



Purr 'n' Fur FANS OF FELINES

Fans of Felines is written/compiled by
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Fans of Felines (2008+)

This section is devoted to mentioning well-known or famous people, from both historical and more recent times, who have been noted for their liking of cats. Where known, the name of at least one of their pets is included, although some people had more than one cat, or a succession of them (like Ernest Hemingway, who remarked, 'One cat leads to another.'). Thumbnail portraits of the people are included, in a few cases with their cat.

Of course these are only some of the celebrated personages throughout history and right up to the present day who have taken a liking to cats — in some cases a real love of them. More names may be added from time to time. A number of American presidents have had cats in the White House, and they are mentioned near the beginning of our page about [Socks](#), the Clintons' cat. There's a list of a large number of cats that belonged to famous or well-known people [here \(archived copy\)](#) and also a more up-to-date list at [Wikipedia](#).

It's interesting to note also people who definitely did not like our feline friends, although so far I've come across fewer ailurophobes than ailurophiles. But is it significant that some of the most feared and ruthless conquerors in history are said to have detested cats? Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan, Josef Stalin, Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini and Napoléon Bonaparte were all apparently cat-haters, as were Julius Caesar, Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany and General (later US President) Dwight D. Eisenhower. Perhaps there is something in many military minds that leads them to dislike the cat's independence and the fact that it's practically impossible to make a cat do what it doesn't want to.

Other ailurophobes include Henri II, Henri III, Louis XIV and Charles IX of France, Queen Elizabeth I of England, the composer Johannes Brahms, the French biologist Comte de Buffon, writers Rudyard Kipling and Hilaire Belloc, and the famous dancer of the early twentieth century, Isadore Duncan. William Shakespeare is also said to have disliked the animals, as did the popes Gregory IX, Innocent VII and Innocent VIII.

Feline Fans 1 Surnames A-K

Lloyd Alexander
Brian Aldiss
Kingsley Amis
Cleveland Amory
Ian Anderson
Matthew Arnold
George Balanchine

Feline Fans 2 Surnames L-Z

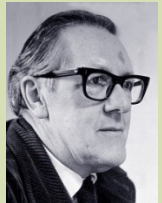
Lagerfeld, Karl
Edward Lear
Robert E Lee
Vivien Leigh
John Lennon
Vladimir Ilyich Lenin

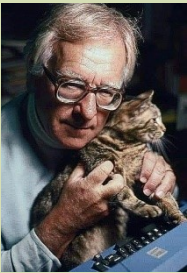
Brigitte Bardot
Pope Benedict XVI
Jeremy Bentham
Alexander Borodin
David Bowie
Ray Bradbury
Russell Brand
Brontë Sisters
George Burns
William S Burroughs
Lord George Byron
Karel Capek
Catherine the Great
Raymond Chandler
King Charles I
Frédéric Chopin
Chu Hou-Tsung
Winston Churchill
Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain)
Jean Cocteau
Colette
Billy Crystal
Marie Curie
James Dean
Claude Debussy
Charles Dickens
Alexandre Dumas
Albert Einstein
T S Eliot
Tsuguharu Foujita
Anne Frank
Paul Gallico
Théophile Gauthier
Guy Gibson
Ricky Gervais
Whoopi Goldberg
Thomas Hardy
Stephen Harper
Ernest Hemingway
Hergé (Georges Prosper Remi)
Whitney Houston
Edwin Hubble
Victor Hugo
Ichigo
Tsai Ing-Wen
Gertrude Jekyll
Samuel Johnson
Janis Joplin
Michael Joseph
Lech Kaczyński
Carol Kirkwood
Paul Klee
Gustav Klimt
Utagawa Kuniyoshi

