

ISPCA Chairperson to Address Offaly AGM

The Chairperson of the Irish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Wexford's Barbara Bent, will be guest speaker at the AGM of the Offaly SPCA scheduled for Hugh Lynch's Function Room, Kilbride St., Tullamore, on Monday night next.

Also in attendance by special invitation will be Dorothy Walker who is a member of Laois SPCA as well as being the ISPCA Hon. Secretary. Between them, these two ladies certainly will be well qualified to brief the attendance on plans and progress at national level during a year in which the Government's long awaited Charities Bill has made its way into law.

The primary focus, however, will be on the activities of the Offaly Society and there will be plenty of encouraging news to report. Following a year (2007) in which expenditure substantially exceeded income, the Society's 'Minister for Finance', Colette Coates, and her colleagues have managed a very impressive turn around. Happily, this has been achieved without in any way compromising on standards of care for their four-legged charges or leaving any of the animals lying on trolleys in accident and emergency kennels or catteries! Because the 'activists' are volunteers, the Society does not have to contend with wage increases and substantial proportions of expenses actually incurred are never claimed.

During 2008 there was a special focus on promoting the neutering of both cats and dogs and on tackling problems created all over the county by a virtual plague of feral cats. The hope now is that with continued support from the animal-loving public it will be possible to make further progress with these campaigns during the coming year.

Key items on Monday night's agenda will include reports on Dog and Cat care programmes from Deirdre Pender and Audrey Quinn, respectively. Committee member Ciaran O'Sullivan, who is Offaly County Council's Veterinary Officer, will speak about the Dog Pound and other services provided by the Council and, of course, a Committee will be elected for the coming year.

The meeting commences at 8.00 p.m. The 'Welcome' mat will be out for everyone, members and non-members alike, and the business session will be followed by light refreshments.