## Cats Protection celebrates first anniversary of neutering scheme

A pioneering community cat neutering scheme in Muirhouse and West Pilton has just celebrated its first anniversary.

Cats Protection's new scheme aims to help people within the community with a variety of cat care needs, since cat owners in some areas often face problems such as the cost or lack of nearby vets.

Cats Protection especially offers inexpensive neutering for cats, which is the single most important thing that can be done to protect their welfare.

It is estimated that a single unneutered female can have up to eighteen kittens per year. A single campaign has already neutered 57 females, preventing around 1,000 kitten births per year in Muirhouse and West Pilton.

Along with increasing the number of cats neutered in the campaign area, Cats Protection is looking to recruit more volunteers to help.

Sarah Reid, Cats Protection's Community Neutering Officer for Scotland, said: "More volunteers would make a massive difference as we can then reach many more people and more cats. We are looking for people with different skills and drivers with their own cars."

Volunteer Lena Gray also said: "Cats Protection is helping so many people and their cats in my community, including me, so volunteering for them is a way for me to give something back."

Cats Protection generally charges £5 per cat for neutering, however, in some cases they can be treated for free. Other

assistance such as free transport to a vet practice can be arranged.

The success of the program in Pilton and Muirhouse has led Cats Protection to prepare to roll out into other areas in need across Scotland.

Anyone interested in volunteering with Cats Protection <u>CLICK</u> <u>HERE</u>