

Featured Felines: Adventures & Travels 22 (2020)

(page checked May 2026)

Cats about Town 2

George of Helensburgh; Hugo of Edinburgh; Freddie of Glasgow

George Helensburgh, Scotland



Helensburgh is a coastal town on the Firth of Clyde. **George** was an adventurous tabby cat, a former stray rescued by Cats Protection in Paisley, who liked to wander around the town, and sometimes further afield, make visits to different places and meet new friends. Usually gone from his loving home – where he'd been for several years – for around three hours, he would sometimes manage to hitch a ride on a bus or even in someone's car. He was known to have visited shops including the local Tesco supermarket, pubs, car dealerships, a nursery and people's homes, and to have attended mass at the Catholic church, as well as once getting on a bus that was heading out on a school trip to a safari park! On that occasion the driver was able to let him off before they reached their destination.

There was one time in 2019 when George went uncharacteristically missing for four days, causing his humans considerable worry. They posted messages on Facebook, where he had numerous followers, so that people could look out for him. Fortunately that worked, and it turned out George had been 14 miles away, having hitched a ride on a bus going to Loch Lomond! A kind couple brought him home. His owners planned to keep him in for a while after that adventure.



George died in September 2021. I don't know how old he was, but his kidneys were failing, and it seems he'd been [attacked](#) by a dog in March that year and was still not fully recovered from that ordeal, and also he was missing his human 'dad' who'd had to go into a care home and had died in June. George had been a kind of ambassador for Helensburgh and was known and loved in the community. He seems to have been connected with fundraising for some local charities, although I'm not clear how that worked exactly, but there were Christmas cards and a George calendar for 2022, and in December 2021 he was given a posthumous award for his 'services to the community'.

In Colquhoun Square in Helensburgh is an outdoor museum where there are plinths highlighting some of the town's notable achievers, and in October 2021 it was announced that a sculpture of George could be featured there, but I haven't seen anything further about it. I think instead donations to charity are being raised in his memory.



[Facebook](#) | [Daily Record](#) | [Lochside Press](#) (both Sept. 2021)

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Hugo

Edinburgh, Scotland (2023)



A handsome Arabian Mau cat who had been rescued in Qatar and had lived in Abu Dhabi and Spain before settling with his human Jane Rutherford in Edinburgh, **Hugo** became well-known to the residents and businesses in the west end of the city. He was a wanderer who liked meeting people and spent much of his time visiting shops and businesses and even people's homes; he had many fans and was well-looked after



But sadly, in late April 2023 Hugo was hit by a car that failed to stop. A kind neighbour found him injured in a garden, recognised him and rushed him to a vet before notifying Jane. He went home for the night, but his injuries were such that the prognosis was poor, and Jane felt it would be kinder to put him out of his suffering, 'He wouldn't have been able to continue the life he loved and would have been miserable,' she said. He was just 10 years old.

Posting the bad news on the local residents' Facebook page, Jane was inundated with tributes to Hugo and people sharing their stories about him. Apparently he would drop into people's homes for snacks, even taking a quiet nap on their beds – and at Christmastime some shops would give a discount to people who could name the famous cat!

Hugo's death resulted in many people calling for a change in the law so that drivers who hit a cat on the road are obliged to report it, as they are if they hit a dog, horse, cow goat, sheep or pig. 'A cat is no less precious than a dog,' said Jane. 'Cats deserve a chance of survival.'

There were also calls for a bronze statue to be commissioned in Hugo's memory which would probably also be a tourist draw, but I feel that's unlikely to happen.



[BBC News](#) | [Edinburgh Live](#) | [Daily Record](#) (all May 2023)

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Freddie

Glasgow, Scotland (2024)



Ginger cat **Freddie** has been living in the city's Southside suburb of Shawlands since about 2009, and has become well-known locally. He frequents the area around his home in Skiorving Street and is often to be found sitting comfortably on parked cars.

At the end of a year a neighbourhood awards ceremony is held in Shawlands to celebrate those who help to make the area special, with residents voting in a wide range of categories for their favourites. In December 2021 one of the most coveted titles, that of 'Personality of the Year', was awarded to Freddie! 'How could it be anyone else?' said one resident. His presence was especially welcomed during the coronavirus outbreak, and people will sometimes take a longer route to their work so that they can meet him and pay their respects. In fact he's become known affectionately as 'the Mayor of Shawlands'.



Freddie's fame was further enhanced when, I think in 2023, Google Maps marked him as a

tourist attraction for people visiting the city! Since then he obtained more than 60 reviews, most of which gave him five stars. [Glasgow Times](#) (Dec. 2021) | [Glasgow Live](#) (April 2024)

Sadly, Freddie became ill and died at th end of October 2025. He was 20 years old. Many tributes were paid to him, and flowers were laid on a wall ner his home – a spot where he loved to sit and watch the world go by. [Glasgow Times](#) | [Glasgow Live](#) (both Nov. 2025)

**For other `cats about town` see [Featuring /Adventures & Travels 21, 23 \(below\), 24, 25](#)
[Mini Fragments 3 – Ludlow; Famous – Hamish McHamish](#)**

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