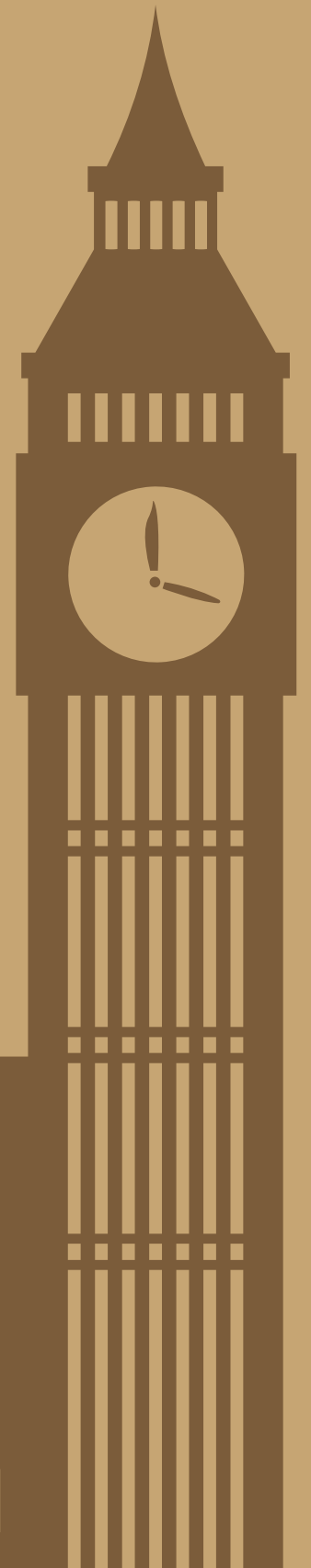




# The Time is Meow

A cat welfare action  
plan for Westminster  
Summary guide



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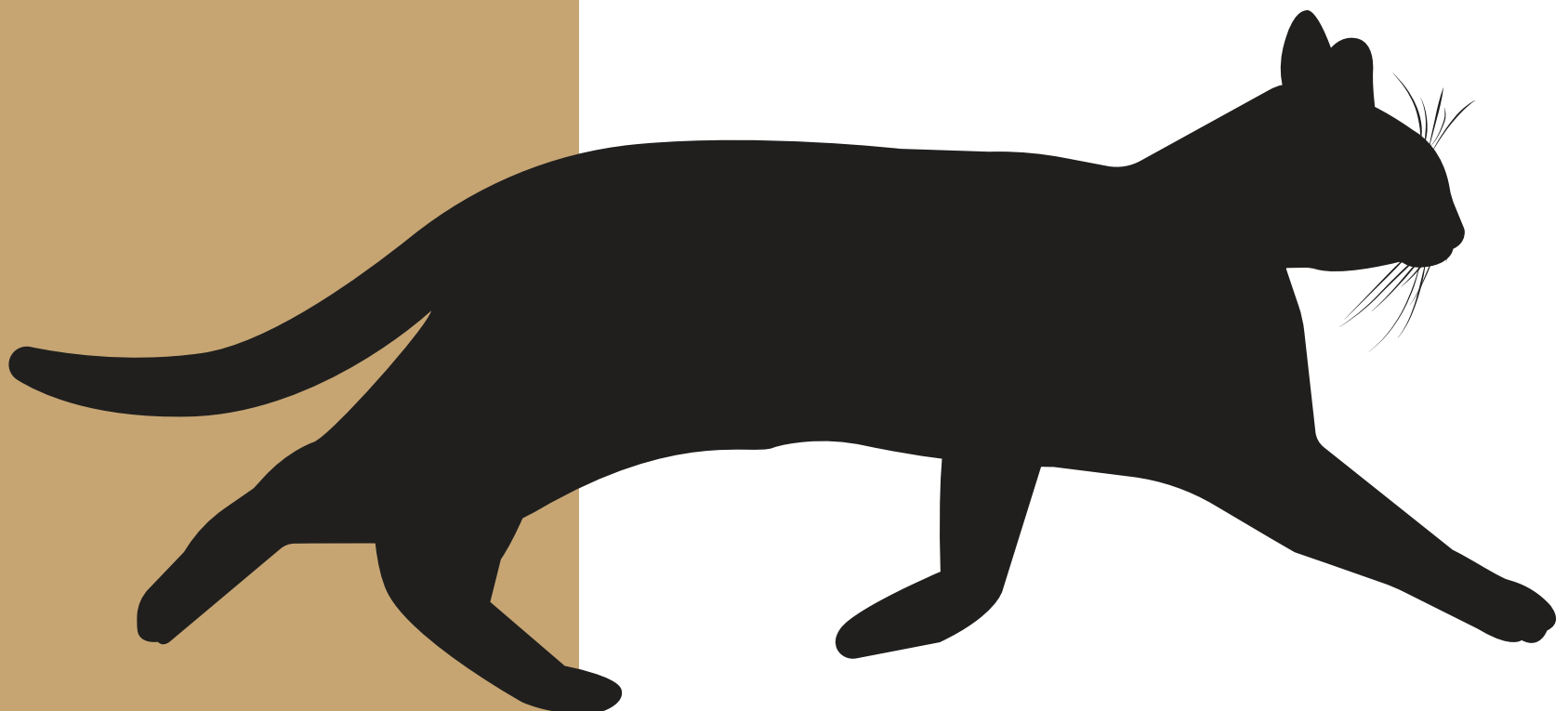
Cats Protection has put together the proposals in this document as a way to provide better legal protection for cats and the people who love them.


