

Featured Felines: Cats' Adventures & Travels 26 (2025)

(page checked May 2026)

For other 'Cats about Town' see:

Featuring / Adventures-Travel 21, 22, 23, 24, 25;
Mini Fragments 3 – Ludlow; Famous – Hamish McHamish

Cats about Town 6

Hendrix the Coastal Cat; Salem of Daventry; Dexter of Windsor

Hendrix, the 'coastal cat'

Saltburn-by-the-Sea, North Yorkshire, England

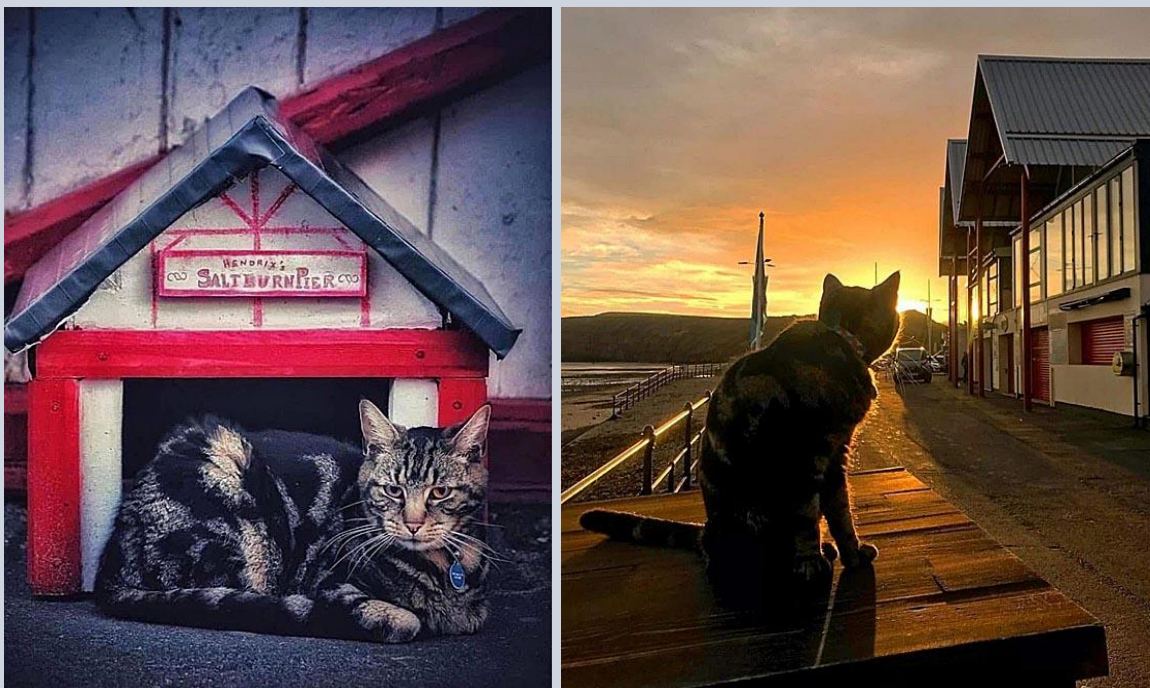


With a wild cat as his father, **Hendrix** –named after guitarist Jimi Hendrix – seemed to have inherited some of his parent's wild spirit; he was adventurous and a cat of great character. Also known as 'the coastal cat', Hendrix became well-known around some of the coastal communities of north-east England. His family first found out about his adventures when he went missing from his home, which was in Newcastle at the time; when they began searching for him, it turned out that many of the neighbours knew who he was, as he'd been visiting their homes. 'He always wanted to be outside,' said his human, Hannah Chiarella. 'Sometimes he'd be out for two or three weeks.' But they knew his fans would look out for him.



When they moved to Whitley Bay, quite near the Metro station, Hendrix could often be found riding the Metro (*above right*), or hitching a lift on a bus, and he had his own favourite seat at the Ticket Office Café. People would send Hannah photos of where he was, so then in 2018 she set up a [Facebook](#) page to keep everyone updated.

Then came a move to Saltburn-on-the-Sea, and there the beach became Hendrix's favourite hang-out spot; he knew there'd be people about and he'd get plenty of attention! Every day he'd make his way to the Pier Amusements, which the owner said he used as his base. 'He was charming and just really funny,' she said; 'a beautiful cat, like a little legend.' A resident even made him his own little Saltburn Pier hut, which met with his approval (*below left*).



