

## Feline Fragments 7 (2006)

(page checked February 2026)

### Cats with restraining orders or in trouble for alleged anti-social behaviour

Oscar of Wingrave, Buckinghamshire  
Lewis of Fairfield, Connecticut  
Asbo of Wigan, Lancashire  
Rocky of Rotherham, South Yorkshire

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#### Oscar

Wingrave,  
Buckinghamshire,  
UK



**Oscar**, from the Buckinghamshire village of Wingrave, was in trouble late in 2012 for allegedly terrorising his neighbourhood, attacking children and dogs and frightening other cats. Five years old at the time, Oscar weighed a hefty 16 pounds (over 7 kg) and was a Turkish Van, a powerful and intelligent breed of cat sometimes called 'dogs in cat suits'. He apparently attacked one neighbour, who found him on his bed and tried to move him off, putting the gentleman in hospital for treatment to injuries Oscar inflicted on his arm. Some people in the village took to arming themselves with water pistols to ward him off should he attack.



Oscar  
was unpopular  
in the village of Wingrave



Oscar  
with owner  
Caroline Hughes  
2012

Then he went missing, and there was relief in much of the village, such was the cat's

reputation, whether deserved or not. He was eventually found in a town some 30 miles (50 km) away, possibly having hitched a ride in a delivery van. Being very hungry, he found a house where there were other cats and therefore food, and muscled in — to the dismay of a cat-sitter who was looking after the resident cats while their owners were away. He started fighting the others and made himself so unpopular that the cat-sitter refused to return. Taken to the vet by the cats' owners when they got back, Oscar was found to be microchipped and was returned to Wingrave. Some inhabitants had been hoping he'd gone for good, but his human Caroline Hughes was delighted and relieved to have him back.

She admitted he was the dominant one (he lived with his two brothers) and that he probably regarded some of the neighbours' houses as his territory, but insisted that at home he was a normal, loving feline. She denied that he'd ever attacked children or dogs; however, Oscar was being given a herbal remedy to try to keep him calmer. It was suggested that he could be deaf, an ailment to which Van cats are prone, such that he could feel easily threatened and responded by being aggressive, but Caroline didn't think that was the case, saying he hated the vacuum cleaner, and could hear a food sachet being opened even when he was upstairs (*like most cats?! —Ed.*)



Whatever the reasons for his behaviour, Oscar was 'confined to barracks' while Caroline considered options. She thought she might move house to a different county and find a home with a large, secure garden where he would be safe and contained — and in due course that is what happened.

Oscar, with his human and two other cats, moved in the autumn of 2013. It seems there had been some unpleasant developments at Wingrave, with an anonymous note through the door warning that if Oscar was let out again he wouldn't return alive, and hints also heard via the local grapevine that his earlier disappearance might not have been accidental. As a consequence he had been permanently confined to the house while still there, but at the new house he enjoyed the freedom of a spacious garden that was made entirely cat-secure, with a system designed and tailored for the purpose but causing no harm to cats attempting to breach it. Once it was completed, so far as we know, Oscar & Co hadn't been able to defeat it — although they tried to!

## Links

- ❖ Oscar at Facebook: [Oscar, the Houdini of Hampshire](#) (*last used Nov. 2018*) (see also [earlier page – last used 2015](#)).
- ❖ *Bucks Herald*, Oct 2012: [A cat with a curfew because of his bad boy antics is missing.](#) (*archived copy*)
- ❖ BBC Radio 5 Live, Nov 2012: ["Asbo cat" hospitalises man for six days](#) - short interview with an Oscar victim and also owner Caroline.
- ❖ BBC News, Nov 2012: [Oscar the 'Asbo cat' under curfew in Wingrave home.](#)
- ❖ *Daily Mail*, Nov 2012: [Is this Britain's meanest moggy?](#) (*archived copy*)
- ❖ *Daily Mail*, Nov 2012: [Oscar: Now he's under house arrest.](#) (*archived copy*)



**Lewis**  
**Fairfield**  
**Connecticut**  
**USA**

In Fairfield, Connecticut in March 2006, 5-year-old **Lewis**, a black-and-white longhair, attacked the residents of a quiet street. He would spring onto people's legs from behind, clinging on, biting and scratching and causing hospital visits for treatment in some cases. After one resident was targeted twice, and Lewis had also attacked a visiting Avon lady, the local animal-control officer was called in. He said the errant feline could have limited freedom from his owner's home 'provided she gave him Prozac'!

Lewis apparently didn't think much of this idea, refused his medication — and attacked someone else. This resulted in his being 'confined to barracks'. Owner Ruth Cisero claimed the neighbours had been tormenting him by throwing eggs and spraying him with water. Meanwhile the Avon lady filed a lawsuit against Ruth . . .



Lewis  
with owner  
Ruth Cisero



Lewis  
of Fairfield,  
Connecticut

A Fairfield, CT judge ruled that Lewis must be kept permanently indoors. His owner was granted 'accelerated rehabilitation', which meant that her record would be expunged after 2 years (presumably if Lewis didn't cause any more problems!).

By July 2008 a judge had dismissed the charge of 'reckless endangerment' against Cisero, concluding that she had met the terms required by her special probation for first-time offenders. The overall result was that Lewis was then an indoor pet, allowed outside only in a cat carrier. His case gained huge attention in the US and elsewhere — many press reports dubbed him the 'crazy cat'. Supporters created a page for him at [MySpace](#) *(archived copy)*, and a [Wikipedia page](#) is also devoted to him.



