



# ISPCA

CARING FOR ALL ANIMALS

## MANIFESTO for ANIMALS

General Election 2024

**#GE2024 #ISPCA**

Make your  
**vote count**  
**for animal welfare**

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Our Vision:  
**To end cruelty to animals in Ireland**

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The Irish Society For The Prevention  
Of Cruelty To Animals (ISPCA)

**WWW.ISPCA.IE**

# MANIFESTO FOR ANIMALS

Why you should vote in the general election

With the **General Election to be held on 29th November 2024** you will have an opportunity to vote for those candidates that support animal welfare. Animals play a huge part in our lives but sometimes they can be treated badly, cruelly treated or abused so we need to protect them.

The ISPCA is the leading animal welfare organisation dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and responsible rehoming of the most cruelly treated, neglected and abused animals imaginable.



**Prevent**



**Protect**



**Prosecute**

**Your vote can make a difference in this General Election.**

By asking canvassers their views on key animal welfare issues, you can gauge their support, highlight these key issues, ensuring they do better for animal welfare through the course of the next Government.



## KEY ANIMAL WELFARE ISSUES

### Education

The ISPCA believe that education is key to improving animal welfare in Ireland. The ISPCA continues to call on the Government to **introduce a mandatory animal welfare module to both the National and Secondary School Curriculum**, with a focus on responsible pet ownership and to give students an understanding of their moral and legal responsibilities to animals for which they are responsible, while also teaching empathy and compassion and the importance of being kind to animals. **The impact of early education would be generational and will help towards reducing the levels of animal suffering.**



### Animal Cruelty, Neglect and Abuse

Since May 2014, ISPCA Animal Welfare Inspectors have been Authorised Officers under the Animal Health and Welfare Act (AHWA) 2013. Last year, the ISPCA received over 10,000 calls for help made to the National Animal Cruelty Helpline on 0818 515515, with 3,164 referred to our Inspectorate for investigation. These complaints led 1,474 animals being seized or surrendered to the ISPCA. We also had a busy year in court, with 28 new cases brought forward within a total of 31 files prepared for prosecution of animal welfare offences.

### Funding

The ISPCA would like to see an increase in funding to recruit enough Inspectors to cover the whole country - currently covering only 16 counties - and to care for the animals that would result from each of their inspections. A robust enforcement of the all animal related legislations its critical.



# THE ISPCA CALLS ON THE NEXT GOVERNMENT TO PRIORITISE ANIMAL WELFARE

## Pet Animals

- ▶ **Stricter regulations on dog breeding in Ireland** and more robust enforcement of the Dog Breeding Establishment (DBE) Act 2010.
- ▶ Improved **enforcement of current Dog Control Legislation** such as Dogs being kept on leads when in public, muzzles on restricted breeds and stronger enforcement of Microchipping of Dogs Regulations.
- ▶ **A review of the XL Bully Breed ban.** Evidence from other countries consistently demonstrates that such bans fail to reduce dog bite incidents and instead present significant challenges for dog owners and the animal welfare sector. A review of the effectiveness of this change in legislation is necessary.
- ▶ Introduce a national Trap, Neuter, Release programme for feral cats.



## Equines

- ▶ Fully enforce the Equine Identification Regulations and the improved welfare of all equines.
- ▶ **A full review of all processes around animals destined for slaughter**, including how they are handled throughout transport, in lairage, and through slaughter in abattoirs.



## Wild Animals

- ▶ Abolish the issuing of hare coursing licences and finally put an end to this cruel, outdated, and barbaric practice, which is currently permitted to satisfy just a small minority of Irish people.
- ▶ Introduce a complete **ban** on the hunting of wild mammals with dogs as well as digging of animals with terriers.



# THE ISPCA CALLS ON THE NEXT GOVERNMENT TO PRIORITISE ANIMAL WELFARE

## Animals in Sport

The phased-out closure of the greyhound industry with a plan to address the large number of greyhounds that would be impacted, to ensure that their welfare is not compromised.

- ▶ **Immediate ban** on the export of greyhounds to non-EU countries with poor animal welfare standards.
- ▶ A review of the horse racing industry and regulation of all horse-drawn vehicles on roads.



## Farm Animals

Ban live animal exports to non-EU countries where welfare standards at their destination cannot be assured, and promote the export of meat on the hook, not the hoof.

- ▶ Full rearing and the slaughter of farm animals should take place in Ireland ending live exports.
- ▶ Phase out the use of cages for laying hens.
- ▶ Strong enforcement of regulations covering illegal tail-docking of pigs and a move towards 'cage free' pig farming.



## Animals in Science

Review of the number of scientific procedures which use live animals.

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## Exotic Species

Legal regulation regarding the keeping and selling of Exotic Pets.

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## SOME SAMPLE QUESTIONS YOU COULD ASK CANDIDATES IN YOUR AREA

- 1. What are your views on animal welfare in Ireland**, for example dog breeding, live export of farm animals such as calves recently highlighted in the media.
- 2.** What are your **views on animals used for sports** such as, greyhound racing, horseracing, live hare coursing, fox hunting etc?
- 3.** Did you know that in the 2025 budget, the state funding is due to allocate up to €99.1 million to horse and greyhound racing industries, while animal welfare charities only receive €6 million?  
**Would you support reviewing and redistributing this funding to prioritise animal welfare organisations like the ISPCA**, which work to rescue and rehabilitate abused and neglected animals?
- 4.** How **clear and transparent** do you think the Government has been in **communicating its animal welfare policies**?
- 5.** Do you think the Government managed the introduction of the **XL Bully breed-specific legislation** effectively?
- 6.** Currently the ISPCA has 9 Animal Welfare Inspectors covering 16 counties, would you support an increase of **Animal Welfare Inspectors to cover all counties in Ireland** and support development of their rehabilitation centres to help more animals?
- 7.** Would you support the ISPCA calling for **compulsory animal welfare modules to be taught** as part of the National and Secondary School Curriculum?
- 8.** Would you support **stronger penalties and a live register for those convicted of animal welfare offences**?
- 9.** Would you support a **phased-out approach of cages for farmed animals** such as laying hens?

**This General Election, the ISPCA is asking you to take a stand with us against animal cruelty.**

**Use your vote wisely – give your vote to the candidate you believe will stand up for animals!**

**WWW.ISPCA.IE**

The ISPCA is recognised as a Charitable Organisation by the Revenue Commissioners, CHY5619 and is registered with the Charities Regulatory Authority, Registered Charity Number 20008734

