

Featured Felines: Cats' Adventures & Travels 27

(page checked May 2026)

In brief

▣ 'Hoku', Hawaiian surfing cat

In 2021 Alessia and Pat adopted an 8-week-old kitten from the Hawaii Humane Society; he was named **Hokule'a**. Nervous at first, he became more comfortable with them before long, and liked to be near them. They soon noticed that he didn't seem to mind water – in fact he enjoyed it! He would get in the shower, or go out in the garden when it was raining, and didn't seem to mind at all. So after a while they introduced him to a quiet beach, and then tried him out on a surfboard, first for short periods in the shallows and then gradually introducing him to the full surfing experience. He's a strong swimmer, and seems to really enjoy his surfing! He's usually had enough after an hour or so, when they rinse him off with fresh water and dry him so that he's not grooming himself with salt water..

[New Zealand Herald](#) (Jan. 2022) | [Facebook](#) | [The Fluffy Kitty](#) (June 2019) | [Madly Odd](#) (undated) | [YouTube](#)



▣ Paddington the hiker

Known usually as 'Paddy', **Paddington** was a cat from Renton, Washington State in the USA who was adopted from the Seattle Humane Society as a kitten. It didn't take long before his humans, Bryan and Anna Wilson, realised that he had a taste for the outdoors, and by the time he was a year old he was accompanying them on hikes. He'd generally walk for a mile or so with a leash and harness, before taking a rest break on Bryan's shoulders or in his rucksack.

I don't know Paddy's later status, as his Facebook page is no longer available, and there are no recent posts on Instagram.

[Instagram](#) | [Life with Cats](#) (Sept. 2015 – archived copy)



▣ Amelia the seafarer

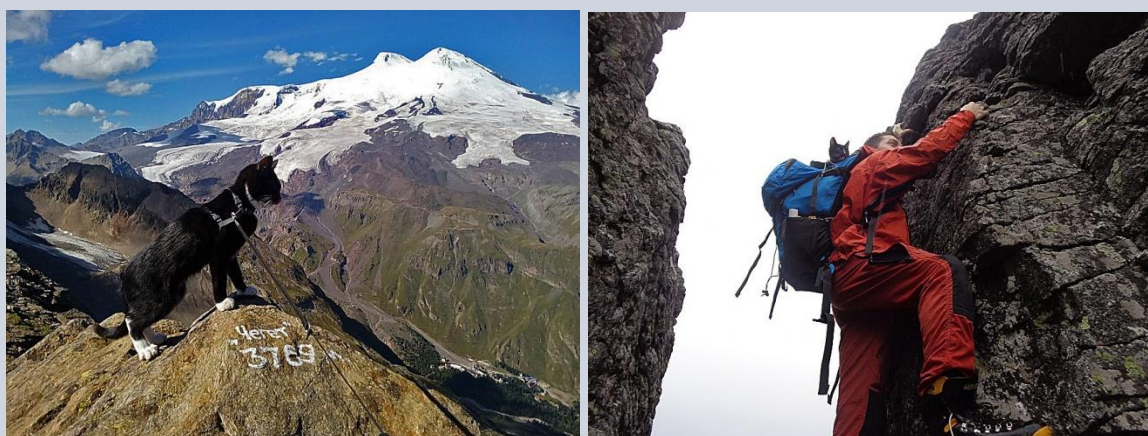
Liz Clark left her employment and spent two years restoring an old sailing boat, with a view to sailing around the world. She set sail from California in 2005, and at some point – it isn't clear when – took on a shipmate in the form of **Amelia**, a six-month-old cat named after Amelia Earhart, because of her adventurous spirit. Amelia soon became a seasoned sailor, and the pair had many adventures and experiences together; by 2016 they had covered some 18,000 nautical miles. There's a charming short video of Amelia on board [here](#) (May 2016 – in French).

By 2019, after 14 years on board during three of which she wrote a book, 'Swell' (the name of her boat), Liz finally settled on land – in Tahiti with a partner, and by that time Amelia had died; the [blog entry](#) (Feb. 2018) says she was attacked by a dog at the end of 2017 and died two days later from her wounds – a very sad end for such a special cat. Liz's life now is described in the [blog](#) entry from early 2020; she concentrates on the environment and improving life as far she's able for Tahiti's many stray cats and dogs. Her website is [here](#).



[Life with Cats](#) (April 2016 – *archived copy*) | [UK Sport](#) (April 2016)

▣ Graf, Russian mountain climber



In September 2017 Andrey Ostanin and his seven-month-old cat **Graf**, from Nizhny Tagil in south-western Russia, set out to climb Mount Elbrus, the highest of the Caucasian range at 5640 metres and the highest mountain in Europe. They spent four days climbing lower peaks of increasing height to acclimatise before tackling Elbrus. Leaving at 1 a.m., they climbed to 5000 metres, but were unable to reach the summit because of adverse weather conditions.

