

Adventure Cat Burma



In the Grand Tetons, Wyoming

In 2008 Stephen Simmons had left the military life and was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and depression. Choosing to be in Oregon, on the other side of America from where he originated, he was homeless and for five years lived out of his Jeep with his former military-service dog, Puppi. Money was tight and life wasn't easy.

In April 2013 he came across a homeless woman who was giving away some eight-week-old kittens free, and one of them he couldn't resist. He named it **Burma**, as he thought it was of the Burmese breed, and 'brought him into our lifestyle', as Simmons put it. Burma was a confident little chap and fitted in straight away. Sometimes they would sleep in parking lots, but it was out in the wilderness where Simmons felt most at home – and Burma seemed to love it, being carried in Stephen's rucksack!

The adventures begin

Their first big trip was a trail race in south-west Oregon, in a mostly desert kind of environment, and Burma just loved it. In the spring and summer they travelled some more, taking in northern California; and by 2014 the little group began to travel more widely, to other states. At some point Stephen took a photo of Burma on one of his adventures and posted it on Instagram; it was a big hit and from then on the number of followers increased dramatically and Stephen and his cat became internet 'celebrities', with fans loving the pictures of the cat out in the wild.



Having Puppi and Burma helped Stephen to socialise with people he met; then one of his Instagram followers, Nicole Rienzie, with two cats of her own, reached out to him and eventually became his girlfriend, enlarging the 'family' to six.

A widely travelled cat

By 2019 Burma had visited 31 states, more now on the east coast as in September 2017 Stephen moved to his parents' home in Virginia when his father died. He was considering selling up and moving to New York, where Nicole lives. Meanwhile the 'group of six' still love the great outdoors. 'Burma has done a lot to make me believe in something much bigger than us and this world again,' said Stephen.

In 2024 Burma was eleven years old and still going strong, but Puppi died in 2020. In December 2023 Stephen wrote that he and Burma had been living in a cabin in the mountains in south-west Virginia for two years past, but were still enjoying hiking and 'doing outdoor things'.

In March 2026 Burma fell seriously ill – not clear with what exactly – and spent some days in intensive care. By early April he was back at home and recovering fairly well, eating well and starting to regain lost weight.





[We Love Cats and Kittens](#) (June 2023) | [Instagram](#) (loads of photos) | [Pet Central](#) (Dec. 2020 -archived copy) | [Facebook](#)

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(page checked May 2026)

Arlo

who enjoys walks with dogs (2020)



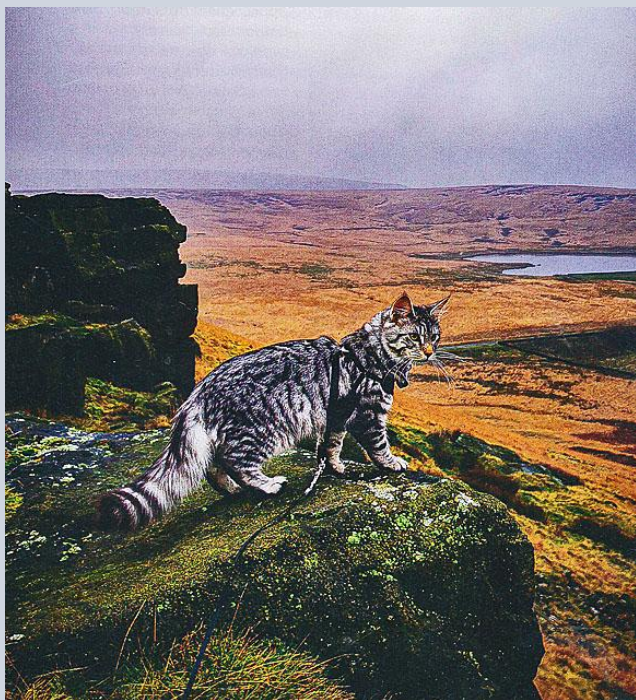
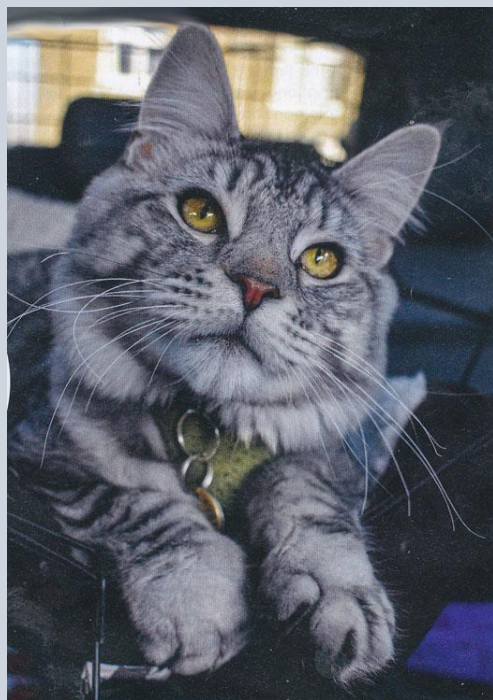
Dogs of course are always out walking, and a few cats are too – but it's a bit unusual for them to be going for walks together! Crissy Lister and Marc Shaw from Huddersfield in Yorkshire, England, have two dogs: a King Charles spaniel called Callie, and a lurcher named Lexi; but early in 2020 they took on a 10-week-old kitten, a Maine Coon–British shorthair cross who's called **Arlo**. Rather than using a cat carrier to take him home they used a harness, which he soon got used to – and from then on it wasn't too much of a step to using a lead when he was outside, and before long he was loving his walks in the Yorkshire countryside.

