

Mini Fragments 5 (2024)

(page checked April 2026)

Short news items of feline interest from today and yesteryear

▣ Alberta, Canada: 1992



This remarkable artefact is not – as was claimed at one time on social media – a suit of armour made for Henry VIII's cat! It's a sculpture made in 1992 by renowned Canadian sculptor and artisan Jeff De Boer, based in Calgary, Alberta, and it was made for a Ripley's 'Believe It or Not!' museum in the United States (I don't know which one; there are a number of such museums). Jeff describes himself as 'the guy who's best known for making armour for cats and mice', something he's been doing since 1986. He also makes kinetic jewellery; his work is internationally known and collected worldwide.

[Fact Check](#) (Oct. 2020) | [CBC Art](#) | (Jan. 2016) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

▣ Peterhead, Scotland: April 2022



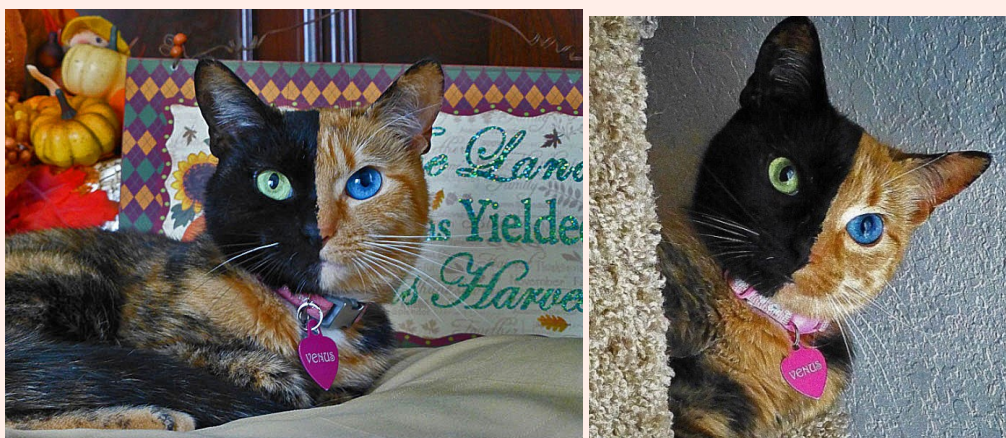
Black cat **Dexter** went missing from his home in 2017. During that time it was later found that he'd been frequenting HM Prison Grampian at Peterhead where, presuming he was a stray, staff had fed him and made a fuss of him, even naming him 'One-eyed Joe'. Then a strange thing happened; 'Joe' must have made his way to the port, a mile and a half away, and got shut inside

a shipping container bound for an offshore oil rig. Imagine the surprise when the container was opened and a black cat jumped out! The workers on the rig treated him kindly – in fact he was said to have been ‘spoiled rotten’ – but eventually notified the Scottish SPCA. The cat was returned to the mainland by helicopter, was found to be microchipped and actually named Dexter. Because his microchip details were up to date, he was able to be reunited, after five years and all his adventures, with his delighted owner.

[Good News Network](#) | [Aberdeen Live](#) (both April 2022) | [YouTube](#) (April 2022)

▣ North Carolina, USA: 2009

Born as a stray on a dairy farm in early July 2009 to a tortoiseshell mother and unknown father, in September of that year **Venus** was adopted by a couple in Florida, who after a while gave her a presence on social media (although in 2024 I think she’s in Georgia, as the couple divorced). She soon had a large following on [Facebook](#), and on [Instagram](#), still active in late 2024. There was also a [Twitter](#) (X) account (*cpy link to browser; little used since 2022*). Her unique colouring and heterochromic eyes (different colours) have been the subject of much debate, with some describing her as a chimera and others disagreeing. Whatever the case, Venus – so named because of her beauty and loving personality – is a happy, easy-going and much loved cat whose fame doesn’t seem to have gone to her head! There’s a comprehensive account of her earlier life at [Animal Wellness](#) magazine (Jan. 2016). In late 2025 she was 16 and doing well.



▣ Argentina: 2016



As well as Venus above, another chimera cat, this one a long-haired one, came to light in about 2016 in Argentina, with exact location unspecified. Known as **Quimera**, the female, adopted as a kitten, was said to be a sweet and affectionate cat. For several years she had a strong presence on social media, with both [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts, but more recently posts seem to have stopped; Instagram was last used in 2022, and Facebook in 2020. [Cole & Marmalade](#) (December 2019) | [My Pet Matters](#) (Oct. 2021)

📍 Amsterdam, Netherlands: 2024



Although he looks very official and business-like, two-year-old **Nimis** isn't actually a police cat but he is an unofficial one! He's lived on a houseboat in Amsterdam since kittenhood, but because he roams the neighbourhood, with its canals posing a possible danger, his owner Lydia, who works for the police herself, likes him to wear a lifejacket whenever he's out. She found some 'police' patches at a local shop – so now Nimis is regarded as the local 'police agent'. He has many fans – including the official police force! There's a video clip of him [here](#) (March 2024), and he also has his own active [Instagram](#) account.

