

Featured Felines: Miscellany 8

(page checked July 2026)

Pub Cats in brief

Abercorn Arms Teddington, London Borough of Richmond-on-Thames	Once described as a 'cat-lover's paradise', there used to be two cats, one named Alfie , who liked to spend time in the cool of the cellar when not mousing. There was also a collection of 'kitsch' cats adorning every windowsill for when the real cats weren't around. These days it's advertised as a dog-friendly pub, so probably no longer has a feline presence	
Alexandra Tavern Norwich. Norfolk	A young tomcat started frequenting the pub one day and checked the place out, especially the kitchen. Eventually they managed to keep him out of the kitchen, but not the pub! Cat treats were kept on hand and he was adopted. In early 2025 Tommy , as he was named, was 17 years old and diabetic; he was in semi-retirement, living nearby at the pub manager's house, but still enjoyed going to the pub and meeting his fans. Said to be 'a real character'. No later news. Website Facebook	
Anglesea Arms Hammersmith, London	 	When the pub opened at 11 a.m., apparently Lily would usually be there waiting to come in, and would then be there all day. She lived nearby, but spent more time at the pub than at home, snoozing in favoured spots and keeping a lookout for someone to buy her some of her favourite prawns! However, come closing time she would leave on cue and make her way home. This was around 2014/2015.
Bag of Nails Bristol	 This small establishment seems to be the ultimate in cat-friendly pubs! In late 2024 there were said to be as many as 12, with one customer describing them as 'friendly and placid, resting and sleeping in their boxes on the bar and around the pub'. Searching for 'Bag of Nails Bristol' and then taking the Trip Advisor link, click on 'See all 266 reviews'. A little way down, from September 2024, is a gallery of nearly 200 photos of the cats and the pub (it doesn't seem possible to link directly to it). Some of the cats' names are Wolfgang, Absinthe, Solarise (?), Philomena, Luna, Sally, George, Rasputin; Monkey Face died in January 2024. See Facebook an Instagram. Wolfgang died in July 2025.	

Bargeman's Rest Newport, Isle of Wight	 	Dextor here always liked to occupy the same seat, and would not be pleased if anyone tried to move him! In January 2013 the pub posted on Facebook that they 'missed him', so it sounds as though he died. Facebook
The Birdcage Norwich, Norfolk	'Don't be fooled by the angelic face; the Birdcage's pub cat is coming for your snacks! With a name like Maraud, don't say you weren't warned.' Maraud (verb): 1. To roam in search of things to steal (e.g. A marauding pub cat stole my chips.) 2. To raid and plunder (a place, or maybe your plaice). Maraud was there in 2013, but during the 2020 coronavirus lockdown the pub closed. In October 2022, after a refurbishment, it reopened as a cocktail bar called The Drawing Rooms – without a cat. Facebook (last used 2020, but still showing a Maraud image in 2026)	
The Blind Beggar Whitechapel, London		Beloved pub cat Molly (left) died in August 2013 after a 17½-year tenure. On the pub's Facebook page, although not mentioned in posts, there are several photos of two handsome ginger cats who are residents in 2022. Below are some photos of them; they're named Henry and Edward, but I don't know which is which and should think it's quite hard to tell them apart! Pub website Facebook (last used Aug. 2024) The two ginger cats (below) were still there in September 2024, but Edward died in April 2025..
		
(continued below)		



Branford Arms

Norwich, Norfolk

There were two pub cats here, named **Zola** and **Poppit**, but the pub closed in January 2009. Zola had her own page on [MySpace \(2008 – archived copy\)](#), but there's no photo and in fact I haven't been able to find a photo of either cat. On that page Zola claimed she was 25 years old (in 2008)!

The Coach House

Keal Cotes,
Spilsby,
Lincolnshire

The cats here were described as having come from Australia, which seems a bit odd. **Maggie May** (left image) was a rescue cat, who has become 'flirtatious and very fluffy', while **Sabrina** (right image) was an 'adventurous long-tailed Manx, who liked to check out everything and everyone'.



In early 2025 the pub was closed until new owners could be found, the previous ones having retired. Presumably the cats, if still alive, would also have retired. In mid-2026 it was open 4 days a week.
[Facebook](#)

The Duke of Hamilton

Hampstead,
north London



This is a very old pub, tracing its history back to the early 1700s, **Duchess** turned up one day not long after a new landlord had taken over; no one knew where she'd come from – but she never left! She 'ruled the place from her Union Jack-covered throne'. She was a very independent lady, preferring men to women, and making it quite clear she didn't like being picked up. When not at the pub she enjoyed roaming the local area and would bring back hunting trophies. The information is undated, so it's unknown when or how long she was there.

[Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)

Eight Bells

Fulham,
London

Molly (left image) had been undisputed 'queen' of the pub since the early 2000s, so wasn't too thrilled when, returning from a Spanish holiday, the landlady brought home a small, grey, Spanish kitten – now grown up and named **Smoky** (right image).
[Facebook](#)

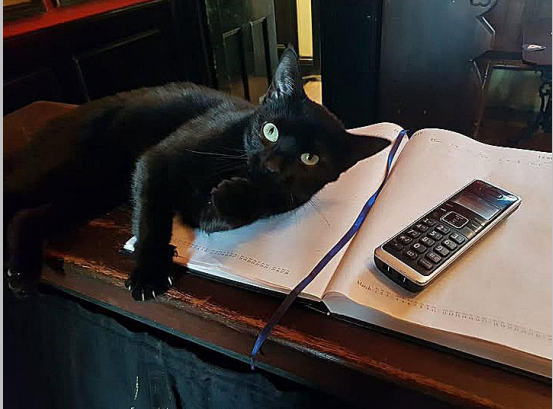
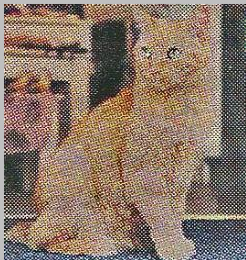


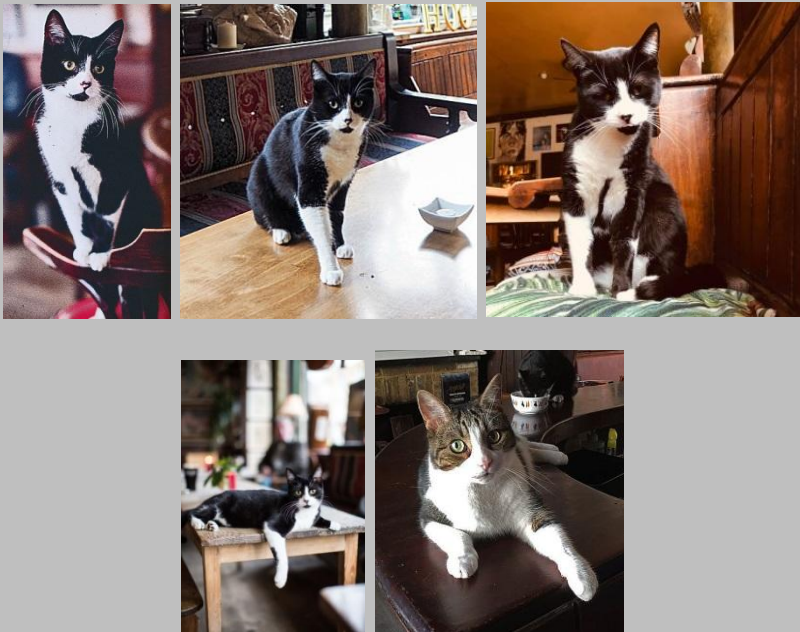
Update Feb. 2025: Molly died 3 years ago, while Smoky is no longer at the pub but lives with neighbours nearby.

The Fishbourne Ryde, Isle of Wight		Bonnie is said to be, or have been, the pub cat here, although I couldn't find any confirmation. Facebook
Free Trade inn Newcastle-upon-Tyne	Craig David, formerly resident at a plant-hire compound, was found hanging around outside the pub in the snow. He was brought in, cleaned up and became resident cat, enjoying sitting on a bar stool or next to a nice, warm radiator. I don't know how long he was there, but the pub staff were heartbroken to find him dead not far from the pub in June 2017; the cause of his death wasn't stated.	
The George Tiffield. Northamptonshire		The information is undated, but even when Tiger was an 'old lady', she could still be found visiting the beer garden when not snoozing inside the pub. She knew how to let herself back in from outside, but didn't have the knack of closing the door behind her!
Golden Hind Cambridge	No details known; just a picture of the pub cat. Facebook	
The Gunmakers Marylebone, London		As seen in the photo (<i>left</i>), resident cat Purdy liked to lie along the bar at this pub. The answer to an enquiry in 2022 was that he had left with the previous owners when the pub changed hands (date unknown).

