

Change the gun laws

Cats Protection is calling for a change in the law on air gun ownership in England and Wales

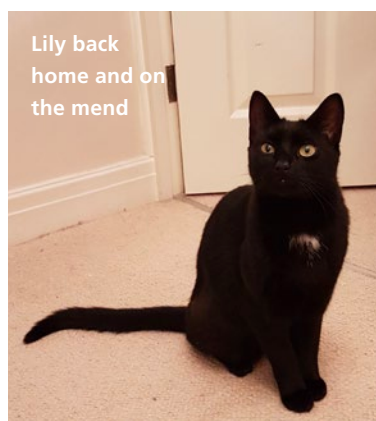
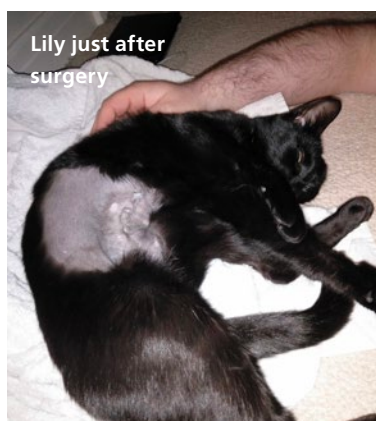
Cats Protection recently undertook new research to mark the 20-year anniversary since we first investigated the problem of air gun attacks on cats.

A survey of 1,000 vets showed that many more cats are killed in air gun attacks than 20 years ago. Almost half of vets questioned (44%) had treated cats which had been the victim of attacks by air-powered weapons in the last year, with nearly half of these shootings proving fatal (46%).

Cats Protection is calling for much stricter regulation on the ownership of air guns. We believe that the introduction of licensing will help reduce the number of these shocking attacks on cats and avoid air guns falling into the wrong hands. We want to see England and Wales following the example of Scotland, where from next year it will be illegal to own an air gun without a licence (it is already illegal in Northern Ireland). Stricter controls on air guns was a priority identified in our Westminster and Welsh Manifestos.

We regularly hear about cats that have been shot and we record all the cases reported in the press and direct to us. Only in April, we were contacted about Lily, a cat from York that was shot in the stomach with an air rifle. The bullet perforated her bowels and she underwent emergency surgery to repair the damage. Despite suffering from severe peritonitis she came through it all and is now well on the road to recovery.

Sadly, Lily's story is very typical of shootings reported across the UK. ●



86%

of vets questioned in our survey would like to see a change to the law to restrict the sale and use of air weapons

78%

of the general public would support the introduction of air gun licensing

What can I do?

- Report any shooting to the police and the investigating authorities
 - RSPCA (England & Wales) 0300 1234 999
 - SSPCA (Scotland) 03000 999 999
 - USPCA (Northern Ireland) uspca.org.uk
- Alert your local Neighbourhood Watch. Find your local branch at www.ourwatch.org.uk
- Read our *Keeping cats safe* Essential guide at www.cats.org.uk/cat-care/care-leaflets/essential-guides
- Help our campaign work. If your cat has been the victim of an air gun attack in the last six months we'd be grateful if you could send brief details and any photos to campaigns@cats.org.uk. This will help us to collect more evidence

To find out more about our advocacy work:

Visit: www.cats.org.uk/advocacy
Follow us on Twitter: @CPAdvocacy

