



MEDIA RELEASE

Stourbridge and District Cats Protection

For immediate release: 25th February 2008

Longer-life cats are left on the shelf says local cat charity

Cats are living longer, but the homeless feline senior citizen is being overlooked, according to Cats Protection's Stourbridge and District Branch.

The Branch says that improvements in cat care have greatly raised the life expectancy and quality of life for cats across the UK, including a number of older cats being looked after by the Branch.

However, the bad news is that owners still appear to choose a cute, fluffy kitten or young cat over an older cat – and this puts a massive strain on the Branch.

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

“Whilst ten years ago the household moggie could have been expected to live to around thirteen, today's life expectancy is much higher, and we have seen many cats surviving to their late-teens and early-20s in remarkably good health.

“However, their longer existence places our Branch under strain because older cats can take up pen spaces for many months, which means we are unable to help other needy cats or kittens until the older ones are found new homes.

“It is a shame because older cats have a lot to offer, as they tend to be lap cats and have much more settled natures. Though the Branch does its very best to care for older cats, life in a cat pen is no substitute for a permanent home so I would urge people to consider adopting an older cat.”

One older cat in desperate need of a home is Harry, a black and white male cat who came into the Branch after living rough in a pensioner's back garden for some time. He was un-neutered and in poor condition as a result of his outdoor life. Since being taken in by the Branch he's been neutered, cleaned, checked over by a vet and is enjoying a proper diet for the first time in a long while. Although quite a shy boy, he's very friendly and would suit a quiet home with no children or other pets where he could have access to the outside.

For advice about caring for a cat, or to offer a cat a home, please call the Branch on 0844 884 8520.

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For more information, or to arrange a photo, please contact Rob, PR Officer, on 07092 364572.

Notes for Editors

- The attached photo shows Rob Hall from the Stourbridge and District Branch with Harry who's looking for a new home.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.