[Cole & Marmalade](#) (April 2024: many photos)

▣ **Unknown location: April 2024**



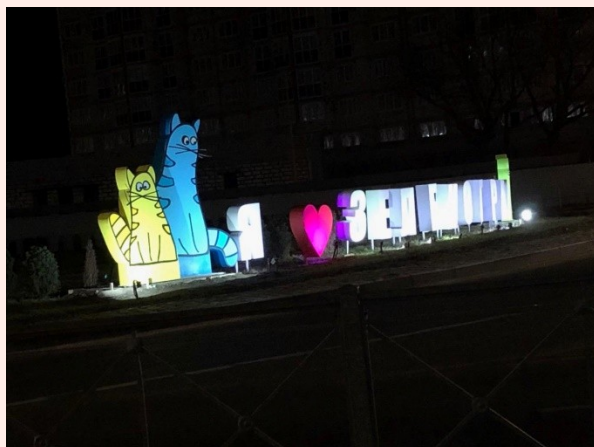
Bruce is a most unusual cat, dubbed the 'unicorn cat' because of his unique appearance. His breed is called a Minuet, a cross between a Persian and a Munchkin, so he has quite short legs. What's remarkable, though, is that he has the head of a 'tuxedo' cat on a light tabby or 'agouti' body, with some tortoiseshell patches as well. He also has pale silvery-blue eyes, whereas a tuxedo's eyes are normally yellow or green. It's possible he could be the result of a breeder's failed attempt to achieve some desired result. Whatever the case, Bruce's owner declares that he's absolutely real, there's no photographic trickery involved in the images, and he's a thriving cat with a normal character. I haven't been able to find out where Bruce is located.

[Cole & Marmalade](#) (Apr. 2024 – *several other accounts have the same images but no further facts.*)

▣ **Zelenogradsk, Kaliningrad, Russia: 2019**

In 2019 it was reported that this small seaside town in the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad had installed some unusual traffic signals! The town is apparently known for its love of cats, and wanted to establish itself as the country's foremost feline-loving community. A 'cat chief' was appointed to look after the welfare of the 70 or so stray felines to be found there. In addition, at the entrance to the city a number of cat statues have been installed that light up at night!

[Moscow Times](#) (March 2019).



▣ **Vladivostok, Russia: 2017**



A litter of eight baby hedgehogs was brought into Sadgorod Zoo in Vladivostok after their mother had been the victim of a lawnmower accident. They were tiny and still blind. Zoo staff tried feeding them with milk, but they refused to accept it from syringes, bottles or saucers. While they were wondering what to try next, the cat **Musya** apparently encountered the babies and showed an interest in the little mites. She had recently raised a litter of foster kittens and still had milk. To everyone's surprise she took on the hoglets and allowed them to nurse from her, which they did enthusiastically. Musya looked after them for a week or so, until they were able to start feeding on their own, and she didn't seem to mind that her 'kittens' had prickly quills! As soon as they were old enough and independent, the babies were moved into their own enclosure. [BBC News](#) (July 2017) | [Cole & Marmalade](#) (Sept. 2021)



Perm, Russia: September 2024

An unfortunate cat called **Kroshik** – translated as 'Crumbs' – was found living in a hospital basement and weighing an incredible 17 kg. (around 37 pounds), as much as a small human child. He could barely get to his feet or walk. It's thought he'd been abandoned and had taken refuge there, where well-meaning people had been feeding him biscuits and soup. He was rescued and taken to a shelter in Perm, where he was put on a strict diet and, when he could walk, would be exercised on a treadmill with the aim of reducing his weight by three-quarters. [Mirror](#) (Sept. 2024)

▣ **Palmerston North, New Zealand: 2020**



I think it was in 2020 that a street artist known as 'Swiftmantis' painted this terrific street mural in his home town on Papaioea, a suburb of New Zealand's Palmerston North. It represents a stray cat, a local alley cat known as **Squishee**, who at first wouldn't let him get close. She kept hanging around, though, and over time he earned her trust. Eventually she moved from the old brick studio where she'd been living to his doorway, then inside, until finally she decided to stay and so gained a proper home.
[Street Art Utopia](#) (March 2021)