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## Asbo Wigan, Lancashire, UK



A similar situation occurred in Wigan, Lancashire, England, when a stray black tomcat suddenly arrived on a quiet residential street and with an anti-social attitude. He 'beat up' any local cat that crossed his path, and left strong-smelling reminders of his presence. The human residents christened him **Asbo** (in the UK an ASBO is an Anti-Social Behaviour Order, normally applying to humans) and tried to befriend him — but he didn't want to know.

He then disappeared, only to return seven weeks later: but he was a changed cat, wanting fussing and titbits and clearly wishing to be friendly.

It turned out that one person had become tired of having his own cats bullied and had called in Cats Protection, the UK cat-rescue organisation. They trapped Asbo, neutered him and returned him to the area. Another resident gave him a home and a new name, and he was said to be calm, friendly, sensible — and odourless.

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## ASBO cat Rocky Rotherham, South Yorkshire, UK



In summer 2014 Rotherham cat Rocky was issued with a restraining order by Rotherham Borough Council after he had allegedly 'terrorised' neighbours. He was said to have bitten two people, damaged a fence and intimidated residents by entering their homes and refusing to leave. His human, Samantha

Davies, was baffled by the accusations and asked the authorities to provide proof. 'How can a cat behave antisocially?' she fumed. 'He's not going to drink alcohol in the street, or try to steal your phone.'

The council told her to keep the four-year-old cat indoors, but she said that would be cruel, especially in summer; 'He's a cat, and needs to be able to go out,' she said. While the council said they'd received one formal complaint and several verbal ones, Samantha felt her neighbours were all in their 60s and 70s and didn't like having a younger person around. One neighbour claimed Rocky had scratched and bitten her quite severely so that she had to go to hospital to have the wounds cleaned, while another said Rocky quite often went into his house, but he didn't cause any problems – the cat did bite him once, but that was because he got stuck and was frightened.



I don't know what the eventual outcome was; perhaps things quietened down once people had made their point.

[Mirror](#) (July 2014) | [Daily Mail](#) (July 2014 – archived copy)



## Feline Fragments 8 (2006)

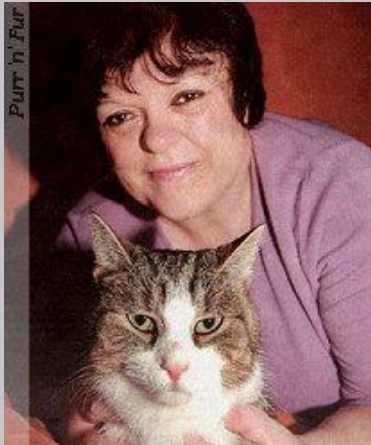
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### James the Council cat Shropshire, England

Councillors of the North Shropshire District Council who meet in the small town of Wem, in the West Midlands county of Shropshire in England, reported in August 2006 that they'd had an unusual visitor sitting in on one of their meetings: a tabby-and-white cat. Apparently he frequently visited the council offices, especially liking the Customer Contact Centre, which is generally busy during daytime; but he'd also attended a meeting. Revolving doors, or doors with sensors, seemed to cause him no problems. 'He is very docile and is no trouble,' said one of the councillors. 'He came into one of the council meetings to see how we were getting through the agenda, and sat on the back row with the councillors. As a resident of North Shropshire, he probably thought he should see what we were up to.'



Staff were concerned that the cat, who seemed well-fed, might have an owner who thought he'd gone missing, so he was pictured in the local paper. Wem resident Alison Evans made herself known as his owner, and said his name is **James**. She knew he wandered — he was a regular visitor to the local primary school, St Peter's, and also to the car dealership of Wem Motors — but she hadn't known he was making friends with the councillors too!



During October 2006 James needed expensive surgery following some incident in which he was injured; it isn't known whether someone kicked him or he was hit by a car, but his stomach was displaced into his diaphragm — quite a serious problem. The Council members were so upset to learn of his injury that the chairman of the council and the town mayor decided to donate towards his vet's bill, and to ask fellow councillors to do the same. A number responded, with the result that the bill of £490 (over 900 US dollars at the time) was paid. Owner Alison, who has three other cats, said she was extremely grateful. 'At the moment he's recovering in his own little bedroom, away from the other cats,' she said, 'and is lively and purring. It's quite nice, as usually I don't get to see much of him!'

### Update

Since we reported on James' interest in local council meetings in 2006, he recovered from his surgery and continued to attend meetings, becoming a familiar figure in the offices and coping well with the revolving doors at the entrance. In September 2009 he made his local newspaper again — with a new photo of him relaxing in a handy box — because the composition of the council had changed. The former North Shropshire District Council has become part of a new, county-wide unitary Shropshire Council, and the new body met for the first time.



Sure enough, James turned up to lend his support and was greeted as an old friend by those members who had been on the previous council. New members were slightly taken aback at first when he strolled in, had a walk around, sharpened his claws on a table leg and rolled over to have his tummy tickled! He stopped to listen to part of a debate, but then seems to have become bored and left, only to return a few minutes later. He did this several times — perhaps as though to suggest the meeting had gone on long enough? It was pleasing to hear that he was still active and taking some interest in local affairs!

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