Graf travelled in a special rucksack with a panel he could see out of, or if the weather was good he'd sit on top of the rucksack (*right image above*) or on Andrey's shoulder. He also had a special thermal suit. Early in the following year the pair made a bike trip to Lake Baikal, and they've had adventures other remote regions of Russia.

[Daily Mail](#) (Oct. 2016 – *archived copy*) | [India Today](#) (Feb. 2017: short video)

▣ Jesperpus, Norwegian skiing cat



Jesperpus, a Norwegian Forest cat, was adopted by his human Aina Ninmoen Stomo in November 2013, when he was about three months old. It didn't take long for her to find out that he enjoyed being outdoors. He loves to accompany her, either skiing in winter or hiking in summer; he'll run alongside her until he gets tired, and then he can clamber up onto her rucksack to rest. A [LoveMeow](#) link (Feb. 2016) included a video of the pair on a ski outing, with Jesperpus running in front and 'towing' her for part of the time, but unfortunately the video's no longer available!,

Jesperpus has a [Facebook](#) page (in Norwegian), still active in spring 2026, and seems to have gained a companion called **Kasper**. [Instagram](#) | [New Schoolers](#) (2016: includes video)



▣ Skatty, the sailing cat

Paul Thompson, of Auckland, has been profoundly deaf since childhood – but that doesn't stop him from sailing the seas around New Zealand on his 32-foot self-built boat 'La Chica' – because he has a sailing companion in the form of **Skatty**, a polydactyl Maine Coon cat. Strauss von Skattebol of Rebelpawz, to give him his full name, was born late in 2015 and joined Paul at just a couple of months old. Not long after that Paul took him on his first sailing trip, and it didn't take long for Skatty to find his sea legs. The remarkable thing is that, with a cat's superb hearing but without any training, Skatty seems to have realised that his human can't hear and so acts as his 'ears'. He notifies Paul – who closely observes the cat's body language – when there's another boat alongside, when his phone receives a text message, or if there's someone at the door when they're ashore.

Paul shuts him in the cabin at night for his safety, and takes all necessary precautions to keep him safe at all times. 'I love his company, and learning to see the world through his eyes,' he said 'Having a cat on board forces you to slow down and take life at your cat's pace.' Skatty has a [Facebook](#) page (*last used April 2024*).

[LoveMeow](#) (July 2016) | [The Dodo](#) (Oct. 2017) | [Purrington Post](#) (2016: very comprehensive, many photos))
[Instagram](#) (*last used 2019*)



Adventure cats from Colorado



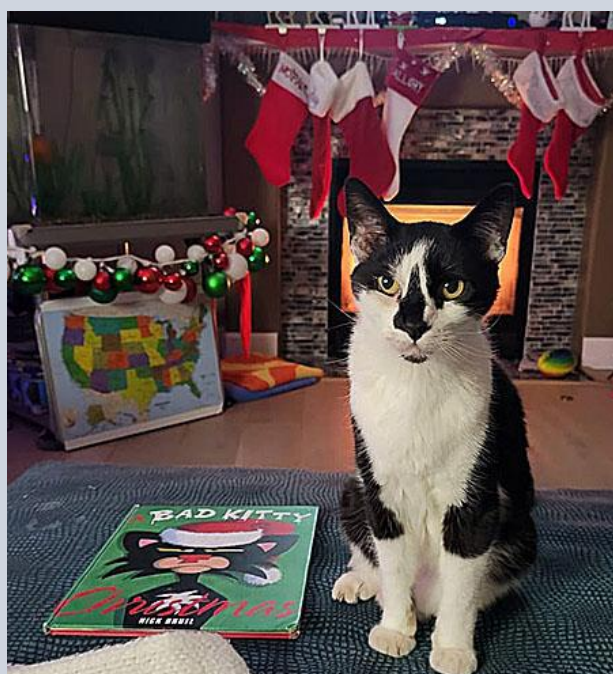
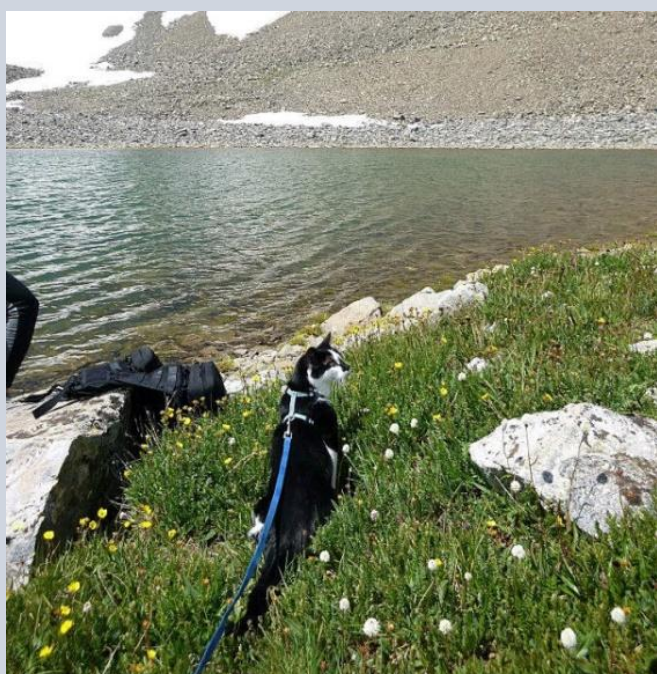
Kitsune (the tabby) and **Maneki** (black and white) are Siberian cats who accompany their humans on hikes and occasionally road trips. Kitsune left her previous home because she was being bullied by her aggressive brother, so she was quite timid and it took time for her to regain her confidence. By 2018, though, she was quite an experienced outdoor cat, enjoying hikes, climbing and even swimming. Maneki was taken on in June that year as a companion for Kitsune when her humans weren't at home; at the time she was 'learning the ropes'. [Cat Explorer](#) (undated) | [Facebook](#) (current in 2026) | [YouTube](#) (2018: good video of Kitsune) | [Instagram](#) (current in 2026)



