



OUR PAWLITICAL MANIFESTO

How the next government
can create **a better future**
for dogs in Ireland



THE GREATEST GIFT



**the government can give dogs
is a new dedicated Junior Minister
for Animal Welfare and Control –
someone in the heart of government
that cares for dogs as much as you**

Currently **no one in government has sole responsibility** for the welfare of dogs. This new role will help bring together key policy areas that impact dog breeding, welfare, control and responsible ownership, that are **currently separated by siloes across multiple government departments**. They will help legislate for, regulate and enforce policies to protect the public, dog owners and our beloved pets.





End cruel breeding practices

Sadly we have seen **the horror in too many dogs' eyes** because of the cruelty and neglect they suffer on puppy farms. This needs to stop. To improve dog welfare standards, we believe **anyone** breeding, selling, or transferring the ownership of a puppy or litter of puppies should be **registered and licensed**. We want to see an **urgent review of the Dog Breeding Establishment Act 2010** including the 2018 guidelines, and for the **legislation to be properly enforced and resourced** so that negligent and abusive breeders can be held accountable.

Improving dog control and public safety

We want everyone to feel safe around dogs and for dog owners to feel empowered. Evidence has shown that **breed-based bans aren't effective**. We believe addressing the **root causes of dog aggression**, whatever the breed, will be the most effective long-term strategy. We're also calling for better education and support for responsible dog owners including regulation of the dog training and behaviour sector.



Enable more dogs to remain with their family in rented homes

One of the top reasons people seek to relinquish their dogs to us is accommodation issues, as landlords can enforce 'no dog' policies. In some cases, owners are forced into the impossible decision to give up their dog or else face becoming homeless. We are calling for the law to change to **give dog owners' rights**, while making sure landlords and their properties are also protected. We would like to see **Section 12 of the Residential Tenancies Act 2004 amended** to prohibit blanket bans on pets in tenancy agreements. This will help more dogs remain with their family, reducing surrenders to pounds and rescues, and abandonment of dogs across the country.

Enable full traceability of dogs

Full traceability will mean we can put the right safeguards in place to **future-proof the welfare of every dog in this country**, and ultimately **create a safer society** for dogs, their owners and the public. To achieve this, we need to change how we currently capture data on all dogs in this country. A brand new government-held database needs to be created, with information on every touchpoint in a dog's life – for example, their parentage, breeder, microchipping, licensing and details of dog-related incidents.

