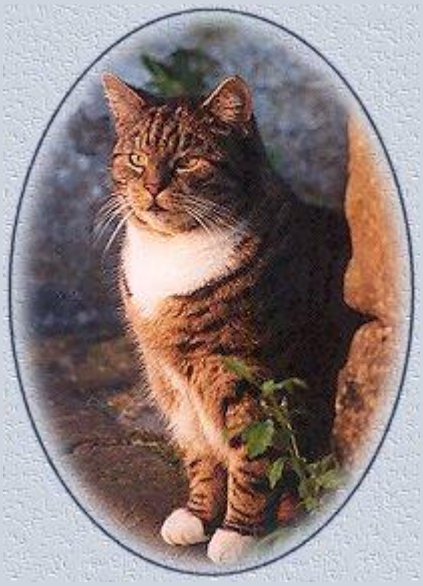

Purr 'n' Fur
FEATURING FELINES

Articles in *Featuring Felines* are written by Patrick Roberts
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The internet is awash with stories of the rescue and rehabilitation of cats from all kinds of situation, and to record them all would need thousands of pages! This section relates just a few that caught my eye for one reason or another.

Featured Felines: Cats' Escapes & Rescues 1 (2006)

(page checked June 2026)

Mogadon fell out of a 21st-floor window
Charlie spent a week in a tree
Chairman Miaow was trapped for 26 days in cargo bound for England from China

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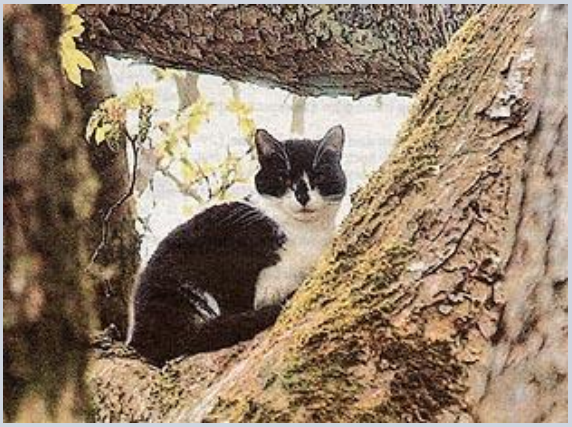
Lucky Escape 1

Early in 1993 **Mogadon** (curiously named after a brand of sleeping pills) lived in an apartment on the 21st floor of a high-rise block at Cottingley Heights, in the English city of Leeds in Yorkshire. She was about 18 months old and hadn't been outside — living where she did, it was impractical, and anyway she had two other cats for company and was quite content. However, she did love to sit on a window ledge and observe the world from that vantage point.

One day her owner Claire opened the window, but when Mogadon jumped up to sit on the ledge she misjudged it and lost her balance. She fell some 200 feet: you can see the view from the window *(below right)*. But luckily her nine lives came to the rescue and she landed in a bush. Claire rushed downstairs and took the cat immediately off to the vet in a taxi. She needed some stitches in cuts and was kept in for two days, but was then allowed home, although she had to wear the collar for a few days to stop her pulling the stitches out, which she doesn't look too thrilled about.

It was reported that Claire, her boyfriend and feline family were soon going to be moving to a house at ground level, with a garden, so Mogadon wouldn’t be taking any more leaps into the unknown!

