



TOP PICTURE: Saoirse goes underwater

## SAOIRSE'S A WINNER SWIMMER

READERS have sent in an impressive selection of wild, wacky and wonderful holiday shots for our Snap, Send and Win competition.

Last week we published the top ten pictures, and here today we have the winning snap.

Stephanie Redmond (19) from East Wall, Dublin, captured her cousin Saoirse McDermott (10) as she braved her first underwater experience.

The extended family of 15 was enjoying a holiday in Torremolinos on Spain's Costa del Sol last July.

Saoirse had taken swimming lessons in the run-up to the holiday and Stephanie coaxed her to go below the surface so she could sample her new waterproof camera.

### Friendly

Saoirse was reluctant at first but enjoyed it when she got down under, as the picture shows.

It's the perfect holiday snap, capturing the frivolous fun spirit of the summer season.

The family now faces the tough decision of who gets to go on the prize family holiday, courtesy of Sunway, to the 4\* Vik San Antonio Hotel in the popular resort of Puerto del Carmen in Lanzarote.

Lanzarote is a popular winter and summer destination offering year-round sunshine. The Vik San Antonio is well established and enjoys many repeat clients due to its friendly and efficient service.

The resort has two magnificent pools, top-class facilities and excellent service. Other facilities include children's pool, playground, mini club, pool bar and evening entertainment.

Thanks again to everyone who shared their pictures with the Sunday World this summer.

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## EXCLUSIVE BRAVE VETS HAD TO BATTLE WITH

# ATTACK OF THE KILLER WASPS



## Pooch Lola survives 185 stings by swarm

### MEET Ireland's luckiest dog.

And it's all thanks to a hero who dived into a wasps' nest to rescue her - and the brave staff of a veterinary clinic who fought off a swarm as they saved her life.

Little Lola the Lhaso Apso, who weighs just four kilos, was stung 185 times.

It took the staff of a veterinary clinic three hours to fight off the swarm of wasps as they followed her in her owner's car to the surgery, more than a mile away.

Linda Shutte and her daughter Emily Rose (8) were walking Lola and their other dog, Oscar, with Brian Devereux and his dog Marley when the wasps attacked.

"It was like a horror movie," Brian told the Sunday World.

"We had just met moments earlier, and we all walked up to the waterfall to let our dogs play together.

### Screaming

"Next thing the dogs started going crazy. Linda was screaming and looking at some bushes and I heard the little dog yelping from some bushes."

Brian used two jumpers as a shield to push through thick briars in Dublin's Dodder Park and at first all he saw was wasps.

"Then I saw the little dog. Its face was completely covered in wasps."

As he reached into the two-foot deep hole to grab the terrified dog, the wasps stung him too.

"They attacked my hands and ankles, went up my trouser legs and under my

By GERALDINE COMISKEY

jumper, they stung my tummy and even when I pulled my woolly hat over my head they got under it and stung the back of my head through my hair!

"They kept coming back and stinging again."

Linda was stung 30 times. Meanwhile her other dog, Oscar, and Brian's husky Marley buzzed off.

Brian said: "My fella just did a legger and went home of his own accord. Linda's other dog was standing by the waterfall looking frightened. I put my own dog's lead on him and he came quietly."

But as Linda's husband Franz drove them to the nearby Nutgrove Veterinary Clinic, the wasps came too.

Vets William Hayden and Tom Mullany and nurse Becky Grieve of

Nutgrove Veterinary Clinic, armed with rolled-up newspapers and a pump-spray, fought the creatures for three hours in the surgery as they battled to save little Lola.

"I've never seen so many wasps in one location, let alone on one poor creature - they were extremely aggressive," said vet William.

"They were mostly in her ears and eyes. We removed 150 wasps and 185 stings from the little dog then they flew around and stung us. We had to act fast to save the dog.

"Lola was virtually comatose because she was in acute shock. This was not just fear - it was a systemic shock, there was so much poison in her. There were 50 stings on her head alone and we had to remove them with forceps.

"Poor old Lola was so out of it she didn't even mind her face being



SAVED: Lola with Linda, her daughter Emily Rose and Brian Devereux

shaved - we literally had to shave the wasps off. And we had to shave her leg to give her a cocktail of intravenous drugs.

"We also had to give her steroids, anti-histamines and fluid therapy to restore her blood pressure - it was practically down to nothing.

### Collapsed

"After three hours she stabilised but as she recovered her eyelids swelled up and she couldn't open her eyes. We gave her eyedrops and treated the wounds on her head with antiseptic ointment."

They kept her in overnight, topping up her treatment every hour. Lola was the second dog stung by wasps last Tuesday. "Half an hour before she came in, a dog twice her size collapsed from just 20 stings.

"We've never ever seen anything

remotely like this, though we've been here 19 years," William said.

"The stings continued to release poison after we had removed the wasps. When we washed Lola the next morning, we found more stings."

Linda said: "The vet's staff gave me coffee and rang a GP because I had been stung so many times."

She called Dublin County Council's pest control department to warn them about the nest. I convinced them it was serious. They said they'd remove the nest. I don't want this to happen to anyone else."

Lola hid under the bed for three days after her ordeal and after vet William gave her a clean bill of health, he added: "She'll never go near another wasps' nest!"

geraldine.comiskey@sundayworld.com

If you were in an  
**Irish Orphanage**  
contact us **Immediately**

Telephone:  
**01 6694696**

Email:  
**law@petermcdonnell.ie**

**Peter McDonnell Solicitors**