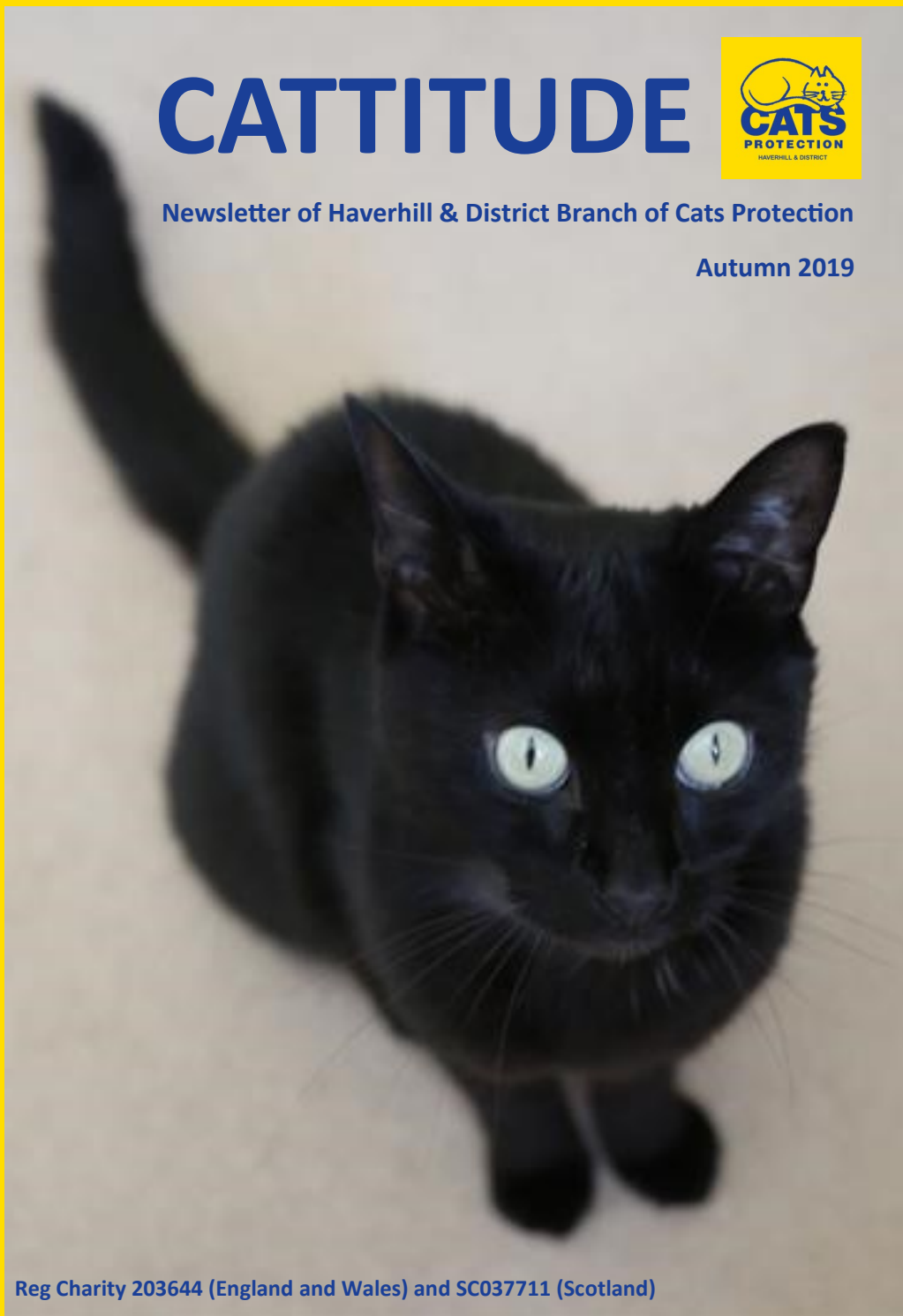


CATTITUDE



Newsletter of Haverhill & District Branch of Cats Protection

Autumn 2019



Reg Charity 203644 (England and Wales) and SC037711 (Scotland)

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A Word from The Branch Coordinator

Hello and welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. We have had a busy year so far with new changes being implemented.

