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25 YEARS AGO 2000

Is a cat poisoner on the loose in Newbold Verdon?

THE RSPCA is investigating the mysterious disappearance of a number of cats in Newbold Verdon - amid claims that the pets are being poisoned.

Three cats belonging to Julie Bailey, who lives in the village, have disappeared in the last three weeks.

And just before Christmas another of her cats died after swallowing an unidentified substance.

Ms Bailey now fears that her three missing cats may have been poisoned and has reported the disappearances to the RSPCA.

Ms Bailey said: "To lose four cats in less than four months is no coincidence. The whole family is absolutely devastated. I am convince that somebody has done something to them - they would not simply disappear."

When Ms Bailey found Mustard, her ginger and white cat, lethargic and foaming at the mouth back in December, she immediately took him to the vet where upon examination is was revealed that the feline had been poisoned.

According to Ms Bailey, other cats in the area have also gone missing in recent weeks.

The RSPCA is now appealing for anyone with information about the disappearance to come forward.

RSPCA inspector Nick Speight, who is investigating the disappearances, said: "If somebody is deliberately poisoning cats or any other animals, it is a very serious offence.

'If these cats have died as a result of poisoning, they will have been caused considerable suffering for which there is no excuse."

The symptoms of poisoning include breathing difficulties, fitting and a foamy discharge from now or mouth.

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POISON?

Cat poisoner?
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