

IRISH DAILY Mirror COMMENT

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Now banks are choking sound firms

FIGURES showing four companies going under every day are truly shocking.

Behind these statistics are real people who have had their lives turned upside down and who now find themselves among the growing ranks of the unemployed.

The lucky ones will face a drastic reduction in their incomes while others will find themselves totally destitute.

While PRSI workers will receive job-seekers' allowance, most of those involved in the management and ownership of these failed companies will not get a cent.

That is the harsh reality of business life in an economy trashed by the reckless lending of banks.

It is sickening that these same banks are denying vital credit which could save some of these struggling companies.

Worse still, these bloodsucker bankers are going after the assets of these firms and are willing to close them down and throw workers on the dole to get their hands on their pound of flesh.

The Government's claim that the country is now out of recession will seem like a sick joke to those involved in the 2,000 firms which will fail by the end of this year.

The "recovery" figures are a sham - without the profits of multi-national drug companies, which are sent back to the US anyway, the domestic economy is still in decline.

The recession will not truly end until people have the confidence to begin spending again.

If a fraction of the €80 billion earmarked for the banks was set aside to assist small and medium Irish firms thousands of jobs could be saved.

Putting people back to work must be the priority and to do that measures must be put in place to save firms which would provide employment.

Victory for perv control

The announcement by Justice Minister Dermot Ahern that families will soon be told if a paedophile is living nearby is a major victory for the Irish Daily Mirror.

While it falls short of our calls for a Megan's Law for Ireland, it represents the first step towards making sure every child in the country is protected from sex monsters living in our midst.

The legislation is to come in after hundreds of outraged readers backed our campaign for public access to the Sex Offenders List.

Now the onus is on gardai to make sure they raise the alarm when these perverts turn up.

And Mr Ahern must remember that until there is a Megan's Law for Ireland offenders will continue to slip through the net and prey on our children.

Rugby union

MANY congratulations to Brian O'Driscoll and Amy Huberman on tying the knot.

The lovebirds said "I do" at a fairytale wedding. *What Bod has joined together let no man put asunder.*

THERAPIST HELPS OWNERS SOLVE CAT PROBLEMS

BY MAEVE QUIGLEY
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MEET Alice Chau-Ginguene - Ireland's first cat therapist.

She is the only woman in the country who can talk to your cats about, well... their felines.

And as a woman who knows how to make a cat behave purr-fectly, she will be appearing at this year's Pet Expo, which begins in the RDS today.

Alice said: "What I do is if there are families or individuals with cats who have behavioural problems they can come to me.

"I will visit their homes and see what the problem with the cat is and help them get it to behave better."

Alice runs her own business in Dublin - the Maow Care Cat Sitting And Behavioural Therapy.

She has a Bachelor of Arts in European Studies, specialising in French Language, Culture and Civilisation.

Alice has also worked for the Hong Kong Government, as a logistic manager for a trading company in Paris and for a Dublin bank.

But cats were always her first love and a few years ago she decided to find a course that would help her become a fully-fledged cat therapist.

She added: "I have cats of my own and I also volunteered in a cat shelter for a long time. But I figured I wanted to study to get to know the academic side of cats' behaviour.

"I had to move to England to study as there were no courses here for the work I wanted to do."

Alice passed her exams and received an Advanced Award Certificate of Feline Behaviour with distinction and since then has been working in Dublin to help families whose pesky pets won't behave properly.

She said: "In Ireland many people think it's just the cat's way but if a cat is behaving in a certain way then it is likely there is a good reason for this.

"And when I go out to people's homes many of them are annoyed at what the cat is doing but they don't see that the cat has a problem that needs resolved.

"Most behavioural problems are caused by misunderstandings between humans and cats and you can both live better lives if the behavioural problems are modified."

Alice claims many problems can be easily fixed with the right advice.

She explained: "Cats are animals but their behaviour becomes a problem if it isn't allowing you to lead your life as a human.

"If you let a cat do whatever it wants, then it will be happy but maybe you won't be. So it's about compromise.

"For example, cats will steal food but if yours is stealing from the table so much that you can't eat your dinner then something needs to be done.

"And a cat would be happy to pull a curtain down but we can't live like that.

"What I do is I direct the cat's behaviour to make it acceptable for their owners."

● THE Pet Expo in Dublin's RDS runs until tomorrow. For information visit www.petexpo.ie.

Purrfect pet

► PUSSIES GALORE Cat therapist Alice Chau-Ginguene brings her expertise to the Pet Expo at RDS



In Ireland many people think bad behaviour is just a cat's way

HOW ALICE SOLVES YOUR PROBLEMS

1. Alice gets each owner to fill out a detailed profile of the cat's history.
2. She will then visit the house to watch the cat's body language, interaction with its environment, interaction with humans, other cats and behaviour with toys and food.
3. Alice will then provide a written report with all the detailed advice given during the consultation and different modification programmes will be set up



- for the owners to follow. She said: "For example, if a cat is scratching furniture, perhaps scratching posts need to be introduced.
- Or in some cases just allow it to scratch one piece of furniture and it will not touch the others.
- "And if a cat bites a lot or scratches humans or other animals then it is out of character and is feeling afraid or threatened by something.
- "So I find out what is upsetting the cat and that way we can come to a compromise."
4. Alice will then make follow-up phone calls and emails are arranged as certain behavioural problems will need weeks or months to be modified.

- ALICE'S TOP CAT PROBLEMS**
- **DESTRUCTIVE** behaviour such as spraying wee or pooing in the wrong places.
 - **CLAWING** and other destructive behaviour such as scratching furniture.
 - **AGGRESSIVE** behaviour with the owner, other cats, or people within the household like clawing, biting, chasing, bullying.
 - **YOWLS**, screaming and making noise at night.
 - **THEFT** of food from the dinner table.

