

The Paws Protect team

Paws Protect is staffed by an experienced and supportive female-only team who are here to help you and your cat throughout the whole referral process and foster placement. Collectively we have over 10 years of experience in mental health, domestic abuse, cat health, welfare and behaviour. We will put you and your cats' needs at the centre of everything we do.

Paws Protect has a team of experienced and dedicated volunteer foster carers who work incredibly hard to support the service to help you find safety without the worry of what will happen to your cat. They will treat your cat as a family pet and give it all the love and affection you normally would.

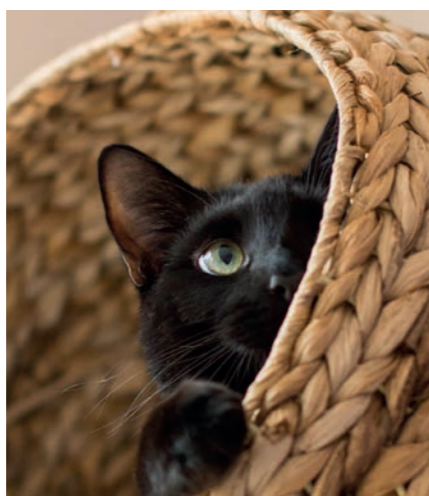
Before we accept someone as a foster carer for Paws Protect, we carry out a thorough application process which includes a home inspection and reference check. This helps us to match your cat to the most suitable foster home. We ask that there are no other pets in the home and that your cat will have access to the whole property while in their care.

“As a previous victim of domestic abuse and violence, it feels as if I’m ‘giving something back’. In one small way, I make a positive difference to someone’s life and that is of great value to me.”

Vanessa – Paws Protect Foster Carer

“It is a privilege to be able to support our clients through such a difficult time and give them one less thing to worry about. I love being able to hear the difference in their voice as they get stronger and stronger when getting the right support. To be able to reunite them with their cats once they are in a safe property is really rewarding.”

Paws Protect Co-ordinator



How to contact us

We understand that making the decision to leave an abusive relationship is really difficult. To then say goodbye to your cat, even temporarily, can seem overwhelming. If you have any concerns or questions about Paws Protect, please do not hesitate to call or email us and we will do what we can to support you.

T: 0345 260 1280

E: pawsprotect@cats.org.uk

W: www.cats.org.uk/paws-protect



How to support us

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer foster carer, please call or email us for more information.

If you wish to support us in other ways, please visit our website for details on how to donate to the service directly or buy items for the cats through our Amazon wishlist. Alternatively, you can text to donate:

Text **PAWS** to **70007**

to donate **£3** to Paws Protect

Text costs £5 plus network charge. Cats Protection receives 100% of your donation. Obtain bill payer's permission.

For full terms and conditions, please visit our website:

<https://www.cats.org.uk/terms-and-conditions>.

Supporter Services 0800 917 2287. Charity No. 203644 (England and Wales) and SC037711 (Scotland)

Text **PAWS** to **70025**

to donate **£5** to Paws Protect:

Text costs £5 plus network charge. Cats Protection receives 100% of your donation. Obtain bill payer's permission.

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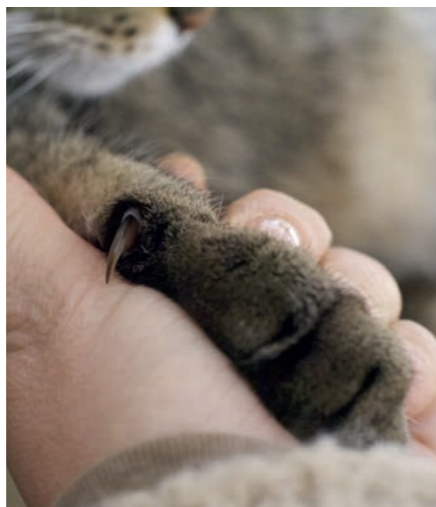


Paws Protect
Cat fostering for people fleeing
domestic abuse

What is Paws Protect?

