

# Keep RAWRing!

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## RAWR is an Animal Welfare Group

RAWR is an animal welfare organisation, that means we focus on the health and welfare of animals. There are also groups that focus on animal rights. Generally RAWR shares many of the opinions and points of view of animal rights groups.

Where we usually differ is the assessment of the methods to reach our (shared) goals, the choice of the approach that helps animals most. For RAWR our preferred approach is neutering. However, we're not unaware that other tactics can help to get our message across. Recently we posted this image to our Facebook page:

It out performed our other posts this month by miles! It shows that a little activism seems to go a long way. However how much of a difference will 'likes' make in the long run? We don't know.

RAWR's approach is to keep neutering, to engage in positive communication about animals and their welfare, and to ask (not demand) people to take responsibility. We keep connected to as many animal welfare organisations and animal rights groups as we can. We believe joining forces is more important than the answer to the question 'who is doing things right'.



## Ireland absent from EU workshop on Improving animal welfare?

The EU is hosting a series workshops that focus on animal welfare legislation (per species), critical welfare issues & species-specific welfare assessment schemes. The next one is being held in Lyon and targets France, Belgium, Italy, Spain, and Luxembourg. Similar workshops were already held in Budapest (Hungary), Barcelona (Spain), Riga (Latvia), Sinaii (Romania), Lasize (Italy), Zeist (Netherlands), Warsaw (Poland).  
Where is Ireland??

## Food for Thought

We are asked sometimes why we collect food if RAWR doesn't have a rescue centre. Well, the answer is that we help feed feral colonies under RAWR management, we do foster animals that are waiting to be rehomed or animals that are recuperating before being returned. This takes quite a bit of pet food, cat litter and other animal items like bedding. To avoid having to spend funds that could also help the RAWR neutering programmes, we collect pet food around our area, at 4 collection boxes, in alphabetical order:

If we receive more food than we need at that moment, it is taken to other animal welfare groups in County Cork.



## Ballylickey Bantry Durrus Schull

Donations received:

	Cat food		Dog food		Cat litter	
	dry	wet	dry	wet		
Durrus	0	22	3	59		84
Schull	12	32	13	7		64
Ballylickey	3	18	1	4		26
Bantry	0	3	12	24	1	40
RAWR shop	1	33	6	9		49
	16	108	35	103	1	



## Batty over Kilkenny Bridge

Kilkenny County Council is threatening to destroy a wall at Green's Bridge which houses a colony of protected bats. The bats roost under the bridge while hundreds more fly under it eating the little mayflies and stone flies. At present the council and local protestors are at odds about what should happen. Hopefully human development will not be equal to animal detriment in this case! The court will decide...

There are over 1,000 species of bat worldwide. In Ireland we have nine species confirmed as residents, all of which belong to the bat Sub-order Microchiroptera. All of the Irish bat species consume only insects and the nine residents belong to two Families – the Vespertilionidae (with eight species) and the Rhinolophidae (with one species). Until recently, it was thought that there were seven bat species in Ireland:

### The Know-it-All: Monkeying about

Or rather we are not monkeying about, when we tell you the smallest monkey in the world is as large as..... Your finger. Because of their small size these monkeys are also known by their nick names **pocket monkey** and **little lion**. Dwarf monkeys, or pygmy marmosets, are officially the smallest monkeys in the world. They grow to about 15 cm and live to be about 12 years in the wild.

Thank goodness, Finger Monkeys are currently not endangered. However they are listed as special concern. Sadly, it is one of the most common Types of monkey being kept as a pet. Finger Monkeys live in groups, called troops, of up to nine monkeys. Which is one reason they shouldn't be kept as solitary pets. Most troops have a dominant male and breeding female. The female gives birth twice a year and usually twins are born.

Finger Monkeys are rarely seen in the trees above 60 feet (18 m) or on the ground. This is most likely related to their food sources, butterflies and fruit. However Finger Monkeys cannot rely on fruit year round so they eat tree gum and sap too. Their specific diet also means finger monkeys don't make 'easy' pets.



For those really interested, the 8<sup>th</sup> Irish Bat Conference and Workshops are taking place in Cork on October 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>. Full details can be found At [www.batconservationireland.org](http://www.batconservationireland.org)



Bat Conservation Ireland is always happy to help with batty enquiries and can be reached on 086 4049468.

### Bats **not likely to be seen** @ Hallowe'en

Among ghosts, witches and black cats, what would Hallowe'en be without bats? However, chances are very slim you'll see any, unless a bat is roused from hibernation by accident (let's hope nobody does that on purpose).

In many western traditions, bats are associated with vampires, such as the one featured in Bram Stoker's classic novel 'Dracula'. Not all cultures view bats as evil. In western African countries bats are sacred animals thought to be the physical manifestation of souls, whilst in China, bats are considered a sign of long life and good fortune.



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