

V.I.D. for Offaly S.P.C.A.

(With photograph of kitten)

Sunday next, July 26th, will be a Very Important Day for the Offaly Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals because it is the date fixed for official opening of their new Office in Church St., Tullamore. Offaly County Council Chairman Noel Bourke has accepted invitation to cut the tape and proceedings are timed to commence at 3.00 p.m.

Even before the formal launch, the office has become a very busy centre of operations as more and more people become aware of its existence and of the services offered by the Society in caring for animals. In recent days there has been a steady flow of callers reporting that they had noted dogs and cats of various ages wandering or in apparent distress in different locations. Happily, there were some good news stories too. For example, the injured cat whose plight was publicised last week has made a good recovery and has been re-united with his owners. When his photograph was noted by children in a Tullamore family they exclaimed 'that's our cat,' and within a matter of hours he had been discharged from veterinary care straight into the arms of his delighted two-legged friends. No need this time for nursing home or foster care!

Whether or not the dreaded 'Recession' has anything to do with it, there does seem to be an increase in the number of dogs in need of care. It cannot be assumed that all of them have been deliberately abandoned. That might not apply, for example, in the case of a collie / terrier cross which was reported as having been seen in the Rahan area on July 16th. The OSPCA were not directly involved in this case but it is understood that the dog was brought to a Vet by a passer-by and it is said to have been diagnosed as having a number of serious health problems – as well as being blind and deaf! If there is an owner out there who has been looking for this dog, he / she may have an up-date by 'phoning 086 3785584.

Greyhounds don't figure so often among the breeds brought to the attention of the Society but two of them were found wandering in different parts of the county last week. One of the stories seemed to have all the makings of a canine tragedy when it began to unfold in Edenderry on Thursday. A member of the public spotted and picked up a dog with three deep puncture wounds in its chest and a local OSPCA 'activist' brought it to his Vet. who kept it overnight for observation and treatment. Meanwhile, contact had been made with a Greyhound Rescue Centre in South Offaly who arranged for a potential adopter to call and see the dog. In preparation for this meeting, the OSPCA member – a prominent member of the local community – took the greyhound to his own home. That was when things began to get really exciting! Still traumatised, no doubt, by whatever had caused its injuries, the dog suddenly began acting more like a hare than a greyhound – heading out onto the street and making a break for freedom. Another well known OSPCA stalwart became aware of the problem and joined in the chase. Onlookers may have been amused by the scene – but if there was any laughter it must have turned to cheering when the dog was

captured. Happily, it soon recovered from its initial fright, apparently realising that in fact it was among friends and it seems likely now that the future for this dog will be very much brighter than its past. With the help of the Greyhound Rescue centre, a potential adopter has been identified. For the moment it is being looked after by its Edenderry friend and it is anticipated that it will soon be on its way to a really excellent home.

The Greyhound Rescue Centre made a ready response also when contacted about another emaciated member of the breed picked up by an OSPCA member in the Ballycumber area. This dog had a tattoo mark on its ear and that should make it possible to trace its owner. The Rescue Centre will be looking after it until the matter is resolved.



Meet Bluebell, a five weeks old female kitten found on the roadside near Blueball. She had an infection in one eye but this has cleared up completely. Lively and affectionate, Bluebell loves playing games and certainly deserves a really good home. She will be happy to receive potential adopters at her foster home in Tullamore. The meeting may be arranged by 'phoning 0863785584