



## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

If you start with one cat in the yard, you can be sure that you will soon find that you are fast becoming a collector. Within weeks there are two cats hanging out in the yard, “sure that only means they will catch twice as many mice “ you say. But that’s not all it means. And that is what happened earlier this year when we got a call from a farmer who had started with three cats and found that he had managed to get to a point where



he had 24 furry mouse catchers and was wondering where it might stop.

The trouble with cats is that they breed, and within weeks of giving birth they breed again and in a few more weeks their kittens are breeding and they have kittens and their kittens start having kittens and before you know it you are up to your knees in cats. And that’s where we come in.

Our volunteer trapped the farmer’s cats and loaded them up in the car (they are covered because it keeps them calm)

and took them to the vet to be checked over, treated for any health problems and neutered. A few days later they were taken back to the farm. Now the farmer is happy, the cats are healthy and happy and they won’t be breeding out of control. And they still catch the mice!



Part of RAWR’s remit is to inform and educate people who do not usually come into direct contact with animal welfare issues and this year we were given an opportunity to do just that. The international Lions Clubs were tasked with joining another local group for a community event and the **Bantry Lions Club** chose to work with **RAWR**. We are in our 12<sup>th</sup> year as a charity and each year we deal with around 500 cats. The pandemic has seen an increase in feral cats, which was discussed earlier this year on Joe Duffy’s radio show highlighting the problem in Dublin. Vet closures during lockdown, financial difficulties and the housing crisis, have all played their part in the numbers of feral cats creeping up.

Members of Bantry Lions wanted to learn about RAWR and what we do to tackle the problem of feral cats, and how this improves the lives of cats. . . . and humans too. So soon after our biggest single mission this year which was to **Trap, Neuter and Return** over 100 cats in Macroom, we took them on two TNRs so that they could find out what it is like: one on the Beara peninsula and the other in Drimoleague. On the way there,

there was much hilarity amongst the Lions who imagined themselves chasing around field and farm, dodging around tractors and hay bales whilst attempting to rugby tackle a running herd of cats. They were instead amazed at how civilized it was. It was a fine day and with the traps baited with aromatic sardines, they were able to sit in the car with a hot coffee and a snack while watching and waiting for the cats to be tempted into the traps by the delicious treat.



With each success, when the door of a trap closed behind a cat, they learned to leave the coffee, to cover the trap immediately with a throw to keep the cat calm and then they helped to load them up for the trip to the vet. During the course of a happy collaboration they absorbed information about feral cats and the miss-information surrounding them, and how humans and cats can live mutually beneficial lives when a colony is managed properly.



It was a successful day with new links forged between the two groups and the Lions have learned more about their smaller cousins, the cats and kittens, and how to help them.

All the work we do is only possible because of donations we receive and the funds we raise via our charity shop in Bridge Street, Bantry.

Please come in and have a look at some of the lovely Christmas items we are selling this year.



This happy little dog came in for a Christmas Jumper hand knitted by our talented volunteers

Luna however preferred a classic Aran





There are lots to choose from

We also have other gift ideas, pet supplies, treats and hand-made cards in the shop



And these beautiful embroidered Christmas Stockings hand-crafted by another of our volunteers

RAWR doesn't just do TNR. We also offer a subsidised neutering scheme for companion dogs and cats, and this year we funded "Tackle it for a

Tenner" for a week where neutering was just €10 per cat.

RAWR also responds to call-outs to wildlife and, so far this year, have helped 1 fox, 3 baby hares, 2 baby hedgehogs, 2 adult hedgehogs and 4 seagulls.



Scan. Pay. Go.

If you would like to donate this Christmas, you can do so by going to our **website** at [www.rawr.ie](http://www.rawr.ie) and clicking on the donate paw-print, you can **send a cheque**, payable to Rural Animal Welfare Resources, to Rural Animal Welfare Resources, Bridge Street, Bantry, Co.Cork. P75 TX97, and if you have the **PayPal App** on your phone or tablet, then you can **scan this QR Code** in the App and you will be asked how much to donate, click, job done! The QR code can also be found on our website.

**BEST WISHES TO YOU FROM ALL THE RAWR VOLUNTEERS FOR A HAPPY AND HEALTHY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR**

**RAWR DOG AND CAT NEUTERING DISCOUNT VOUCHERS:** for availability contact your nearest participating veterinary practice: Bantry: Fachtna Collins 027 53639; Skibbereen: Castlelands- Hourihanes 028 22211; Dunmanway: Brookpark: 023 884 5777; Castletownbere: Brian Murphy 027 70366

**RAWR IS A REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 19607 AND IS RUN ENTIRELY BY VOLUNTEERS**