Pope Leo XII
Abraham Lincoln
Charles Lindbergh
Andrew Lloyd Webber
Emperor Louis XV
Edouard Manet
Marie Antoinette
James Mason
Henri Matisse
Freddie Mercury
John Mills
Margaret Mitchell
Mohammed
Marilyn Monroe
Michel de Montaigne
Lucy Maud Montgomery
Sir Patrick Moore
Christopher Morley
Iris Murdoch
Isaac Newton
Florence Nightingale
Nostradamus
Petrarch
Edgar Allen Poe
Maurice Ravel
Cardinal Richelieu
Theodore Roosevelt
George Sand
Dorothy Sayers
Domenico Scarlatti
Erwin Schrödinger
Albert Schweitzer
Sir Walter Scott
George Bernard Shaw
Dusty Springfield
Théophile Steinlen
Harriet Beecher Stowe
Sultan El Daher Beybars
Elizabeth Taylor
Nikola Tesla
Thutmose
Simon Tofield
Carl Van Vechten
Ralph Vaughan Williams
Queen Victoria
Louis Wain
Rick Wakeman
Horace Walpole
Charles Dudley Warner
Emma Watson
Bill Watterson
H G Wells
Ann Widdecombe
Cardinal Thomas Wolsey
Virginia Woolf
Frank Zappa

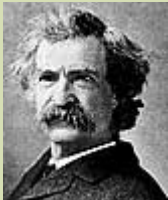
Fans of Felines 1 (2008+)

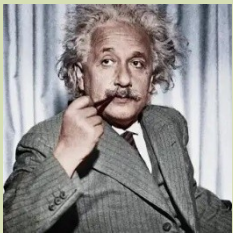
Surnames A-K

	Alexander, Lloyd (1924–2007)	Solomon and others	American author, noted especially for his fantasy books for children; he won a number of awards for them. He had many cats, and they featured in some of his work.
	Brian Aldiss (1925–2017)	Macramé, Foxy, Yum-Yum, Nickie, Jackson	The English poet, playwright, critic and writer – best known for his science-fiction novels – had many cats, some of which are named at left.
	Amis, Kingsley (1922–1995)	Sarah Snow	English writer Amis was convinced that his long-haired white cat with green eyes was trying to speak English. He wrote: <i>I was impressed to hear her say 'Hello' Not like a person, true It might not sound quite right to you More of a simple squeak or squawk — Still, that's what happens when cats talk.</i>
	Amory, Cleveland (1917–1998)	Polar Bear	American writer Amory wrote 3 books about his first cat, which he rescued from a New York street after being until then a 'dog person'.
	Anderson, Ian (b. 1947)	Rupi, TJ, Tiffen, Sambhar, Bhagee	The lead singer of the rock group Jethro Tull is a committed ailurophile and has a passion for Bengals in particular. He had a page on the web dedicated to cats (<i>Jan. 2001 – archived copy</i>) and their care.
	Arnold, Matthew (1822–1888)	Atossa	The English poet immortalised his Persian cat Atossa in a poem about his canary Matthias, recalling how the cat would sit immobile for hours beside the bird's cage, without ever trying to attack.
	Balanchine, George *1904–1983)	Mourka	The famed ballet choreographer had a ginger-and-white cat, a former New York alley cat, that he trained to do several ballet movements such as <i>entre-chats</i> and <i>pas de chats</i> . See this article (March 2014).
	Bardot, Brigitte (1934 –2025)	numerous	The former sultry French film actress established the Bardot Foundation in St Tropez in 1986, selling her jewellery and other possessions to fund her animal-welfare work. Her home gives shelter to many stray cats, which are then neutered, but her animal welfare interests extend well beyond just felines.