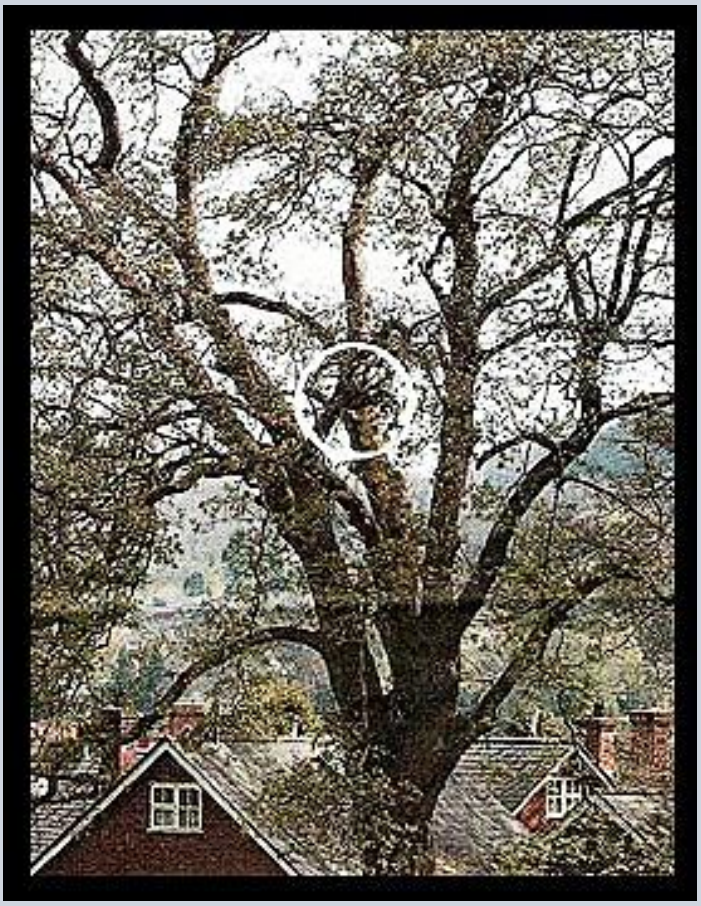


Lucky Escape 2

(from the *Shropshire Star*)

Charlie, a black-and-white moggie, lived a quiet life in the English West Midlands town of Church Stretton, Shropshire, until one day in May 2006 when he decided to go in for a spot of tree climbing. There were some very tempting tall trees in a field nearby — so off he went. He found a nice spot about 40 feet up a particularly fine tree and stayed there for a while observing the view. The trouble was, of course, that no one had given Charlie lessons in how to get down trees!

So there he stayed, frightened to move, despite all kinds of coaxing and offers of tuna from his seven-year-old owner Ella Jones and her family. At first they hadn't known where he was, until Ella's mother happened to catch a glimpse of him up the tree. A worrying week went by and Charlie, still in the same spot, must have been pretty hungry by then; so it was time to call in the RSPCA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) and the fire brigade with tall, extensible ladders.



However, no sooner had they got organised and ready to attempt his recovery than Charlie decided to be independent and JUMP to safety! He apparently survived the 40-foot jump with no ill effects, and was joyfully reunited with his family — who were hoping he'd be a bit less adventurous in future.

An astonishing Journey

(from the *Daily Telegraph*)

This handsome lady came from China — with the china! She seems to have thought a crate of crockery was a nice quiet place for a snooze, unaware that it was about to be loaded onto a ship bound for Britain. Late in May 2006 she and the cargo arrived at a firm of crockery suppliers in Kirby-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire in central England.

Chairman Miaow, as she was named, apparently survived on a diet of cardboard and condensation for the 26 days the cargo was in transit from China to Britain. She was vaccinated and sent to a nearby quarantine centre, where she was looked after for the obligatory period before being found a new home. 'She loves to be petted and fussed over,' said centre manager Wendy Reeves. 'I'm not surprised, after all that time alone in a box.'

The story echoes one made only a month or so earlier by another Chinese cat, who survived for 30 days in a container travelling to Tampa, in Florida. She was bony and dehydrated, weighing only three pounds, but businessman Norman Goldberg, who opened the container, said that otherwise she seemed fine and would be put up for adoption.

[The tale of Emily, another 'container cat', is the second item at this page **(Featuring / Adventures 3+4).** There's also like the story of one of the most well-known 'accidental traveller': The Voyage of Colin's Cat.**(in 'Famous')]**

Our featured feline at the head of the page is **Socks**, pictured in 2003 surveying his 'estate' in the early-morning sunshine. Affectionately known as Soxy, he blossomed from a thin and hungry stray into a substantial and handsome cat who loved life and company, and his gentle ways endeared him to many friends. He is now no longer with us, but you can read more from his human companion in 'Remembering Friends'.

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Molly from the Deli-cat-essen

Greenwich Village, New York

Black cat **Molly** made world headlines in April 2006 when she became trapped in a maze of walls, beams and pipes in the basement of a delicatessen in Greenwich Village, New York. Eleven months old at the time, Molly was the resident mouser at Myers of Keswick, a popular establishment catering to a clientele who like British food items not generally available in US stores; and of course, like most cats, she was curious.

