

Featured Felines: Escapes & Rescues 13

(page checked June 2026)

In Brief

Nottingham, UK: Cat wedged in car engine

In May 2013 long-haired black cat **Princess** disappeared from her home in Nottingham, and despite a desperate search nothing was found. Two weeks later the cat's human, Julie Tansley, was driving her car when a warning light came on indicating a coolant problem. When the bonnet was opened – there was Princess! It isn't known how she got in there and became stuck, but in the meantime the car had been driven around Nottingham and had even been through a car wash. It turned out that the cat had clawed through a coolant hose. Some dismantling had to be done and a headlight removed, taking nearly an hour before she could be freed from where she'd been wedged.

Princess was thin and emaciated and covered in coolant, but after a wash and a good feed she seemed none the worse for her ordeal. Ms Tansley was left with a not-inconsiderable repair bill – but if that warning light hadn't come on the outcome could have been much worse. Full story is [here](#) (May 2013 – archived copy).



Alabama, USA: A cat from the ocean

In early August 2020 a fishing crew from Still Flyin' Charters, based in Orange Beach, Alabama were out in the Gulf of Mexico when they made an unusual catch – a ginger kitten! The kitten was struggling to stay afloat, and they managed to scoop it up in a net and bring it aboard. How it came to be there was a mystery; maybe the tide caught it and pulled it out, but then why was it on the beach?

Once aboard the crew dried off the drenched kitten and comforted him before taking him ashore. He seemed little the worse for wear once he'd got over his ordeal, and was soon found a home on dry land. 'Can't say you see that every day,' said the rescuers!



[People](#) | [All That's Interesting](#) (both Aug. 2020)

▣ Leicestershire, UK: Terrifying roof-rack ride

A cat from Melton, Leicestershire in England had a terrifying ordeal in October 2013 when he clambered onto the roof of a van that was carrying stepladders. Unaware of her 'passenger', electrician Helen Stevens had driven her van onto a motorway and had covered some miles at up to 70 mph when a motorist signalled her to pull over. She found a scared, wide-eyed tuxedo cat clinging onto the ladders for dear life.

She took him to a vet's, where he was found to be shaken but unharmed – and not microchipped. The vets posted about him on Facebook and fortunately, after a while, his owners spotted him there. They'd been worried about him when he hadn't turned up for meals. Safely reunited with his family, **Kick**, as he was called, had never wandered far before, and after his frightening escapade didn't want to be on his own.



Kick on the van roof



Back at home with his family

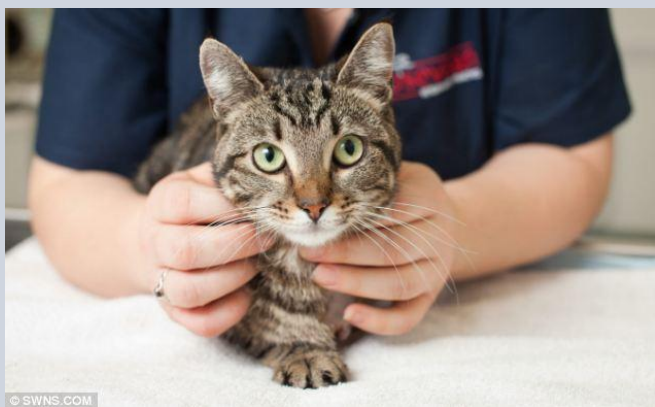
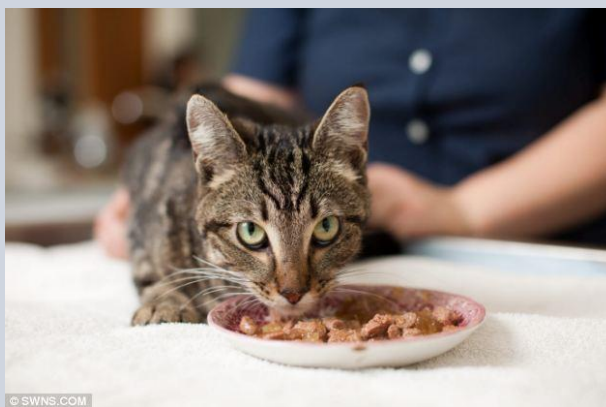
▣ Tasmania, Australia: Jelly and the snake

