

The Cat Behind the Wire

(With Choice of Two Photos)

‘The Men Behind the Wire’ is a phrase that has become familiar in modern Irish history. Now comes the story of The Cat Behind the Wire. Except that this particular cat was not just ‘behind’ the wire – it was all wrapped up in it!

The scene was just outside Kilbeggan on June 27th last. A teenage girl was walking along the road near the old canal harbour when she heard sounds of an animal in distress coming from the ditch. On investigation, she found that the cries emanated from a cat which was hidden in dense shrubbery and hopelessly enmeshed in barbed wire. She ‘phoned home, and when her brother brought her a wire cutter she wormed her way into the ditch. The problem now was how to cut the cat free without causing it further injury. She solved that by severing the wire at accessible points but it was a long and tiring process before she was able to haul out the pitiful puss, still wrapped up in its coat of many strands.

The scene changed then to a Vet’s surgery where the wire was finally cut away. Examination revealed that the cat had suffered serious injury in its desperate efforts to escape, and a deep wound in the belly had become badly infected. Judging from its emaciated condition, the Vet. estimated that it must have been trapped and starving for up to a fortnight. Its sufferings throughout that period just don’t bear thinking about.

By this time, the case had been reported to the Offaly SPCA and following successful surgical treatment the cat – now christened ‘Peanut’ – was taken into foster care.

A handsome male, aged about 6 years, ‘Peanut’ may have an owner out there looking for him. If he is not claimed within the next few days, he will be on the look out for someone to adopt him. That should be a rewarding experience because he is now exhibiting a keen appreciation of being cuddled – and after what he has been through he deserves all the love and care in the world. Anyone interested in getting to know him is invited to phone the OSPCA kitten line : 086 1704973

‘Peanut’ is far from being the only feline needing a new home. In the past few weeks, the OSPCA has been literally flooded with what might be described as ‘second crop’ kittens – litters produced by cats whose

owners have not taken the vitally important step of having their pets spayed / neutered. These too are being well looked after but there are about 30 of them and all available accommodation is now taken up. Consequently, an urgent SOS is being sent out for MORE HOMES. Again, the number to ring is: 086 1704973

Captions for Photos

Pic 1 (Cat with food):

Peanut is glad to report that he has recovered his appetite.

Pic 2: (Cat stretching)

'My goodness, it's really great to be able to stretch again!'