When she went missing it was feared she'd died, but after about 12 days she was heard mewing, and so rescue efforts were renewed. Police, fire department and animal-rescue organisations were all at the scene, and all manner of methods were tried in an effort to coax out the cat. These included cat food, a one-pound raw fish, catnip, a cat therapist, a miniature video camera to try to see where she was trapped — even two kittens were drafted in (*left*), to try to appeal to Molly's maternal instincts. All these efforts failed. Mike Pastore, field director of the Animal Care and Control Department of New York City, said it was the most difficult case he had ever attended.

Observers from the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission showed up before the final bid was made to rescue Molly by drilling and hammering out bricks in the building's cellar, because the 157-year-old structure is part of a historic district and cannot be altered. Eventually a hole was drilled from inside the shop, through layers of brick, to reach the cat; she was finally brought out after 14 days by Kevin Clifford, a tunnel worker who had volunteered for the project. It turned out that she had been stuck between bricks and a piece of sheet metal, and her rescuer had to 'grab her by the legs'. 'Paws were flying everywhere; it took a little struggle to get her in a cage,' said Clifford.

Peter Myers, owner of the deli, said Molly seemed to be 'in great shape', despite her ordeal. 'I'm amazed how well she looks,' he added. 'She was always a fit cat, otherwise she couldn't have survived fourteen days.' He also said the deli had been 'very busy' as a result of the events unfolding there.

Soon the feline was tucking into her first meal (nibbles of roast pork, sardines in oil); then she was able to retire to the basket in the shop where she sleeps, for a well-earned rest.

In late December of 2006, in a roundup of the year's news stories, the *New York Times* had a short update:

It is a central tenet of the news that everybody loves a good animal story, and the most uplifting mammal tale this year was Molly the Cat. Molly was, of course, the ill-fated 11-month-old cat trapped for two weeks in April in a wall at Myers of Keswick, a British dry-goods shop on Hudson Street.

'She's absolutely fine now, in the pink of her condition,' Molly's owner, Peter Myers, said last week. 'Here she comes strolling toward me now. She has quite the spring in her step.' Almost every day, he said, two or three well-wishers wander through the door of the shop to inquire after Molly's health. They scratch her cheeks or rub her belly as she dawdles in her basket by the window. The attention has gone to her head. 'She does seem somewhat arrogant in her demeanour now,' he said. 'Still, she stays very clear of the gap where she was trapped.'

Further reading

- Downtown Pets for a much fuller account of Molly's rescue and images of the predicament she found herself in. (*archived copy, no images)*
- The delicatessen, Myers of Keswick, had its own dedicated page for Molly (*archived copy)* - since her adventure she had visitors from all over the world, although Molly herself is said to prefer a 'low-key lifestyle'.
- Molly also has her own Facebook page. (*Still there but last used in Feb. 2018*)
- CBS News, Apr 2006: Neighbors Rally To Save Trapped Cat. (*archived copy)*
- *New York Times*, 14 Apr 2006: From Faint Meows, a Frenzy Grows (*archived copy)*
- *New York Times*, 15 Apr 2006: The Fraidy-Cat of Hudson Street Is Yanked to Safety. (*archived copy)*
- *New York Times*, 16 Apr 2006: Want to Captivate New Yorkers? Try the (Latest) Trapped-Cat Story. (*archived copy)*
- *The Villager*, Apr 2006: Molly the curious cat comes back with some help. (*archived copy)*
- *The Villager*, Apr 2006: After harrowing cat rescue, merchant now needs help. (*archived copy)*
- Jeremiah's Vanishing New York blog, Sep 2009: Hudson Cats.

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Precious, a 9/11 survivor

A small piece of good news that came out of the horror and destruction of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 was the rescue and survival of a white Persian cat from an apartment close to the WTC. The owner, Mrs Kerr, and her husband were away for a long weekend when the tragedy occurred; they returned to a heavily damaged home and what they thought would be a dead cat.

However, some time after the attack rescuers responded to reports of a cat crying on the building's roof, and **Precious** was recovered with the aid of a rescue dog. She was taken to an SPA van (Society for the Protection of Animals) that was on site treating some of the dogs for exhaustion and exposure. Having been without food for 18 days she had lost 2 pounds in weight (nearly a kilo) and was dirty and dehydrated; she also had some eye injuries and burns on her paws from the hot roof. With the aid of some of her favourite food, though – sliced turkey – Precious was soon on the way back to health.

Short video on YouTube (Sept. 2001) | New York Post *(Sept. 2001 – archived copy)*

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