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Dog kills and eats pet cat



Jack Burnett, centre, with brothers Angus and Josh after their pet cat was savaged and killed by a hunting dog.



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By [David MacLean](#)

A child was left heartbroken after his pet cat was killed and eaten by a rampaging hunting dog.

Jack Burnett, seven, had been given the rescued cat, named Penny, after his rabbit died two months ago.

During five weeks he grew close to it, getting up early to feed it every day, and playing with it.

But at 9pm on Monday night last week, a dog from a pack roaming the fields around Newton Garth Farm in Boldon ran across their land, chased the cat before savaging it.

After the killing, it tore the feline apart and began to eat it.

Jack's grandmother, Sarah Burnett, said: "This was absolutely horrific, I was shaking with anger.

"Penny was such a friendly cat who was comfortable around people and animals, which is why she probably made no attempt to get away.

"The pack of dogs was with a man in our back garden. Not only was he trespassing, he was clearly hunting

foxes with these dogs.

"I'm not bothered about the slap on the wrist he could get from the police or the courts, I want the dog's owner to apologise to my grandchildren personally for the upset he's caused."

The drama began when Mrs Burnett's son saw two foxes run across the land behind their farm, pursued by a dog.

The foxes escaped, but the sound of a cat screaming was heard from an empty building next door. By the time Jack's aunt Patricia, 28, got to it, it was dead and the dog had begun to bite into it.

The family chased the dog away, and pursued the dog's owner across surrounding fields.

When they were eventually able to confront the man they said he said to them: "It's just nature, isn't it? I'll buy you a new cat".

Mrs Burnett, who has owned the farm for 17 years, added: "It just added insult to injury. It was a callous way to talk about a child's pet."

Maria Harrison, who runs the Willows Cat Shelter, said: "This was despicable, absolutely appalling. The dogs shouldn't have been on the farm in the first place, never mind hunting.

"You see suspicious people out with dogs and guns and all sorts, and you know they're probably hunting. It's terrible that a cat has been killed as a result of this.

"Penny was lovely, but she wasn't particularly a house cat because she was out hunting so much. She was a really good hunter.

"The person we originally homed her with brought her back in because they couldn't really cope with her always killing things and bringing them back in, so when Mrs Burnett came to us for a cat for the farm I thought she'd be a perfect match. It's so sad to hear about this happening."

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