



REGULATING DOG RESCUES

DEVELOPING A 'LEGAL TOOLKIT' FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

About the Project:

Dog rescues across the UK are currently inundated with dogs, as the cost-of-living crisis bites and people abandon animals (many acquired during the pandemic) in unprecedented numbers. At the same time applications to adopt have declined, generating a crisis in the sector. The absence of regulation/oversight means members of the public have no way to distinguish reputable rehoming organisations from those with poor welfare practices. This project examines the role that legal regulation could play in increasing both animal welfare standards and resilience within the rescue sector.

Research England funding allowed us to undertake interviews and focus groups with smaller rescues across the devolved nations of the UK whose voices are rarely represented in government consultations.

Interviews in Northern Ireland highlighted issues particular to this jurisdiction, including a dearth of legal advice regarding dog law. To address this, this project (funded by the ESRC) will facilitate further interviews, focus groups and stakeholder events with rescues operating across Northern Ireland. The experiences of rescues will inform an online dog law toolkit intended to address a lack of specialist legal expertise. A further aim is building an evidence base to keep regulation of rescue on the political agenda in Northern Ireland.



Economic
and Social
Research Council

Contact us:

For more information or to join the project mailing list please email info@regulationofdogrescue.com or see our website www.regulationofdogrescue.com



About Us



Professor Marie Fox

Marie Fox holds the Queen Victoria Chair of Law at the University of Liverpool. Her current research projects (funded by the Leverhulme Trust, Socio-legal Studies Association, Economic and Social Research Council and Research England) focus on pet loss, and the place of companion animals in care homes, regulation of animal rescues and governance of assisted reproductive technologies and direct to consumer testing. More generally, her research is concerned with the legal governance of human and animal bodies, legal conceptions of embodiment, pet loss and regulation of reproduction. She is a Trustee and Homing Officer for North West English Springer Spaniel Rescue and is an editor of the journal *Social & Legal Studies*.



Dr Sarah Singh

Sarah Singh has a long-standing interest in animal law. Prior to her current position as a lecturer in the School of Law and Social Justice at the University of Liverpool, Sarah was employed at LJMU (2009–2017) where she taught one of the first animal law modules introduced in the UK. She has presented at national and international conferences exploring animal law topics including a legal analysis of companion animal adoption agreements and the impact of Covid-19 on dog rescues. Sarah's current project on regulation of animal rescues is funded by Research England and the Economic and Social Research Council. She is also Secretary and a Trustee of North West English Springer Spaniel Rescue.

Contact us:

For more information or to join the project mailing list please email info@regulationofdogrescue.com or see our website www.regulationofdogrescue.com

