



MEDIA RELEASE

Stourbridge and District Cats Protection

For immediate release: 1st June 2005

Cats Protection celebrates National Volunteers Week

Keen volunteers from Cats Protection's Stourbridge and District Branch want to attract some new recruits during National Volunteers Week, 1 – 7 June 2005.

Currently, 5,500 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 260 Branches across the UK to look after many of the 170,000 cats helped by the organisation each year.

Whilst rescuing, rehabilitating and re-homing cats and kittens are important volunteer tasks, many people contribute important skills such as bookkeeping, home visiting, driving and transportation, staffing charity shops, answering helplines and fund-raising to help their Branch.

Rob Hall, Public Relations Officer for the Branch, said:

“It doesn't matter if people are unable to care for cats directly or are unable to spare a lot of time. Its enthusiasm, commitment and a love for animals that is important.

“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.”

Here are a few people who enjoy volunteering their skills, time and energy to successfully care for cats in the DY1-DY13 area.

Lindsey Clode works with children during the day and devotes her spare time to rescuing and re-homing cats and kittens. It's varied and no two days are the same – she can be called on to go and rescue abandoned or injured cats at any time of the day or night. She's also responsible for matching up cats being cared for by the Branch with people looking to home a cat or kitten.

Beryl Whiley is retired but devoted six hours a day, five days a week to help in the Branch's charity shop in Lye. The involves sorting and pricing donated goods, ironing, using the till and meeting and chatting to the large number of people that pop into the shop. She's also responsible for taking calls from people who have a cat that they'd like the Branch to look after.

Rob Hall works as an Information Officer and uses his skills in his spare time in his role as Public Relations Officer for the Branch. This involves writing press releases, arranging photos, publicising fundraising events and looking after the Branch's website. It's a varied an interesting job and he's fortunate in that he can fit it in around his 'day job'.

Anyone interested in finding out more about local volunteer opportunities with Cats Protection should contact the Branch on 07092 301745.

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For more information and to arrange a photo, please contact Rob, PR Officer, on 07092 364572.

Notes for Editors

1. The Stourbridge and District Branch of Cats Protection covers postcodes DY1 – DY13, which encompasses Stourbridge, Lye, Kinver, Kingswinford, Hagley, Brierley Hill, Tipton, Dudley, Sedgley, Kidderminster, Stourport and Bewdley.
2. Cats Protection is the UK's oldest and largest cat welfare charity.

The aims of Cats Protection are:

- To rescue stray and unwanted cats and kittens, rehabilitate and re-home them.
 - To encourage the neutering of all cats and kittens not required for breeding.
 - To inform the public on the care of cats and kittens.
3. Volunteers' Week is a national celebration of volunteers and volunteering which takes place from 1 – 7 June of each year. The Week aims to promote innovative ways to thank, recruit and involve volunteers and raises the profile of the work of the UK's 22 million volunteers. Now in its 21st year, Volunteers' Week is a major event in the UK's volunteering calendar.