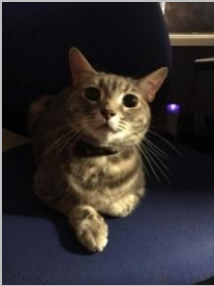
Hoop and Grapes Farringdon, London	This is another very old pub, built in 1721, but by 2022 closed for redevelopment. Landlord Mike said of resident cat Paris: 'He has a temper, but has mellowed a lot since I got him; he's very confident and not bothered about being in a busy environment. He hates being picked up, but is a lap cat when he wants to be. Paris is very greedy and will eat almost anything: curry, guacamole, ketchup, pizza, pasta sauce, as well as all the usual stuff.' In early 2026 the pub reopend after four ears and a major refurbishment. No sign of a cat there now, though. Facebook	
The Hope Carshalton, Surrey	 	As seems to happen quite often, pub cat Hope ('PC' for short) 'just showed up one day'. I don't know when that was and by 2024 she had retired. She was said to be 'Purveyor of all she sees and hears; defeater of over-confident dogs; usually asleep until last orders.' By mid-2026 the website announced that she had 'strolled across the rainbow bridge, and was remembered with grat affection'. Website
The Idle Hour Barnes, London	    Pub cat Timmy – apparently a female, and named Yoko before she took up pub life – loved to inspect all deliveries that arrived in cardboard boxes. She died in early March 2022 at the grand old age Of 24; there's a heartfelt tribute from the landlord on Facebook at 4 March, with some more photos in the Comments. That seems to have been the last time the page was used.	
Institute Craft Bar and Kitchen Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA	 	In 2011 the first cat here was called Iris; unfortunately she got out one day and had to be put to sleep after suffering severe injuries from being hit by a car. Her successor, described as a 'pretty cool bar cat', was Franklin (left), who was quite aloof but enjoyed sitting around on bar stools or chairs. Franklin was abducted in November 2015, but he was located and, not without some difficulty, was returned home. Then in about 2020 the business was moved to a less suitable location for a cat, and so he went to live with one of the employees. In early 2025 he was still there, enjoying life and aged about 16. Facebook,

Junction Inn Normanton, West Yorkshire	   I think early in 2025 there may have been two pub cats, but Tommy (left image) sadly was run over and died from his injuries in August that year Evie (centre and right) remains and is a popular and much loved feature of the pub. She turned up one Christmas Eve – hence her name – and decided that was going to be her home! Before being spayed she gave birth to a total of eight kittens. Wakefield Express (July 2025) Facebook	
King's Head Finsbury Park, London	In 2021 there was a complaint on a London website that a barman at the pub, with dirty hands, had been feeding pork scratchings to the pub cat in front of customers. The landlord and staff dismissed the claim as nonsense, and said pub cat Scruffy would turn up his nose at pork scratchings – which they didn't stock anyway! Islington Tribune (Oct. 2021 – archived) An enquiry revealed that Scruffy died late in 2024.	
The Lady Luck Canterbury, Kent	  Pickles was a very friendly little cat who lived at the pub, loved to be petted and enjoyed lounging in the bar, although he wasn't really supposed to be there! Sadly, he went missing in September 2017 and never returned..	
Leisure Public House Portland, Oregon, USA	In November 2019 the pub reported on Facebook that their cat Masha was still missing – as though she'd been gone for a while – and that she was very much missed. Apparently people had tried to abduct her before, so they were hoping that she'd been taken and given a good home, rather than some worse fate befalling her. Facebook Sadly she never did return (enquiry Feb. 2025)	
Lord Nelson Poole, Dorset		Pusscat just turned up at the pub one day and decided to live there! Every effort was made to find an owner, but to no avail. She was very friendly and liked greeting customers – especially if they had a bag of Dreamies! An enquiry in February 2024 told me that she was still going and thought to be about 22! But when the pub changed hands she retired to live with the former landlady Anna, and died just under a year later. Facebook

