

# OSPCA on the Hunt for Foster Homes

Additional foster homes are required urgently for dogs and pups, cats and kittens. That's the message of the week from the Offaly SPCA and the question addressed to animal lovers is this: can YOU offer a temporary home to one or two of the lost, unwanted or lonely ones now making their appearance all over the county?

The Offaly Society does not have an animal shelter of its own, so it is totally reliant on the goodwill of its members and of the general public to provide the necessary accommodation. Even if the facilities of a shelter **were** available, however, fostering might still be regarded as the better option for all concerned.



There are very good reasons for this. Animals found abandoned or straying almost certainly will thrive much better in a household situation and another very important point is that fosterers get to know them so well that it is easier to match each individual dog with a really suitable adopting individual or family.

People who have not yet had a pet of their own could find that there is a fringe benefit in fostering: the experience should give them a good idea of the commitment and work involved in owning your own animal.

The OSPCA will cover any Veterinary costs involved. It is not possible to specify how long it will take to find an adopter. It could be only a

matter of days. Recent experience has shown that virtually all will be on their way to new homes within a few weeks.

Anyone interested in fostering dogs or seeking further information is invited to contact Sinead on 086-8964065 or Helen, on 087-9096575.