Cats in homes with domestic abuse are often targets themselves. In several recent studies of adult refuges for protection against domestic abuse, nearly half of victims reported that their pets had been threatened, injured, or killed by their abusers. Others reported that they stayed in this situation because they were afraid that their pets would be harmed when they left and some adults returned to an abusive situation because they feared for a pet left behind. For many families who leave abusive relationships the options open to them regarding their pets are very limited. Very few local authorities provide any facilities for kennelling pets and most refuges are unable to allow pets to stay. Unless family or friends can help, most pets will either be left behind (to roam or possibly suffer at the hands of the abuser) or be rehomed. This inevitably causes further distress and trauma for the family – particularly any children. We know that for many victims of domestic abuse, fleeing abusive relationships is made impossible simply because they cannot bear to lose their pets.

Paws Protect reduces the stress and pressure on these families, and the suffering of their cats, by offering both men and women the chance to escape abuse in their home, with the relief of knowing their cat will be well cared for



by a volunteer foster carer until they are in a position to be reunited with them. The service is currently available to adults in the South East of England.

If you refer your cat to Paws Protect and we are able to help, we will place your cat in the home of a volunteer fosterer for an initial five month term, enabling you to find a safe haven without the worry of what will happen to your cat.

This service is free and all expenses, such as food, veterinary bills and cat care equipment, will be covered by Cats Protection while your cat is in our care. Once you have been relocated safely we will then reunite you with your cat in your new home.

How to access the service

Referral

Please call us so we can talk you through the process of how Paws Protect works. We are more than happy to discuss your case with a friend, family member, your appointed keyworker or another member of a charity or organisation that is helping you should you not be in a position to do so.

There are a few points to consider when making a referral to the service.

- We can only accept referrals for cats aged six months and over and you must have owned your cat for at least six months. If your cat is a kitten you may want to consider permanent rehoming, on which we may be able to offer further advice
- We are unable to accept referrals for certain breeds of cats such as Bengals. If there are any existing behaviour issues this will be reviewed case by case and discussed further with you
- You must be fleeing to or from an area that we cover

If you meet our basic criteria, and feel that our service would be of help to you and your situation, we would then send our referral paperwork so we can learn more about you and your cat(s). Either yourself, your keyworker or a family member may complete this information on your behalf

with your permission. You will also be sent a service agreement form which you will need to adhere to. In addition, we would require written confirmation from your support worker, police or other authority that you are fleeing domestic abuse and will be going into a refuge or supported housing.

Collection

Once we have all the relevant paperwork we can plan the collection of your cat(s). From the time of the initial referral, it may take up to one week to collect and admit your cat(s). The collection will be in an agreed, safe location and can sometimes require police assistance which we are happy to work with. We will collect and return your cat in an unmarked vehicle, wearing plain clothes and we advise you not to tell your friends or family where your cat is if they could be in contact with the person you have fled from.

On the service

Once we have collected your cat(s), they will be placed in our adoption centre where they will undergo veterinary health checks preparing them for their foster placement. In line with the policies of Cats Protection all cats will be neutered, microchipped and vaccinated before being transferred to their foster home. We will also carry out a blood test for FIV/Felv.

Flea and worm treatments will be kept up to date until your cat(s) are returned to you. This will be of no cost to yourself.

With all treatments up to date and health checks passed, your cat(s) will be matched to one of our foster homes meeting your cat(s) individual needs.

For safety and confidentiality, you will not be able to visit your cat while they are in our care. We do however send you monthly updates with photos of your cat's progress, so it is important we are kept up to date with your correspondence



address. We are in very regular contact with our fosterers to offer them support while caring for your cat(s). Your personal details are only ever accessed by the Paws Protect team

Return

When you are ready for your cat(s) to come home to you, we will arrange to collect them from their foster home and bring them to you at an agreed safe location. We will offer settling in advice and will provide you with up to date information of any medical issues during their stay in CP care.

“Thank you so much for your time today, and for your sensitivity. The idea of being separated from Tinks is heart breaking. I know that she will receive the best possible care, which is a huge relief. I am so grateful that organisations such as Paws Protect exist. I would not be able to begin to recover otherwise.”

Paws Protect client

Not actual photo of Tinks.