

Featuring Felines: Cats' Adventures & Travels 36 (2022)

(page checked June 2026)

Orion Cat who climbed Snowdon Wales, UK



Orion at the summit

Katie, a veterinary nurse in Berkshire, England, in June 2019 encountered two very young kittens, only a few days old, who'd been separated from their mother and were brought into the practice where she worked. She took them home and hand-reared them, but was able to keep only one, and as it seemed a different kind of home would suit the female better, she was rehomed and Katie kept the male. She named him **Orion**, and although his ancestry was unknown he was probably part Maine Coon.

She had a lurcher dog called Pongo, who accompanied her on walks and expeditions, so she thought she'd try Orion out with a harness and lead so he could join them. Starting when he was nine weeks old with the harness at home, so he could get used to it, and then with the lead around the garden, Orion took to it straight away. In September 2019 he had his first outing, to the local woods, and loved it!



A couple of years on, and Orion was a seasoned adventurer and rambler, accompanying Katie and Pongo on holiday and even on an eight-day camping trip to Wales. He's a very adaptable and chilled-out cat; he loves riding in the van when they go away, so he can sit in comfort and watch the world go by.



In September 2020 the trio climbed Wales' highest mountain, Snowdon – or Yr Wyddfa, as the Welsh want it to be known – at 1085 metres. Katie says it wasn't Orion's favourite trip, as it was quite windy – he does look a bit wind-blown in the photo at the top of the article! For part of the climb, therefore, he was in his cat carrier. They have also climbed the Sugar Loaf mountain in Monmouthshire.

[UK Style](#) (Dec. 2021: lots of photos) | [In Entertainment](#) (Dec. 2021) *(there are various similar links)*



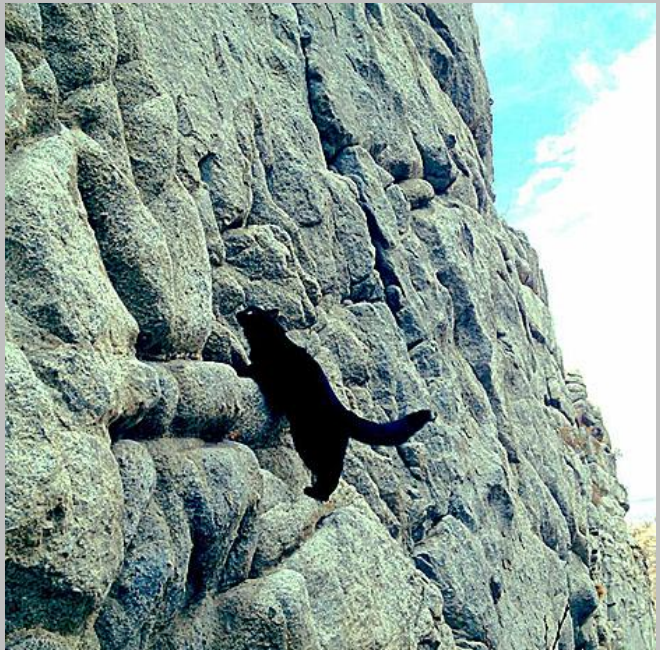
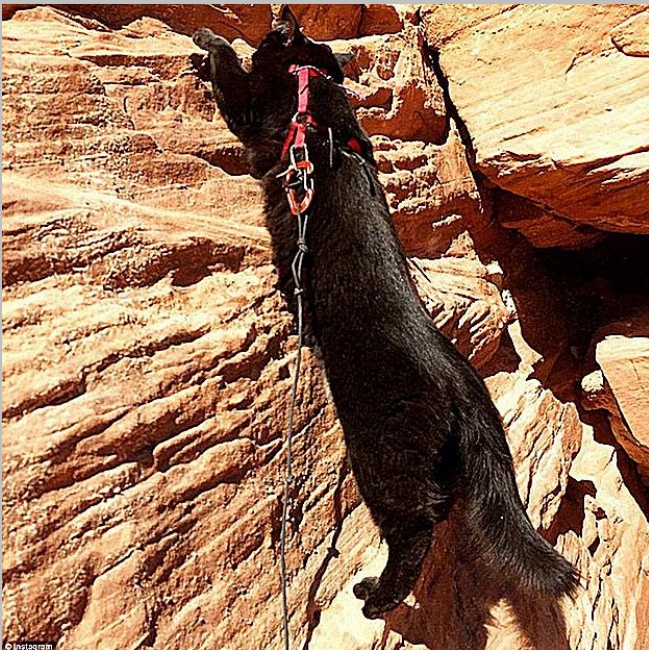
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Millie the rock climber

