

Featured Felines: Escapes and Rescues 21 (2025)

(page checked July 2026)

**Marcel from Montreal, Canada; Big Al, rescued from New York subway
Aggie, rescued after Los Angeles wildfires**

Marcel

Rescued from the streets of Montreal, Canada



A kind-hearted lady, Marie-Eve, spotted a cat in the city one day in 2017 and knew that he needed help. His fur was matted, he had some wounds and his ears were frostbitten, showing that he'd spent at least one winter on the streets. She determined to trap him and give him the help he clearly needed – but he was wary, unused to humans, and first attempts to catch him were unsuccessful. But finally hunger overcame his reluctance and he entered the humane trap. Local shelters were unable to take him in, so she took him first to a vet, and then took him home until she could find someone to care for him.

It turned out he had an abscess on his cheek, which was successfully treated; he was missing some teeth, and although he might at one time have had a home, he'd been living a rough life. Estimated to be about four years old, he was anxious at first, but gradually began to relax as he realised he was safe and warm. After some weeks with Marie-Eve, and now named **Marcel**, a place was found for him to be fostered and to complete his recovery at Chatons Orphelins de Montréal. His personality began to emerge and he became a loving and affectionate cat



It took only a couple of months until, in October 2017, Marcel found his adoptive family. He likes calm and routine, but his periods of anxiety became much fewer, and he loves cuddles and being the centre of attention. A big 'teddy bear' of a cat, he's come a long way since the day Marie-Eve rescued him. It's unlikely he'd have survived another Canadian winter on the streets.



[Happy Whisker](#) (March 2024) | [Facebook](#) (search for Marcel')

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Big Al

Rescued from the New York City subway (2025)



The New York city subway system is well-known for its rodent population, which is probably why a cat later named **Big Al**, a Bronx-area street cat, was tempted to go underground during early March 2020. Luckily, train drivers spotted him, in a tunnel inaccessible to the public; they immediately cautioned other drivers, and also notified the rescue organisation Bronx Tails Cat Rescue. Liaising with the subway authorities, BTCR set out food-filled humane traps, and it wasn't long before Big Al was tempted into one. He was found to be blind in one eye, so his situation was all the more urgent and it was fortunate he was found. Nursed back to health at the shelter, he turned pout to be something of a '#love bug', and after less than a couple of months it was reported he'd been adopted 'by a lovely lady'.



[UPI News](#) (March 2020) | [Facebook](#) (short video after his rescue)
For another cat rescued from the NYC subway, see **Subway** at [Escapes & Rescues 20](#).

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Aggie

Rescued after the Los Angeles wildfires (2025)



In January 2025 82-year-old Katherine Kiefer was out of the house at a medical appointment when the devastating Pacific Palisades wildfire swept through the neighbourhood and destroyed her home. Her cat **Aggie**, a Maine Coon about 5 years old, was missing.

As the weeks went by hopes were fading, although Katherine still held on to some optimism. And that was rewarded when two months later, in March, she received a call from the West Los Angeles Animal Shelter to say that Aggie had been found! She was in a bad state, just skin and bone and literally starving – but alive. She needed several blood transfusions and then saw a specialist to aid in her recovery. A fundraising effort was put in place to help pay for her treatment and was very successful.



Aggie was finally reunited with her overjoyed owner, and her story and images of her snuggling in Katherine's arms gained many views on the internet.

[New York Post](#) | [AP News](#) (*archived copy*) | [AOL News](#) (all March 2025)

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