The Lord Tredegar Bow, east London	  Beyoncé had been the pub cat for several years at the Lord Tredegar when in July 2026 it was suspected she was attacked by a dog near the pub, suffering injuries that caused her to be paralysed. She was put to sleep to avoid further suffering; she was 11. A tribute to her said. 'She meant a lot to many and was deeply loved by all. She wasn't just a cat; she embodied the sense and sentiment of our community and the feeling of loss amongst the staff and customers is acute.' Website Facebook Instagram	
The Mitre Buckingham	This is, or was, the pub cat at the Mitre, but I have no name, date or other information .The photo looks to be quite old.	
Nag's Head Shrewsbury, Shropshire		I've only this poor-quality image of Indie, scanned from a small newspaper picture, but she looks to have been a handsome cat and, unusually, a ginger female. She frequented the pub, and sometimes other nearby businesses, for nearly a decade, spending more time out than at home. So when her humans were moving away from Shrewsbury, they were happy for her to be given a permanent home at the pub, where she became a favourite with staff and customers alike. Tragically, one Saturday evening in October 2019, when making her way home she was set upon by a dog and killed. Her fans were heartbroken.
Nag's Head Walthamstow, London Borough of Waltham Forest	   This is a cat-friendly pub earning the nickname 'the cat pub', and long-term pub cat Billie was there at least since 2009. She died in November 2022, aged 17. She had a companion Herman (<i>right-hand image</i>), and they were quite hard to tell apart. Facebook	

The Old Eagle Camden, London		Two rescue kittens were adopted in 2014 but one, Winnie (<i>lower left</i>), was severely injured by a car late in 2016 and had to be put to sleep. The other, Churchill (<i>upper images</i>) , remains at the pub. There's also tabby-and-white Boogie who's 'the upstairs cat' (<i>lower right</i>). Website Instagram Tra-velling Cats (Jan. 2019) In mid-2026 Churchill is very evident on the website, so presumably is still there.
Old King's Head Shoreditch, London	No information except that pub cat Sally was resident in 2015. And she was still there in late 2024! No later information. Instagram Facebook	
Pelton Arms Greenwich, London	 In 2016 there seems to have been a cat called Salem (<i>left image</i>), but presumably he died, as in July 2018 the arrival of Patchouli – 'Pat' for short (<i>centre image</i>) – was announced. She was 11 weeks old at the time. Sadly she was later run over and killed. Her successor in November 2023 was black cat Penny (<i>right</i>), who was still there in early 2025. Facebook	
Prospect of Whitby Wapping, London		Famous old pub on the river Thames; seems fitting it should have a handsome black cat. The photo dates from mid-2019, but I've no further information; no name or whether still there, and an enquiry in February 2025 wasn't answered.

Radcliffe Arms Follifoot, Harrogate, North Yorkshire	Wandering into the pub one day several years ago, a cat decided it would be a suitable home, and was named Radcliffe. He lost an eye a couple of days after being officially adopted, but that didn't affect his hunting skills, and he was said to 'pretty much own the place'. Unfortunately the pub was closed in July 2021.	
Red Lion Market Drayton, Shropshire		In 2010 the pub had a kitten named Willow, but by 2014 the pub cat was Molly. No other information, and there's just this one rather distant image of Molly.
Rose and Crown Clapham, London	Sisters Beyoncé (black) and Betty (black and white) arrived as kittens in 2011 after a friend of the landlord was moving abroad and couldn't take them with her. They hid upstairs for a couple of weeks, but soon found their paws and it wasn't long before they became a fixture at the pub. They're very protective of each other, and are great hunters, having cleared the pub of rodents and moved on to sort out neighbouring properties. There seemed to be no cats at the pub in May 2024.	
Seven Stars Holborn, London	   <i>Tom Paine</i>  <i>Ray Brown</i>  <i>Peabody</i>  <i>The General</i> This must be one of the oldest in London, with a pub on the site since 1602 – more than 400 years. And certainly with the current management, a resident cat seems to be required! Longest-serving so far was Tom Paine, from 2002 to 2012; then there were Ray Brown, 2012–2015; Peabody, 2016–2019; Clement Attlee, 2018–2020 (<i>upper photos</i>) – he went to live elsewhere at the start of lockdown; and now (2024) The General, who arrived in September 2021. There's a history of the pub, and the cats, here. Facebook	

Seven Stars Stourbridge, Worcestershire		Handsome ginger cat Eddie is resident at the pub. He went missing for a couple of days at the end of June 2023, but returned safely, to everyone's relief. No further news of Eddie on Facebook.
The Shakespeare Barbican, London	Othello, who's been there since at least 2014, likes to sit high up by the door, so he can keep an eye on incoming customers. He's said to be very popular, except when he tries to join in a game of snooker! Usually known as Otto for short, he was still there and celebrating a birthday in May 2024. Instagram	
Ship Inn Ouseburn, Newcastle-upon-Tyne		The pub cat Puppy was reported missing on Facebook in September 2017, sadly with no further report that she'd been found.
Southampton Arms Gospel Oak, Camden, London	Cats Pork Pie (<i>left image</i>) and Scratchings (<i>right image</i>), present at an unknown date, were named after some of the pub's snack offerings. By 2022 it seemed to be a dog-friendly place, with no indication of a feline presence.	
Square and Compass Ashill, Somerset	There were said to be two cats, Daisy and Lilly, but no dates or other details are known and no images were found.	
The Swan Stratford St Mary, Suffolk		Named after a former prime minister who's rumoured to have stayed at the Swan, Walpole was apparently found in a skip during pub renovations in 2012. Often to be found sunning himself on the roof, he 'peers down at the unwary drinker, passing judgement disdainfully'!