Utah, USA

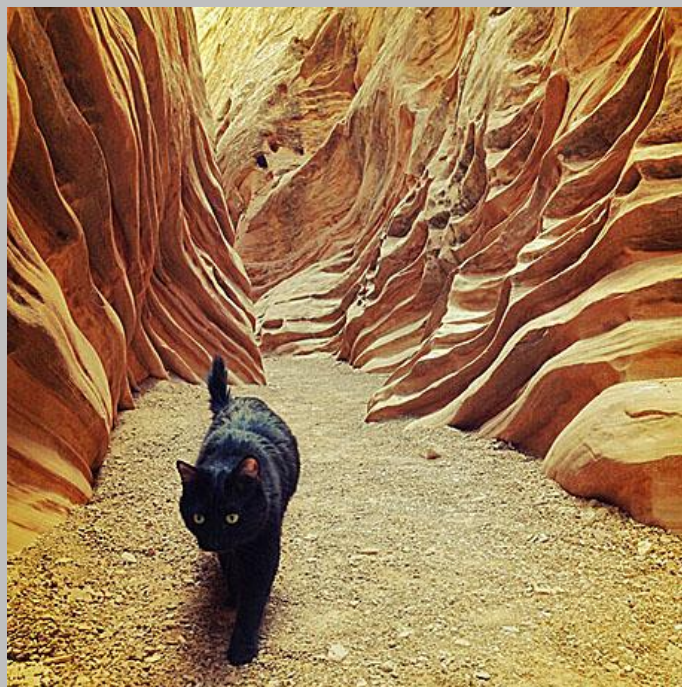
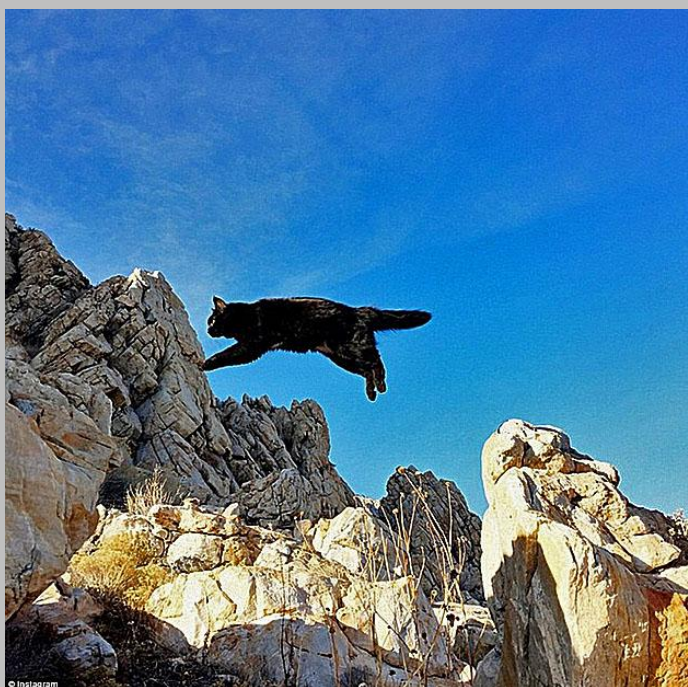


Adopted at six weeks old in 2013 from a shelter in Park City, Utah by Craig Armstrong of Salt Lake City, Millie has grown up to be an accomplished climber and rambler! A keen climber and hiker himself, Craig didn't want to leave her at home for long periods while he was out, and she seemed to love being outdoors, so gradually he introduced her to following him on walks in different kinds of terrain. She has good survival instincts, he says, but is wary of other humans and of dogs, so the more remote the place, the better.

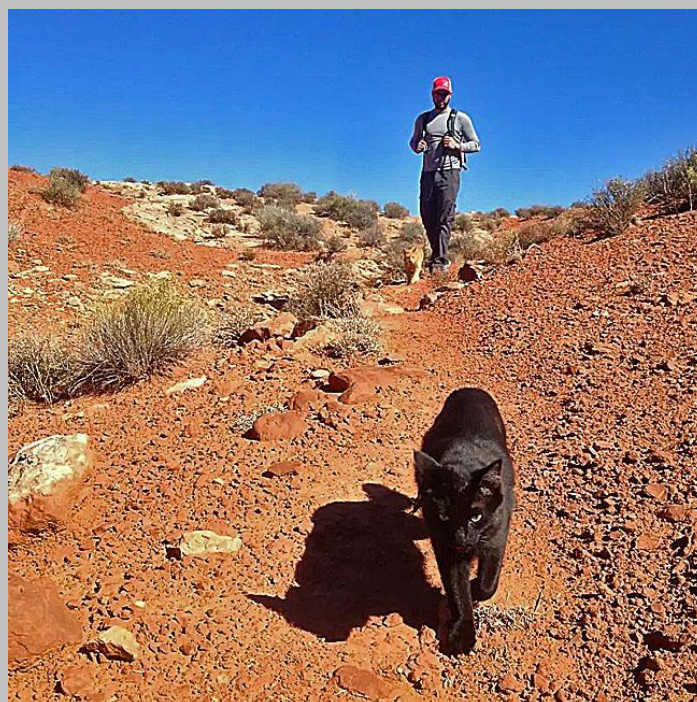


'Any cat can have fun outdoors,' says Craig, 'but they can also perish in wild places. I generally just stay close enough to rescue her from any trouble; I love that furball and would be traumatised if anything bad happened to her. You have to forget your own agenda, be prepared to move slowly or sometimes not at all for periods of time, and put yourself in the role of keeping them safe.'

Starting slowly, first of all in the local park, it's taken a lot of practice and many trips to get Millie to the point where she is now. Since then she's climbed, she's rappelled canyons and pranced in the desert. She's a good climber, Craig, said, with an amazing sense of balance and zero fear of heights. She also shows all the qualities a good climbing partner should have. 'She's an incredible athlete and has done some pretty amazing jumps from one boulder to another,' he says. 'She never complains, always wants to go higher and pushes herself hard, But, importantly, she also knows when to stop.' Her most exotic experience was to descend Alcatraz canyon in southern Utah – a very narrow canyon requiring multiple rappels, and first descended by humans only fairly recently.



Millie's gear consists of a harness, a leash and some rope. Craig had an ambition to introduce her to the ocean at some point, but I don't know whether that happened. Instagram account was still occasionally active in March 2026, when Millie was 13 years old.



[ABC News](#) (June 2015) | [Demilked](#) (May 2014 – archived copy) | [Instagram](#) | [Voomed](#) (undated: many photos)

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