In December 2007 **Jelly**, a nine-year-old cat in southern Tasmania, turned up in her human's garden with something wrapped around her neck. She was known to catch birds, and that's what Wendy Wallis first thought it was – but soon realised it was a snake! She called the Reptile Rescue people, who were able to untangle the copperhead snake from Jelly's neck; it had a bite on its back, and was taken away to recuperate before being released back into the wild. At first Jelly seemed unaffected, but later she started to show ill effects and was becoming paralysed, so she was rushed to the vet. It's thought she probably attacked the snake and bit it first, but the snake retaliated. Jelly was put on a drip and treated with anti-venom medication, and later recovered fully. She'll probably give snakes a wide berth in future!

Story [here](#) (Dec. 2007 – archived copy)



▣ Plymouth, UK: Cat trapped under train travels 1700 miles



In January 2013 two-year-old tabby **Polly** had an ordeal lasting at least two days and quite likely longer, without food or water, when she became trapped in a compartment in the undercarriage of a high-speed train. The compartment was sealed and opened only for maintenance, so it's thought she wandered in there, maybe in pursuit of a rodent, when the train was serviced at a depot near her home in Plymouth. The train then went on to make a series of journeys, totalling nearly 1700 miles, between London, South Wales and the West Country before her faint cries were heard, luckily, by the train manager on the way to Cornwall. When a station was reached where the train could stop and the compartment be opened, Polly was found and released; she seemed in quite good shape apart from a badly broken front leg. After a meal of tuna from the buffet car, she was taken to the RSPCA and thence to a vet's in Penzance. She was microchipped, so her owners were contacted and gave permission for the injured leg to be amputated. After rest and a course of antibiotics Polly recovered well and was able to return home to her humans – a retired train driver and his wife; she'd been missing some three weeks and they were delighted to have her back.

[Mail Online](#) (Jan. 2013 – archived copy)

▣ Chester, UK: Saved from the recycling

In 2007 a small kitten had a very lucky escape when she was found in a pile of scrap metal just before it was scooped up and taken away to Chester Recycling Centre in England. Operative Victor Stevenson heard a faint mew and found the little mite wedged in the mound of scrap metal. How she got there was a mystery. She was taken straight to a vet's, where she was found to be unharmed, if a bit shaken, and was estimated to be about seven weeks old. Victor took her home to be cared for until a place was available at the local Cats Protection shelter; he and his wife already had two cats and didn't feel they could take on a third one permanently. I don't know the end of the story, but **Penny**, as she was named, was cute, playful and inquisitive, and I'm sure she will have found a new home without much trouble..



▣ Aurora, Colorado, USA: Up the pole ...

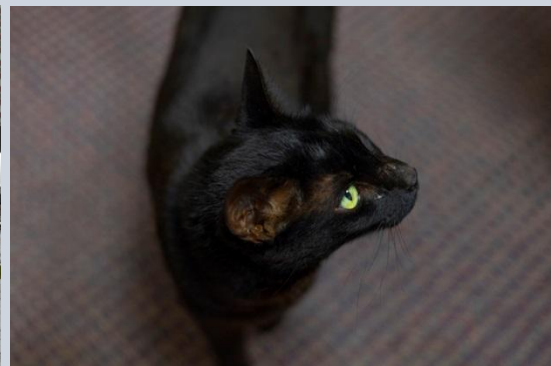
In a change from the more usual 'Cat stuck up a tree' story. black cat **Panther** got himself to the top of a 36-foot telegraph pole in December 2021. He'd gone missing from his home, but it was a day or two before he was noticed on the pole, and no amount of coaxing or offers of food tempted him down. The town's Animal Control and the energy company seemed disinclined to do anything, so after he'd been up there several days a city councillor organised a lorry with a ladder, and firefighters brought him down. His owner said he'd be kept inside from then on! [Link](#) (Dec. 2021)

