

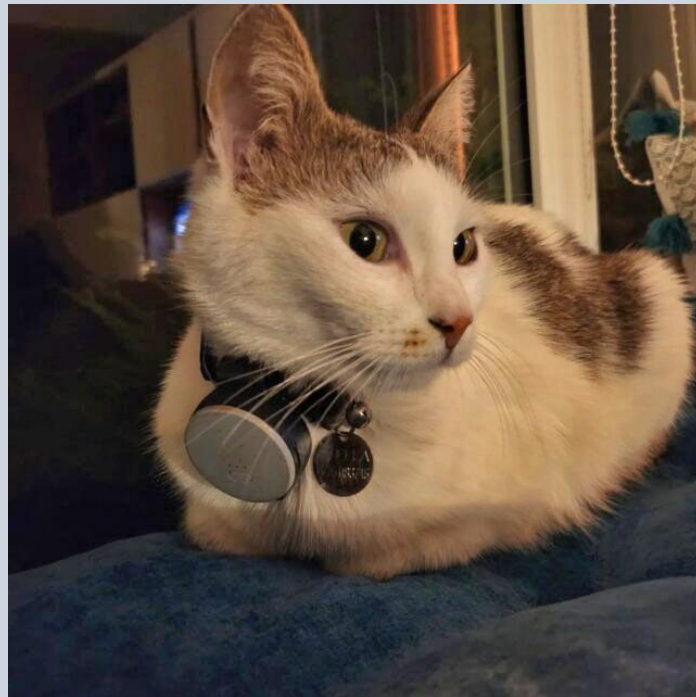
Featured Felines: Cats' Adventures & Travels 23 (2023)

(page checked May 2026)

Cats about Town 3

Stella of Beckenham; Tilly of Gosport; Susie of Dorchester

Stella Beckenham, Kent, England



Originally rescued from the streets in Romania, **Stella** went to Romney House Cat Rescue in Downe, in the London borough of Bromley, from where she was adopted by the Williams family of Beckenham. She turned out to be affectionate, curious, bold and funny – and she loves people. Her curiosity and enjoyment of being with people causes her to wander widely, She tends to follow people, and is well-known on the streets and in the shops of Beckenham. She's been in various shops including Marks and Spencer's and the Lidl supermarket, as well as the library, the church and charity shops. Rebecca Williams said, 'She tends to favour a place for about a week, and then she'll move on to somewhere new.'



Because Stella will go up to people and cry, they often think she's a stray, or lost, while all

she actually wants is a stroke or a cuddle! So Rebecca frequently gets calls via the phone number on the cat's collar, and she'd put notes on the collar asking people not to take her home as she already has a good home. Eventually Rebecca decided to get her a tracking collar, so her location could be traced. She liked to have Stella home at night, and the cat liked to be home too, so she could sleep next to Rebecca's son.

But in February 2023 Stella failed to come home, and the tracker stopped working. It seems likely that someone had taken her in and removed the collar. A huge search was instigated, with the help of social media, but it wasn't until early June, more than three months later, that Stella was finally found. Now back home, she continues her mission of exploring Beckenham!

She was still active and making her visits in early 2025.



[News Shopper](#) (Feb. 2023) | [Facebook](#) | [BBC News](#) (Aug. 2024) | [Instagram](#) (*last used Oct. 2025*)

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Tilly **Gosport, Hampshire, England**



A much loved Bengal cat who graced the town with her presence had her life tragically cut

short in early October 2023, apparently after being hit by a vehicle, at the age of just 2. **Tilly** had become well-known around the place, 'with her mischievous curiosity leading her to places where she probably shouldn't have been'. She even made friends with Hampshire Police in the town, frequenting the police station and becoming a kind of honorary police officer and unofficial mascot; she was given a name badge. Officers expressed their sadness at her passing.



Tilly loved meeting people along the High Street and at the many other places she visited. She had an active Facebook page, where many tributes were posted. One said, 'Life in town will be that extra bit sadder now.' Following her death an impromptu shrine sprang up, with people leaving flowers and cards, and it wasn't long before an online fundraising initiative was set up with the aim of providing a permanent memorial to Gosport's favourite cat. A target of £2000 was quickly reached and exceeded.





The bronze of Tilly was completed by March 2024, and it's hoped it will be placed permanently in Gosport Museum and Art Gallery.



[ITV News](#) | [Daily Echo](#) (both Oct. 2023) | [Facebook](#) | [BBC News](#) (May 2024) | [Gosport & Fareham Globe](#) (Oct. 2023)

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Susie Dorchester, Dorset, England (2024)



When Linda and Michael Crow moved to Dorchester during 2023 to be with their daughter Jenny, their cat **Susie** moved with them. She settled in quickly and started to explore the town – so much so that now she's rarely home! 'She comes in, has her food, and out she goes,' said Jenny. 'I tried to keep her in for a couple of hours once when she lost her collar, and she was battering at the door to get out!'

Susie loves 'her public' and being out and about, and has visited some 30 shops and businesses in the town. The Oxfam charity shop is one of her favourites, where they've set up a bed for her, and another is the Potting Shed, where she has a space under the seed shelves from where she can peep out and watch people go by – but she has her favourite spots in other shops too,



There's a [Facebook](#) page called 'Susie's Travels in Dorchester!', where people can post where they've seen her, and that's often how her humans keep track of where she is.

In December 2023 it was announced that Susie's owners Linda and Michael would be moving to Hastings in January and taking her with them – but in the end, because she seemed so happy there and so many people liked her being around, it was decided she would remain with Jenny in Dorchester.

An illustrated book about her, called *Not Lost* : see [BBC News](#) article (Oct. 2024). Susie was still enjoying her adventures around town in early 2025.

[BBC News](#) (Feb. 2024) | [ITV News](#) (Feb. 2024) | [Dorset Echo](#) (Nov. 2023)

**For other 'cats about town' see [Featuring /Adventures & Travels 21, 22 \(above\), 24, 25, 26](#)
[Mini Fragments 3 – Ludlow; Famous – Hamish McHamish](#)**



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