

Feline Fragments 3 (2005)

(page checked February 2026)

Four-eared Cats
Mogwisher
ASCII Cat

Four-eared Cats

Cats with four 'ears' are uncommon, but not unknown. Strictly speaking they don't have four ears, but rather four 'pinnae', or outer flaps that stick up from the head; the extra 'ears' have no ear canals or inner-ear mechanism and so don't help the cat's hearing. The phenomenon is thought to be due to a recessive gene and occurs only when a kitten inherits a rare genetic mutation from both sides of its family. The 'spare' pinnae are generally smaller than the real ones.

A small, female tabby cat with four ears was born in Ashville, Ohio, USA in 1946. From normal sires she had 16 offspring that were also all normal, but when mated with one of her sons who was heterozygous, some of the kittens had the four-eared mutation.

Lilly from Germany

More recently, in 2004, a black-and-white domestic cat with four ears came to a German animal shelter at Garmisch-Partenkirchen, in Bavaria, from a family who lived on a nearby farm and already had more cats than they could cope with. Named **Lilly**, she was healthy and could hear perfectly well — but only through the front pair of ears; the rear pair are slightly smaller. Head of the shelter, Tessy Lödermann, said Lilly was 'not a freak', but rather an energetic, loving and well-adjusted kitten. The other cats in the shelter played with her in a normal manner and didn't ostracize her. She was a bundle of energy, but liked to be cuddled.

Lilly was neutered and then, following a suitable interval, was put up for adoption. The shelter was deluged with requests to adopt her, from people all round the world after the local press published pictures of Lilly and then the story was picked up by the Reuters news agency. However, the shelter quite rightly wanted to make sure that whoever took her in was looking for a normal cat and would not treat her as a joke or make an exhibition of her. She went to a 'completely normal family' that had taken cats from the shelter in the past.



Yoda from the USA



In 2006 Valerie and Ted Rock of Chicago took in a four-eared kitten after visiting a bar near their home in the south of the city, where he was being passed round by curious drinkers. He came from a litter of eight kittens and the owners were looking for homes for them. The Rocks weren't planning on having another cat, having just lost one that had been their pet for over 20 years. But when the kitten was passed around he reached for Ted, crawled up into the crook of his neck and fell asleep. 'Ted was a goner,' said Mrs Rock. 'It was a done deal when the kitten made himself at home on Ted's shoulder.'

Taking him in to the vet's for a check-up, the vet was mystified, having never encountered anything like him before, but gave the kitten a clean bill of health. He was named **Yoda** after the well-known *Star Wars* character. 'We began to realise that we had a very special kitten,' said Valerie Rock. 'As a result, he has been an indoor cat and has a chip installed in case he gets lost. Yoda is so different that we were concerned that he might be catnapped.

People do a double take when they see him or his picture, and it's great fun showing him off,' she continued. 'We have actually had people asking if we had his ears cut to look this way. But he is a perfectly normal affectionate, curious cat and is a joy to have around.'

'Yoda is not afraid of anything and is very sociable, unlike some of the other cats I have owned. But he does have an interesting obsession with bread — I can't leave bread on the counter for a moment. And when he purrs, it isn't audible. The only way I know that he's purring is to put my finger on his throat to feel the vibration. He isn't very vocal; he does meow, but only softly, and not very often.'

[Guardian](#) | [Telegraph \(archived copy\)](#) (both Aug. 2008) | [video](#) (15 mins, Aug. 2010)



Luntik from Russia

In late 2010 it was reported that a four-month-old kitten, born with four ears, was living at an auto repair shop in Vladivostok, the port city in the far east of Russia. His vestigial ears are in front of his normal ones. Apart from the cute photos, courtesy of Reuters, we have no other information about **Luntik** (below).



Audio from the USA

There was a gap of nearly 15 years before the next report that I saw of a four-eared cat. A litter of kittens was left in a box at the Mount Juliet shelter near Nashville, Tennessee – the largest communal cat shelter in southern USA – in July 2024.. One of the kits, ginger and white, was found to have two small rear-facing 'ears' as well as his normal forward-facing ones. Shelter staff named him **Audio**.

