

Feline Fragments 48 (2025)

(page checked March 2026)

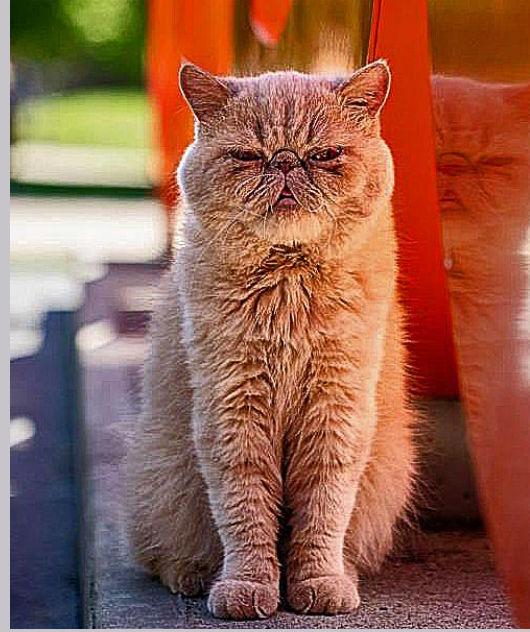
Pudge the football mascot

Bowling Green, Ohio, USA



Three-year-old Persian cat **Pudge** has become the much loved mascot and something of the public face of the Bowling Green Falcons, the intercollegiate American football team of Bowling Green State University in Ohio. He belongs to a player in his final year at the college, George Carlson, and was given to George by his parents. Previously just a normal cat living off-campus with George, his fame began one day when George took him into the team's locker-room. 'I took him into the locker-room on off-days,' said George, 'hoping to bring a smile to people's faces. They loved him!'

Pudge's fame began to spread rapidly when another player, who had a large social-media following, posted a video of him on Instagram and gained some two million views! A few days later, a second video on Tik Tok spread his fame even further. By then the football team, the fans and the university had fully embraced him. He attends the team's games, both at home and away, and is a great morale booster.



It wasn't long before there was Pudge merchandise available; he's received packages of treats from pet-food companies; there have been photo-shoots and interviews and plenty of coverage in the press and in local and national news channels. The cat even travels with his own security detail, and hotels have waived their 'no pets' rule when they heard it was Pudge who was coming to stay! The little Persian has certainly become quite a celebrity.

[University news](#) | [ESPN](#) (both Sept. 2025) | [YouTube](#) (Oct. 2025)

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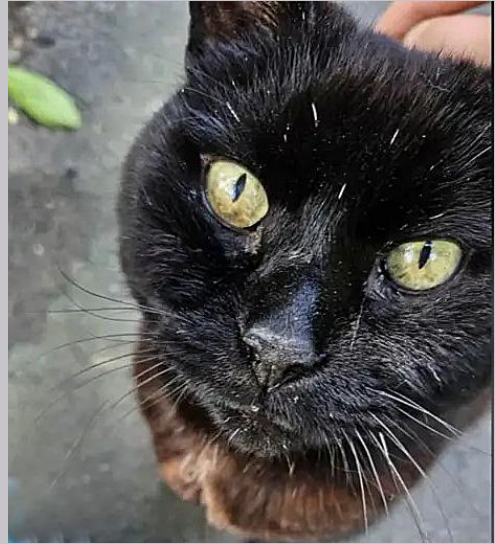
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George, business-park cat Beeston, Nottinghamshire, England



A cat found as a stray kitten was adopted and cared for by security guards at Beeston Business Park in Nottinghamshire, and made it his home for 14 years until he died in 2023. A very friendly cat, he loved greeting people, whether they were cat-lovers or not. Named **George**, he became well-known and well-loved by residents of the area; he would often accompany them in a neighbourhood alley, and would also visit local pubs – and the café for his treats! He enjoyed meeting children, too, when they came out of school.

After his death, in March 2024, local resident Brian Rorison suggested the street sign for the alleyway, which had previously been unnamed and was 'sort of George's territory'. The local borough council agreed, and so the sign was placed in the cat's memory.



[BBC News](#) (Nov. 2025) | [Nottingham Post](#) (July 2023) – pay wall | [Instagram](#)

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