

## Kitten Killing Saddens Cat Lovers Across Portland

### Cat Adoption Team Extends Condolences to White Sock's Family

(Nov. 6, 2007) — Animal abuse in any form is a heinous crime. The Cat Adoption Team (CAT), the Pacific NW's largest cat-only shelter, applauds Portland Police for taking swift action in the arrest of two Portland men for animal cruelty against a seven week old kitten. The men are charged with two counts of aggravated animal abuse. CAT now urges law enforcement officials to maintain a strong stance and adjudicate these two to the fullest extent of the law.

"Everyone at the Cat Adoption Team extends their condolences to the owner of White Socks," said Britta Bavaresco, executive director of the Cat Adoption Team located in Sherwood, OR. "Cats are loving companions who, more often than not, fall victim to neglect or outright cruelty through no fault of their own." Oregon ranks No. 2 in cat ownership across the country with over 45 percent of pet owning households having cats as family members\*.

The two men are accused of beheading the small kitten with a hatchet because they believe it was in pain. They then disposed of the body by throwing the decapitated head and body over a fence, apparently without regard for who may find the body. There is also evidence of prior animal cruelty in their background.

The connection between animal abuse and human violence is well document. In fact, in 1970, The FBI recognized the connection when its analysis of the lives of serial killers suggested most had killed or tortured animals as children. Other research shows consistent patterns of animal cruelty among perpetrators of more common forms of violence, including child abuse, spouse abuse, and elder abuse.

In Oregon, aggravated animal abuse in the first degree is a Class C felony (ORS § 167.322(2)) and carries with it penalties of up to 5 years in jail and up to \$125,000 in fines.

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*The Cat Adoption Team (CAT) is the Pacific Northwest's largest non-profit, no-kill cat shelter with its own full service veterinary hospital on-site. A leader in feline adoption, sheltering and medicine, CAT's mission is to work with the community to save the lives of homeless, sick and injured cats and kittens by offering shelter, adoption, foster, hospice, spay/neuter and veterinary services to end needless feline euthanasia in our community. CAT, a501(c)(3) publicly-supported charity, will save over 3,000 lives this year and relies heavily on the support of the public and generous volunteers.*

**CAT is located** at 14175 SW Galbreath Drive in Sherwood, just off Tualatin-Sherwood Highway Road. For directions and more information, call (503) 925-8903 or visit CAT's Website at [www.catadoptionteam.org](http://www.catadoptionteam.org).

\*American Veterinarian Medical Association Pet Owner & Demographic Sourcebook