We are no longer known as Haverhill & Stour Valley but Haverhill & District Cats Protection. The decision was made to drop "Stour Valley" from our title because of the numerous enquires we were receiving from people living up North in the Stour area. We have also changed our mailing address and no longer have the use of a P.O Box.

Our new address is:

**Haverhill & District Cats
Protection, c/o National Cat
Centre, Chelwood Gate,
Haywards Heath, Sussex. RH17
7TT**

Our telephone number remains the same: 01440 535131.

We are in the process of running another one of our FREE Neutering and Micro-chipping campaigns. These have proved to be extremely successful over the last couple of years. As a cat charity we cannot emphasise enough the importance of having cats and kittens neutered.

Yet, again we have been inundated with calls regarding female cats who have given birth to kittens.

Unfortunately, we have had two litters of kittens come into care with cat flu. It takes time and dedication to nurse sick kittens back to health and it was touch and go at one point for two kittens that we didn't think would survive.

I am delighted to say that, with a

lot of love, attention and antibiotics, these kittens are now fully on the road to recovery.

These kittens were lucky to be in care; not all kittens are that fortunate.

Now that it is compulsory for all dogs to be micro-chipped, we would like to encourage as many cat owners as possible to have their animals micro-chipped.

Why not take advantage of this while our campaign is still running? It makes things so much easier for us to re-unite lost or stray cats with their owners and, because of micro-chipping, we have had some "happy ever after" stories.

As usual, we have had some lovely cats through our doors and as such we have been very fortunate to re-home them to such loving homes. Please check out our website, as we have a gorgeous pair of youngsters looking for their forever home.

On behalf of Haverhill & District Cats Protection I would like to extend a very big thank you to Lin Lockwood our Regional Development Manager who is retiring after twenty one years with Cats Protection. Lin has been invaluable with her support when needed and has been the voice of reason on more than one occasion. She will be very sadly missed and I hope that her new replacement will be able to fit into Lin's rather large shoes. We wish her a very long and happy retirement.

Social Media and Website Update

Over the past few months, we have led various social media campaigns to raise awareness on crucial topics in cat care and welfare.

August— Feral Cats Awareness

September— Essential Resources for Cats

October— Neutering

We also celebrated Volunteers' Week, which was 1st-7th June and Remember a Charity in Your Will week, during 9th-15th September.

We encourage you to follow our Facebook page **@HaverhillCP** to receive informative and engaging content on all things feline!

You can also find new content on

our website, including updated information throughout the website and new articles. You can still find current cats up for adoption in the 'Adopt a cat' section, as well as the branch's latest updates in the 'News' section.

You can visit our website by copying the following link into your search engine:

www.cats.org.uk/stourvalley

If you have any content that you would like to see, either on our social media or website, please get in touch. We are happy to write articles about cat care and welfare issues that you may feel will be particularly relevant and useful in our area.

Success of The Snip and Chip Campaign

Following the success of previous neutering campaigns, our most recent Snip and Chip campaign commenced this summer.

Once again, our branch has been pleased with the outcomes of this year's campaign so far. Since Cats Protection started running neutering campaigns a few years ago, we have neutered 451 cats and kittens in the Haverhill and District area, free of charge. We truly believe that this has made a positive impact on the welfare of cats in our area, by decreasing the potential for unwanted pregnancies.

There is still time to take advantage of our opportunity. Please get in touch if you have a cat that is ready to be microchipped and/or neutered.

A Successful Snip and Chip

We were particularly delighted to receive a message, alongside an adorable photo, regarding a kitten that was recently neutered with the help of our Snip and Chip campaign:

“Thank you so much for the free snip. Ernie bounced right back. I don't even think he's noticed they're gone

[...]

He's doing absolutely great.. Running round like nothing happened “



Why Neuter?

Whilst some remain apprehensive towards neutering, it is truly a beneficial procedure, both for the cat and the wider community. Neutering is the best way to deal with unwanted pregnancies, which in turn helps to reduce the number of unwanted cats on our streets.

Why neuter a male cat?

Neutered male cats are:

- less likely to roam, reducing the risk of them suffering from car accidents.
- less likely to fight, which reduces the risk of them getting injured or contracting serious diseases such as Feline Immunodeficiency Virus

(FIV) or Feline Leukaemia Virus (FeLV).

