



MEDIA RELEASE

Stourbridge and District Cats Protection

For immediate release: 30th October 2006

BBC Radio WM's Mollie Green set to open Cats Protection's extended shop

Radio WM presenter and celebrity cat-lover, Mollie Green, is set to officially open Stourbridge and District Cat's Protection's recently extended charity shop this Saturday (4th November).

The opening and official 'ribbon cutting' will take place at 14:00 and Mollie will also be joined by rescue cat Jasper.

Mollie Green, BBC Radio WM's early morning presenter, said:

"With winter upon us, it's inevitable that many cats will need the help of the Cats Protection in the coming months, so it's very important that we all continue to support the shop in any way we can, especially after the recent break-in. I wish it every continued success. Shopping AND helping cats... what could be better?"

The new shop is more than twice size of the previous shop after the charity took over the former fancy dress shop that was next door.

Rob Hall, PR Officer for the Stourbridge and District Branch, said:

"We're really pleased that Mollie is able to join us to perform the official opening. She has several cats of her own and has been a long time supporter of our Branch.

"Our existing shop has been doing so well that we've found ourselves short of space – particularly to accommodate large donations such as items of furniture that people were offering us.

"This extension means that we can now take these items as well as increasing the area that we have available for displaying the range of other items that we sell.

"It has taken a dedicated group of volunteers several months to carry out all of the work and customers have been really excited at what they've seen whilst the work has been going on.

"It costs us more than £12,000 each year to look after the cats and kittens that come into our care and we hope that the extended shop will go a long way to helping us raise this money.

"We really hope that local people will support that shop, and therefore local cats and kittens, not only by buying things from us but also by donating good quality second-hand items and even helping out in the shop for a few hours each week!"

The shop sells good quality second-hand items including clothes, books, videos, bric-a-brac, china, glass, jewellery, CDs and now furniture. There is also be a wide-range of official Cats Protection merchandise on offer including Christmas goods (such as cards and wrapping paper), and items for cats and their owners alike!

Anyone interested who has items to donate or would like to help out in the shop can contact the shop directly on 01384 422208.

Stourbridge and District Cats Protection is part of the charity's nationwide network of 29 Centres and 260+ voluntary-run Branches that together re-home 60,000 cats each year.

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

Digital images of the opening will be available via email after Saturday – please let Rob Hall know if you would like copies.

Notes for Editors

- The Stourbridge and District Branch of Cats Protection covers postcodes DY1 – DY13, which includes Stourbridge, Kinver, Kingswinford, Hagley, Brierley Hill, Tipton, Dudley, Sedgley, Kidderminster, Stourport, Bewdley and the Wyre Forest area.
- Mollie Green has been involved in the media for most of her career. She worked for several commercial radio stations before taking a job managing the traffic and travel centre in Birmingham, which provided the latest news for most of the radio stations in the area. After a few years of reporting from the flying eye and dealing with traffic police, she hung up her fluffy travel dice and went to BBC WM.

Away from work, Mollie's main passion is animals. Chez Green houses her deaf and blind cats: "I know it sounds a bit daft, but I find my mogs a real inspiration. They all have a disability but they all just get on with things - yes, a couple have got broken noses where they have run into walls, but what amazes me is that they just keep on running!"

- Cats Protection is the UK's oldest and largest feline welfare charity. Founded as the Cats Protection League in 1927, **the charity adopted the name Cats Protection in 1998. We ask that you use the name Cats Protection when referring to the charity in all published material.**
- 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.