



## **ANIMAL WELFARE**

United**Future**'s position is to toughen penalties for animal cruelty. Currently there are two sections in law that deal with animal cruelty: Section 28 and 29 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999. Abuse and tolerance of animal mistreatment should not be placed in a separate category from other criminal activities. The common assumption that inhumane treatment of animals is distinct from how we treat people is simply false. In fact, how we treat the most vulnerable in our society reveals more about us than anything else. Cruelty cannot be mitigated on the basis of who or what it is directed at.

The current maximum penalty for an offence relating to the ill-treatment of an animal under Section 29 is a \$25,000 fine or six months in prison.

- It is United**Future** policy to increase these penalties to a maximum fine of \$50,000 or one year in prison.

Currently, prosecutions are brought by inspectors who are specifically authorised under Section 168 of the Act. Generally, prosecutions are brought by the SPCA.

- It is United**Future** policy to widen the jurisdiction to include recognised community organisations dealing specifically with animal welfare.

United**Future** has become increasingly concerned with the number of serious and fatal dog attacks that have occurred throughout New Zealand over the last few years.

- It is United**Future** policy to place dangerous breeds on a ban-list and require neutering for dogs on that list as well as placing a ban on new animals. No one will have to give up their current pet, but over time the number of dangerous dogs will drop until such breeds no longer exist in New Zealand.

United**Future** supports informed choice in consumer affairs. More specifically, there is currently no regulation to enforce the details of egg manufacture, allowing producers to adopt misleading advertising to blur the distinction between battery and free-range eggs.

- It is United**Future** policy to promote mandatory standardised labelling with regard to the use of animals in food production.