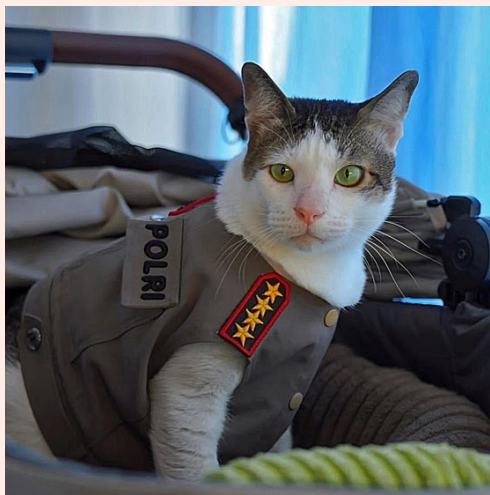
▣ **Jakarta, Indonesia: October 2024**



On 20 October 2024 Prabowo Subianto moved into the presidential palace in Indonesia's capital city, having been elected as the eighth president of the country – and with him went his cherished pet cat

Bobby Kertanagara. Bobby, now Indonesia's First Cat, was rescued as a stray in 2017 at Prabowo's residence in Kertanagara – hence his name. He has his own elegant stroller (*above right*), and many followers on Instagram. Prabowo, a former military general, also has three other cats that he adopted in 2021 – **Mika**, **Miki** and **Miko** – but it isn't clear whether or not they also moved into the presidential palace.

[Yahoo News](#) (July 2025) | [Straits Times](#) (Oct. 2024) | [Instagram](#)



▣ Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: 2024



Zoo Negara is the Malaysian National Zoo, founded in 1963 not far from the capital city of Kuala Lumpur. In the capybara enclosure, visitors will often see a ginger cat called **Oyen** (Malay for 'orange'), who lives peacefully and contentedly with the rodents. He first appeared while the zoo was closed because of the Covid-19 pandemic in the early 2020s, and zoo staff think he was probably dumped there. They decided to let him stay, while keeping a close eye on him for any signs of stress or disease, but he seems very happy there and capybaras are known for being friendly towards species such as cats and dogs. When the zoo reopened in September 2021 visitors began to notice Oyen, and since then he's become a major attraction at the zoo!

[The Star](#) | [Free Malaysia](#) (both Aug. 2023) | [Straits Times](#) (Nov. 2024)

▣ London, England: February 2025

Tilly's owner Michael Hardy was a little surprised to receive a phone call from a ticket-office

worker at London's Waterloo railway station, to say that his two-year-old cat was there, having apparently taken an 18-mile journey on a train from Weybridge in Surrey. Fortunately Michael was working in London at the time and was able to go to Waterloo to collect her.

Tilly, a former stray, was known to be a bit of a wanderer and had hopped on buses before, but this was her biggest adventure yet!

[BBC News](#)



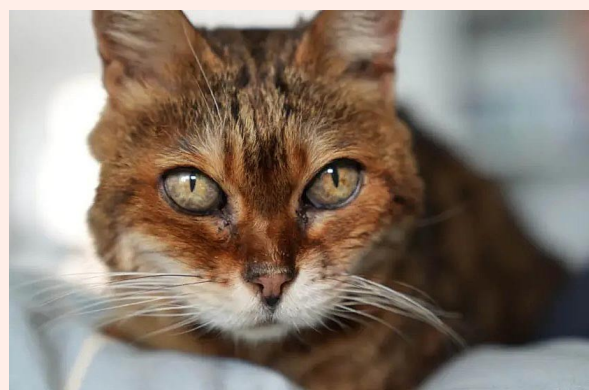
▣ Texas, USA: December 2004

There was something of an ethical and scientific debate when a woman in Texas paid \$50,000 (about £26,000 at the time) to have a clone made of her beloved cat Nicky that had died the previous year. She had banked Nicky's DNA, from which it was possible to clone **Little Nicky**. He was identical, the woman said, with the same personality. He was thought to be the first cloned-to-order cat.

See also [Featuring / Miscellany 10](#) for 'CC', the first cloned cat.

▣ Essex, England: March 2025

Another owner who was very surprised was Carl Pullen, now living in Essex, when he received a call from a vet asking whether he had a cat called **Sunshine**. He answered that he did – but she had disappeared from home, then in Welwyn Garden City, 16 years before! The pedigree Bengal had been handed in as a stray. Overwhelmed with emotion, Carl never thought he'd see her again; but said that even if she didn't have very long, at least she'd have a comfortable retirement now [BBC News](#) (March 2025)



▣ Stockport, Greater Manchester, England: March 2025



Millie, a tortoiseshell cat described a rather shy, celebrated her 30th birthday with a cake and 30 candles! Her human, Leslie Greenhough, said that his late wife had taken on Millie at three months old in 1995, making her possibly the oldest living cat although he didn't know her exact birth date. He put her long life down to 'plenty of treats and cuddles', a diet of salmon, tuna, prawns and shrimps, and drinking only bottled water.

