

## Summer cat crisis hits animal home

### Influx of unwanted kittens puts pressure on London rescue centre

North London – The Mayhew Animal Home in Kensal Green is suffering from an influx of felines due to ‘kitten season’ and has had to close its Cattery doors to admittances unless there is a severe emergency case.

All year round alarmingly high numbers of cats are abandoned and left to fend for themselves on the streets –often doing a poor job after living as domestic pets for so long. In addition to this, summer brings the arrival of ‘kitten season’ as cat owners are not prepared to look after litters when their cats become pregnant.

Currently 43% of all the felines at the Home are under six months old.

The Mayhew’s Animal Welfare Officers (AWOs) are also called out on a regular basis to rescue feral and stray litters of kittens who have been discovered in gardens, sheds or abandoned on the streets.

The Mayhew’s CEO, said: *“Every year the Mayhew is put under immense pressure by the impact of kitten season. Far too many cat owners don’t neuter their pets, resulting in their cats mating with neighbouring domestic, stray and feral cats which ends with an alarming number of tiny, vulnerable kittens being born outside. The lucky ones are rescued by our Animal Welfare Officers, many are not found in time.”*

*“Cat owners wishing to take responsible action can have their pet neutered at our low-cost Community Veterinary Clinic onsite at our facilities in Kensal Green.”*

For anyone interested in adopting The Mayhew’s cats or kittens, please can call reception on 020 8969 0178 or visit our website: [www.mayhewanimalhome.org](http://www.mayhewanimalhome.org)

Photographs: 10 week old Soldier and Serena in The Mayhew’s kitten garden. Brought in after being found huddles together on the street by a member of the public

For more information, or photographs call Sarah Dickinson 020 8968 2443

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ENDS

### **For the Editor**

**The Mayhew Animal Home** was established in 1886 for the benefit of “the lost and starving dogs and cats of London so that they should have sanctuary from the cold inhumanity they are being

dealt outside". Today, The Mayhew is one of the busiest animal sanctuaries in London, rescuing thousands of animals from cruelty and neglect each year. We provide shelter and care for cats, dogs, rabbits and when the need arises, for a wide variety of other animals.

The Mayhew Animal Home strives to tackle the companion animal welfare crisis from every possible angle. The organisation is pro-active, innovative and continually works to assist animals and their carers. The Mayhew offers a wide variety of community services providing advice, care and assistance to animals and their carers whatever their circumstances.