

# An Ode to Paul O'Grady

He was the most compassionate soul. A real life Noah here on earth.  
He took all the forgotten animals who were lost or abused and reminded them of their worth.

He provided hours of entertainment and donned different guises on TV.  
Wearing a dress when he was Lily Savage or in his civvies when he visited Battersea.

He was the host of many different programmes and a master at delivering comedy.  
From Blankety Blank and Blind Date to his very own show there was something there for everybody.

It was apparent that he had a particular love for the species of the four legged kind.  
From animal orphans to all varieties of waifs and strays his heartfelt empathy was aligned.

Perhaps he knew that animals are sometimes nicer than people and grateful for his attention.  
As far as he was concerned no matter what their back story was they all deserved to have a mention.

He had Irish roots and his ancestors came from Louth and from Roscommon.  
He had a modest upbringing and nobody could have predicted what he would become involved in.

Or how he would devote his life to making other people laugh whilst staying true to what he believed in.  
He was always a champion for those less fortunate and that was the biggest motivation for him.

Thank you for the all the nights you gave us where we curled up in front of the fire.  
And watched whilst you met, charmed and rehomed the pups whose lives were sad and dire.

Paul O'Grady's 'For the Love of Dogs' was a staple favourite in our house where...  
We loved to follow your escapades - you were our favourite Scouser!

A fond farewell to you Paul. We are so sorry to see you go.  
May you rest in peace and be in the company of some of the rescues from your show.

Love and blessings to your daughter and grandchildren and your partner who you loved so dear.  
They know you have been reunited with Cilla and others who will greet you with much cheer.

I'm sure Buster and Olga will be waiting with open arms delighted to be reunited  
with their loving master.

And that Rainbow Bridge will be a place of celebration today with Paul  
receiving his own Happy Ever After.

*By Fionnuala Cassidy*