▣ **Kalispell, Montana, USA: Frozen cat**

This is just amazing. Early in 2019, as temperatures reached -25°C during a 'polar vortex', long-haired tabby cat **Fluffy** didn't make it home, and was found buried in snow outside her house. It's not clear what happened to prevent her reaching home, or how long she'd been there, but she appeared to be dead. However, rushed to Kalispell Animal Clinic, vets thawed her out with hairdryers, warm towels and fluids, and within an hour she was responding and later made a full recovery. Her body must have gone into a state of near-hibernation. [Link](#) (Feb. 2019)



▣ **Logan International Airport, Boston, USA: Cat on the loose**



In June 2022 four-year-old black cat **Rowdy** arrived at the airport from Germany with her family. Somehow – it's thought attracted by seeing some birds in the cargo bay – she escaped the baggage handlers and went 'on the loose' in the airport. Despite a massive search involving wildlife cameras, elaborate traps left with food and water, and dozens of people from airline staff to construction workers, she evaded capture for three weeks! Eventually, probably from fatigue or hunger, she 'allowed herself to be caught' and was taken in by the Animal Rescue League of Boston until she could be reunited with her family. Her owner said she'd always had a rebellious streak, for example chewing through bags of treats so she could eat them. 'She looks great, is pleased to be with people, and I'm sure will be happy to be reunited with us,' she said.

[Guardian](#) (July 2022) | [Boston Magazine](#) (June 2022)



▣ **Christchurch, New Zealand: Spiked cat**

This tabby cat was very fortunate; one day in April 2013 she was found impaled on a fence with a metal spike sticking through her body. The owner of the property heard her cries of distress and alerted the rescue services. Although the spike was sticking right through her body, it was very lucky that it missed major organs. The fire service used their equipment to cut the fence so the cat could be lowered to the ground; then, since there was little bleeding, the spike was gently removed to allow easier transport to an emergency vet. The SPCA nicknamed her **Spike** and she made a good recovery. She wasn't microchipped, but it was hoped her owners would come forward. The freak accident probably resulted from a misjudged jump from the roof of the property. [Stuff](#) (Apr. 2013)

▣ **Koh Adang Thailand: Burning boat rescue**

In March 2021 a boat caught fire in the Andaman sea, near the island of Koh Adang, and was sinking. The crew had been rescued by a passing ship earlier, but as a team of Thai navy's air-and-defence division approached the stricken vessel to check for oil spills, they noticed four cats on board, wide-eyed, panicked and huddled together. Realising time was short to save them, one of the sailors, Thatsaphon Saii, quickly took off his shirt, put on a lifejacket and dived in to swim some 50 feet to the burning boat. With the cats perched on his shoulder above the water level, he returned to his boat and his team mates helped him and his 'cargo' aboard with a rope. He's seen in the photo with the four cats tucking into some food; they were cared for at the navy's command post, and presumably were found homes. The ship sank soon after the rescue.



[Daily Mail](#) | [BBC News](#) (both March 2021)



▣ **Wembley, Middlesex, UK: Kitten rescued from train**

At around midnight one night in October 2009, while a Chiltern Railways train was stopped at Wembley station, what sounded like a faint meow was heard coming from somewhere under the train driver's door. A little black kitten, only some four weeks old, was discovered perched on a gearbox area quite close to the wheels. He was thought to have been there about 24 hours, as the previous night a driver had spotted a kitten running under the train while it was at Banbury station in Oxfordshire, but he wasn't able to find it.

In the 24 hours or so the kitten had been underneath it, the train had travelled five times between London and the West Midlands, a distance of some 900 miles at speeds reaching over 100 mph! It would have been able to see the tracks from its hiding place, and must have been petrified.

