

Featured Felines: Cats' Escapes & Rescues 3 (2006)

(page checked June 2026)

Two more lucky escapes

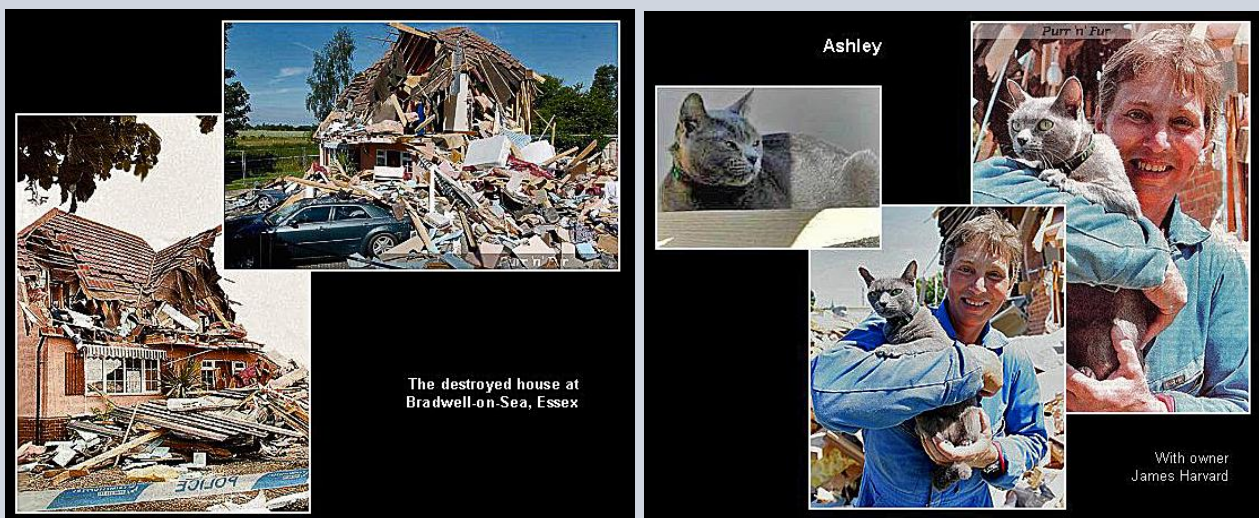
Ashley

Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex

During June 2006, at Bradwell-on-Sea in the south-eastern English county of Essex, a man driving a mechanical digger set about a house, apparently with the intention of demolishing it. He succeeded fairly well, as can be seen from the photograph (*below left*)! The house owner's partner was in one of the bedrooms at the time, but had a very lucky escape and was unhurt. It was feared that their cat **Ashley** had died during the incident, but the following day a policeman spotted her peeking out through broken floorboards, and she was able to walk out unharmed through the rubble-strewn bedroom. The owners of Ashley, a pedigree Korat, said: 'We've lost thousands of pounds worth of stuff in the house, but none of that matters now we know Ashley is fine.'

A man was being questioned by police about the incident, which destroyed two cars as well as the house and damaged a police car. The dispute was allegedly over money.

Update: The dispute was indeed about money. The resident of the damaged house — which later had to be demolished — was the landlord of Robert Taylor, the man in the digger. Taylor wanted revenge after an argument about his rent; at the end of 2006 he was jailed for 6 years for his actions. (*It's a good job we don't all take our disputes to such extreme lengths! — Ed.*)

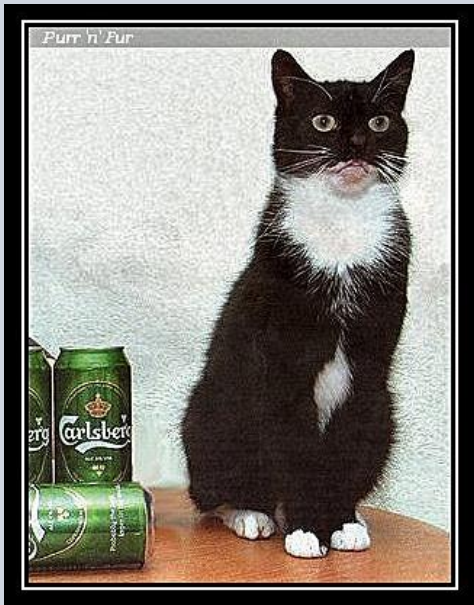


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Carlsberg

Ironbridge, Shropshire

(from the *Shropshire Star*)



Early in November 2007 the Swan Inn at Ironbridge in the county of Shropshire, in the English West Midlands, received a bonus with their delivery of kegs of Carlsberg lager, in the shape of this handsome black-and-white cat! Apparently he'd been clinging to the truck's metal frame between the wheels, near the rear doors. The driver knew he was there but was unable to entice him out, and had to keep to his delivery schedule. He didn't know where the cat had come 'on board', as a couple of deliveries had been made in other places before arriving at Ironbridge.