- less likely to spray
- unable to develop tumours of the testicles.
- better pets and are more likely to be 'homebodies'.

Why neuter a female cat?

Neutered female cats:

- won't become pregnant, so there will be no expense associated with litters of kittens.
- do not call or wail as unneutered queens do, resulting in less disturbed sleep for the owner and neighbours!

- are less likely to contract diseases such as FIV and FeLV spread by bites and mating behaviour.
- are unable to develop cancer of the ovaries or uterus. They're also at greatly reduced risk of developing mammary cancer – especially if neutered early .

The kittens born following an unwanted pregnancy

- They may be at risk of disease.
- They cost a lot to look after and be provided with veterinary care – far more than is likely to be recouped from trying to sell them in a market where there are already plenty of cats and kittens looking for homes.
- They may find themselves homeless, or instead may deprive another unwanted

cat or kitten from finding a new home. There are not enough homes to go round.

- Many owners don't know which roaming 'stranger' cats their unneutered pet may have mated with, so are unaware of the potentially fatal infectious diseases that the cat may have been infected with. Also, the temperament of the tom can affect the behaviour of any offspring which are born. Risking mating with an unknown 'stranger' can lead to the birth of kittens that are unsuitable as family pets.

Some facts:

Cats can start breeding from 4 months of age, and will readily breed with parents or their siblings. Kittens can be safely neutered before 6 months of age. It's not beneficial for a cat to have a season or litter before spaying.

A Volunteer's Personal Account of Fundraising At Pets At Home

Haverhill & District Cats Protection have been a chosen charity by Pets at Home Haverhill for a few years now . This joint commitment brings to the forefront a greater awareness to Cats Protection and the PAH Support Adoption Charity. Together, we hold fund raising events throughout the year in the Haverhill store. It is a united effort by the Cats Protection fundraising team and the Pets At Home staff.

You will usually know we are around when you see Cats Protection balloons bobbing about, being carried by our young supporters who have come into the store to see us. Along with the balloons, we have some lovely merchandise for sale and an excellent display board that tells you more about how we support the local community,

as well as cats available for adoption. Of course, we are fundraising, so donations are very much appreciated, but it is also a fantastic opportunity for us to meet people and listen to their cat stories. These stories will either have me in fits of laughter or bring a tear to my eye.

Being a complete animal lover, I have had the pleasure to meet all types of pets during my fundraising. As well as the small pets in the store, I meet lots of cats and dogs on their way to the vets or for grooming. Chatting to the carers of the cats is my most favourite part, as I can see and hear the absolute devotion they have for their feline friends. When they tell me that they adopted their cat from Cats Protection, well! That just makes our hard work so worthwhile.

Nothing is more rewarding than that.


One day I was standing at the front of the store looking out to greet visitors, donation bucket and obligatory balloon in hand. Without realising, the balloon I was holding was dipping to one side and visible down the shop aisle. Next thing I know, a gorgeous young dog launched itself at the balloon, landing in my arms. One of the many fundraising memories that brings a smile to my face when I think of it.

Without volunteers, we could not do all the good work that is being done by Cats Protection. From experience, I can assure you, you will get much more out of it than you give in your time.

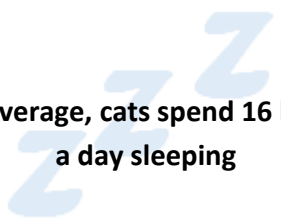
Jules Fordham

Fosterer & Fundraiser

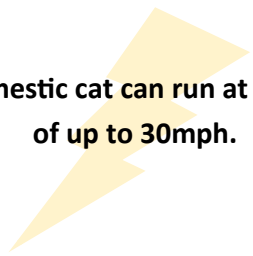
QUICK CAT FACTS




Ailurophile is the official word for someone who loves cats.



On average, cats spend 16 hours a day sleeping



A domestic cat can run at speeds of up to 30mph.



The average life expectancy for cats is 12—14 years

Could Your Pets At Home Shopping Be Helping Haverhill's Cats Protection?

Register for a Pets at Home VIP Club card and you could be raising money for Cats Protection's Haverhill Branch, every time you swipe.