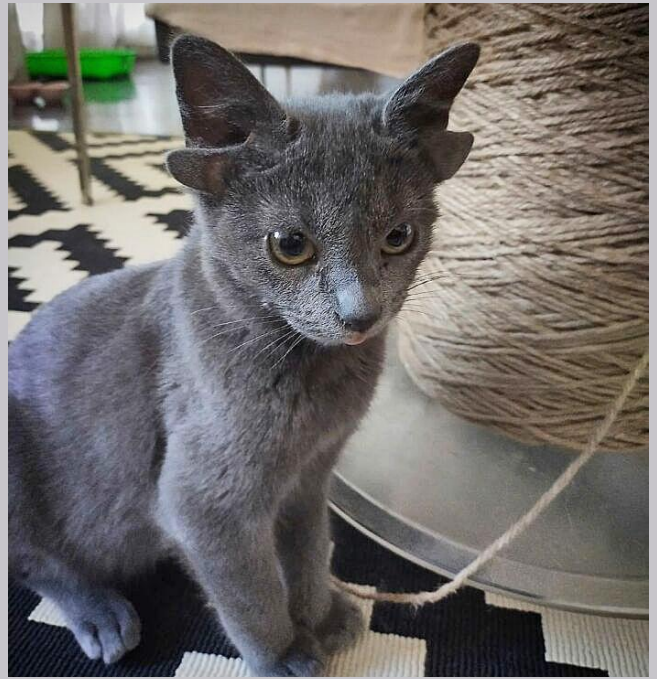
[WKM News](#) (July 2024)



Midas from Turkey

And then not long after Audio (*above*), along came **Midas**! He and his five siblings were born in an unspecified location in Turkey. He has two normal ears and a second pair of forward-facing 'ears', as well as a mild jaw deformity, all from genetic mutations. Checked over by a vet to be sure that his well-being wouldn't be affected by these unique traits, and his hearing was normal, Midas was adopted by a friend of the owner and before long had an [Instagram](#) account which, in September 2024, had nearly 350,000 followers (account current in Feb. 2026).

[Times of India](#) (Feb, 2026)



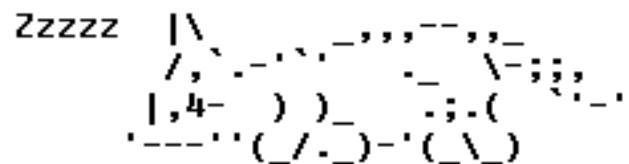
Still another four-eared cat turned up in early 2026, this time in Alabama. Named after the house elf in the Harry Potter series, black **Dobby**, as well as the extra 'ears', has a short, curly tail and also an underbite on his jaw that will need surgery. In a foster home at the time of writing, seven-month-old Dobby was given up by his previous owners as he didn't get on with their other cats – but when he's ready it seemed there'd be no shortage of potential adopters, as his fosterer had already received many expressions of interest.

[People](#) | [CBC News](#) (both Feb. 2026) | [YouTube](#)



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To copy or save this ASCII art for a signature tag, click for the [text file](#) (also includes two smaller cat 'faces'), and copy/paste the characters to your own application.



Mogwasher

Computer users will relate to this: it was a reply on a chatline, to a person who had complained of infected emails and also the local ginger tomcat doing lightning raids through their cat-flap:

'You need to download Mogwasher. This will enable you to delete unwanted or unauthorised cats before they gain access to your flap. You can even bounce the offending cat back to its owner, thus giving the impression that your home is unoccupied.'

[With thanks to Marjorie Clarke]



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Feline Fragments 4 (2005)

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**Dear Dogs and Cats . . .
Cats are Top Dogs**

Dear Dogs and Cats

. . .

[with acknowledgements and many thanks to
Ann Clulow in Australia]

The dishes with the paw-prints are yours and contain your food. The other dishes are mine and contain my food. Please note that placing a paw-print in the middle of my plate of food does not stake a claim and make it your food and dish, and neither do I find it aesthetically pleasing in the slightest.

The stairway was not designed by NASCAR and is not a racetrack. Beating me to the bottom is not the object. Tripping me doesn't help, because I fall faster than you can run.