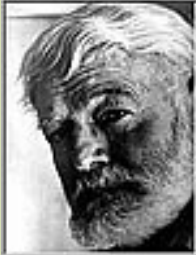
	Benedict XVI (1927–2022)	Chico	The 265th occupant of the Holy See, who retired in 2013, was a passionate feline fancier; it was said of him that he adored cats, and liked to stop and talk to any cat he might encounter. Officially pets aren't allowed in the Vatican, but there were rumours that Benedict had two strays in his papal apartments — the Vatican refused to confirm or deny this. What is known is that his former cat Chico, a red tabby shorthair, stayed in the ex-pope's home town of Tübingen in Bavaria, southern Germany, where he was looked after by neighbours. (See Feline Folios for a review of a children's book about the pope's life as related by Chico.)
	Bentham, Jeremy (1748–1832)	Langhorne	The English philosopher didn't much like people and considered social activities a waste of time, much preferring the company of his beloved cat, who would often dine at table with him. Later he bestowed titles on him, so he became 'Sir John Langbourn', and then 'Reverend Sir John Langbourn, D.D.'
	Borodin, Alexander (1833–1887)	Ryborov	The well-known Russian classical composer and chemist had many cats. Ryborov was one who learned to fish through holes in the ice in winter: 'Ryborov' means 'fisherman'.
	Bowie, David (1947–2016)	Purrie	British rock musician Bowie was a major figure in popular music for many years, and was apparently a 'cat person', as are a number of other performers in the genre. He co-wrote and recorded a song called <i>Cat People</i> for the 1982 film of the same name.
	Bradbury, Ray (1920–2012)	unknown	The famous American science-fiction writer was a lifelong cat-lover. He compared parts of the writer's creative process to cat ownership, saying that 'Ideas, like cats, come silently in the hour of trying to remember my name,' and his advice for writers was, 'Treat ideas like cats; make them follow you.'
	Brand, Russell (b. 1975)	Morrissey	Brand is a rather eccentric English comedian, actor, columnist, singer, author and radio/television presenter. He is also a fan of felines and has named his own cat after The Smiths' frontman, a fellow vegetarian and cat lover.
	Brontë sisters Charlotte (1816–1855) Emily (1818–1848) Anne (1820–1849)	Black Tom, Tiger and others	The three famous literary sisters, who all died quite young, were well-known as cat lovers. Their novels and poetry frequently showed their relationships with their felines, and Charlotte and Anne often referred to their cats in their diaries.

	Burns, George (1896–1996)	Willie	The long-lived American comedian, actor and producer was reported to have chosen his cat's name because 'when you tell him what to do, there's always the question of "Will he or won't he?"'
	Burroughs, William S. (1914–1997)	various	The American writer and spoken-word performer lived with several cats, which became significant in his personal mythology. Among his many books is <i>The Cat Inside</i> , a collection of short essays and thoughts.
	Byron, Lord George (1788–1824)	Beppo	Poet Byron's cat was said to drink milk from a skull, and 'helped' to write many of his master's poems.
	Capek, Karel (1890–1938)	Pudlenka and others	Czech writer who loved cats and had dozens of them during his life. The stray Pudlenka arrived on his doorstep after an earlier cat had died from poisoning; she later bore a total of 26 kittens, and her daughter Pudlenka II had 21.
	Catherine the Great (1729–1796)	Potemkin	Catherine was a confirmed cat lover, her personal pets being Russian Blues, while there were more cats 'below stairs' for rodent control. Then her lover presented her with an Angora, which she called 'the cat of all cats'.
	Chandler, Raymond (1888–1959)	Taki	Famous crime author who read the first drafts of his novels to his cat and called her his 'feline secretary'.
	Charles I of England (1600–1649)	Luck	King Charles treasured his black cat and was convinced it brought him good luck. He could have been right: the day after it died his luck ran out and he was arrested by Parliamentary troops.
	Chopin, Frédéric (1810–1849)	Unknown	The renowned Polish composer and virtuoso pianist had a cat that would sometimes run up and down on the piano keys. Legend has it that this prompted Chopin to write 'The Cat Waltz', a very popular piece for helping aspiring pianists to learn how to play — although he didn't name the piece thus.
No image available	Chu Hou-Tsung (1507–1566)	Shuang-mei (<i>'Frost-Eyebrows'</i>)	An emperor of China who was inseparable from his favourite cat, described as being of 'faintly blue' colour with 'jade-white eyebrows'. Upon her death, the royal favourite was buried beneath a stone tablet engraved with the words, 'The Grave of a Dragon with Two Horns' — an honour normally reserved for humans of great merit.

