

Have Your Say on Animal Welfare

Members of the public are being invited to have their say on the continued destruction of thousands of unwanted Irish cats and dogs and other key animal welfare issues at major conference this weekend.

Convened by Veterinary Ireland, the National Animal Welfare Forum marks the launch of this year's Spay Ireland initiative (formerly Spay Week Ireland), the annual awareness that 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 on Sunday May 22nd 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 showed that 5,296 unwanted dogs were destroyed in Ireland in 2010 will provide a sobering focus for the forum. Other key issues on the agenda include stray cats, horse welfare, online animal sales, wildlife welfare, animal welfare legislation and help for owners who cannot afford to spay or neuter their pets.

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

According to Spay Ireland organiser and television vet Pete Wedderburn, the main objectives of the conference are to inform interested parties of all recent developments in animal welfare, gather feedback and reach a consensus of the best ways to promote animal wellbeing.

"Because public support is critical to achieving our aims 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