

SUFFERING AND DEATH TO ABANDONED NAGS



MALNOURISHED: Abandoned horses are becoming a big problem as the recession bites

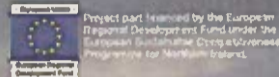
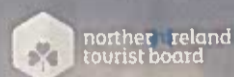


STARVING: This unfortunate horse was abandoned in saturated ground

pay for a vet, Miriam said. Another piebald pony was found alive, and tied tightly to a gate at Bohernabreena in the Dublin mountains. The distressed animal had shredded the hide off his back legs trying to escape. One poor horse was found half-eaten by foxes and dogs on wasteground at Dunsink. Meanwhile a severely undernourished pregnant mare, whose ribs were sticking out above her swollen tummy, had to be put down – along with her foetus. Other cases include horses with infected abscesses, worms and split hooves. “When a horse’s hoof splits, his whole leg will split open. This one had to be shot”, Miriam said, showing me a photo of a horse whose hoof had cracked open. Most of the horses the DSPCA rescue come from wasteground at Dunsink, near Dublin airport. “Local kids as young as 12 are buying them from Smithfield Market in the cen-

tre of the city – even though the law says you have to be over 16 to buy a horse,” Miriam said. Inspector Liam Kinsella said: “Kids are buying ponies for €40 which would have gone for €600 last year. We have heard of kids buying horses for as little as €8 at Smithfield market.” **Dumping** “And people are dumping their horses rather than pay the council to take them away – it cost €300 to have a horse removed.” Miriam blames the “glut of horses” caused by the recession – including race-horses bought by syndicates. “They can’t keep up the payments for its upkeep, so they sell it and it ends up at these markets.” The DSPCA wants the Government to enforce the Control of Horses Act, under which every horse or pony sold has to be tagged and given a passport. news@sundayworld.com

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