



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## ***Stourbridge and District Cats Protection***

For immediate release: 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2007

NEUTERING 1

## **Cats Protection offers FREE neutering for local cats**

**Volunteers from the Stourbridge and District Branch of Cats Protection, the UK's leading feline welfare charity, will be out and about this week offering help to enable local people to get their cats neutered free of charge.**

The charity's mobile unit will be setting up at the following locations:

- **Dudley Market Place** on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September between 10am and 4pm
- **Asda, Great Bridge** on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September between 10am and 4pm
- **Town Gate Retail Park, Burnt Tree Island** on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September between 10am and 4pm (unit will be outside the Currys store)

Volunteers will be on hand to offer advice on neutering and to issue free vouchers which can be used at local vets to cover the full cost of neutering a cat.

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

“Like many areas of the country, we have a problem with unwanted cats and kittens. Responsible preventative measures such as neutering need to be taken very seriously by cat owners.

“Neutering is essential in controlling the feline population. Cats are prolific breeders and, with one un-neutered female capable of being responsible for 20,000 descendants in five years, it's easy to see how the problem can escalate.

“Our full-cost neutering voucher scheme aims to help stop the problem where it starts and reduce the number of abandoned and suffering cats in this area.

“Despite some male cat owners' fears that neutering tom cats is the unkindest snip of all, we would stress that neutering both male and female cats is essential for controlling that cat population.”

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There are many persistent myths and misconceptions about neutering, despite a wealth of evidence proving its benefits. The facts are:

- A female un-neutered cat can be responsible for 20,000 descendants over five years.
- A female cat can start to reproduce from six months old, having up to three litters a year, with up to five or six kittens per litter.
- Male cats are fertile from six months, and can impregnate up to 32 female cats a year.
- Most cats killed on the roads are un-neutered males.
- It is a misconception to think that a cat should have a litter before she is neutered.
- Neutered cats are healthier, happier and more affectionate – particularly males.

To find out more about neutering please contact Cats Protection's Stourbridge and District Branch on 0844 884 8518 or visit [www.stourbridgecats.org.uk](http://www.stourbridgecats.org.uk).

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### **Notes for Editors**

- Please contact Rob Hall on 07092 364572 for more information or to arrange a photo.
- Cats Protection's Stourbridge and District Branch is part of the UK's leading feline welfare charity which helps 142,000 cats each year through a national network of 29 Adoption Centres and 252 volunteer-run Branches.
- The Stourbridge and District Branch covers postcodes DY1 – DY13, which includes Stourbridge, Kinver, Kingswinford, Hagley, Brierley Hill, Tipton, Dudley, Sedgley, Kidderminster, Stourport, Bewdley and the Wyre Forest area.
- 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.
- Cats Protection's registered charity number is 203644. The charity's vision is to ensure that every cat is given the chance of a life where it will be treated with kindness and understanding of its needs.