	Churchill, Winston (1874–1965)	Mickey, Tango, Smoky, Nelson, Jock and others	Churchill was a great cat lover; Nelson would act as a hot-water bottle on the bed. At his country house of Chartwell there was Jock; he was a 'marmalade' cat, Winston's favourite cat colour. Either in his will or expressed by his family after his death, there was a request that there should always be a marmalade cat at the house, now owned by the National Trust. His wish has been respected and Jock VII is the current (2023) incumbent — see this separate page for the Chartwell Jocks and here for an article about all Churchill's feline friends..
	Clemens, Samuel ('Mark Twain') (1835–1910)	Tammany and many others	The famous American writer also liked to give his cats names such as Apollinaris, Zoroaster, Blatherskite and Sour Mash, saying that they would be good practice for children learning to spell long and difficult words!
	Cocteau, Jean (1889–1963)	Karoun	Cocteau was a multi-talented artist — a novelist, playwright, director, poet, essayist, painter, set designer, and actor. He called Karoun the 'King of Cats'. Karoun wore a collar around his neck with the inscription, 'Cocteau belongs to me.'
	Colette (1873–1954)	La Chatte Dernière and many others	French writer Colette had many cats during her life and they often featured in her work. When the last one ('La chatte dernière') died, she spent the last 15 years of her own life without any of the animals, finding it too painful to bear when they died. Two others she had were Saha and Kiki la Doucette.
	Crystal, Billy (b. 1948)	Mittens	The multi-talented Mr Crystal — American actor, writer, producer, comedian and film director — claims that Mittens enjoys fishing and computer programming.
	Curie, Marie (1867–1934)	Didi	Curie was the scientist who discovered radium and did extensive work on radioactivity. Before WW1, after her husband's tragic death, Marie and her two young daughters lived at Sceaux, near Paris, where they had two cats. After the war she had an apartment in Paris near the Seine, and there also there was a cat — maybe that was Didi.
	Dean, James (1931–1955)	Marcus	Teen film idol Dean was given a Siamese cat called Marcus by Elizabeth Taylor. The night before he was due to go to a car race he gave it to his girlfriend — fortuitously, as it turned out, as he was killed next day in a crash on his way to the race meeting.
	Debussy, Claude (1862–1918)	unknown	The French composer favoured Angora cats, and at any one time had at least two in the house. His biographer wrote, 'They were permitted to lounge solemnly on the desk and, if they so wished, to sow disorder among the pencils.'

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	Dickens, Charles (1812–1870)	Williamina	The famous English author for a long time refused to have cats, as he was very fond of birds, but then his daughter gave him a white cat, which produced kittens. All were found homes except a deaf, white one that then became 'the master's cat' and his constant companion.
	Dumas, Alexandre (1802–1870)	Mysouff	When the French writer left his house in the morning his cat would accompany him to a certain point and then return to the house. When Dumas was due to come home later, Mysouff would ask to be let out and would return to the same point and greet his master. The strange thing is that he seemed to know when Dumas was going to be late and on those occasions would remain sleeping. Dumas also founded the Feline Defence League with fellow scribes and cat-lovers. Guy de Maupassant, Anatole France and Charles Baudelaire.
	Einstein, Albert (1879–1955)	Tiger	Arguably the most famous scientist of all, Einstein loved animals and had several, including his cat Tiger. He noted that the cat became depressed when it was raining.
	Eliot, T. S. (1888–1965)	Jellylorum, Noilly Prat, Pattipaws, Tantomile, Wiscus	Jellylorum inspired <i>Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats</i> and appears in it. The work in turn later inspired the very successful musical <i>Cats</i> .
	Tsuguharu Foujita (1886–1968)	Unknown	The Japanese artist lived in Paris and made many art studies of cats.
	Frank, Anne (1929–1945)	Moortje	Moortje was Anne's cat that she had to leave behind when the family went into hiding from the Nazis. She says in her diary that she missed him terribly. But she found that there were two cats when the family arrived at their hiding place. One of them was more aggressive, so she called it Boche , while the other was less aggressive but always won in the end — so she called it Tommy . Later there was a third cat, the pet of a young man who, with his family, later joined the Franks in hiding. That cat was called Mouchi .

