



MEDIA RELEASE

Stourbridge and District Cats Protection

For immediate release: 9th July 2007

CAT GARDENS 1

Top tips to keep your cat safe in the garden this summer

Summer's here and just like gardeners, cats will be enjoying the long days and warmer weather amongst the flowers and shrubs.

Whilst most felines will be perfectly safe in the great outdoors, there are a host of potential garden hazards for cats – so Cats Protection's Stourbridge and District Branch has compiled a list of tips to keep cats safe this summer.

Lilies, barbeques and too much sun exposure can all prove harmful to felines, as explained by Rob Hall, PR Officer for the Branch.

Rob said: "Many people are aware of the risks connected with sunbathing in humans but do not realise that cats can be affected as well. Whilst the sun can be very damaging, there are also lots of other potential dangers to felines during the summer months so we would advise owners to be aware of these hazards."

Cats Protection's top tips to keep cats safe this summer are:

Read the label on pest control products - Slug pellets which contain metaldehyde can prove fatal to cats, so make sure any pest control products are safe for felines.

Take care with barbeques - If you are planning to enjoy some al-fresco dining during the summer, make sure barbeque coals are properly cooled with water as your cat can suffer nasty burns if he or she jumps onto them once you are finished.

Check your plants and flowers are feline friendly - Certain plants and flowers can be toxic to cats, particularly lilies – even if your cat simply brushes against them before licking the pollen from its fur. Avoid buying lilies, both for outdoors and indoor arrangements, and if you think your cat has eaten or come into contact with any part of a lily, then get him to a vet as soon as possible. For a full list of potentially dangerous plants, visit the Feline Advisory Bureau website on <http://www.fabcats.org>

Protect your cat from the sun - Like humans, cats can develop skin cancer from too much sun exposure and certain cats, particularly white and pale cats or those with sparse hair on their ears, are more at risk. A high factor sun-block which is safe for babies can be obtained from pharmacies and can be applied to vulnerable areas such as the ears, but owners should be aware that most cats will clean this off. Therefore, it is best to keep your cat indoors or in the shade between 11am and 4pm when the sun is at its hottest. Fortunately, most cats like a snooze around this time, so provide a quiet spot and a litter tray and your cat is likely to stay indoors.

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Keep the doors of sheds and greenhouses shut – Be careful not to accidentally trap cats inside outbuildings during hot weather.

Ensure your cat has appropriate flea treatment - Fleas thrive in hot weather, so make sure your cat is protected against them. Your vet will be able to advise on what treatment is most suitable for your pet.

For more information about cat care or to offer a cat a home, please call the Stourbridge and District Branch on 0845 644 2103.

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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 charity's nationwide network of 29 Adoption Centres and 261 voluntary-run Branches that together find loving homes for around 60,000 cats every year. The Stourbridge and District Branch currently has many cats and kittens in its care awaiting a second chance in life. For more information on giving an unwanted or abandoned cat a home, please contact the Branch on 0845 644 2103.
- 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.
- 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.
- More information about the work of the Stourbridge and District Branch can be found at www.stourbridgecats.org.uk