▣ Paul. the hiking cat

Also from Colorado is **Paul**, who was rescued from the streets of Denver when he was about eight weeks old in 2012. Now living in Aurora, he enjoys camping, hiking, riding on boats and going most places with his humans, that is, when he isn't causing chaos at home! One notable experience he had was climbing Gray's Peak, one of Colorado's 14,000-foot mountains. As with many rambling cats, he's usually kept on a leash so he doesn't go wandering off and possibly get into danger, and when he gets tired he can ride on a backpack.

Paul is named after the alien in the movie of the same name. He has a [Facebook](#) page (*last used August 2024*). [Life with Cats](#) (July 2014)



▣ Taddy, the snow-skating cat



Snow-skating is a hybrid between snowboarding and skateboarding, using a board without wheels or bindings to perform tricks in the snow. And remarkably, American cat **Taddy** was an expert! He really seemed to be enjoying himself in the few clips I've seen. Sadly he went missing in August 2020 and wasn't seen again, to the enormous sadness of his owner.

[Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Kids' News](#) (May 2020)

▣ Cat 's journey in a suitcase

In 2013 Mervat Ciuti packed up her suitcase in Cairo, Egypt and left to visit her sister, 2200 miles away in the UK. Little did she know that her Persian cat **Bisou** had curled up for a nap in the case and was zipped up inside it as the luggage made the five-hour flight to the UK in the aircraft's freezing-cold hold. Mervat was in a taxi on the M1 when a relative rang her to say that Bisou was missing and might be with her. Asking the taxi driver to pull over when possible, she unzipped the case – and there was Bisou, quite unharmed!

The cat was obliged to spend six months in quarantine, but although timid at first she soon settled in and was doing well. The laid-back Persian was a lucky cat and must surely have used at least one of her lives!



[BBC News](#) (March 2013)

▣ Tetley, 'cat about town'

