

Feline Fragments 26 (2023)

(page checked March 2026)

Black Cat

Antofagasta, Chile, South America



Workers at a construction site in Antofagasta came across a kitten nearby, who was friendly but seemed to be on his own. They decided to adopt and care for him, and he became a favourite and well-known around the site – so much so that he became known as ‘the foreman’! Actually given the name **Black Cat**, he gained his own ID pass for access to the site, and one of the women fashioned some hi-vis vests for him. He turned up regularly for work until construction was completed in 2017, when he was adopted and given a permanent home by one of the workers.



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ECHEVERRIA IZQUIERDO

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Obra: COOP PUERTO NUEVO ANTOFAGASTA
 Rut: 888888-8
 Nombre: BLACK CAT
 Ingreso: 04 de diciembre del 2014

Especialidad : CATPATAZ DE INGRESO

FRMA AUTORIZADO

[Cheezburger](#) (undated) | [Ruptly](#) (April 2016 – archived copy with short video) (neither link fully accessible, March 2026)

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Feline Fragments 27 (2023)

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Kesha

Spitsbergen, Norway



The Arctic archipelago of Svalbard, or Spitsbergen, belongs to Norway, although there is one small Russian settlement at Barentsburg, and it was there that a well-known ginger cat called **Kesha** was to be found. In 1992 cats were officially banned in Svalbard owing to concerns about them possibly catching and spreading disease from encounters with Arctic foxes, and to protect the huge bird population – but the story goes that Kesha was brought in secretly by Russians in the 2000s by registering him as an Arctic fox! Whether that was actually true or not seems uncertain.

What is certain is that the cat became a favourite among residents and tourists alike. He had a home, but was very much a freedom-loving character who liked to spend most of his time outdoors, meeting people and making friends – and, if they chose to feed him something, so much the better! He had a superb thick coat to cope with the cold climate, and suffered a few battle scars from encounters with local wildlife.



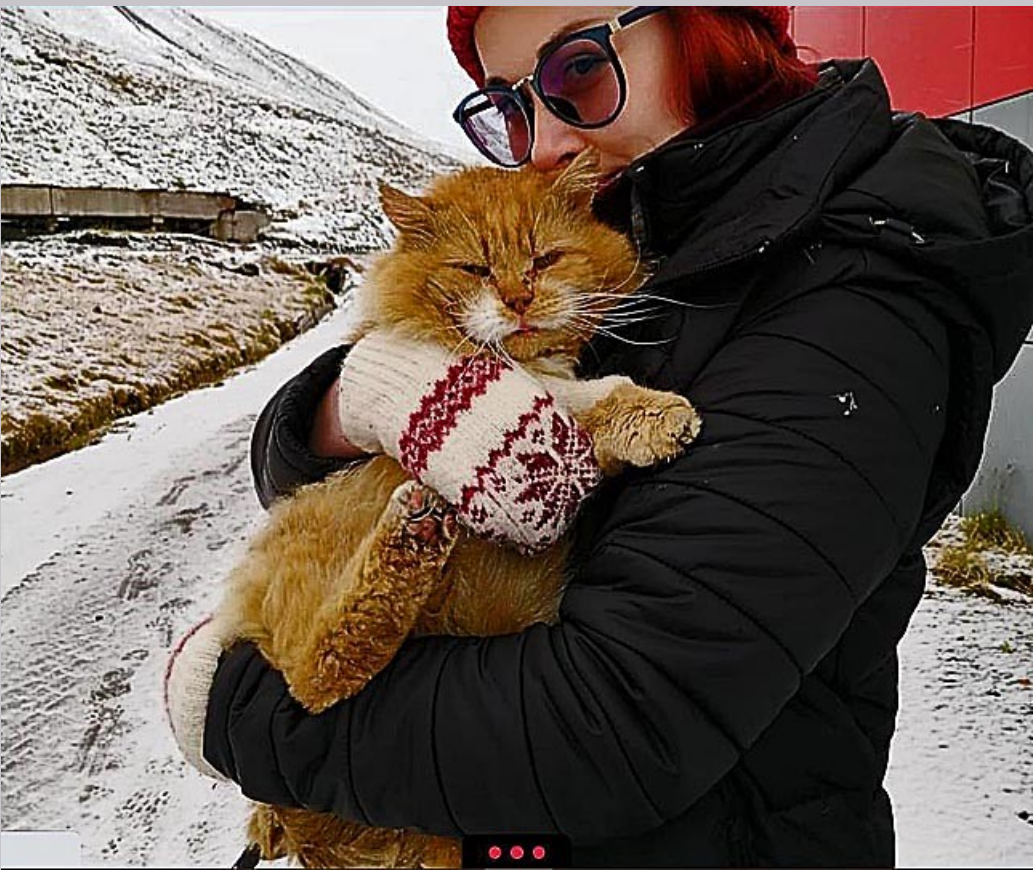
Kesha died on 20 January 2021, thought to be aged about 14. Having enjoyed almost legendary status, he was very much missed and his usual haunts were empty. There was some talk of a tribute to him, but I haven't heard of anything actually happening.

There are apparently now three other cats in Barentsburg, but they have a much lower profile than Kesha did and I think are kept indoors. Dogs are allowed with special permission; otherwise pets are limited to rabbits, cage-birds and small rodents.

[Russia Beyond](#) (Dec. 2020) | [Ice People](#) (Feb. 2021) – *archived copy* | [Oddity Central](#) (Oct. 2018)

Despite his fame, I found little on social media about Kesha. Here are a couple of snippets: [Facebook](#) (2019) | [Instagram](#) (Feb. 2021)





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