	Gallico, Paul (1897–1976)	Unknown	Writer Paul Gallico had several cats and wrote about them in some of his work. He said that once a cat had presented its owner with a mouse, 'The owner will be forever changed, as 'the cat can use you for a doormat. And she will, too.'
	Gauthier, Théophile (1811–1872)	Gavroche, Don Pierrot, Zizi, Séraphine, Chateaubriand, Madame Théophile	French author Gauthier had his house full of cats until the siege of Paris in 1870 decimated them. Best of all he loved Gavroche, a charitable creature who would 'bring in from the streets gaunt and ragged cats (Chateaubriand was one such) who devoured in a scurry of fright the food laid aside for them'. Another favourite was Don Pierrot, a white cat about whom the French author wrote extensively; Don and Séraphine — described as 'dreamy and reserved and addicted to perfume' — produced three black kittens, who were named after characters in <i>Les Misérables</i> . Zizi was a superb Angora who liked to walk up and down the piano keyboard, while Mme Théophile, red and white, would steal morsels from Gauthier's plate.
	Gervais, Ricky (b. 1961)	Ollie, Pickle	Ricky is an English comedian, actor, director, producer, musician and writer. His beautiful Siamese cat was a <u>gift</u> from TV personality Jonathan Ross, after Gervais' previous cat had died. He's a passionate campaigner for animal rights.
	Gibson, Guy, VC (1918–1944)	Windy	Many WW2 <u>aircrew had cats</u> and other pets that accompanied them on missions. Windy clocked up more air miles than most in the company of Gibson, one of Britain's most decorated bomber pilots of WW2.
	Goldberg, Whoopi (b. 1955)	Oliver Hoyt Goldberg	The American comedienne, actress and singer-songwriter (real name Caryn Johnson) had her cat 'write' to the Obamas after Barack was elected President in 2009 and the family was looking for a puppy, suggesting that instead they take on a 'self-sufficient, tidy and clean' cat.
	Hardy, Thomas (1840–1928)	Cobby, Kitsey, Snowdove and others	Hardy and his first wife Emma were ardent cat lovers, with at least 8 living at their house at one time, while saucers of milk were placed on the lawn for others just 'coming to tea!' There was a pet graveyard too, with headstones that Hardy inscribed himself (<i>see image at foot of page</i>).
	Harper, Stephen (b. 1959)	Cheddar, Stanley and others	Harper served as Canadian prime minister from 2006 until 2015 and seemed to have a reputation as an uncompromising and outspoken man — yet he and his wife fostered cats for years through the Ottawa Humane Society. Some were kept as their 'own' cats, and Cheddar was one such. Stanley arrived in mid-2011; his <u>name was chosen</u> in a Facebook poll and Harper was <u>pictured</u> having breakfast with Stanley in early 2013.

	Hemingway, Ernest (1899–1961)	Big Boy Peterson, Boise, Cristóbal, F. Puss, Friendless, Izzy, Princessa, Snowball, Uncle Wolfer, Willy	Hemingway was a complex and sensitive man, at odds with the macho image often attributed to him. He was very fond of cats, found comfort in them when he was depressed, and said they helped him to write. There were large numbers of cats, and some dogs, at his home in Cuba; some of his favourites over the years are named opposite. The six-toed (polydactyl) cats among those at the Hemingway Museum in Florida are said to be descendants of Snow White, given to Hemingway by a ship's captain in 1935.
	Hergé (Georges Prosper Remi) (1907–1983)	Thaïke	Although cats were never prominent in the <i>Tintin</i> stories, the Belgian author and his wife Germaine had many cats during their lives. They took their Siamese Thaïke with them when they fled the German advance during WW2, and the cat is mentioned in a biography by Pierre Assouline & Charles Ruas. Hergé made drawings of her. Two earlier cats were Siam and Chonchon.
	Houston, Whitney (1963–2012)	Marilyn Miste	The American singer, actress and producer, who tragically died in 2012, gained more awards than any other female act ever, according to Guinness World Records. She also liked cats.
	Hubble, Edwin (1889–1953)	Nicolas Copernicus	The famous astronomer had a black cat named after an earlier famous astronomer. Taken in as a kitten in 1947, the part-Persian cat became an important part of the Hubble household, and both Edwin and his wife Grace were devoted to him. He died in 1962. See this link for more.
	Hugo, Victor (1802–1885)	Gavroche, aka Chanoine	Hugo was a French playwright, poet, novelist and politician, best remembered today for <i>Les Misérables</i>. He had a magnificent Angora cat Gavroche, later renamed as Chanoine. Hugo marvelled at the companionship of a cat, remarking that 'God has made the cat to give man the pleasure of caressing the tiger.'
No image available	Ichigo (10th/11th century)	Myobu no Otodo	Ichigo, Emperor of Japan from 980 to 1011. Ichigo awarded cats special treatment and high status. His favourite, Myobu no Otodo ('Chief Lady-in-Waiting of the Inner Palace') was awarded a special rank at court and had human ladies-in-waiting appointed to tend to her needs. The hapless owner of a dog that chased her was imprisoned!

