



MEDIA RELEASE

Stourbridge and District Cats Protection

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Top tips for keeping cats cool this summer

The Stourbridge and District Branch of Cats Protection, the UK's oldest and largest feline welfare charity, is urging owners to be aware of their cat's needs over the summer months in order to keep puss safe and happy.

The charity suggests some simple guidelines for cat owners to ensure their pet's well being during the hot weather:

- ❖ **Sun protection:** Cats love sun-bathing but many are at risk of sun damage, particularly white and pale-coloured cats and those with sparse hair on their ears. Ideally, all cats should be kept in between 12 noon and 3.00 pm on hot, sunny days but this isn't always possible. It is best to protect your cat's vulnerable bits with a sunscreen containing titanium dioxide, which is insoluble in water and safe for cats. Sun E-45 is non-toxic to cats and offers UVA/UVB protection.
- ❖ **Shade and water:** Most cats will find themselves a nice shady spot when the going gets hot, but it is a good idea to keep an eye on elderly cats, as they are more likely to suffer from heat stroke. Make sure puss has access to plenty of water and, if a cat starts to pant, seek veterinary assistance immediately.
- ❖ **Car travel:** Cats should not be left alone in a car, even during short journeys. Water should be carried as a precaution and, again, seek veterinary advice if puss starts panting.
- ❖ **Food:** Cats do not always want to eat a lot during hot weather. However, if puss seems persistently off his food, it is best to seek veterinary advice.
- ❖ **Holidays:** Cats Protection does not recommend that owners take their felines with them when they go on holiday. Cats are territorial animals and, if they get lost in a strange environment, it can create a logistical nightmare – not to mention a terrified pet.
- ❖ **Leaving puss at home:** During holiday times, cats are best left at home in the hands of a pet sitter or reliable friend/family member. It is recommended that the carer visits the home twice a day to feed and water puss, as well as provide some fuss and play.
- ❖ **Cattery:** If it is impossible for puss to be cared for at home, the second-best option is to book him into a reliable cattery. A good establishment won't mind a pre-stay visit to check out cleanliness, security, and pen facilities. Catteries can cater for special veterinary needs and require an up-to-date vaccination certificate for feline guests.

- ***Prior to leaving:*** Check outbuildings and shut rooms in the house to double-check for trapped felines!

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For more information please contact Rob Hall, PR Officer, on 07092 364572.

Notes for Editors

- The Stourbridge and District Branch of Cats Protection covers postcodes DY1 – DY13, which encompasses Stourbridge, Kinver, Kingswinford, Hagley, Brierley Hill, Tipton, Dudley, Sedgley, Kidderminster, Stourport, Bewdley and the Wyre Forest area.
- Cats Protection is the UK's oldest and largest feline 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.