Fortunately the staff at the Swan were able to persuade Puss to leave his precarious perch and he was taken in for a cuddle and a bit of refreshment after his unscheduled trip. He wasn't microchipped, so his origin couldn't be determined, but the cleaner at the pub said she would give him a home. Her young son, shortly to have a birthday, was thrilled to bits and thought the cat was an early birthday present! His name? Well, he was

called **Carlsberg**, of course!

Carlsberg was very lucky that all ended well for him; his journey could easily have had a tragic outcome.

A few days later: After seeing his picture in the *Shropshire Star* newspaper, Jennie Harris, from the nearby village of Broseley, came forward and revealed that Carlsberg was actually her cat and his real name was **Boots**. She lives next door to a pub, so he must have climbed on the brewery's lorry when it called there. 'He's always been adventurous,' she said, 'and has probably used up quite a few of his nine lives now.' He hadn't gone missing before, although he did have a habit of climbing through open windows into other people's houses — 'but now he seems prouder than ever,' said Jenny. Meanwhile Catherine Redgrave, the cleaner who gave Boots a temporary home, was pleased that he had found his proper home, and was planning to acquire a 'full-time cat' of her own to share with her young son.

- Shropshire Star, Nov 2007: [Luckiest cat in world - probably](#)



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Featured Felines: Cats' Escapes & Rescues 4 (2006)

(page checked June 2026)

Lucky, in Missoula, Montana, USA
Emily, from Wisconsin, USA

Lucky: Rescued from an icy river Missoula, Montana, USA

Early in the morning two days after Christmas 2005, passers-by on a bridge over the Clark Fork river in Missoula, Montana, in the north-western US, heard desperate cries for help from a cat. A tortoiseshell domestic cat was seen to be trapped in a cage which had been weighted down with a large rock. It had obviously been thrown from the bridge, but luckily for the occupant it had landed on some ice rather than in the water.

The Missoula Fire Department was called out immediately and soon arrived with a suitable rescue boat. The feline seemed very relieved to see firemen John Macrow and Philip Keating. It wasn't clear how long it had been there, but it was soon on its way to Missoula's East Pine Street fire station, and after being dried out was found to be a female. Some left-over Christmas turkey and milk soon made her feel better and she was described as 'very friendly'. She didn't appear to be very well-fed — 'really skinny, nothing but skin and bones,

with collar marks where a too-small collar had rubbed off the fur,' said Keating.

At the end of their shift John Macrow decided he would keep the moggy rather than subject her to any more trauma; so, after a veterinary check-up at the Four Paws animal clinic, who prescribed plenty of food and TLC, he took her home. His 12-year-old daughter Taylor was thrilled to bits, as she had long wished for a cat — and a name was easy: **Lucky**. 'She's the sweetest cat,' said Macrow. 'She even curled up with my black Labs this morning.'



Following the rescue and reports of the incident on the wire services, on CNN and on the internet, the Missoula Fire Department was deluged with phone calls and e-mails from all over the States, including Hawaii, and even from abroad, congratulating the firemen and in some cases offering cash to pay for Lucky's vet's visit. These offers were accepted and after paying the bill, the remaining money was donated to the Missoula branch of the Humane Society of Western Montana. City fire chief Tom Steenberg said, 'We're just doing our job. We are happy that we've got the tools and the firefighters with the training to go out in the river and operate this kind of rescue safely . . . we really aren't in the business of getting cats out of trees any more . . . a can of tuna usually works. In this instance, with a caged cat out on the ice, tuna fish wasn't going to work, and we have a lot of people here with big hearts. We couldn't ignore a situation like that.'

The story had a happy ending, but could so easily have been different. The United States Humane Society offered a 2500-dollar reward for information leading to the arrest of the person responsible for the cat's plight. I find it extraordinary that anyone would go to such lengths to dispose of a cat; surely all they had to do was go to the local animal shelter for help, if they could no longer cope with it?

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Emily: another 'container cat'

Appleton, Wisconsin

One-year-old **Emily** disappeared from her home in Appleton, Wisconsin, USA at the end of September 2005. On 24 October she turned up in Nancy, France, in a container of paper bales, having wandered into the container at the distribution centre of a paper company near her home. The bales were taken by truck to Chicago before being shipped by sea to Belgium, and Emily emerged when the container was delivered to its final destination — she was frightened, thirsty and a little thinner, but otherwise well.