I cannot buy anything bigger than a king-sized bed; I am very sorry about this. I will continue sleeping on the couch to ensure your comfort. Dogs and cats can curl up in a ball when they sleep: it is not necessary to sleep perpendicular to one another and stretched out to the fullest extent possible. I also realise that sticking tails straight out and having tongues hanging out at the other end to maximise space is nothing but sarcasm.

For the last time: there is not a secret exit from the bathroom. If by some miracle I beat you there and manage to get the door shut, it is not necessary to claw, whine, meow, try to turn the knob or get your paw under the edge and try to pull the door open. I have to exit through the same door I entered through. Also, I have been using the bathroom for years — canine or feline attendance is not mandatory.

To pacify you, though, my dear pets, I have posted the following message on our front door:



Rules for Non-Pet Owners who Visit and Like to Complain about our Pets:

1. They live here. You don't.
2. If you don't want their hair on your clothes, stay off the furniture (that's why it's called 'fur'-niture).
3. I like my pets a lot better than I like most people.
4. To you, it's an animal. To me, he/she is an adopted son/daughter who is short; hairy or furry; walks on four legs; and doesn't always speak clearly.
5. Cats and dogs are better than kids. They eat less, don't ask for money all the time, are easier to train, usually come when called, never drive your car, don't hang out with drug-using friends, don't smoke or drink, don't worry about having to buy the latest fashions, and don't need a gazillion dollars for college. Best of all — if they get pregnant, you can sell the children!

Cats are Top Dogs

by Howard Jones

Cats are better than dogs, many people would claim. 'Even the smallest feline is a masterpiece,' said Leonardo da Vinci; yet dogs are said to be 'man's best friend', with cats being a second choice. Is this really so?

Cats don't go chasing cyclists in the park, stealing kids' balls or annoying the neighbours with their howling. When was the last time you heard of a cat causing fatal injuries to its owner? Well, in America alone last year there were over 20 dog-related deaths, and a reported 4.5 million dog attacks — and people moan if the cat brings in a dead mouse?

Cats have had the blame for the reduction in the number of songbirds in our gardens when really, looking a little closer at what mankind has done, the widespread use of pesticides and industrial pollution have inevitably had a damaging effect on the bird population.

Another man-made problem is the ever-increasing amount of litter that scatters across our streets, yards and gardens. You are said to be never more than six feet away from a rat, and an estimated 70 million rats share this country with us. That number would be much higher if it wasn't for the actions of some of our domestic moggies.

Cats are serene, intelligent, playful — and it's only non-cat owners who will tell you that they are aloof, independent, cannot be trained and just sleep. But any cat owner knows that, unlike dogs, cats cannot be bought with the cheap offer of a biscuit and a stroke. Cats aren't selfish or aloof, although they might appear that way with people they don't know — but cats choose to be with you. You have to earn a cat's trust, love and affection, and once established it becomes a magical reciprocal relationship. It's not a master-and-pet relationship; they don't challenge for status, have a need to be dominated or battle for control. Instead, it's a relationship about being equals and sharing a life together.

If you've ever owned a dog, you know there's no arguing against the fact that cats are impeccably clean and dogs are . . . well, how can we say it? Not! Even the best-groomed dog has that certain canine-cologne 'pong'; you're spared that inevitable doggy breath with a household moggy, and unlike dogs they don't eat — or delight in rolling in — the smelliest of unmentionables.



A cat's 'smile' and seal of approval is its constant and reassuring purr. When stroking a cat and hearing that warm, contented and rhythmical purr, there's nothing else to compare. Cats greet you in a careful, graceful manner when you come home from work — a little different from the welcome of a Labrador apparently just fired from a canine missile launcher!

And there is another distinct difference. Dog owners can march around muddy fields three times a day, in chilling wind and freezing rain or hail — then go home to clean off all the fox 'poo' their pet has been rolling in . . . again! Cat owners, on the other hand, just go for a walk when they want to!

*This article appeared in the Shropshire Star newspaper in April 2005 and was reproduced with the permission of the author, Howard Jones, to whom we are very grateful. Howard is an animal behaviourist who for many years ran **Dogdayz dog-training courses** in Wellington, Shropshire, UK.*

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