

Featured Felines: Escapes & Rescues 15

(page checked July 2026)

Trucking cats: Ashes; Percy; Captain

Ashes the Trucking Cat

Ohio, USA



Handsome grey cat **Ashes** travelled widely across the United States for several years with his human buddy Matthew in his 18-wheeler, and they were devoted to each other. But in July 2019 disaster struck when, at a truck stop in Springfield, Ohio, Ashes got out of the wagon and vanished. Matthew searched high and low, but without finding any trace of his cat, and eventually he had to drive off and continue his journey without his companion.

Over the next few months he planned his journeys so that whenever possible he'd be able to return to where Ashes had disappeared and continue his search, but despite repeated efforts, nothing was found. He didn't give up hope – and as it turned out, Ashes was keeping himself alive and scraping a living. After some months, a lady called Kimberley came across a cold, hungry and scrawny-looking cat among some bushes, was able to catch him and took him to the Lollypop Farm animal-welfare organisation in Newport, New York state, naming him 'Smokey'. But when checked for a microchip, he was found not to be Smokey, but the missing Ashes!



It had been five months since the cat had been lost, so it was a wonderful surprise for Matthew when he received the call saying Ashes had been found. Naturally he was overjoyed, and lost little time in rearranging his route to take in Newport, where Ashes was waiting for him. 'It's that microchip – without it I'd never have gotten him back,' he said. 'The woman who found him saved his life, but it was the microchip that brought him home.'

Now Matthew and Ashes are back together enjoying life on the road once more.



[YouTube](#) | [Bored Panda](#) (Nov. 2019 – *archived copy*) | [ABC News](#) (Dec. 2019)

For more trucking cats, see below and also [Featuring / Adventures & Travels 31](#) and [31A](#).

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Percy, another US trucking cat



Ohio truck driver Paul Robertson decided he wanted a feline companion to keep him company on his travels, and adopted **Percy** from Twin Cities Pet Rescue in Minnesota. He was calm and curious, quickly settled down into the trucking life; the two soon became inseparable and within a year had travelled thousands of miles together. Percy had his own little 'suite' on the passenger side of the wagon, so he could sit and enjoy the ever-changing view. He even learned how to open the window if he spotted a bird or something interesting outside – and that was nearly his undoing.

One day Paul pulled into a rest stop for a nap, and when he woke he found the window open and Percy missing. He went out and called the cat, shaking his food bag, and searched everywhere on the site – but there was no sign of Percy. To make things worse, temperatures were dropping and a storm was on the way. Paul went to his Facebook page, where he and Percy had many fans, and asked for help. The online community offered kindness and support, offers were made to check local shelters, and one person even turned up to help the search. But it was all in vain; Paul returned to his truck alone, to face a restless night.



In the morning he had to leave and continue his journey, broken-hearted, in order to meet his delivery deadlines. He said he felt as though he was abandoning his child. At his next stop, 400 miles away, he delivered his goods, then went to collect paperwork for the next delivery. And that was when, returning to the truck, he noticed a dirty and dishevelled orange cat crawling out from under it. At first puzzled, he quickly realised it was Percy! He had been clinging on underneath the vehicle for those 400 miles. He looked up at Paul as if to say, 'Dad?' and Paul scooped him up and returned to the truck, where they had a joyful reunion. Apart from needing a bit of a clean-up, Percy was fine – and a very lucky cat. Paul posted the good news on Facebook and thanked everyone for their help and support.



[National Kitty](#) (Sept. 2021)

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Captain Rescued from the highway



I've no date or details for this, which is from a Facebook post.

'I found him on a rainy morning near a gas station by the highway. He was soaked, shivering, and meowing desperately as if crying for help. I parked my truck and approached him slowly, not wanting to scare him. When he saw me, he didn't run away; he looked at me with eyes full of distress and hope. At that moment I knew I couldn't leave him there.

'I scooped him up and placed him on the passenger seat, wrapping him in a blanket I kept in the cab. On the drive, he stopped meowing and began to doze off, as if he understood he was finally safe. I decided to name him "**Captain**", as he seemed ready to take charge of every new adventure.

'Since that day, Captain has been my loyal travel companion. Every morning he climbs up onto the dashboard, his favourite spot, where he watches the world go by. Sometimes he clings to the steering wheel with his little paws, pretending to drive. It always makes me laugh, and people who pass us can't help but smile or take photos.

'But Captain is more than just a funny cat; he's become an essential part of my life on the road. Thanks to him, my lonely days are now filled with laughter, surprises and comfort. He's taught me that even the most unexpected encounters can change our lives in profound ways. And every day he reminds me that sometimes the simplest acts of kindness – like helping a creature in need – can have the greatest impact.'

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