Dog 'skewered' in vicious teen prank

Eugene Hogan

A STRAY dog was last night making a miraculous recovery after being 'skewered' by a gang of youths.

The young Yorkshire Terrier, which was wandering loose in the Castletroy area of Limerick for the past number of weeks, had been stabbed with a meat skewer. The cruel prank is believed to have been carried out by a teenage gang.

When the dog, which bears the name Sailor on its collar, was brought to the home of Limerick Animal Welfare campaigner and president of the ISPCA, Marion Fitzgibbon, it was almost too late.

The skewer had been embedded five inches deep into the dog's back - miraculously missing its lung.

There was little doubt that it was a deliberate act, said Ms Fitzgibbon.

"A neighbour brought him to my house and he was very distressed and just kept trying to take out the skewer and this was hurting him severely."

Unfortunately, this type of wanton cruelty is all too common in urban areas today, she said, with dogs and cats being set on fire, stabbed and shot.

"It is more prevalent during the summer months when schoolboys and schoolgirls are off and they just make these helpless animals their targets.

"It happens too often but is not something that is by any means exclusive to Limerick," she said, after overseeing the terrified terrier receive surgery to remove the skewer.

"We took him to the veterinary hospital where he was sedated before operating on him yesterday evening and his vital signs look very good.

"We had a very badly burned terrier brought into us recently and have seen far too many cats and dogs victims of horrible cruelty.