

MEDIA RELEASE from

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Cats Protection celebrates National Volunteers Week

Cats Protection's army of volunteers wants to attract some new recruits during National Volunteers Week, 1 - 7 June 2001.

Currently, 5 000 volunteers carry out 90 per cent of the work of the UK's largest and oldest feline welfare charity. Volunteers from all walks of life work from 250 Branches across the UK to look after many of the 170,000 cats helped by the organisation each year.

Cats Protection volunteers are so effective that they manage to care for more animals per year than all the other animal welfare charities in the UK. The same goes for the number of cats rehomed by the charity. Cats Protection volunteers rehome 70,000 cats annually - more than the total sum of animals rehomed by all other organisations combined.

Whilst rescuing, rehabilitating and rehoming cats and kittens are important volunteer tasks, many people contribute other important skills such as bookkeeping, home visiting, driving and transportation, public relations and fund-raising to help their local Branch.

"It doesn't matter if people are unable to care for cats directly or are unable to spare a lot of time. It's enthusiasm, commitment and a love for animals that are important," explained Debbie Pearce, Head of Operations. "We have such a large range of volunteer opportunities available that generally we can successfully match people's interests and skills to tasks on offer."

There is no such thing as a 'typical' Cats Protection volunteer. Heidi is just one of many who enjoys volunteering her skills, time and energy to successfully care for cats in her local area.

Despite working full-time, Heidi still finds time to devote 12-15 hours a week to her local Cats Protection Branch. "I just love cats, so rescuing and rehoming them is wonderful," says Heidi. "I also enjoy all the friendship and professional support I get from the organisation."

Heidi started volunteering for the charity four years ago after attending a local Shelter's open day. Last year, she took on the role of Branch publicity officer. She also finds time to care for foster cats waiting for new homes. Heidi's husband is an 'unofficial Branch volunteer'. His support of Cats Protection has earned him the title of unsung hero of the Branch!

For more information on volunteering opportunities with Stourbridge Cats Protection, covering postcodes DY3 – DY10, please contact Kathryn on ☎ 01562 515403.

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For more information, please contact Rob Hall, Stourbridge Branch PR Officer on ☎ 07884 432306 or Emma Osborne, Cats Protection Press Officer on ☎ 01403 221 934.