Our branch has now been added as a separate charity that you can choose to support as part of the Lifeline scheme, in their VIP membership programme.

The Pets At Home VIP club is free . As well as receiving money off vouchers and a free magazine, you can nominate an animal charity of your choice to support every time you swipe your card, at no extra cost to you.

If you have chosen us as the charity to support, each time you shop with Pets At Home, we will earn 'lifelines'. Once a quarter, the 'lifelines' are turned into vouchers for our branch. We can spend the vouchers in store to buy essential resources, such as

food and litter, to provide quality care to the cats in our care.

So far, members of the Pets at Home VIP club have raised over £235,000 for Cats Protection, which is fantastic! We would truly like to thank all our supporters for their contributions through this scheme. We also hope that you may consider changing your lifeline charity of choice to our Haverhill branch to ensure that your shopping's lifelines directly go to help cats in your local area.

To help, all you need to do is register or log onto the Pets At Home VIP website:

www.vip.petsathome.com/Login

Then, choose Haverhill & District Cats Protection as your designated charity to help in the VIP Lifeline scheme.

Success Stories

“We absolutely love them. Charlie is very clingy too me and loves his cuddles. Pippa loves my son and is more attached to him. Semi ferals make wonderful pets.

Though they can be slightly reserved, but they are full of love for the people they live with. So pleased we adopted them

(....)

I took them on as indoor cats and they are okay with that situation too. I hope it will encourage more people to take on semi feral, as I have to say it's not the first time I have taken on semi feral and they are very loving, if not more so. They just need a little time to come around.”

*Mum of two semi-feral cats,
Pippa and Charlie*

Have a Success Story to Share?

We are constantly looking for more success stories to share with our community of cat lovers, through our social media, website and newsletter.

If you have adopted a cat from our branch and you would like to share it with us, please get in touch!

Check Meowt!

When you adopt from us, you can adopt with confidence. Why?

We endeavour to make sure cats and kittens in our care are:

- Health checked
- Blood tested
- Neutered, where appropriate
- Vaccinated against cat flu and enteritis
- Microchipped
- Flea and worm treatment administered
- Provided with 4 weeks of free Petplan insurance

Please browse the following pages to view some of our cats that are currently ready for adoption.

If you are interested in giving any of our cats their forever home, please contact us on **01440 535131**, leave a message and a member of our team will call you back.

Alternatively, please email us on:

enquiries@haverhill.cats.org.uk

All cats in our care are re-homed subject to a successful home check.

Blossom and Georgie



Gender	Male and female
Age	1 and 2 years old
Breed	Domestic short-hair



Colour	Tortoiseshell, black and white
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Can live with family	No
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Can live with mature family	Yes
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Indoor cat	No
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Access to outside	Yes
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Feral Cat	No
-----------	-----------

Blossom and Georgie are one and two years old respectively.

Blossom, as you can see, is a stunning tortoiseshell female who is shy when you first meet her. She likes fuss, attention and food!

Georgie is a handsome black and white male who also enjoys lots of fuss and cuddles.

We feel that this lively two-some will best be suited to a home where there are no young toddlers, but a more mature household. They very much enjoy playing together and as such are being re-homed as a pair. Blossom and Georgie are looking for their forever home where they can have safe access to a secure garden.

Sooty



Gender	Male
Age	3 years old
Breed	Domestic short-hair
Colour	Black

Can live with family **Yes**



Can live with mature family **Yes**

Indoor cat **No**

Access to outside **Yes**

Feral Cat **No**

Sooty is a gorgeous all-black cat of about three years old. He is exceptionally friendly and gentle and would make an ideal family cat. Sooty loves lots of fuss and attention, as well as his food.

We don't know if Sooty would get on with a dog, however, he may possibly be fine with other cats.

If you are looking for a friendly family cat, look no further as Sooty will most definitely fit the bill.

Sooty will require access to a safe/secure garden.

Lila



Gender	Female
Age	8 years old
Breed	Domestic short-hair
Colour	Tabby



Can live with family	No
Can live with mature family	Yes
Indoor cat	No
Access to outside	Yes
Feral Cat	Semi-feral

Lila is the Alexis Carrington of the cat world. As nice as pie one moment, and a diva the next.