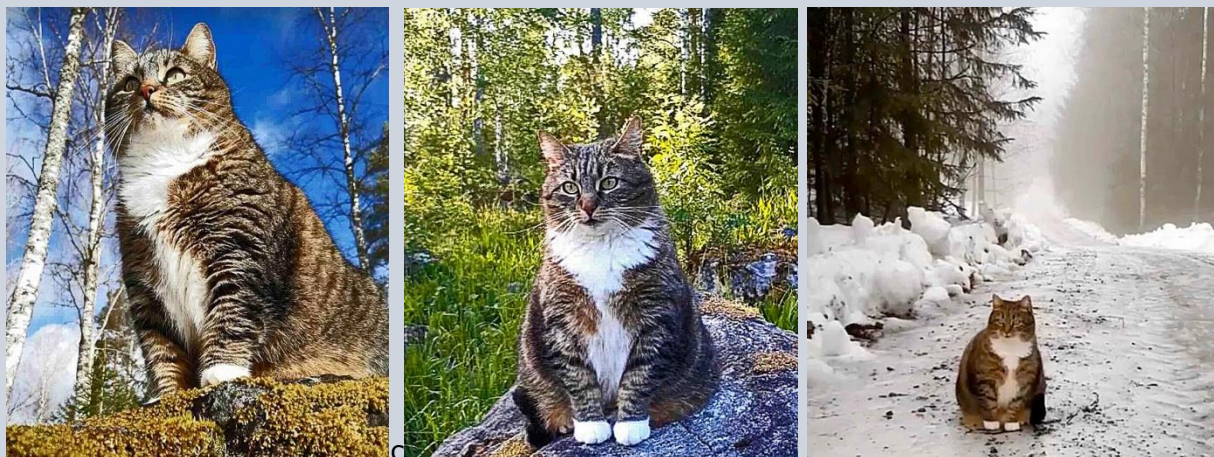


I don't think he had a permanent home, but black-and-white **Tetley** was well-known in the village of Walthamstow, east London, where he was fed and cared for by the villagers, who even raised money for his vet bills. Described as 'nomadic', he might be found on someone's bed, in their office, or at any of a number of local centres such as the church, the school, the pub, the museum or the community centre.

When he died in September 2011, a wake was held in his honour. Then, exactly three years later, some 50 villagers gathered to remember him and to mark the opening of a garden dedicated to his memory at the Vestry House Museum.

[Guardian Series](#) (Sept. 2014)

▣ Minni, 'the 'Finnish tiger'



Life in a city apartment in Finland didn't suit tabby cat **Minni**, who was constantly escaping and looking for adventure, so after a 'traffic mishap' that presumably wasn't too serious, her human decided they would move to the countryside. Locations aren't specified, but it seems that there Minni was in her element, and her wandering spirit was at home whatever the season. She became something of a local celebrity, known as 'the Finnish tiger'.

[We Love Cats and Kittens](#) (Nov. 2024) | [Instagram](#)

▣ Adventure cat General Picchu



Not much information about **General Picchu** (Picchu for short), except that he's a Siberian born in September 2021, lives in Canada, and loves going on outdoor adventures in all seasons.

[We love Cats & Kittens](#) (Jan. 2024) | [Threads](#) | [Instagram](#)

▣ Sigrid, 'cat about London'



Travis Nelson is an American computer engineer who in 2020 moved to London with his two cats, one of which is **Sigrid**. She's a deaf, white Norwegian Forest cat who, in spite of her deafness, Travis already knew to be adventurous, inquisitive and brave. Unfortunately when the coronavirus pandemic struck, Travis lost his job and found himself with a lot of time on his hands. A keen cyclist, he started to explore some of the lesser-known parts of London – and it wasn't long before Sigrid, safely tethered in a basket in front, began to join him. She absolutely loves it! Making contact with many people, cyclists and cat-lovers alike, Travis records the pair's adventures on social media and has become a big hit. He's also written a book about them and his life (*left*).

For more information I can do no better than refer to a short [video](#), and an excellent article in [Traveling Cats](#), with many photos. There are also a [Facebook](#) page and an [Instagram](#) account.

▣ Pouncey the bike rider



Pouncey, or 'Professor Pouncey' as he's known on social media, is a clever and inquisitive Bengal cat who in 2025 has been riding around rural Pennsylvania in the USA for some 15 years, accompanying his owner Adam on an electric bike. Adam has created special baskets for him on the front of the bike, including a heated one for cold weather and a ventilated one with a fleece cushion for when it's warmer. Pouncey is very vocal, seems to thoroughly enjoy his outings, and even makes it known when he wants to go for a ride! He has a large number of followers on YouTube, TikTok and [Instagram](#). [Laughing Squid](#) (Nov. 2025: 3 videos)

▣ Angel the train traveller

In late October 2025 **Angel** took an early-morning 50-mile train ride from her home in Brighouse to Manchester airport! The adventurous 15-year-old cat was 'confidently padding up and down the train', according to conductor Will Saunders, who spotted her while doing his rounds. On arrival at the airport he decided to take her home with him to Stockport; fortunately she had a collar with a phone number, so he was able to contact her owners. Will kindly drove her home next day, much to her humans' relief! [BBC News](#)



Phoenix, who sailed the Pacific



Corporate manager Oliver Widger became fed up with his working life and decided he needed some adventure!. So he left his job, put his savings into buying a boat, and effectively taught himself to sail. At the end of April 2025 he set off from Oregon in the north-west of the USA and set sail for Hawaii. He reached there 25 days later after a journey of 2400 miles, with his sole companion being **Phoenix** the cat. In order to avoid putting her into quarantine there a mobile vet came on board to carry out health checks.

Oliver's follow-up plan was to sail non-stop around the world, but for that he felt taking Phoenix would be too risky, so she would stay with relatives.

[Manichuk Report](#) | [Independent](#) (both May 2025) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)