

Cats injured by airgun yobs

TWO cats have been shot with airguns, leaving one with such terrible injuries that it had to have a leg amputated.

Boots, a young cat belonging to a family from the Blackwell area of Carlisle, was shot in the leg at close range, shattering its bones.

Zinnia, an older animal, was shot from further away, in the neck near to its face, before being found on Thursday.

Both the animals were then taken to Paragon Vets in Dalston. Laura Neil, who treated Boots, said: "When

BY THOM KENNEDY

we x-rayed him we found that a bone was completely shattered, and there was an airgun pellet inside.

"The people who shot him would have had to have been reasonably close to do that kind of damage as airgun pellets are not the most powerful things.

"We had to amputate his leg. The family who own him are really upset that anyone could do something like that."

Ms Neil added that there was no certainty that the

attacks were directly linked. She said: "The other one (the attack on Zinnia) probably wasn't as close as it doesn't seem to have done as much damage.

"You tend to get these things in phases. I haven't seen an attack here for a couple of years, but previously I have seen a run of two or three."

While Boots has been returned to his family to recuperate, Zinnia, a stray, is being cared for by Animal Concern.

email tkennedy@cngroup.co.uk