



The Time is Meow

Licensing of air guns in England and Wales

Why it matters

Sadly, cats are frequently the victims of horrific air gun attacks, often sustaining life-changing or fatal injuries. England and Wales are the only UK nations without air gun legislation, meaning anyone aged over 18 can buy, own and use such a weapon, completely unchecked.

What the government can do

Introduce air gun licensing in England and Wales. Modern, sensible and safe laws on air gun ownership would prevent these lethal weapons falling into the wrong hands, protecting people and vulnerable animals, including cats. Over 110,000 members of the public have signed Cats Protection's petition calling for such legislation to be introduced.

During 2019, press reports of cat shootings showed 94% took place in England and Wales, the only UK nations not to have air gun licensing legislation¹.

The benefits

Air gun legislation would prevent random attacks on much-loved pets within our communities, and ensure that only those with a legitimate reason can own such a lethal weapon.

The RSPCA received 767 reports of animals being shot in 2018 across England and Wales. Pet cats were the most frequent victims, accounting for 258 shootings, followed by species of wild birds².

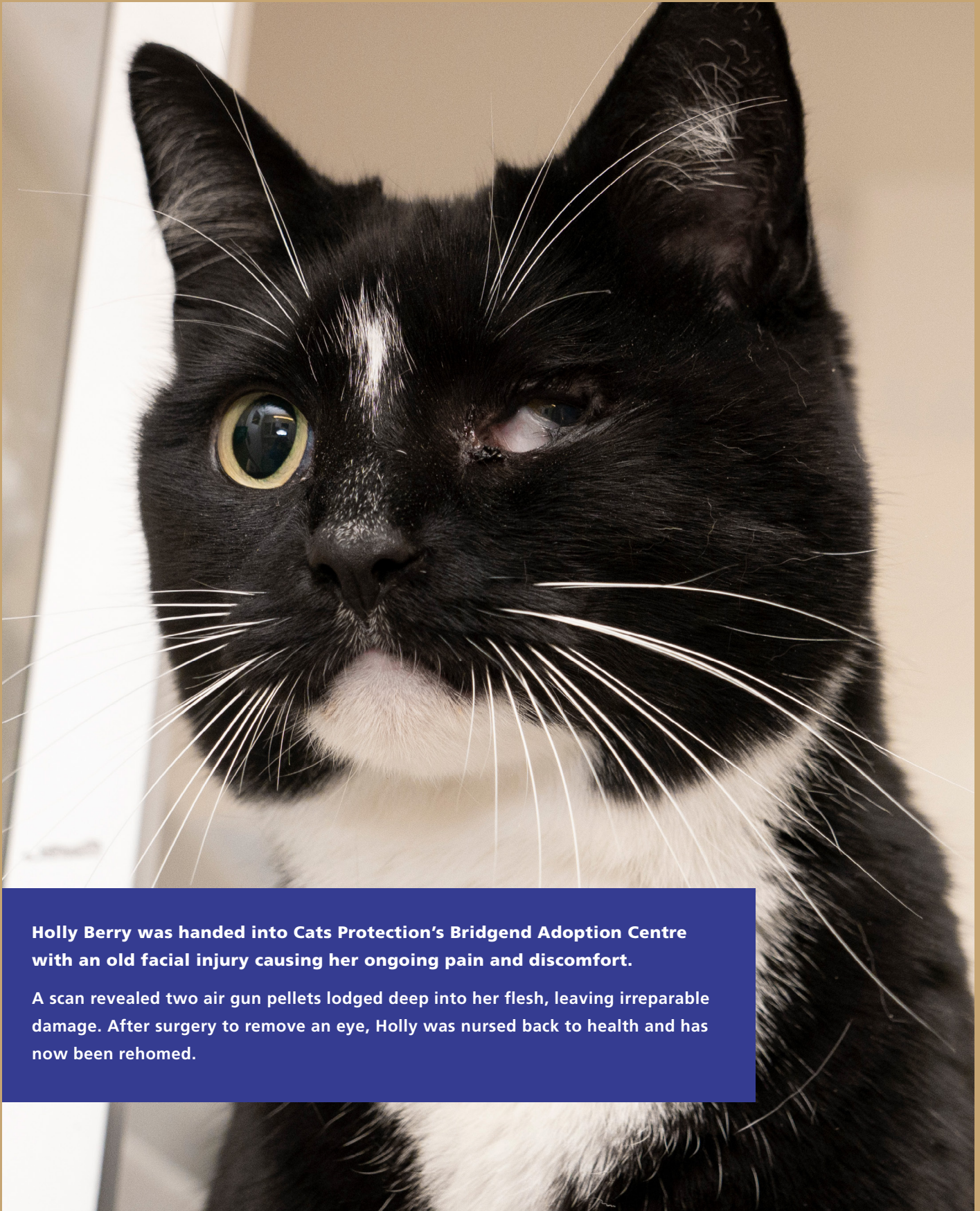


Poppy was the victim of a vicious air gun attack which left her with injuries so severe that vets at first believed she had been hit by a car.

The eight-year-old needed to have an eye removed and sustained a shattered jaw in the shooting near her home in Northumberland in 2019. Having been left nearly blind and needing to be tube fed for some time, Poppy has made a slow recovery.



Turn over to read Holly's story



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. After surgery to remove an eye, Holly was nursed back to health and has now been rehomed.

For further information about our advocacy work visit
www.cats.org.uk/timeismeow or email advocacy@cats.org.uk

1 Cats Protection's monitoring of press reports of air gun shootings of cats between 01/01/2019 - 31/12/2019

2 RSPCA data

National Cat Centre, Lewes Road, Chelwood Gate, Haywards Heath, RH17 7TT
Reg Charity 203644 (England and Wales) and SC037711 (Scotland). | COM_5595

