



MEDIA RELEASE

Stourbridge Cats Protection

Release date: 9th April 2003

Daisy Pulls Through!

A four month old cat from Stourbridge is making a remarkable recovery after being shot by an airgun several weeks ago, thanks in part to the Stourbridge Branch of Cats Protection – the national feline charity.

Daisy's owner, nine year old Beth Townsend, was heartbroken after the incident which left Daisy needing an operation to repair her shattered shoulder. The cost of the operation topped £400 but the Townsend family had only managed to raise £250, leaving them £150 short. Fortunately, the Stourbridge Branch of Cats Protection stepped in with the outstanding cash.

Rob Hall, Public Relations Officer for the branch said:

“We are not normally able to help with veterinary bills but we do consider requests on a case-by-case basis. With incidents such as Daisy's where the cat has suffered trauma through not fault of their own we are sometimes able to make a discretionary payment towards the total bill. In this case the family were not asking for the full amount and our Committee felt that Daisy was a very deserving case.”

A survey conducted five years ago by Cats Protection amongst veterinary surgeons showed that 10,000 cats each year were injured by airguns. The problem has worsened since then and, judging by the many stories the charity hears about the problem, it estimates the figure to be closer to 15,000 now.

There is currently a lot of political pressure on government to change gun laws and the Home Office has announced that it is going to make it illegal for anyone to carry an airgun in public without good reason. Additionally, the age limit for acquiring and using an airgun without adult supervision is to be increased from the present age of 14 to 17.

Rob Hall, said:

“This is good news for all animals and cats in particular. People who indulge in this sick 'sport' should be aware that the government is taking the issue very seriously and people will be prosecuted – including heavy fines or even imprisonment - if caught. West Midlands Police is operating a firearms amnesty until 30th April and we would urge anyone owning an airgun without good reason to hand it in to their local Police Station now.”

Cats Protection does not investigate cases of cruelty and anyone with any information should contact either their local Police or the RSPCA's Cruelty Line on 0870 55 55 999.

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Notes for Editors

1. For more information please contact Rob, PR Officer, on 07092 364572.
2. Stourbridge Branch of Cats Protection covers postcodes **DY3 – DY10**, which encompasses Wollaston, Norton, Pedmore, Lye, Kinver, Kingswinford, Hagley, Brierley Hill, Tipton, Sedgley, most of Kidderminster and Bewdley.