

Veterinary Ireland Media Release (Thursday 24th May 2012)

National Animal Welfare Forum 2012

Members of the public are being invited to have their say on a range of animal welfare issues at a major conference this weekend.

Convened by Veterinary Ireland, the 2012 National Animal Welfare Forum marks the launch of this year's Spay Ireland public awareness campaign, which aims to reduce the country's toll of unwanted cats and dogs by persuading more owners to spay or neuter their pets.

The forum takes place from 1-5pm this Sunday May 27th in the Ballroom of the Citywest Hotel, Dublin. It is open to the public and admission is free.

Recently released figures from the Department of the Environment which show that on average, 15 unwanted dogs were destroyed every day in Ireland in 2011, will provide a sobering focus for the forum. The Forum will also focus on the issue of overpopulation among the country's feral cats, which according to some estimates could be as high as 200,000.

The Forum will be addressed by representatives of Dogs Trust, Feral Cats Ireland, the ISPCA, the DoneDeal Foundation, Compassion in World Farming and Animals Need a Voice in Legislation (ANVIL). Each item on the agenda will also be thrown open to discussion from the floor.

In addition to members of the public, guests representing animal welfare organisations, local authorities, the Gardai and other stakeholders have been invited to attend.

Pat Kirwan, Chairman of Veterinary Ireland's Animal Welfare Committee, will chair the Forum. He says the main objectives of the conference are to inform interested parties of all recent developments in animal welfare to gather feedback, and to reach a consensus of the best ways to promote animal wellbeing.

According to Spay Ireland organiser and Vet Pete Wedderburn, "public support is critical to promote animal welfare. We are issuing an open invitation to members of the public to come along and give us their views. All are welcome", he says.

Press Release Ends

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT: www.spayireland.ie or www.veterinaryireland.ie

For further press information

Contact Jan van Embden, CN Media Ltd.
Mobile: 087 681 6511 Tel: 01 – 282 9853
Email: jan@cnmedia.ie

Pete Wedderburn is available for interview
Mobile: 086 – 884 7966
Email: pete@brayvet.ie