

# Firefighters save pet cats in blaze drama

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By Timothy John »

FIREFIGHTERS pulled three cats from a blaze which wrecked a Dorset home.

One of the badly-burned pets was given oxygen treatment at the scene of the fire.

Owners Liz Bromley and Rachael Coles had just arrived at a Radio One concert in Swindon when they received a call from fire crews alerting them to the blaze at their home in Blandford.

“They said, ‘There’s no easy way to say this, but your house is on fire, and it’s a bad one,” said Liz, 33, a credit controller.

The pair drove back to Blandford “shaking” to discover fire crews had plucked the three animals from the upper storey of their home in Balmer Road after neighbours raised the alarm at about 1.30pm on Sunday.

Three-year-old tabby cat Molly was the most badly injured, with black and white cats Jimmy, eight, and 14-year-old Tickle also receiving treatment at the Damory veterinary clinic.

“Molly was given oxygen treatment at the house by the RSPCA, and she has a burned nose, lips and chest. She’s in an oxygen tent at the vet’s and is due to receive a blood transfusion from Jimmy,” said Liz yesterday.

The pair were coming to terms with the damage to their home and ruing the loss of a dream holiday when they spoke to the Daily Echo.

“We should have been leaving today for a 10-day safari and beach holiday in Africa. The only clothes we have left are those we’re wearing and we’ll have to start looking for a place to rent,” said Rachael, 36, an installation manger.

Both Liz and Rachael expressed their thanks for the work of the emergency services and all those who had helped them and their pets.

A spokesman for the Dorset Fire and Rescue Service said a faulty electrical appliance was thought to have caused the fire.

The upper floor of the house was badly damaged by smoke, while the ground floor suffered water damage.