



CHEAP THRILLS Ryanair

Ryanair slash seat prices in summer sale

BY **AILBHE JORDAN**

RYANAIR has launched a "Midsummer Madness" seat sale with some places selling for a tenner.

There's up to 20% off two million seats for travel between July and November, with prices starting from €9.99.

But those looking for a bargain will have to be quick to nab the best deals as all flights must be booked before midnight tomorrow.

Ryanair's Robin Kiely said: "Summer is here and to celebrate we've launched a massive Midsummer Madness sale.

"We have up to 20% off two million seats across the Ryanair network.

"Customers should put down the sun cream and go log on quickly to book these fares today."



FELINE TRAPPED
Firefighters work to free the cat

Engine purrs like a kitten

BY **DAVID RALEIGH**

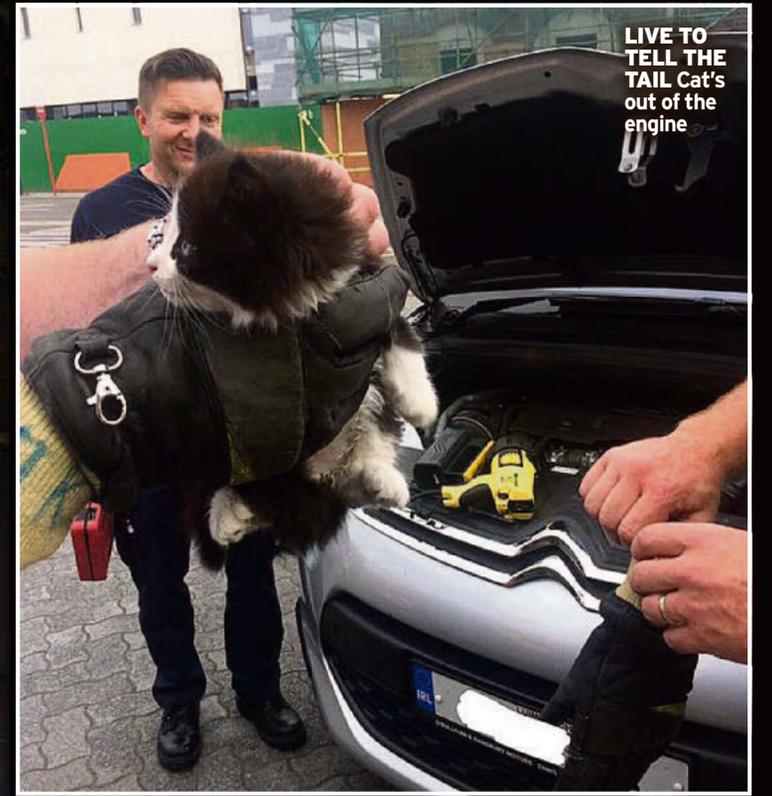
FIREFIGHTERS in Limerick have averted a cat-astrophy after rescuing a kitten that had become trapped in the engine of a car.

Members of the fire service were able to free the animal on Thursday night.

Clearly delighted with their heroics, one of the crew posted on their Facebook page: "It was a purrfect rescue for Green Watch

tonight! A passerby stopped into the station, their catalytic converter was purring a little louder than normal - thankfully with a little purrsuasion and not much procatstination - a furry pawisitive outcome as we were able to release this little fella from their engine.

"Clawsome work lads. We're happy to report the car owners whisker away to a happy new home."



LIVE TO TELL THE TAIL Cat's out of the engine



SCENE Sarsfield Barracks

Gardai reveal soldier death not suspicious

BY **PAT FLANAGAN**

THE death of a young soldier in his barracks is not suspicious, gardai confirmed yesterday.

A Defence Forces statement said the 23-year-old became ill while at work in Sarsfield Barracks, Limerick on Thursday.

It added: "The soldier fell ill during the unit's Organised Recreational Physical Training and was found in an unresponsive state by colleagues a short time later.

"The unit's medics were called and administered CPR, he was transferred to University Hospital Limerick. Despite the best efforts of the Defence Forces Medics and hospital staff he passed away."

The Defence Forces are providing a liaison officer for his family.

RTE SPENDS €5.4M ON TRAVEL IN YEAR

EXCLUSIVE
BY **SHARON MCGOWAN**
Showbiz Reporter

RTE spent more than €5.4million last year on travel - a rise of nearly €1million compared with figures from 2015, it has been revealed.

The national broadcaster paid out almost €500,000 on taxis around Dublin.

According to figures released under the Freedom of Information Act, RTE spent €4,471,000 on travel in 2015.

One of the biggest bills last year was for staff flight - €575,00, an increase of €38,000 on 2015.

The semi-State broadcaster, which is funded by taxpayers through the TV licence fee, paid out €516,000 on taxis across Ireland last year, with €491,000 of that on fares in Dublin.

Mileage expenses totalled up to €511,000 in 2016, a slight decrease on the previous year's spend.

Meanwhile, rail fares cost RTE €52,000 last year. A statement released



EURO 2016

€500m taxi fares bill for Dublin alone



RIO OLYMPICS

by RTE outlined that their company travel policy states "all journeys must be operationally necessary".

It also revealed 2016 was a particularly busy year for the broadcaster with

events such as the 1916 centenary celebrations and the General Election.

The semi-State company also provided coverage of the Olympic Games in Rio and the European Championships in France among other international events.

RTE commented: "Travel within and outside Ireland is necessary for the successful operation of RTE and then delivery of our services to our audiences, both in Ireland and abroad.

"The vast majority of travel costs are incurred in the production of

news reports for RTE television, radio and online services, and in the production of factual, arts, entertainment and sports programming, both in Ireland and overseas, for RTE television, radio and online services.

"Senior RTE personnel also travel to a number of important trade shows across Europe and further afield to promote and sell original Irish programming produced or co-produced by, and to acquire programming for, RTE television, radio and online services.

"RTE also plays an active role in a number of European organisations, including the European Broadcasting Union which is an important organisation for RTE and for public service broadcasting in Ireland.

"While we have not yet published our Annual Report 2016, last year was one of the most ambitious and significant years in RTE's recent history."

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52k

Euro was spent on rail fares by RTE in 2016

1m

Euro increase on travel budget from 2015