From information on Emily's collar tags, employees at the Raflatac laminating company were able to place a call to her vet, who in turn notified her owners. The McElhiney family had searched extensively for Emily after she disappeared, but as time went by they could only hope she was safe and being well-looked after somewhere else. From accounts on the internet it wasn't clear where Emily stayed in France, but apparently she remained there for a couple of months, which included some time in quarantine.

In December Continental Airlines offered her a seat (in business class, no less!) to return to the United States with a personal escort. She was flown first to Newark, NJ and then on a connecting flight to Milwaukee, the airport nearest to her home. According to an airline steward on her international flight, Emily didn't care for the salmon fillet that Continental offered, preferring her French cat food. This story prompted a large number of comments and replies on a French blog site, including one saying that the author had sampled the food served on Continental Airlines and thought that he too might have preferred the cat food! Amid much media interest there was a reunion at the airport with members of her family (*below left*), and then Emily returned home to rejoin her two feline companions, Tori and Ringo. Lesley McElhiney commented, 'She seems a little quieter, maybe a little wiser.'

Links

BBC News: [Stowaway cat flies home in style](#) (Dec. 2005) with a video of Emily's homecoming (*article but no video, April 2024*)

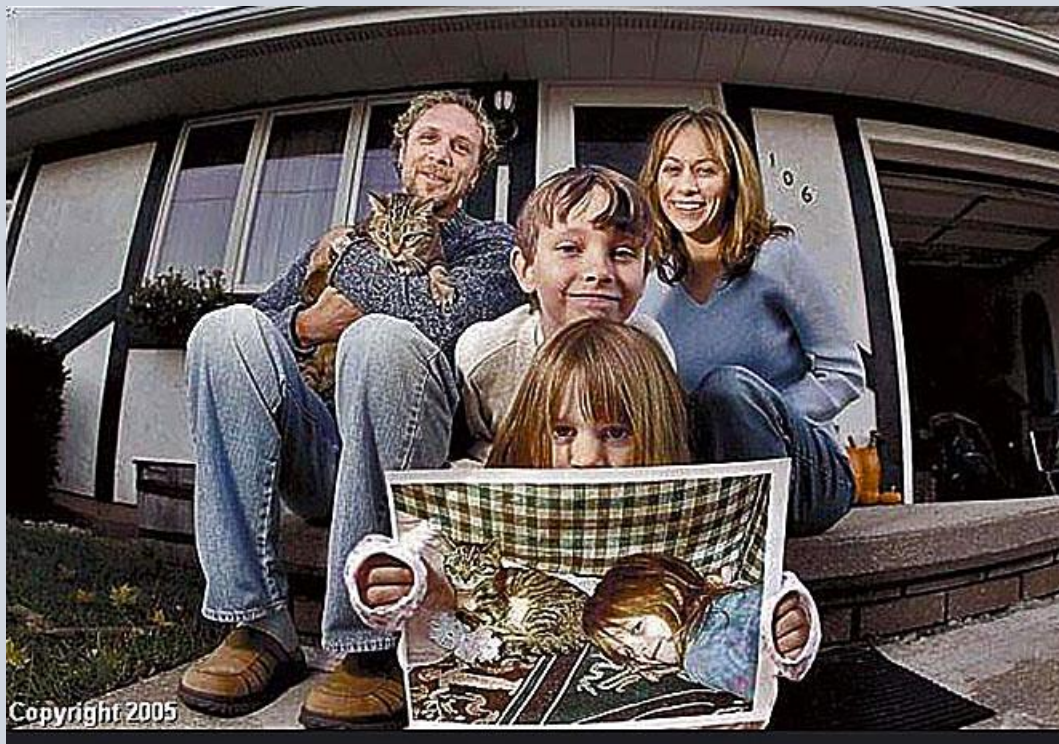
People.com: [Cat-Cidental Tourist](#) (Nov. 2005 – *archived copy*)

MSNBC: [Stowaway cat flies business class back home](#) (Dec. 2005 – *archived copy*)
[Swiss Cobalt](#) (Dec. 2005)



The tale of another 'container cat' can be found as the final item in **Featuring /Adventures 1 + 2.**

You may also like to read the story of possibly the most well-known 'accidental traveller': see [The Voyage of Colin's Cat](#) (**in Famous**)



Emily at home with her family

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