



# ***MEDIA RELEASE***

## ***Stourbridge Cats Protection***

Release date: 17<sup>th</sup> February 2003

### **Local cats suffering unnecessarily**

**Needy cats in the DY3 – DY10 postcode areas are suffering unnecessarily because Stourbridge Cats Protection is unable to reach them due to a shortage of volunteers prepared to help with the charity's cat rescue work.**

Delays of several weeks are being experienced in getting to ill, injured and homeless cats because of a lack of manpower. The situation is particularly acute during the winter months and with the kitten season just around the corner.

The charity is placing a desperate appeal for people to get in touch and offer their help. Volunteers are particularly needed to help with fostering cats, manning the branch's helpline and at fundraising events. A Homing Officer is also needed to receive cats into the branch, place cast with suitable homes and ensure that home visits are carried out. The charity is also on the look out for a new Branch Co-ordinator to take overall charge of the Branch and liaise with head office.

Volunteers can be male or female; the only requirement is a love of cats. All new volunteers will be given specific tasks to carry out and these will be relevant to their abilities and the amount of time that they can offer.

Stourbridge Cats Protection (which also covers Wollaston, Norton, Pedmore, Lye, Kinver, Kingswinford, Hagley, Brierley Hill, Tipton, Sedgley, Belbroughton and most of Kidderminster) re-homed 131 cats last year and helped many more cats. The charity is doing its best to reduce the number of homeless cats through neutering and public awareness campaigns but the problem is an ongoing one and one with which the charity is struggling to cope.

#### **Rob Hall, Public Relations Officer for the branch said:**

"Cats Protection is one of the few animal charities where people can get actively involved – and it makes a real difference. Animal rescue does not just take place on television, it takes place on our own doorsteps and we need people to help with that work."

Apart from the actual rescuing of abandoned and homeless cats, help is needed with transporting cats to and from vets, visiting prospective new homes for cats, staffing the branch helpline, fundraising events and the fostering of cats on a temporary basis. Vets' fees, food bills for foster cats and other out of pocket expenses are paid for out of branch funds.

Anyone interested in getting involved should ring 07092 301745, write to Stourbridge Cats Protection, PO Box 3457, Kidderminster, DY10 2ZT or e-mail [rob@stourbridgecats.org.uk](mailto:rob@stourbridgecats.org.uk).

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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.