



MEDIA RELEASE

Stourbridge and District Cats Protection

For immediate release: 20th October 2007

Remember, remember... your cat during fireworks season

The Stourbridge and District Branch of Cats Protection has issued advice to local owners to help keep pet cats safe during the fireworks season.

Whilst the celebrations can be great fun for people, cats can be left stressed-out, confused or injured by fireworks.

Rob Hall, PR Officer for the Branch said:

“Apart from the obvious physical damage suffered through accidental contact with fireworks, cats can be badly affected by fireworks noise and lights.

“Possible behavioural problems as a result of fear and stress could include house soiling or excessive grooming, whilst there is also the danger of a pet cat running away and never returning home.”

A few simple precautions can help owners to keep their cat out of harm's way:

- Keep your cat in after dark and provide him with a litter tray if he is used to having garden access.
- Try to reduce outside noise by keeping windows shut and curtains drawn. Playing soothing music or having the TV on may also help.
- In order to feel secure, cats need to be settled in cosy, familiar territory such as a comfy bed or favourite chair. Also consider providing your cat with a safe place to hide, such as an igloo bed
- Make sure all doors and windows are securely closed to prevent your cat from escaping the home
- Pheromone plug-in diffusers that are used to decrease anxiety and spraying also have a beneficial effect in calming a cat during fireworks, but you must start using them a couple of weeks before 5 November to maximise the benefit.

If you are having your own bonfire night celebration this year, then consider:

- Buying hand-held cascading fireworks rather than the noisier varieties
- Holding a 'silent' fireworks display – many companies now offer quiet or almost silent fireworks – giving you the same spectacle without the loud bangs
- Keeping fireworks and bonfire displays as far away from homes as possible, to minimise any adverse effects on animals indoors, though bear in mind the effect these displays will have on wild animals
- Check bonfires before lighting them to ensure that no small animals are sleeping inside.

For further advice on keeping felines safe and happy during the fireworks season please call Cats Stourbridge and District Branch on 0844 884 8520 or email help@stourbridgecats.org.uk

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

Notes for Editors

- 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.