

Gacek

Szczecin, Poland



The medieval city of Szczecin (Stettin) in north-western Poland has a number of tourist attractions, including a twelfth-century castle – but in the early 2020s they were eclipsed by a large tuxedo cat who lived in a box on Kaszubska Street! Some people visit the city just to meet him, and he became known as ‘the King of Kaszubska Street’.

Named **Gacek**, which in Polish translates as ‘long-eared bat’, he’d been around in the city since about 2013, but started to become better-known when a local news site posted videos of him. Gacek lived in a custom-made wooden box outside a shop, whose owners fed him and looked after him. There was a notice asking people not to pet him while he’s sleeping, as he might scratch; and of course he was given plenty of cat treats, which is why he became chunky. There were criticisms about the giving of treats, but Gacek seemed healthy and quite content!





[Independent](#) (Feb. 2023 -archived copy) | [Mothership](#) (Feb. 2023) | [Instagram](#) (seems to feature a different cat now) | [YouTube](#) | [Wikipedia](#)

Update: Owing to the large number of treats he was being given by visitors, Gacek became quite overweight and, as a result, was suffering from problems with his teeth and his joints. So in April 2023 TOZ, Szczecin's Animal Welfare Association, intervened. Gacek received treatment, but still needed to lose several kilos; he was therefore adopted into a new home, so that his diet could be controlled. He's now trimmer and healthier –and has a new name: George (for George Clooney). His move wasn't welcomed by everyone, and TOZ received criticism from people saying they were trying to profit from the cat's fame; but undoubtedly Gacek/George is now healthier and probably happier. There have been fundraising efforts in George's name to help provide food for other homeless cats, with results exceeding the targets set.



[Euronews](#) (Nov. 2023)

Late in 2025 it was announced that a beautiful mural had been created in Rugianska Street, Szczecin, portraying the city's famous cat. It's painted with photocatalytic paint, which in sunlight helps to purify the air.



[Visit Szczecin](#) (Nov. 2025)

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Diorama Diner Restaurant

Osaka, Japan



This is a bit out of the ordinary. In 2018 Naoki Teraoka, a model-railway enthusiast, opened his model-themed Diorama Restaurant in the Japanese city of Osaka. When the coronavirus pandemic arrived in Japan in the early 2020s it hit his business hard, and at one point, physically and mentally exhausted, he considered closing it because of lack of customers. Then something surprising happened.

One day in June 2020, near the restaurant, he came across a sickly kitten and took the little soul in to care for it, calling it **Simba**. Next day there was another cat peering through the window; she started visiting daily and it was realised she was Simba's mother. They fed her, and eventually she brought her whole family of three more kittens along. It gave Teraoka an idea. He revamped the restaurant with the concept of using the cats, while at the same time helping them by giving them a home. The felines lounged around and chilled among his model trains, and he took photos to post on Instagram.





His posts revived interest in the business, and trade increased. He decided to further help the cats that had come to his rescue, and others, and opened a cat hotel above the restaurant, where visitors can drink tea and spend up to 2 hours with the cats. And then he began to rescue more cats from situations where they were in danger, often travelling a considerable distance. Before long he'd rescued some 100 cats, and found new homes for 60. His work continues.



[Pupperish](#) (undated) | [Instagram](#) (many more pictures) | [Restaurant website](#)

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