

**December 14, 2007**

## **Early Christmas for Dublin North animals – Kennedy**

DUBLIN NORTH'S Fianna Fail TD Michael Kennedy has welcomed the news that two local animal welfare organisations are to benefit from a raft of funding announced today by the Department of Agriculture.

Deputy Kennedy said: "The timing of this announcement is particularly important, as in the days running up to Christmas there is a significant increase in the purchase of animals – unfortunately, after the excitement of Christmas dies down, it is these animals which can sometimes end up in the care of the charity authorities like those awarded with funding."

"Some €30,000 has been allocated to organisations in North Dublin, which engage in the rescue, rehabilitation and re-homing of abandoned or abused animals."

"In Garristown, the Irish Seal Sanctuary received €10,000. As a first-time applicant, the organisation can now go on to build its annual allocation. The sanctuary provides a rescue service to marine wildlife found in difficulty along the Irish Coast."

"Elsewhere the North County Dublin Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was allocated €20,000 for the provision of its services. The North County SPCA has been operating for 85 years and provides a voluntary veterinary clinic to the community of North Dublin."

"It is important to remember that these organisations and ones like it are staffed by dedicated volunteers and are funded almost entirely through donations and Government funding."

"I congratulate both the North County Dublin SPCA and the Irish Seal Sanctuary for their continued hard work and I will continue to press the Minister for Agriculture for further funding."