

Featured Felines: Cats' Adventures & Travels 32

(2022) (page checked June 2026)

Stevie, blind hiker from Ireland; Honey Bee, blind hiker from Seattle;
Indie, Dartmoor explorer

Stevie, blind feline hiker (2023) Cork, Republic of Ireland



A young female calico cat, born in 2011, was placed by the Animal Care Society of Cork, in the Irish Republic, in a local cat vet clinic so as to try to find her a home. I don't know the circumstances of her arriving at the Society; but she'd had a bad eye infection that had caused irreparable damage to the optic nerve, so she was blind. Named **Stevie**, she'd been at the clinic some months when she caught the eye of young Patrick Carr. He'd never previously been a cat person, but he adopted her and said that Stevie's amazing tenacity and friendship changed his life for ever. There were some practicalities to be observed: for example, his furniture could never be moved, to avoid the cat bumping into it, and likewise her litter box and food station always had to stay in the same place – but she learned her way around very quickly.



Stevie spreads her wings

But with Patrick, Stevie's life as a blind cat wasn't destined to be boring and sedentary. She was soon showing a lively and adventurous nature, using her tail as a kind of rudder to guide her around obstacles; she wanted to be out of doors, where she coped remarkably well. He trained her to use a harness and lead, and before long was taking her on short walks, and then to the local park, which she loved. With some practice she soon became proficient and was able to tackle more ambitious outings, including over rough and rocky terrain. She really seemed to enjoy hiking with her 'cat dad' in their home county of Tipperary.

A memorable climb

Patrick made a number of videos of their rambles that he posted on social media, gaining many followers. Their crowning achievement was an ascent, with Patrick's brother, of Carrauntoohil in County Kerry, Ireland's highest mountain at 3406 feet. Changeable weather caused that to involve a night under canvas and an early start next day. The climb and descent took around six hours, and every care was taken to ensure Stevie's safety and comfort; she walked in her harness where possible, and was carried or rode on a shoulder over any especially difficult sections. There's an account of the climb and a video at [this site](#) (June 2016). The climb was sponsored and raised over 1800 euros for the Animal Care Society and the Tipperary SPCA..



Stevie continued to have further adventures until she died In June 2020; I don't know the cause. Patrick wrote, 'Goodnight, Stevie. Life was such an adventure. R.I.P. 2011–2020.'

[Huffington Post](#) (June 2016) | [Almonature blog](#) (undated) | [Purr and roar](#) (June 2015: video) | [Holidog Times](#) (2016 – *archived copy*) | [YouTube](#) (walk in the forest, 2017)

* * * * *

Honey Bee, another blind feline hiker (2025) Seattle, Washington State, USA



Sabrina Ursin spent three days volunteering at a local animal-rescue centre, Animals Fiji, while on holiday in those Pacific islands. While there she met and bonded with a young female calico cat, who was about a year old and had the run of the property – although she was blind. She was so affectionate and likeable that Sabrina couldn't resist her, and imported her into the United States early in 2014.

In her former life **Honey Bee**, as she was named, was used to the outdoors, but living in a busy city Sabrina couldn't just let her roam free. So she started taking her for walks around the garden, to get her used to a harness, and moving on then to walks in the city parks. By summertime it was felt Honey Bee was ready for some hikes, so they packed water bowl and kibble into the car, along with a sling for carrying her when she became tired. Although taking a while to get used to the car rides, which were kept to no more than an hour, Honey Bee loved her new adventures!



Although she couldn't see, Honey Bee's other senses more than compensated, She was boundlessly curious, exploring and enjoying everything she came across, sniffing, listening to sounds, feeling different textures under her paws, digging little holes. Anything new was exciting! She was good at sensing the presence of objects, or drop-offs, and didn't often slip or run into things. People did a double-take when seeing a cat on the hiking trail, but Honey Bee was very friendly and got along with just about everyone – even dogs!



Sadly Honey Bee didn't have a very long life; she had various medical issues requiring treatment, quite probably from being an island cat and very likely with a strongly inbred genetic background. However, all went well generally until she was diagnosed with kidney disease in November 2019, leading to emergency hospitalisation. With medication and fluids she recovered, but a year or so later her condition worsened again, In early December 2020 she stopped eating and, despite prompt medical attention, died not long afterwards. She was not yet 8 years old. There's a lovely tribute and her full history [here](#).



A [Facebook](#) page formerly dedicated to her is now devoted to two successors: **Lychee** (*below left*), who is blind and deaf, and **Fig** (*right*), who is also blind.



[Washington Trails Association](#) (Nov. 2014) | [Laughing Squid](#) (Sept. 2014 – video)
[LoveMeow](#) (Sept. 2016) | [YouTube 1](#) | [YouTube 2](#) (2015)

* * * * *

Indie the explorer (2024) **Dartmoor, Devonshire, England**



Norwegian Forest cat **Indie** began her adventures quite early on, when as a kitten her owner Helen Davies, a self-employed jewellery designer, took her as a therapy cat to a supported-living facility, where she learned to socialise and become used to different environments. Back at home she became bored indoors, and would go out in the garden to explore, climbing trellises and diving into hedges. So Helen and her husband decided to take Indie camping.

She took to it well, and now enjoys long walks on Dartmoor, liking particularly to go to Bellever Forest. 'She takes it all in her stride,' says Helen, 'and nothing seems to faze her.' When her harness is taken out she knows it's time for a walk, becomes quite excited, and if she thinks it's taking too long to get ready she sits at the top of the stairs and sulks! Once in her carrier, she'll sit quietly in the car until the destination is reached.



Indie was a bit hesitant at first when she encountered Dartmoor ponies, but that's understandable as they're so much bigger. She really enjoyed exploring and sniffing around an old Iron Age settlement, though, taking in all the different scents. Other walkers they meet on the moor are often interested to see a cat on a lead; they take photos, and Indie has gained fans through a Dartmoor [Facebook](#) group.

'She's very much her own cat,' says Helen: 'sassy, cheeky and confident. She knows what she wants and where she wants to go.' One time when it was time to leave Bellever, Indie made it quite clear she didn't want to go, growling and grumbling the whole way back to the car!



[Plymouth Chronicle](#) (Nov. 2024) | [Instagram](#) | [What's the Jam?](#) (Dec. 2024)

* * * * *