We feel that Lila is more semi-feral than domestic, therefore, we are looking for either a small holding or stables for her to live in.

She would fair better being her own person, provided that she has somewhere warm to curl up on a cold night.

Lila can be stroked and there is the possibility that, given time, she will become more trustworthy.

If you would like to give this very pretty lady her forever home, please get in touch.

Stuck for Ways You Can Help Cats Protection?

Why Not Try Our Weekly Lottery?

Only £1 a week for your chance to win one of 300 cash prizes every week!



Along with the weekly cash prizes, you will automatically get entered into a quarterly super draw raffle, with a jackpot prize of up to £25,000! Not only does the lottery give you a chance to win from one of our many prize draws, but by helping us fundraise you're also supporting a great cause.

When signing up, please remember to select '**I would like my payments to go towards the cats and kittens at a branch or adoption centre of my choice**' and select '**Haverhill and District Branch**'.

To play now, enter the following link into your search engine:

www.winwithcats.cats.org.uk/lottery-play

WIN ^{UP TO} £25,000
in our quarterly Super Draw Raffles

Every week you could win:

1st prize
£1,000

2nd prize 3rd prize
£200 £150

4th prize £100 5th prize £50

PLUS £5 for 295 runners-up

7 Reasons to Play The Weekly Lottery

1. Enter now and you'll be in time for our next Superdraw of up to £25,000!
2. Entering is easy and paying with Direct Debit means you won't miss a draw.
3. No need to check, we'll tell you if you win and even pay your prize fund directly into your bank if you pay by direct debit.
4. £1,000 top weekly prizes to be won.
5. Just £1 a week to enter (£2 if you want to double your chances)
6. Over 16,000 winners every year with 300 cash prizes to be won every week.
7. Every week, our lottery players' support keeps our doors



**Play today and help
unwanted cats and kittens**

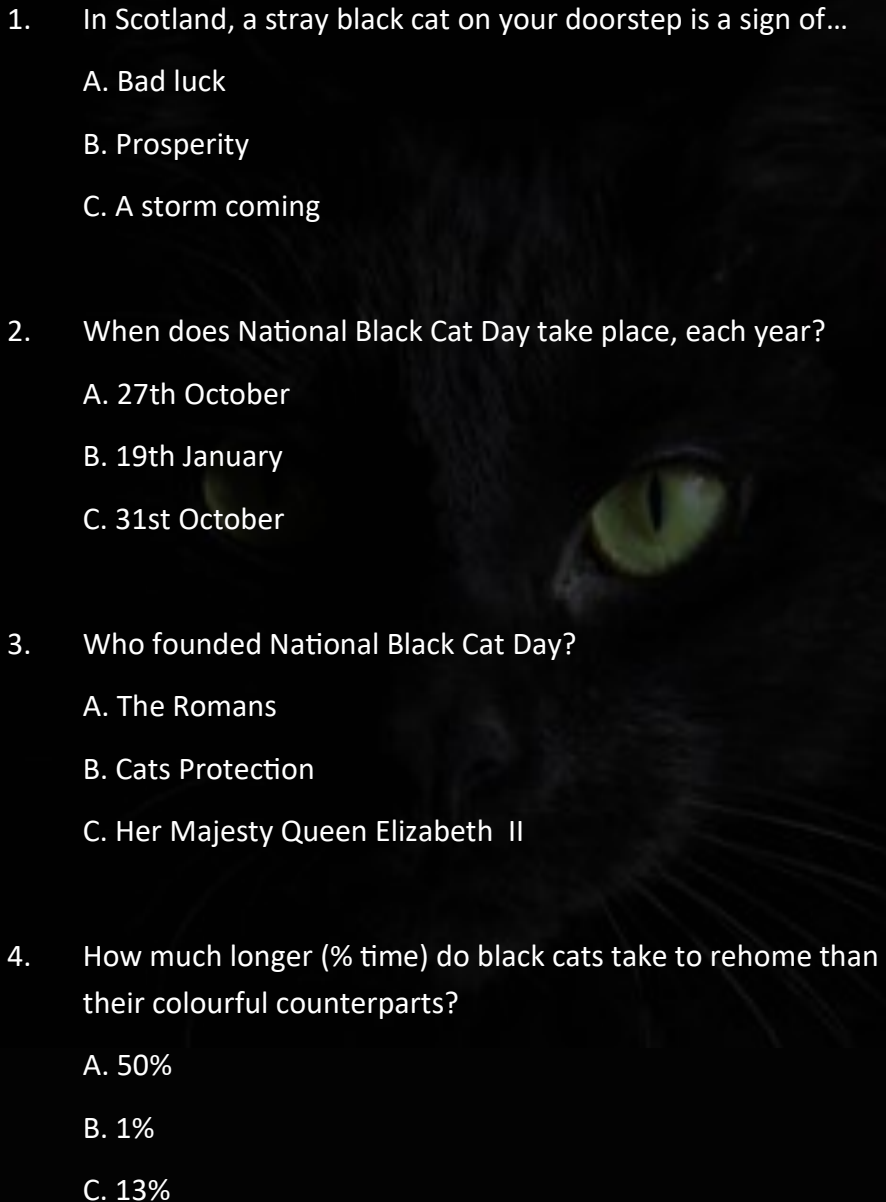
300 cash prizes guaranteed every week!

