destruction. To achieve this, we aim to rescue, care for and re-home lost, unwanted and abandoned animals. We work to reduce the number of, and ultimately see an end to, homeless dogs and cats in Co Roscommon. In addition, we aim to educate people in responsible animal ownership and care. We rely on the prevention and cure approach. Preventative measures such as neutering, micro-chipping; education and lobbying are used as longer term solutions. The last few months of 2017 were a very successful and busy time for Roscommon SPCA. The new committee which was elected in October 2017 is bringing new life, enthusiasm, co-operation and cohesion to the society. The committee has established good working relationships and is effectively promoting the good name of the society.

I want to pay a big thank you to all the volunteers and fundraisers who help each day. Without you it would be impossible to carry out all the work that's involved and there would be no Roscommon SPCA.

Each year you hope that things will get better, but each year the numbers seem to get bigger with all the animals that are abused, neglected and dumped, but as I have always said, 'animals have no voice, we are their voice'.

#### ***Update on the work of Roscommon SPCA.***

As many of you may be aware, as of October 2017 the Roscommon SPCA has been up and running with a new committee. Since this time, we have strived for the best possible results for the animals in the county. With the tremendous support of our tireless volunteers, as well as the invaluable contributions from the people of Roscommon, we can now reflect on some of the remarkable achievements over the past number of months. It has been a busy time for the Roscommon SPCA so we would like to update you all on some of the work that has been done in this time. Our Spaying, Neutering and Microchipping programme has had a huge uptake, and as a result we have neutered/spayed 154 dogs and 287 cats, as well as microchipping 108 dogs. We have also vaccinated 21 animals. Not only has all of this demonstrated our sincere commitment to animal welfare, it will also improve the health and wellbeing of many animals in the county.

While all of this work is going on, we are also working hard to engage with the public on a number of platforms. 2080 phone calls. 1700 texts. 1650 emails. Over 67 hours of phone time and too many Facebook messages to count. We value this line of communication with the people of Roscommon, and are happy to see such engagement from the public. We are glad to assist in any way we can. We have also been working hard to build relationships with local media and to get our message out there. While we regularly update our Facebook page, we have also had information published in the Roscommon Herald so we can reach those who may not be online. Ros FM, Shannonside and Midwest Radio have also

contributed by promoting our work. We have achieved so much in only a few months and are eagerly moving forward with new initiatives such as our School Education Programme, while also remaining committed to active fundraising and engagement with the people of Roscommon.

I believe that the successes of the last few months will provide a solid platform for the work of the society, while also allowing us to develop and grow. In this way we will honour our mission to rescue, rehabilitate, rehome and provide the best care possible for animals in need from all over County Roscommon.

### **Membership**

In 2017 we had 35 paid up members. Membership of Roscommon SPCA will entitle you to a vote on how Roscommon SPCA is run going forward.

### **Committee**

The Committee met ten times this year. I would like to thank our Committee members for their commitment this year as all meetings were well attended. But the work is never done, and I would encourage anyone who has some time spare, to lend a hand. As the saying goes..."many hands make light work!" I would also ask that anyone allowing their name to go forward for the committee in 2018 do so by giving a firm commitment to work.

Rose Harvey

*Rose Harvey*

Chairperson