

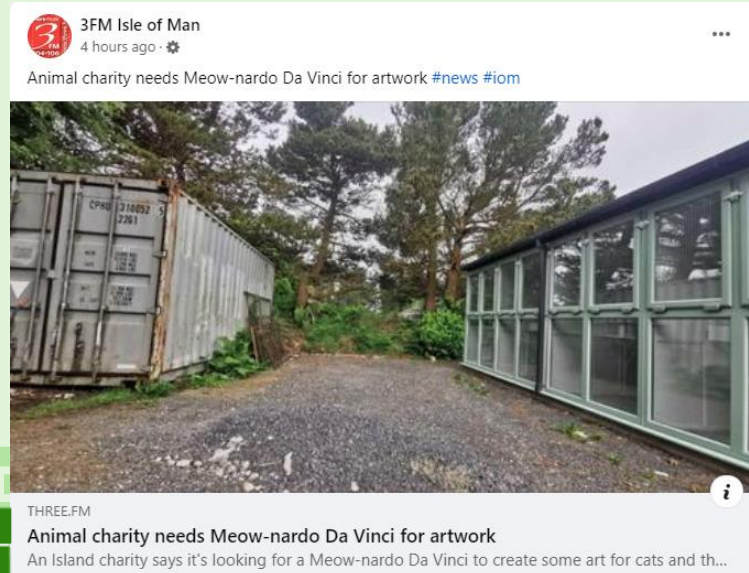
A few pages of the year's highlights really don't do justice to the scope and variety of the work undertaken by the ManxSPCA, and they can only hint at the level of commitment shown by the team - whether that be in the direct care of animals, or raising funds and awareness so that we can continue with our work.

Let's start with **CATS**, given 2024 saw the replacement of our old wooden Cattery pens with state-of-the-art new ones. The Cattery team put lots of planning into making sure it was 'business as usual' for both our rescue cats and visitors during the demolition and construction phases, which took about three months to complete.

The new pens went from this:



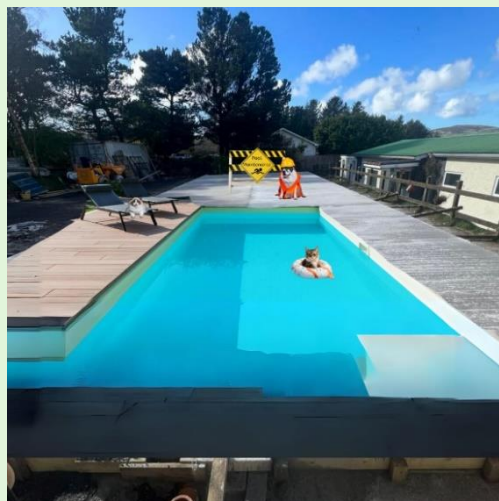
... to this:



... which meant that the storage container next door looked very shabby indeed. So, with the help of local media, we appealed for a Meow-nardo Da Vinci to help us out, and this is the result:



The demolition of the old Cattery also enabled us to have a bit of social media fun on 1st April ...



In terms of numbers of cats and kittens, 2023 was a record-breaking year with 491 felines coming into our care. 57% of these came from feral backgrounds, and 100 were able to be socialised and adopted, whilst the others were released back into rural environments such as barns and stables.

Some of our intake came to us because their respective owners were unable to cope, including this lovely pair who lived in a filthy flat with an owner who had significant health issues. They eventually recovered from their skin conditions and dehydration, and gained weight; and went on to find loving new homes.



Whilst welfare issues like these are sad, the cats in our care bring smiles to our faces on a daily basis, and give us plenty of content for social media posts such as this:



ManxSPCA @ManxSPCA · Mar 5

Promote

When the social media team find [#FacebookDown](#) and [#InstagramDown](#) and someone has emptied the coffee-pot...



And moving on to **DOGS**, 2024 was a year of highs and lows. Those of you who attended last year's AGM will have met Harry, the Staffie puppy who came to us at just three days old because his breeder didn't have the time to hand rear him (his cleft lip and soft palate meant that he couldn't suckle from his mother). Not so the team at Ard Jerkyll, who worked in shifts to provide little Harry with syringe feeds every two hours, eventually moving him on to a bottle and less frequent feeds after a few weeks.



We had to wait until Harry was a few months old before he could have an operation. He'd moved on to solid food but it was routinely becoming lodged in his clefts, and the risk of infection was high. The first operation didn't work, but the second one was a complete success, as you can see from the photo on the right. Harry was formally adopted in November by a lady who had been a volunteer dog walker with us for several months.