We are calling on politicians to enact these policies to help create a better world for our feline friends.

Cats are one of the nation's favourite pets, with **24% of adults choosing to own one**<sup>1</sup>. From young people to pensioners, millions enjoy the **companionship, comfort and laughter** that cats bring to a household. And for those living with health issues such as stress, anxiety or chronic medical conditions, a pet cat can greatly enhance their wellbeing.

Yet **despite their popularity, too many cats are victims of cruelty**, neglect and poor welfare practices.

<sup>1</sup> PDSA Animal Wellbeing (PAW) Report, PDSA, 2019





Many consumers do not realise all part of lilies can be fatally toxic to cats.

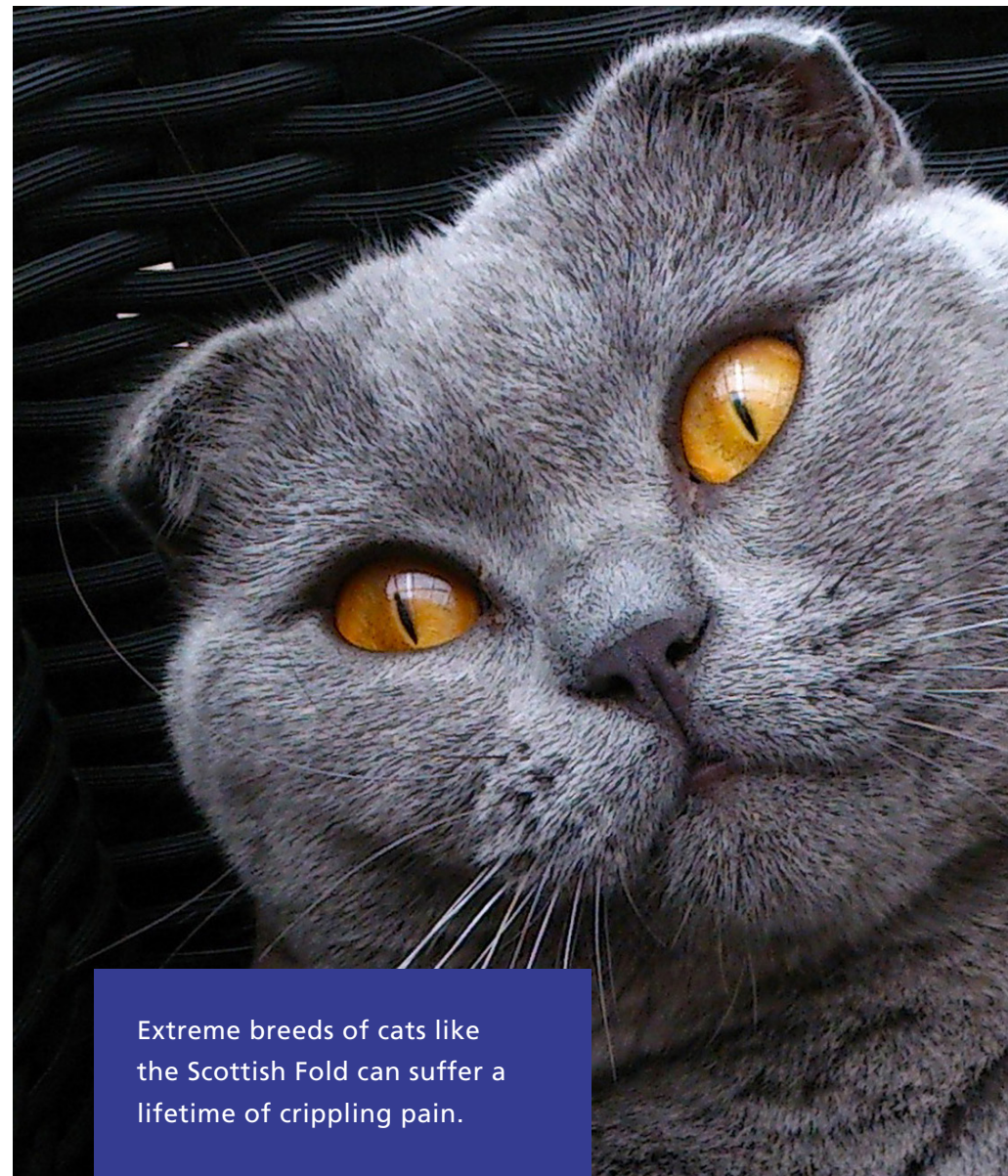
## Raise public awareness and enhance education on cat welfare