Hendrix had many more adventures, too numerous to list here; see the links below. He could be a great help in cheering people up, especially during the coronavirus lockdown, and he seemed to know when someone needed comfort and a furry friend.

In his later years Hendrix suffered from hyperthyroidism and his wanderings had to be curtailed so he could be given his daily medication. Sadly it was announced in early September 2024 that he had died at home, surrounded by his family. He was just a month shy of his thirteenth birthday.



It was proposed that a statue should be made in his memory, and the £4000 needed for that was quickly raised. The council approved the project, and in June 2025 the statue was unveiled on the 'lower prom' at Saltburn (*next page*).



[BBC News](#) (Oct. 2024) | [Chronicle Live](#) (Sept. 2024) | [Happy Whisker](#) (Dec. 2024)
[Teesside Live](#) (Jan. 2025)

There's a nice obituary and tribute written by Hendrix's family [here](#) (Oct. 2024)



[Gazette Live](#) (April 2025) | [Gazette Live](#) (June 2025) | [BBC News](#) (June 2025)

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Salem (2025)

Daventry, Northamptonshire, England



Born in the town in around 2011 and living with the same family since kittenhood, **Salem** started his wandering ways when he was about a year old. His owner Erin said, 'He's always been a wanderer. He loves people, and loves wandering about.' He has a regular round of shops, salons and restaurants that he visits, with a particular liking for the Argos store, where he has his own bed and is treated as a 'senior staff member'. 'I've come to accept that

even though I'm the owner, I have to share him with the Daventry community,' says Erin. Since January 2024 he's had his own [Facebook](#) page, so his whereabouts can be tracked.



When the Arc cinema was under construction, Salem's adventures led to one of his front legs being badly broken, although the circumstances aren't clear. Broken in several places, it was thought best to amputate it. That affected his confidence and slowed him down for a while, but after about six months he was wandering more than ever; it's not unusual for him to leave home at 7 a.m. and not be back until 11 p.m. Some businesses have reported him to be outside waiting to be let in in the mornings! The RSPCA charity shop took an armchair off sale and attached a sign to it saying 'Salem's chair', and that's another of his favourite stopping-off places.



In summer 2024 money had been raised for a street sign with his name on, and plans were being made for 'cat-related community projects'.

[BBC News](#) | (July 2024) | [Daventry Express](#) (May 2024)

It was very sad to learn that Salem had been hit by a car and had died from his injuries in mid-April 2026. There were many tributes to him and he'll be much missed. A campaign to raise money for a memorial statue was looking likely to succeed.

[BBC News](#) 1 | [BBC News](#) 2 (both April 2026)

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Dexter (2026)

Windsor Berkshire, England



A silver Bengal/Persian cross, **Dexter** was a cat of great character, who made himself well-known in the town of Windsor for more than ten years. His human, Kirsty Jarvis, had originally thought to keep him as an indoor cat – but, as with other 'cats about town', Dexter had other ideas! He started by visiting the local pub, then gradually began to wander further afield, to other pubs, to shops, restaurants, offices and the local museum. Kirsty said, 'He loved snuggling up on a chair, or jumping up on people's laps, and he was happy to be stroked by anyone.' He seemed to make friends everywhere he went. To help keep track of him, she opened a Twitter (X) account where people could upload photos of him and show where he was.



Tragically, Dexter was hit by a car and died from his injuries in July 2025, aged 13. A huge number of tributes to him were posted on social media, and a fundraising site was set up with the aim of creating a statue by which to remember him. By September, just a couple of

months after his death, the astonishing sum of over £19,000 had been pledged. The plan was to install life-sized statues and 'paw-print plaques' at three of his favourite places around the town, together with an urn containing his ashes that would go to the Windsor Museum. Any remaining funds would be given to a local charity.

Windsor & Maidenhead Council said, 'Dexter was a beloved and integral part of the Windsor community and we're saddened to hear of his passing. ... The council would be happy to support the possibility of a lasting reminder of Dexter and his legacy.'



[Friends of Windsor Museum](#) (April 2025) | [BBC News](#) (July 2025) | [Slough Observer](#) (July 2025) | [Instagram](#) | [GoFundMe](#) (Sept. 2025) | [Facebook](#)

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