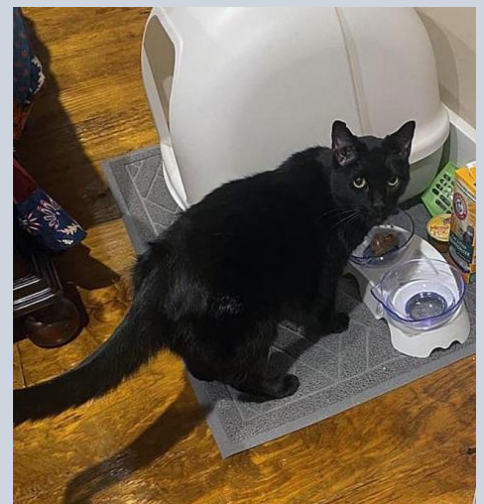
The story has a happy ending, as the kitten – now named **Diesel** – was adopted by fleet resources assistant Jodi Fox.

[Bucks Free Press](#) (Oct. 2009)

▣ **Mayfield, Kentucky, USA: Tornado rescue**

The worst tornado in Kentucky's history devastated the town of Mayfield in December 2021. Nine days after it hit, Sonny Gibson was surveying the wreckage of his office building when he heard a faint meow. Despite searches, his cat **Madix**, who used to greet customers, had been missing since the tornado. Gathering some friends to help clear the rubble, they found the cat in a hole beneath it, hungry and thirsty but unharmed. 'It was an incredible feeling to hold him in my arms,' said Sonny. And from then on, he said, Madix would be an indoor cat

[Guardian](#) (Dec. 2021)



▣ **Jamestown, Colorado, USA: Landslide survivor**



In September 2013 Jamestown suffered a devastating landslide that destroyed **Shadow's** home and killed her owner. The cat went missing, and was presumed lost. However, 40 days later she was found! She'd apparently been living rough outside the town, and had a broken leg. Taken to the vet, she was fed, cared for, and had surgery – a part amputation of the leg. Shadow recovered well, soon became used to being a three-legged cat and, most importantly, found a new, loving home.

[Jamestown Connect](#) (Oct.-Nov. 2013)

▣ **Nottinghamshire, England: Rescued from truck after 170-mile journey**



When a lorry arrived at a factory in Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, having driven 170 miles from the port of Felixstowe in Suffolk in July 2013, and the engine was switched off, staff heard faint meows coming from somewhere underneath it. They tracked the cries down to a metal box on the chassis, and inside was a tiny kitten, covered in oil and just a few weeks old. It's thought his mother must have put him there for safety while she went out hunting in the docks at the port, but the lorry left before she'd returned.

Not yet weaned, he was fed some formula milk from a syringe, and then taken to the Millwood Cattery, where he'd be cared for until he was old enough to be rehomed – most likely with the owner of the factory where he was found! He was named **Felix** and was putting on weight and doing well. Because he was almost certainly a British cat, there was no need for him to be put in quarantine.

[Mail Online](#) (uly 2013 – archived copy)

▣ Texas, USA: Kitten rescued from busy highway



There have been a number of stories of cats or kittens being rescued from busy roads; here's one from July 2013. Timothy Haywood, who was unfamiliar with the area, was driving on what he thought was Highway 281 (but was actually Highway 35) when a small animal dashed across five lanes of rush-hour traffic in front of his car. Looking at the central reservation, he saw it was a kitten. He took the next exit and doubled back to rescue it. 'He was frightened and bit me twice,' said Haywood, 'but I got him in the car and he soon calmed down.' Taken to a vet, he was thought to be about five weeks old and had an eye infection, which was treated. After a few weeks he was well settled into Haywood's home, and enjoying attacking his favourite panda toy (*above right*). He was named **Eleven**, because $2+8+1 = 11$!



▣ Leeds, UK: Cat survives 100-ft fall

In October 2022 **Sox**, a one-year-old tuxedo cat, managed to push open a window in his tower-block apartment and fell 100 feet to the ground. His paws were shattered, but somehow he managed to drag himself to the building's main door, where he was found and rushed to the vet. His paws had to be wired and he faced several weeks with a plastic cone on and enforced inactivity. It wasn't going to be easy, and the vet bill was £5000 – but his humans said 'he's family' and were just pleased he'd survived.
[Express](#) (Nov. 2022)

