

31st August 2001

A Guide to Cats Protection

Cats Protection Week: 8 – 15 September 2001



❖ **Origins**

As a result of widespread ignorance concerning the correct care of cats and kittens, Cats Protection was formed in London on 16 May 1927 to promote the interests of cats in this country. Today, it is the oldest, largest and most go-ahead feline charity in the UK.

❖ **Objectives**

Cats Protection's original objectives have remained unchanged since 1927. They are:

- To rescue stray and unwanted cats and kittens and, where possible, to rehome them.
- To encourage the neutering of all cats and kittens.
- To provide information about the proper care of cats and kittens.

Cats Protection has a strict non-euthanasia policy. No healthy cat in the organisation's care is ever put to sleep. Cats and kittens are looked after until loving new homes are found.

❖ **Key areas of operation**

- **Shelter and Branch network.** Cats Protection has 29 permanent Shelters and 250 voluntary Branches situated throughout the UK.
- **Neutering.** The charity's Headquarters runs several innovative low or no-cost neutering schemes for cats belonging to people on a low income. These include an annual spring neutering campaign and a year-round assisted-cost neutering voucher scheme. The organisation also supports a low-cost neutering clinic in North London. Additionally, many Branches run their own local neutering programmes including a mobile neutering clinic run by the Preston Branch. Around 5% of domestic cats in the UK have been neutered with the help of Cats Protection.
- **Helpline.** Cats Protection's telephone Helpline team answer over 650 calls a day dealing with problems ranging from lost cats to advice on cat welfare.
- **Education.** Cats Protection's educational initiatives include a wide range of free cat care brochures, several children's publications and a set of school packs for nursery, primary and secondary levels.

❖ Vital statistics

During the past year, Cats Protection has helped thousands of needy felines.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Daily average</u>
• Number of cats and kittens rehomed :	65,000	178
• Number of cats neutered :	120,500	328
• Number of cats and kittens in CP's care that received veterinary help : 242	88,500	
• Number of cats and kittens reunited with their owners care of CP:	4,700	13

Where does Cats Protection rehome cats?

<u>Area of UK</u>	<u>% of cats rehomed</u>
South East and East (excluding London)	20%
South West	15%
Central England	21%
Wales and West Midlands	19%
North	13%
Scotland and Northern Ireland	12%

Over the past five years alone, Cats Protection has:

- Rescued and rehomed **over 320,000 cats**.
- Helped provide **urgent veterinary treatment** for 400,000 injured cats.
- **Neutered** and spayed over 500,000 cats.
- Reunited approximately **20,000 lost cats** with their owners.

Reasons for cats coming into the care of Cats Protection Shelters:

<u>Reason</u>	<u>% of cats that come in</u>
Asthma/allergy	9.5%
Behavioural problems	6.5%
Can't afford vet bills or upkeep	3.5%
Cat doesn't get on with other pets/too many cats	5%
Cat/s don't get on with children/partner	5%
Change in work patterns	1%
Going away and don't want to pay for cattery	0.5%
Having a baby	6%
Just don't want cat anymore	4.5%
Moving to accommodation where cats not allowed or don't want to take cat	14.5%
Owner died or in hospital	2.5%
Relationship/marital breakdown	0.5%
Stray/abandoned	36.5%
Miscellaneous other reasons	4.5%

Other useful facts and figures:

- 96% of cats and kittens in Cats Protection's care are rehomed within six months.
- At any one time, the organisation can be looking for homes for over 8,000 cats and still have a long waiting list.
- Cats Protection does not receive any government funding and relies upon the public's generous financial support to continue and expand the charity's work.

❖ Cats Protection Volunteer information

- 90% of the organisation's rescue work is carried out by 6,000 volunteers.
- Volunteers spend six million hours each year caring for cats.
- A Cats Protection volunteer owns three cats on average.
- Cats Protection has approximately 55,000 members.

❖ For further information

- Cats Protection **website:** www.cats.org.uk
- **email:** cpl@cats.org.uk
- **Helpline:** 01403 221 919. Open Monday – Friday from 9.00 am to 4.30 pm.

Helpline staff can answer general cat welfare queries, provide callers with the contact details of their nearest Branch or Shelter and advise on Cats Protection services and resources.