The Kennels admitted 61 dogs during the year - dogs of all shapes, sizes and ages, but yet again collies and collie crosses were the most common breeds. The saddest admission was of a suspected American XL bulldog called Charlie, who came to us towards the end of the year. We were surprised that it took so long for a case such as Charlie's to emerge, given we were prepared for an influx of XL bullies to the IoM prior to, and just after, the ban came into place in England and Wales on 31st December 2023. It is not an offence to own an unregistered XL bully on the IoM, but it is illegal to import one, and Charlie's owner admitted to the Police that he had brought him over from Liverpool a few weeks earlier.



Charlie, who was a big softie and a very friendly dog, had a shoulder height of 22 inches. The XL bully is not a breed but there are some descriptive definitions of the 'type' such as 'muscular body and blocky head', and there is one measurement of 20 inches, or more, at the shoulder (slightly less for a female dog). So, Charlie fitted the type.

It took several months for the Manx judicial system to decide that Charlie needed to be euthanised, although we challenged this decision at the highest level, requesting that a retrospective import licence be granted for Charlie given his age (he was eleven months old when he came to us) and his lovely temperament ... but we were advised that there was absolutely no alternative.

It was a very, very sad day when Charlie was put to sleep in April this year, surrounded by the Kennels team who loved him.

R.I.P. Charlie – we hope your death, and the publicity we ensured it received, will lessen the likelihood of future Charlies ...

On a happier note, as with our rescue cats, our dogs are always making us laugh with their antics and zest for life – dogs such as handsome Dexter, the wirehaired pointer, who helped us celebrate Hop-tu-Naa in style ...



... and goofy Chaz, the British bulldog, who was the poster boy for our fireworks night messaging on social media:



Of course, it's not all about cats and dogs at the ManxSPCA, and 'cuteness pictures' of the year have to go to the 'Tip Mice Survivors' - five baby mice brought in by members of the public from the local amenity centre after mum was spotted running out of a box dropped off at the recycle area. The babies received 24/7 care from Sarah and they were ultimately released after a few weeks.



We cared for a wide variety of small animals during the year, and rehomed 63 domestic rabbits, Guinea pigs and other small pets. The following montage summarises the wildlife we cared for in 2024:



2024

ManxSPCA
EST. 1897

We have cared for a total of 221 animals in our wildlife section.

67 Mammals

154 Birds



We take in wildlife for a variety of different reasons, some are found injured and others may be young animals who have fallen out of their nests and been separated from their parents.



We took in many young birds, who were at various age stages including; Magpies, Jackdaws and Rooks from the Corvidae family, as well as Sparrows, Collared Doves, Feral Pigeons and Mallard Ducklings.



2 Cockerels, 8 Hens and 1 Chick found their new flocks.



This year we successfully handreared and released a litter of 5 baby mice.

We also looked after rabbit kits, rat pups, a leveret, polecat and some hoglets.



51 Herring Gull Chicks were cared for and released.

Some chicks arrived at just a few days old and spent over 7 weeks in our care before being released.



We also cared for and found a new home for a Peahen and 7 Peachicks.



Fundraising and income generation are vital to the success of the ManxSPCA, and enable us to finance the work that we do. Reaching out to the Manx community, and telling them about our animals, is also hugely important and our profile on social media, and presence in more traditional forms of media such as newsprint and radio, enables us to communicate with a significant proportion of the Island's population.

And we continue to attend the local shows, showcasing our rescue animals and welcoming passing celebrities ...



Our shops in Douglas and Ramsey are 'outposts' that not only generate income, but also represent the ManxSPCA in their respective communities. Our Ramsey shop gained a new manager during the year, Irene (when Alex moved to the UK), as well as a new 'director of operations' in the form of Tom the cat who volunteers his time in return for a sachet of food and a comfy bed in the window.

Our veterinary contract was put out to tender in 2024, and Point of Care was officially appointed as the ManxSPCA's primary provider. Katerina and her team visit Ard Jerkyl at least once a week to provide their service on site. Neutering is, by far, the most frequently performed operation with a record-breaking 355 such procedures undertaken during the year. The breakdown of these is as follows:

	Castrate	Spay
Rabbit	11	8
Dog	20	15
Cat	139	162
Total	169	185

We are incredibly grateful for the support of our volunteers who give their time freely in our shops and at Ard Jerkyl, and as our Board of Management. Thank you to you all.