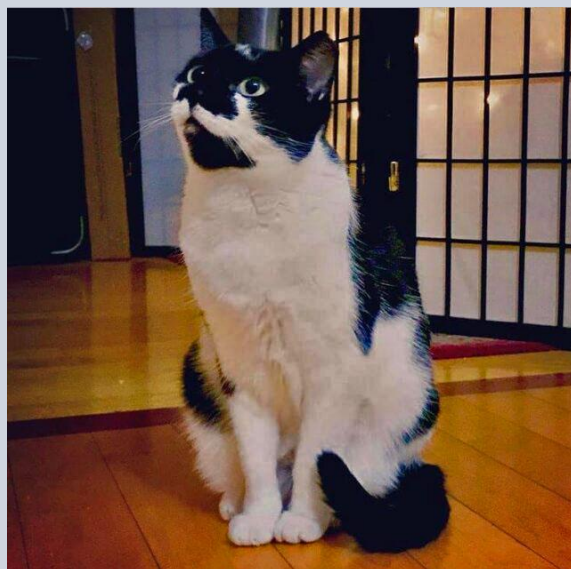
▣ Washington, UK: Two cats rescued from skip

Two terrified cats were rescued from an enormous, industrial-sized skip in January 2022 when workers heard sounds coming from it and alerted the RSPCA. An inspector had to climb in to rescue them; they were fortunate to have been found and to have survived unharmed, as glass and all kinds of waste could be thrown in. and although – bizarrely – there was a cat bed, there was no food and the sides were too high for them to climb out. A tabby-and-white adult male was named **Simon** (*left image*), and a dark-tabby female, only about a year old, was named **Sox** (*right image*). They were taken to a shelter to recover and until they could be rehomed..
[Chronicle](#) (Jan. 2022)



▣ La Guardia airport, New York: Cat rescued from ceiling

Just before Christmas 2020 **Muji** was due to travel from New York to California. At the security checks before boarding the plane, her owner Ashley had to remove her from her carrier at the insistence of agents, so she wouldn't be exposed to X-rays as the carrier was screened. But Muji became spooked and ran off. Almost caught twice, the scared cat nevertheless ended up in the airport ceiling. After a fruitless search Ashley boarded her flight next day, but continued her search with a plea on Facebook. That led to her being connected to a group called 'Where is Jack?', who have a trained sniffer dog. With the airport's permission, the dog went into action and confirmed that Muji was still up in the ceiling. Ashley returned upon hearing the news, but it was nevertheless a couple more days before the cat was finally trapped and brought down – after 11 days 'on the run'.



[New York Post](#) | [Independent](#) (archived copy)
(both Jan. 2021)

▣ Bronx, New York: Frozen kitten rescued



In early March 2023 construction workers heard a kitten crying for help on their site in the Bronx, New York City. It was the next day before they were able to locate her and found the little soul literally almost frozen. They contacted a rescue organisation, who rushed her to an emergency hospital. Her temperature was so low it didn't even register on a thermometer, and she could barely lift her head. She was carefully warmed up, and once she'd had something to eat she began to come back to life. It took about three days of intensive care, but by then she was almost back to normal. Named **Yankee**, she was curious and playful, and it wasn't long before she found a permanent home. [The Dodo](#) (March 2023) | [Love Meow](#) (Feb. 2023)

▣ Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania, USA:

This a beautiful [video](#) of one senior cat's rescue story at the Peaceful Mountain Cat Sanctuary, a privately run shelter for senior and handicapped cats. Caleb was in a terrible state when found, but went on to recover and enjoy nearly a year of life being loved and cared for
Sanctuary website: <https://www.micheleklein4ferals.com/>
See more details at [Featuring / Escapes & Rescues 12](#).





▣ **British Columbia, Canada: Another frozen cat**

A couple out one day early in 2023 collecting firewood noticed a dark shape, unmoving in the snow. It didn't move even when approached, and seemed to be frozen; the people were amazed to find it was a tabby-and-white cat. They picked him up and rushed him to the East Kootenay SPCA, who in turn took him straight to a vet. Thought to be about 12 years old, he needed surgery for a wound on his belly, and had also several lesions on his skin; there were various other problems requiring treatment, and his tail had to be amputated. Of course it wasn't known how long he'd been out there, or what he'd been through, but he remained calm and affectionate throughout. Sadly, it seems likely he'd been someone's cat and they'd abandoned him.