[BBC News](#) | [Manchester Evening News](#) (both March 2025)

See **Featuring /Miscellany 10** for more about older cats.



▣ **Ottawa, Canada: 2025**

After Mark Carney was elected Canada's prime minister in March 2025, it emerged that the Carney family has a beloved tabby cat called **Nico**. I don't know how old he is, but he has a Twitter (X) account, and is described as the 'Purr Minister of Canada'!

<https://x.com/carneypurr67561>

▣ **Costa Rica, South America: May 2025**



An unnamed cat in Costa Rica was found climbing a fence at the Pococi Penitentiary with two packages strapped to its back. Guards were alerted and the cat was caught. When the packages were cut off and examined, they were found to contain a quantity of marijuana and also some crack cocaine paste and some 'rolling papers'. The drugs were confiscated and the cat taken to the National Animal Health Service. The incident was widely reported online, with many people expressing their anger and frustration at the use of an animal for the crime.

[BBC News](#) | [People](#) | [Times Now](#) (all May 2025)

▣ **Seoul, South Korea: 2025**

High on the forested trails of Bukhansan mountain in northern Seoul there lives a black-and-white cat who's become something of a legend among hikers. For years she's been seen greeting visitors, sometimes walking beside them, sometimes just watching from the rocks. Locals call her **Yang**, and she's even featured on posters along the trail. Bukhansan is a sacred place, with not just granite peaks, but ancient temples and a deep-rooted Buddhist history. People say that meeting Yang isn't just adorable – it feels spiritual, as if the little cat has become part of the mountain itself: a silent guide; a gentle soul watching over those who pass. (I think Yang may not be the only cat there.)



▣ **Brussels, Belgium: 2025**

Apparently the handsome Scottish Fold was found abandoned in the wild, was rescued and taken to the Poezenbos animal shelter in the town of Buggenhout. How it came about I don't know, but in 2025 he was adopted by Bart De Wever, author, historian and politician who became Belgium's prime minister in February that year. Now rejoicing in the name **Maximus Textorios Pulcher**, the FIV-positive cat has found a safe and comfortable home – and his own [Instagram](#) account (reportedly managed by the PM himself), where he comments in a light-hearted way on the political scene. 'He certainly made his presence felt during the summer negotiations,' said De Wever. 'His well-timed

howls captured the mood perfectly during the late-night sessions.'

[The Animal Reader](#) | [Belga News Agency](#) (both July 2025) | [Bluewin News](#) (Aug. 2025) | [Nova News](#) (Dec. 2025) | [Guardian](#) (Jan. 2026)



▣ East Kilbride, Scotland: September 2025

Tales of cats going missing for quite some time aren't uncommon, but **George** had been missing for NINE years when he was reunited with his family. Owner Fran Henriquez said that they'd had him for four years when he uncharacteristically didn't turn up for breakfast one morning in 2016. Despite posters and searches he wasn't seen again, and Fran said the family had given up hope of his return – until she received a phone call from the Scottish SPCA to say they had her cat. She thought it odd, as her present cat was asleep on the sofa, but then they said his microchip had identified him as George! Fran said they were so pleased to have him back; he was the same as ever apart from some matted furr and bad teeth – but of course was now an older cat. Her older child remembered him from before, but the younger one hadn't known him and both children were now making a big fuss of him! He'll have a 'happy retirement'.



[BBC News](#) (Sept. 2025)

▣ Baku, Azerbaijan: September 2025



During preparations for the Grand Prix in Baku, a playful and confident young cat gained a lot of media attention by frequenting the paddock and mixing with drivers, mechanics and everyone who'd pay him attention! He/she was removed from the scene twice by staff, but was having none of it and returned to spend the day mingling with fans, strolling around and rolling on the grass. I'm not sure of the outcome, but apparently the mother of one of the drivers in the Williams team asked her son to bring the cat back so that she and her family could give it a home. A name? There were various suggestions, one of which was **Furrari**.

[Motor Sport](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Fan Buzz](#) (all Sept. 2025)



📍 **Kirov, Russia: January 2024**

Twix the cat was travelling on a train with his family from Yekaterinburg to St Petersburg when he escaped from his carrier. The train conductor found him in the corridor and, thinking he was a stray, threw him out of the train into the snow at the station in Kirov, in freezing weather. The moment was caught on CCTV and posted on social media, causing a huge outcry. Some 380,000 people signed a petition demanding that the conductor be dismissed, with a further 180,000 saying she should be prosecuted. A huge search was organised by volunteers, but presumably without result, so poor Twix most likely perished. Russian Railways apologised to his owners and promised to review its animal-handling procedures. There were plenty of articles published in the media about the tragedy. Even had the cat been a stray, surely it would have deserved to be rescued, rather than just thrown out to die.

[Novaya Gazeta](#) (Feb. 2024)

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