People they meet on their rambles often do a double-take when they see Arlo, and tend to be more wary of him than of the very large Lexi (who weighs 25 kg. – about 55 lbs)! Crissy and Marc usually pick him up when they encounter other dogs, to avoid any awkward situations, but in fact Arlo is very friendly and affectionate, although not a lap cat. He loves playing, especially chasing and hunting things. The walks started when, not long after acquiring him, they were due to go on a camping trip for three days; it had been arranged for someone to come and feed him, but Marc suggested it might be better for him to take him along and see how it worked out, rather than leaving him on his own. They did a couple of short walks first to see how he reacted to the big outside world – and he loved it! Since then Arlo has enjoyed many adventures in the area and has even climbed the high point of Scafell Pike in the Lake District. He loves lounging in the car on the way to the destination.



At home Arlo is an indoor cat, because an earlier cat had been lost at just 11 months old to a road accident and so the walks give him the stimulation and exercise he needs. Crissy said, 'In the early days we had a lot of fun watching this unsteady kitten learning how to be a cat – balancing on logs, clambering up small trees, and trying to catch insects. He quickly learned the art of shoulder-riding when he was tired or when we met a dog walker. We know that on the lead he's safe, and he probably gets to experience more than most cats do.'

[Facebook](#) (still active June 2026)



Update: In late 2022 there appeared to be another dog in the household, also a lurcher. In early 2024 Arlo was still going strong and looking forward to some better weather!

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Henry and Baloo (2022)



Having moved west to Colorado, Cynthia Bennett and her partner André wanted a dog to accompany them on their hikes and rambles. At an adoption event in 2014 they came across Henry, a large and lanky mixed-breed puppy only 14 weeks old, but already twice the size of others. They hit it off straight away, and in just a matter of days Henry was enjoying his first hike with them. Then in 2017 they decided they'd like another pet, partly as a companion to Henry, who became very anxious when they weren't at home with him. Having seen on social media accounts of people who had cats that went on adventures with them, they thought of adopting a cat. After a search of shelters lasting a couple of months they came across **Baloo**, a Siamese kitten mix, a rescue animal who'd been part of a litter of eight abandoned kittens. who seemed as though he'd fit the bill. He and Henry bonded almost straight away and very soon became best friends. Sometimes it seems Baloo regards Henry as his mother; they certainly enjoy snuggling up together.



Now Henry and Baloo are seasoned hikers, and have many followers on an Instagram account.



[BBC News](#) (April 2018) | [Bored Panda](#) (Nov. 2027) | [Our Wild Tails](#) (undated: use Edge) | [Facebook Instagram](#) (both still active December 2024).



Sadly, in early 2022 Henry died from cancer. Although he received the best treatment, he went downhill suddenly and, after a last trip to the mountains, passed away. Baloo missed him terribly, pacing around looking for his friend and refusing to eat. So Cynthia and André decided the best thing to do was to find a new friend for the cat. There were eleven pups up for adoption, but it was as if Baloo himself chose one; he made an almost instant connection with one called Pan, and so Pan joined the family. It wasn't long before he and Baloo were snuggling together, and then went on their first hiking adventure together not long afterwards,

[Cole & Marmalade](#) (May 2023)



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