Quarterly Super Draw

WIN up to £25,000

PLAY NOW! 01628 825 928
www.cats.org.uk/lottery

The Black Cat Quiz

- 
1. In Scotland, a stray black cat on your doorstep is a sign of...
 - A. Bad luck
 - B. Prosperity
 - C. A storm coming
 2. When does National Black Cat Day take place, each year?
 - A. 27th October
 - B. 19th January
 - C. 31st October
 3. Who founded National Black Cat Day?
 - A. The Romans
 - B. Cats Protection
 - C. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
 4. How much longer (% time) do black cats take to rehome than their colourful counterparts?
 - A. 50%
 - B. 1%
 - C. 13%

5. What percentage of cats taken in by Cats Protection are black or black and white?
 - A. Over 40%
 - B. Over 90%
 - C. Under 10%

6. Which Egyptian goddess was a black cat?
 - A. Hathor
 - B. Bastet
 - C. Maat

7. In Japan, black cats are thought to...
 - A. Be bad luck to see on your wedding day
 - B. Attract suitors to single women
 - C. foretell illness in the family

8. What does 'The Black Cat' mean in French?
 - A. Le chien nigre
 - B. Il gatto nero
 - C. Le chat noir

Answers on the last page

Fireworks Season

We'd like to draw your attention to the upcoming fireworks season, and how to prevent the negative impact it can have on our feline friends.

Every year, Cats Protection receives hundreds of calls from owners whose pets are suffering as a result of fireworks, including incidents of missing or needlessly injured cats.

Please find below 5 ways you can help your cat stay calm during fireworks season:

1. **Keep your cat indoors at night time.** Keeping your cat indoors will mean they're less likely to come across fireworks displays and become spooked. When keeping cats indoors, provide litter trays for them, as well as toys to prevent boredom.
2. **Create a safe space** for your cat. A cardboard box lined with blankets is perfect. Cats feel safer higher up so place the box on a top shelf, making sure it is somewhere safe.
3. **Play music.** The radio or television can help limit the impact of sudden sounds .
4. **Use a pheromone plug-in diffuser in your house.** This can reduce anxiety and create a calming effect. Begin using it a couple of weeks before fireworks season and place it in the room where your cat spends most of its time
5. **Try not to reinforce fearful behaviour by overly comforting** a cat that looks anxious. Keep calm yourself and your cat is more likely to feel more settled.

Volunteering Roles

Love Cats?

Why Not Give a Little Time?

We are actively looking for new volunteers to help us make a difference for cats.

At present, we are looking for:

An Events Organiser

Would you like a rewarding role managing our fundraising

events? We are looking for someone to organise and manage local fundraising events, such as a Summer Bash.

Alternatively, if you are interested in a different role, contact us to find out about our opportunities, or to suggest your own ideas on how you can help.



DID YOU KNOW...

90% of Cats Protection’s work is carried out by a team of over 10,000 dedicated volunteers

Quiz Answers

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|----|---|
| 1. | B | 5. | A | 4. | C |
| 2. | A | 6. | B | | |
| 3. | B | 7. | B | | |
| | | | | 8. | C |