- Include **animal welfare in the national curriculum** to educate the pet owners of the future
- Introduce a **'pet safe' sticker on cut flowers** to help consumers avoid flowers known to be toxic to cats
- Improve **warnings on antifreeze products** to inform or alert consumers that it is highly toxic to cats
- Raise public awareness of the risks involved in **buying cats and other pets online**

## Regulate to improve cat welfare

- **License cat breeding** to prevent cats being overbred and ensure kittens are healthy
- **Ban the commercial sale of extreme cat breeds**, such as the Scottish Fold, which are known to suffer health problems
- **License animal rehoming activities** to safeguard animal welfare and give the public greater confidence when adopting a rescue pet
- Introduce **compulsory microchipping of pet cats** to reunite more cats with their owners

*Click here to read Aaron and Monty's story!*



Extreme breeds of cats like the Scottish Fold can suffer a lifetime of crippling pain.

## Protect cats from harm

- Introduce **air gun licensing in England and Wales** to allow greater transparency regarding air gun ownership and reduce the number of deliberate shootings of cats
- **Ban the use of snares** to prevent inhumane suffering of target and non-target animals, including cats
- Introduce **restrictions on the public use of fireworks** to reduce stress to cats, their owners and the wider community

## Develop world-class animal welfare protection

- Require **additional treatments and border checks for cats entering the UK** to protect pets and public health
- **Ban the consumption of cat meat** to close loopholes which allow this inhumane practice
- **Improve labelling of fur products** for consumers to allow them to make informed purchasing choices

*"I want to keep the tenant as long as I can and keep them happy, because a happy tenant is a happy landlord."*

Lynton, a private landlord in Warrington who allows cats



Holly Berry was handed into Cats Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre with an old facial injury causing her ongoing pain and discomfort. A scan revealed two air gun pellets lodged deep into her flesh, leaving irreparable damage.

## Break down barriers and recognise benefits of pet ownership

- Encourage **private landlords to allow tenants to keep cats**
- Ensure health professionals and social workers **consider the role cats and other pets play in improving wellbeing**
- Include **consideration of companion animals which are already part of a person's household in individual care assessments**



*“Monty is my best friend in the whole world, and when he went missing I was so sad. He was gone for two years, but then someone found him and scanned him. We got him back because he was microchipped and it was the best day ever.”*

- Aaron, aged eight

## Cats Protection across the UK

Cats Protection helps find homes for stray and abandoned cats up and down the UK through around 230 volunteer-run branches and from its 37 centres located at:

Arbroath & Central Angus	Harrow
Belfast	Haslemere
Birmingham	Hereford
Bredhurst	Isle of Wight
Bridgend	Maidstone
Cardiff Pets at Home	Mansfield
Chelmsford	Mitcham
Cornwall	National Cat Adoption Centre (Sussex)
Derby	Newbury
Dereham	Newbury Pets at Home
Downham Market	North London
Dundee	Nottingham
Eastbourne	St Helens
Evesham	Taunton
Exeter	Tyneside
Ferndown	Warrington
Forth Valley	Wrexham
Gildersome	York
Glasgow	

To arrange a visit to a Cats Protection centre and find out more about our campaigning work, please email [advocacy@cats.org.uk](mailto:advocacy@cats.org.uk)



To read the full version of **The Time is Meow: a cat welfare action plan for Westminster** visit:

[www.cats.org.uk/timeismeow](http://www.cats.org.uk/timeismeow)

For further information contact:

[advocacy@cats.org.uk](mailto:advocacy@cats.org.uk)

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