	Ing-Wen, Tsai (b.1956)	Xiang Xiang, Ah Tsai	Elected president of Taiwan in 2016 and again in 2020, Tsai Ing-Wen is a well-known cat lover, and has two former strays; she also has dogs. She used both cat and dog imagery in her election campaigns. See BBC News (May 2024)
	Jekyll, Gertrude (1843–1932)	Pinkieboy, Tittlebat, Tootie, Octavius	Gertrude was one of the greatest English garden designers, creating over 400 gardens in Britain, Europe and the US, as well as being a writer, craftswoman, photographer and artist. She was adamant that no garden was complete without a cat, and much preferred cats to people. 'My garden would not be half the pleasure it is to me without the pussies.' she said.
	Johnson, Samuel (1709–1784)	Hodge	'A very fine cat indeed', as writer and lexicographer Johnson described him, Hodge loved oysters, which the great man himself would go out to buy.
	Joseph, Michael (1897–1958)	Charles, Minna Minna Mowbray	A British publisher who loved cats. He wrote an account of his cats, in particular Charles, in his book <i>Charles: The Story of a Friendship</i> (reviewed in Feline Folios 6).
	Joplin, Janis (1943–1970)	Kitty Cat	The American singer and songwriter, who became something of an icon of the psychedelic 1960s, died tragically from a drugs overdose.
	Kaczyński, Lech (1949--2010)	Rudolf	The former Polish president and his wife, tragically killed in a plane crash in April 2010, were both great cat lovers. In communist times secret Solidarity meetings used to be held in his mother's apartment; she also had cats, and to avoid suspicion the gatherings were referred to as 'meetings on cat street'. Following the Kaczyńskis' deaths, Lech's brother Jarosław took in Rudolf and looked after him.
	Carol Kirkwood (b. 1962)	Donald	The well-known Scottish weather presenter on BBC Breakfast since 2015 had a cat called Donald. When he <u>died</u> , aged 20, in 2020, she said, 'He will live on in my broken heart for ever.'

	Klee, Paul (1879–1940)	Bimbo I, Bimbo II, Mys, Nuggi, Fritz, Fripouille	The Swiss artist was so fond of his cats that a whole book was written about them: <i>The Cosmic Cats of Paul Klee</i> , and he took the photographs of them for the book himself. He also celebrated them in some of his work. A story is told that when one of them walked across a wet watercolour and left paw-prints, instead of shooing it away Klee said, 'Many years from now one of your art connoisseurs will wonder how I got that effect.'
	Klimt, Gustav (1862–1918)	Katze	Klimt was a famous Viennese painter, the founder of the late-nineteenth-century Secessionist Art Movement in Vienna. A children's book <i>Klimt and his Cat</i> , by Berenice Capatti, helps young readers to explore his work.
	Kuniyoshi, Utagawa (c1797–1861)	Unknown	The Edo studio of the Japanese master was said to be always full of cats and kittens, which he featured often in his woodcuts.
Graves of 2 of Hardy's cats, Snowdove & Kitsey			

Our featured feline at the head of the page is Freddy, pictured in 1996. As can be seen from his photo, Freddy was a very handsome cat. He and four other cats lived next door to me in North Wales in the mid-1990s. For various reasons I was unable to have a cat of my own at the time, and he was a frequent and welcome visitor for a few biscuits. He even brought one of his housemates along sometimes, and the two of them would curl up and sleep on the spare bed. When I moved back to the area permanently in 1999, I still saw him occasionally. He died in 2006 at a good age.