Given the name **Wilson**, the senior feline was found to be a gentle soul who was laid-back and relaxed, happy to have a warm bed and people to make a fuss of him. Restored eventually to full health and ready for retirement life, Wilson caught the eye of a couple who'd been looking to take on a new cat, and it wasn't long before he was settled into his new home!

[Vancouver Sun](#) (Feb. 2023 – archived copy) | [BC SPCA](#) (May 2023) |

▣ **Ulyanovsk, Russia: Cat saved from garbage plant**

In 2020, almost unbelievably, someone tied up a tuxedo cat, alive, in a plastic bag and threw him in the rubbish. It was incredibly fortunate not only that he'd survived being thrown in and then tipped out of the garbage truck, but that a worker on the conveyor belt, where the rubbish is sorted, noticed him. The worker, Mikhail Tukash, said, 'We have to cut open plastic bags to see if there's any metal inside, which we collect; so it was an accident that he was found.'

The cat, now known as **Kite**, was taken to the Ulyanovsk regional environment ministry, where he became something of a local celebrity and was unofficially named deputy environment minister! Happy and healthy in his new home, he now lives in the wildlife-protection department and is looked after by the workers there. Mikhail and his director were sent letters of appreciation.



[Happy Whisker](#) (Dec. 2020) | [Euronews](#) (Jan. 2021) | [National News](#) (Dec. 2020) \ [YouTube](#)



▣ New York city, USA: Cat rescued from high ledge



How it got there was a mystery, but passers-by noticed a dirty and dishevelled cat clinging precariously to a ledge on a building high above the street; when this was isn't clear, but I think in late 2023 or early 2024.. It wasn't long before someone notified [Little Wanderers](#), a rescue organisation dedicated to helping New York city's cats, and they quickly rushed to the scene. With ladders and nets they set about the rescue with great care. Using gentle gestures and soothing voices they gradually approached the terrified feline, calming it and eventually, with great relief, coaxing it into a net to be brought down to safety.

The cat was taken to a vet to be treated; she had injured paws and was suffering from shock, but otherwise seemed unharmed. Now named **Fox**, in due course she was placed with a foster family and began her recovery. Slowly her personality began to emerge, and after a couple pf weeks she became a different cat.

The final step in her new life was that she was adopted, and now lives in a condominium overlooking the New York skyline. It's a world away from her former life on the city streets, and Fox has turned into a playful, loving and affectionate cat. She even has her own [Instagram](#) page!

[LoveMeow](#) (Jan. 2024) | [Happy Cat Lovers](#) (Feb, 2025)

▣ Coloeado, USA: Fridge spent 40 days in the wilderness

Nakee Bullen and her boyfriend, from Minnesota, stopped overnight in Great Sand Dunes National Park in Colorado on their way back from a visit to Los Angeles. They woke next morning to find their two cats had escaped from their van. One, Lewis, was found nearby quite soon, but tabby **Fridge** had vanished. They stopped and searched as long as they could, but eventually had to resume their journey home. Park rangers said Fridge would be very unlikely to survive. But, against the odds, after 40 days she was found and taken to Humane Colorado. Nakee was notified and, overjoyed, made the 16-hour drive to Colorado for a joyful reunion. [Independent](#) (July 2026)



▣ **Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA: frozen cat**



In January 2025 a young cat, weakened by hunger and infection, dragged herself onto an icy driveway, where fortunately she was noticed and an animal-rescue organisation alerted. At the vet clinic, she was so cold and stiff that it was 3 hours before her temperature even registered on a thermometer and it wasn't clear she'd survive. But with careful heating she slowly woke up – and began to purr and 'make biscuits'! She had an infection in her back legs, leading eventually to one of them having to be amputated, but otherwise made a full recovery. She was adopted by her favourite vet technician, and named **Birthday!**. [The Dodo](#) (Jan. 2025)