

Feline Fragments 42 (2024)

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Tokyo's Cat Billboard

Tokyo, Japan



In 2024 Japan's capital city of Tokyo had three large, animated billboards featuring animals: a puppy, a panda – and this splendid calico cat; it was the first one, erected in 2021. It's situated by the east exit of Shinjuku station, from where it sleeps, wakes up, and stares at pedestrians. It plays sounds, and the curved screen allows a greater depth of image, so that from certain angles there's a three-dimensional effect.

The cat appears throughout the day between advertisements, 'waking up' with the screen at 7 a.m. and continuing until it shuts down at 1 a.m. There are different modes, enabling the cat to meow, yawn, wave its tail and even 'talk'. The 'morning' cat appears on the hour, while the 'talking' cat is seen several times an hour. A 'goodnight' cat appears half an hour before shutdown. For a sample of what the cat does see the YouTube link below.

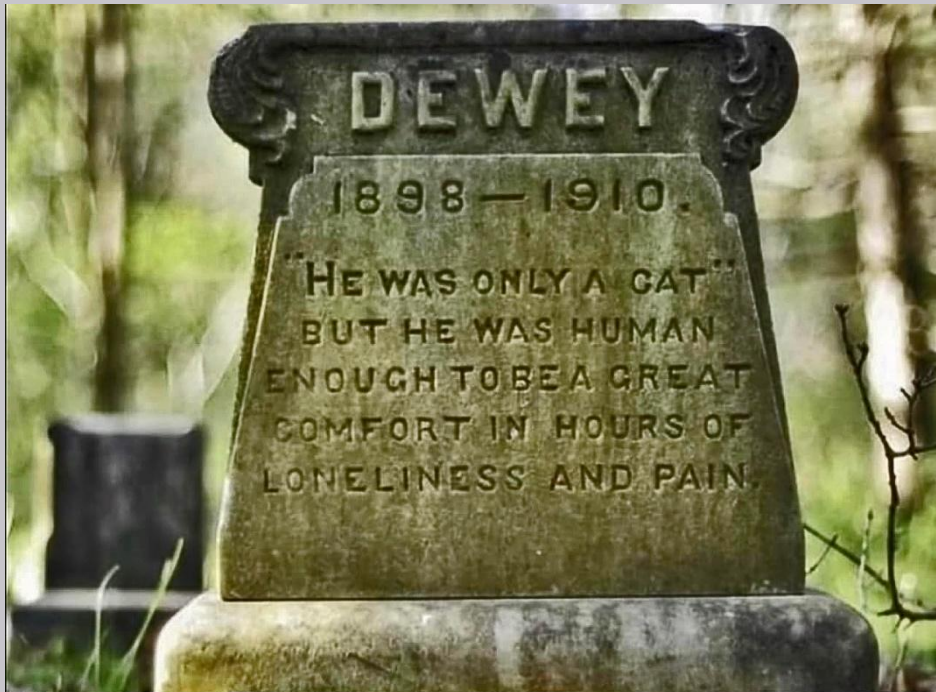
[Tokyo Cheapo](#) (undated) | [YouTube](#) (2022)

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A vintage cat memorial Dedham, Massachusetts, USA



'He was only a cat, but he was human enough to be a great comfort in hours of loneliness and pain.'

This touching epitaph to **Dewey**, 1898–1910, appears on his tombstone in the Pine Ridge Cemetery in the town of Dedham, Norfolk County, Massachusetts. Apparently the photo first appeared in the *Boston Globe* newspaper on 5 September, 1915 – but why it was only reported five years after the cat's death is unknown, unless somehow connected to his owner's death that year (*see below*).

It seems the monument was erected at the behest of a Mrs S.E. Stuart of Back Bay, a district of the city of Boston but again, why it's in Dedham is also unclear. It's thought the lady in question was most likely Sarah Ellen Rice Stuart (1831–1915), who certainly had her share of the loneliness and pain she mentions; she buried her first husband in January 1862, her only child in September that same year, and her second husband in 1886. When she died in 1915 she was believed to be the last of her numerous siblings. She's buried in Edgewood Cemetery, Nashua, New Hampshire.

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