

Featured Felines: Escapes and Rescues 24 (2025)

(page checked July 2026)

Shadow

Who survived five months in the Canadian Rockies



In July 2025 Jeremy Barton was on his way back through Canada to his home state of Oklahoma, USA, after a road trip to Alaska. When he stopped for a break at the Liard Hot Springs Provincial Park in British Columbia, the family cat **Shadow** wandered off and disappeared. Jeremy searched for hours, walking around with the cat's food bowl, but to no avail. Eventually he had to resume his journey, and break the news to his family. His two young sons, in particular were terribly upset. Despite further searches and numerous pleas on social media, no one saw the cat.

A Christmas miracle

Fast forward five months – and miraculously Shadow turned up at the hot-springs park and was taken in by park personnel. I imagine he must have been microchipped, as they determined that he came from Oklahoma, and then had to work out how they might get him all the way back there. It seems they were able to enlist the help of a Canadian couple visiting the park, who agreed to see if they could arrange a reunion. They first took Shadow with them to their own home in Fort St John, south-eastern BC, from where they liaised with Jeremy Barton.

Eventually it was agreed that they would fly Shadow to Winnipeg, from where Jeremy would meet them and drive the 16 hours back to Oklahoma City with the cat. He seemed to be in good health, having somehow survived five months in the Canadian Rockies. And he was reunited with his family in time for Christmas!



[CBC News](#) | [People](#) (both Nov. 2025)

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Elmer

Rescued from a pot of glue



It isn't clear how it had come about, but vets at the Humane Society of North Texas didn't have time to waste or wonder when in April 2026 a six-week-old kitten was brought in by a kind person who had rescued him from a pot of industrial glue. The little mite was covered from head to tail, with the glue having hardened around his eyes, nose and mouth so that he had difficulty eating, breathing and caring for himself. Without prompt treatment he'd have been unlikely to survive.

At first staff tried cleaning him with olive oil and soap, but that wasn't effective. So they soaked him in nearly two gallons of canula oil, and after hours of careful cleaning, that did the trick and his grey-and-white fur appeared. He was named **Elmer**, after a well-known brand of glue in the USA.



The kitten was wrapped in gauze to help the oil settle into his fur, and a foam collar was placed around his neck to prevent him ingesting any remaining glue. After multiple baths during his treatment, he went to the home of Leah Owens in the town of Azle to be fostered and to complete his recovery; Leah was already a volunteer at the shelter. The Society posted his story on [Facebook](#), prompting hundreds of people to write in enquiring about adopting Elmer; a special e-mail address was even set up for the purpose.



Elmer returned to the shelter in late April to be neutered and for the last traces of the glue to be removed. But in the meantime he had bonded with Leah and she had fallen for him, so it was decided that she would give him his permanent home, and he joined her three other cats. A great happy ending!



[Washington Post](#) | [CBC News](#) (both May 2026) | [The Dodo](#) (April 2026)

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