

Agnes Stawosz

Dogville



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Polish-born Agnes Stawosz moved to Ireland over 25 years ago to work in a luxury hotel in Killarney. She's taken her experiences in the hospitality industry to create her new business Dogville, a luxury dog boarding and grooming service based outside Cork City.

In 2007, Agnes opened her own restaurant, however during the recession, her business began to struggle and she closed, having established it as a well-loved part of the community.

After some time working on the renovation and subsequent opening of an old local pub and apartments, Agnes decided to give hospitality another go, this time opening her own café.

A keen learner, she completed a dog grooming course locally during Covid. In this, she found a new passion and soon began grooming dogs for friends and neighbours, building up a loyal customer base who began asking if she could look after their dogs while they were on holidays, but her city home didn't have the space required.

Unwilling to give up on the opportunity, Agnes sold her house and bought a property in the countryside with large gardens, offering home boarding for dogs, while still running her café. With an increase in demand, she sold her café and dedicated her time to her new business.

Today she offers a range of quality services including grooming, walking and luxury accommodation at the Dog Pavilion, a home extension designed specifically for dogs.

With Dogville already fully booked for Summer 2026, Agnes credits the ACORNS programme with helping her reflect on lessons learned from previous ventures while giving her the confidence, knowledge, and support network to scale her business successfully. She also values the strong friendships and connections she built through the programme.

Looking ahead, Agnes plans to expand Dogville further by developing luxury dog beds made from upcycled materials, including hotel duvets and high-quality fabric offcuts. Early prototypes are already being used in the Dog Pavilion, combining sustainability with the comfort and luxury that have become synonymous with the Dogville brand.

Providing early stage female entrepreneurs, living in rural Ireland, with the knowledge, support and networking opportunities to meet and even exceed their current aspirations.



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine