

Manifesto for Cats: Northern Ireland



In brief

The *Manifesto for Cats: Northern Ireland* forms part of Cats Protection's advocacy work on "speaking up for cats," campaigning for change that will deliver a better world for cats. There are many actions that the government and local governments can do to ensure a better world for cats.

- **Cat breeding:** promoting neutering as well as updating the law to control the breeding and sales of cats to reduce the number of unwanted kittens
- **Care and wellbeing:** recognition of the benefits cats and other companion animals bring to health and personal wellbeing
- **Microchipping:** making it compulsory to microchip owned cats
- **Dangerous dogs:** full use of measures within dog legislation to minimise dog attacks on cats and promote responsible dog ownership
- **Animal welfare education:** inclusion of animal welfare in the Northern Irish curriculum so that all children learn about responsible pet care
- **Cats and housing providers:** Northern Irish government recognition of the needs of people with cats or other companion animals in rented housing and care homes to allow them to keep their pets
- **Welfare of cats in Northern Ireland:** greater investment in raising awareness of the welfare needs of animals and better enforcement of existing laws to improve how cases of neglect and mistreatment are reported and dealt with
- **Labelling toxic products:** clear labelling of flowers, plants and household products sold that are toxic to cats, so owners know what to avoid
- **Banning snares:** An outright ban on the use of snares on the basis they are inhumane and cruel and inflict suffering, injury or death upon animals caught in them, including cats
- **Illegal imports:** creating a national database to ensure that a central record is kept of all cats entering the UK legally so those entering illegally without a rabies vaccine can be identified without delay

Cats Protection is the UK's leading feline welfare charity. Our focus is on controlling domestic, stray and feral cat populations through neutering, providing education and information about cat welfare and rehoming cats. In Northern Ireland, over 60 volunteers run three branches which operate alongside our Belfast Adoption Centre.