

Featured Felines: Escapes & Rescues 17 (2024)

**Galena, mistakenly shipped from Utah to California
Mr B, rescued in Texas; Fishtopher from New Jersey**

Galena

Shipped from Utah to California, USA



In April 2024 **Galena**, a beloved cat from the city of Lehi in Utah, USA, mysteriously vanished from her home. Despite extensive searches, posters around the neighbourhood and pleas on social media, there was no news; Galena seemed to have just vanished. A week later, there was a phone call from near Riverside in California, 650 miles away, from a vet who had scanned the cat's microchip. Her owner, Carrie Clark and her husband, flew to California, where there was a joyful reunion, and then rented a car for the journey back to Utah with Galena.



What had happened was that six-year-old Galena – who, like most cats, loved boxes – had found a nice place to snooze in a box containing several pairs of shoes. Unfortunately the goods were due to be returned to Amazon in California and, not knowing the cat was inside, the box had been taped up and sent off. The contents were already heavy, so the cat's extra weight wasn't noticed.

When it arrived at Amazon, employee Brandy Hunter found the frightened cat, took care of her and transported her to the vet's where her microchip was scanned. Fortunately a seam on the box had partly split, so Galena had air, and the weather had been neither freezing nor too hot, so apart from losing a little weight and being dehydrated she was unharmed after her six-day ordeal. Carrie and husband Matt were overjoyed at getting her back, having thought they'd never see her again.



[People](#) | [Fox News](#) (both April 2024)

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Mr B
Rescued from the streets in Texas, USA

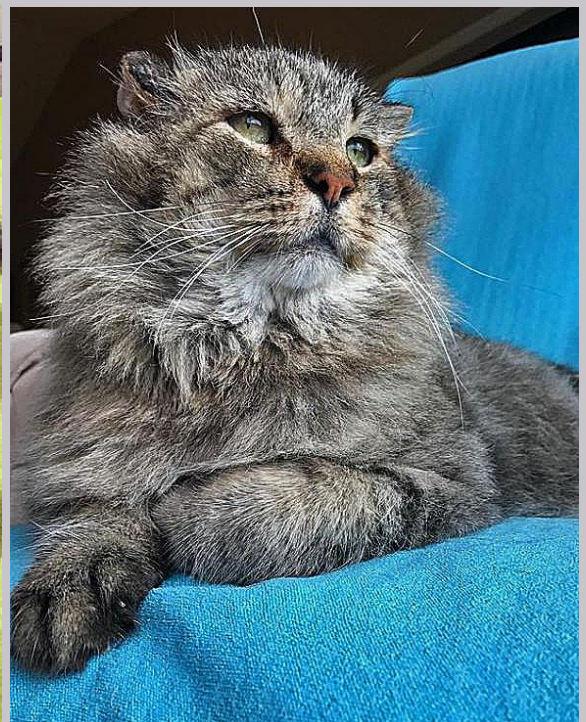


During May 2017 a rescuer and fosterer named Lindsay came across a sad and straggly tomcat who'd apparently been living for years as alpha male of a small colony of ferals that she was working on to trap, neuter and return (TNR); I think this was in Corpus Christi .However, the old chap was trap-savvy and didn't want to be caught – until one day when, perhaps with his health failing and knowing he needed help, he practically walked into the trap voluntarily. He had severe mange and an ear infection, so he was taken to a vet for treatment and to be neutered. He was found to be FIV-positive, and the vet recommended euthanasia – but Lindsay thought he had some fight in him and decided to take him home and give him a chance.

Named **Mr Belvedere**, or **Mr B** for short, he continued his treatment and, as he began to recover, he showed signs of starting to trust Lindsay, perhaps realising she was helping him. He let her give him his medication, clean his ears – and then she used a wooden spoon to stroke him and get him used to being touched. He seemed to love it! Eventually, after some weeks, Lindsay felt he was ready to become a house cat, so he left his confinement and started to explore the house. By then he was allowing her to touch and pet him. Certain things still spooked him, but gradually he gained in confidence – and then one day, after several weeks, came the day he sat on her lap! She knew then that things were going to work out and that Mr B wasn't going to want to return to the streets. With plenty of patience, love and determination he'd changed from a timid tomcat into an affectionate and loving cat, who loved playing and had a loud purr. He was thought to be around 10 or 12 years old.



By September 2017 it was felt to be time to find Mr B his 'forever' home. As a special-needs cat, thought to be 11 or 12 years old, he'd need a special home – and he found it with Jenna De Cristofaro and her husband, who were passionate about caring for older cats. Jenna was a vet technician; she came across Mr B on Instagram and felt she could offer him the home he needed. Lindsay agreed, and so Mr B was flown to his new abode in North Carolina; I think that was in September 2017. He soon settled in and let his humans brush and pet him. He would entertain himself for hours with toys, having probably never played before, and he had a wide vocabulary of chirps and trills. 'He's the most unique animal I've ever met,' said Jenna. 'He shows love, trust, strength, resilience and so much more. We can't imagine life without him.'



Sadly, as was bound to happen one day, Mr B's life did come to an end, on the last day of February 2024. A final post on his [Instagram](#) page said, 'My dear friends: yesterday we said goodbye to Mr B. – the

coolest cat I have ever met. It was his time and he went peacefully. Can you believe he made it this far? What an amazing fighter he was, truly one of a kind. I wish I could say more and make a post of my favourite videos and memories of him, but I'm having a hard time even writing this. Thank you all for following Mr B on his journey and for all your love and support. I know that Mr B felt it.'



Before he died, Mr B had about 6½ years of happy and comfortable life. Not bad going for a cat recommended for euthanasia by three different vets!

[Love Meow](#) (June 2018) | [Happy Whisker](#) (April 2024) | [Meowingtons](#) (July 2018) | [YouTube](#) (May 2019)

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Fishtopher

Rescued from the streets of New Jersey, USA



After his rescue **Fishtopher**, as he was named, was taken to the Homeward Bound Pet Adoption Center in Blackwood, New Jersey, but although he liked his carers there he seemed lonely and unhappy. He loved one-on-one attention, and would eat only when staff stopped by his pen to make a fuss of him. It was obvious he needed a home. The shelter created a special 'pet profile' for the 5-year-old domestic shorthair/Bengal cross, describing him and suggesting the kind of home he'd need.

It wasn't long before that profile appeared on Twitter – and 'went viral', as the saying goes. The shelter received hundreds of enquiries about Fishtopher, and there were even people queuing outside the building! Quite how they were chosen isn't clear, but a couple who'd driven two hours to get there from Baltimore in Maryland ended up adopting him in late November 2022.

Although the staff would miss him, they were really happy for him, and reported on Facebook that, 'Fishtopher has left the building!' He started to warm towards his new humans on the drive home, and once there set about exploring and getting used to his new abode. His whole demeanour changed: his eyes opened wider and his ears perked up.



Fishtopher now has both [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts in his name (both still operational in mid-2026)..



[The Dodo](#) (March 2023) | [NBC News](#) (Nov. 2022) | [YouTube](#)

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