Swan with Two Necks Pendleton, Lancashire	Taken on as a kitten when the landlords moved to the pub, Rosie became quite a celebrity when in 2012 she reached her 25th birthday. Always petite and often mistaken for a kitten herself, Rosie seemed to really enjoy pub life, meeting people – even putting up with children – and having an open fire to snooze by in the winter. She was sweet and gentle, much loved – and gained a mention in the <i>Good Beer Guide</i>! There was a second cat, Raisin (<i>lower image</i>), and she became 'princess of the pub' when Rosie died. Also highly thought of, according to the tributes on the Facebook page, she herself died in June 2019 after 15 years at the pub. Daily Mail (archived) Lancashire Telegraph (April 2012) Facebook	 
Tapping the Admiral Camden, London		Nelson was still present and active at the pub in early 2025. Instagram
Trinity Arms Brixton, London	Woody (short for Woodstock – <i>left image</i>) and Horacio (<i>right image</i>) became pub cats in 2007 when they were acquired from a Cambridge pet shop. Horacio was named when it was thought she was a male, but the name stuck. Sadly, Woody died with heart problems in March 2016; I think Horacio may have since gone too, as the pub appears now to be 'dog-friendly'.	
Waverley Inn Carisbrooke, Newport, Isle of Wight		No details known, but this is Twiglet, who was current at the pub in 2022. No later news. Facebook

The Wellington Birmingham		This city-centre pub had two much loved cats, Hops (left) and Malt, who'd been resident since 2019 and were very much 'part of the furniture'. In mid-July 2024 the pub owners, Black Country Ales, decided that the cats had to be rehomed elsewhere, perhaps because of planned refurbishment work. There was a big outcry from customers, with a petition to keep the cats at the pub gaining thousands of signatures, but in the end they were rehomed with one of the pub managers and were said to be very happy there. BBC News 1 BBC News 2 Birmingham Mail (all July 2024)
Westow House Crystal Palace, London	Craig turned up at the pub in about 2010 and was probably 2 or 3 at the time. He quickly made it his home and became a favourite with customers. One little mystery that was never solved was that he was always put outside when the last person left – but was back inside next morning! There was no cat-flap and no obvious way for him to get in. I think he was no longer there by 2022.	
White Bear Farringdon, London		Pub cat Bud was resident for 13 years until the pub closed in July 2018. He became ill not long after that and was put to sleep in October 2018. He was remembered with much love and affection. Facebook
White Hart Tap St Albans	The pub cat was called Nitty; then in November 2021 a Twitter post, with apparently the same cat, had the cryptic caption, 'The pupil becomes the teacher. Nitty becomes Paddy.' Did they change her name? Maybe found out she was actually 'he'? Unknown!	
White Swan and Cuckoo Wapping, London		Biscuit (left and centre) was at the pub for a number of years, but became ill and died in October 2018. In March 2019 two new ginger cats were taken on, named Vodka and Coke (right-hand image. No idea which is which!). No later news.

Windsor Castle Hackney, London	Pub cat Odie went missing in May 2014, but fortunately was found a few days later. I don't know how long she was in residence, but the pub itself closed permanently in 2018.	
The Wolvercote Wolvercote, Oxfordshire		This is an extraordinary story. The former Jacob's Inn closed in June 2023, reopening later as the Wolvercote. For years Jack the cat, who lived in the village, visited the pub most days and was a favourite with customers. But in July 2024 a relief manager, concerned about hygiene and thinking (he said) the cat was a stray, just gave Jack away to a customer. It wasn't known where the cat was taken. It seems unbelievably irresponsible. Oxford Mail (July 2014)

Useful links:

London pub cats: [The Londonist](#) (Nov. 2016) and [The Londonist](#) (Oct. 2011)

See also [this archived page](#).

... 12 pages of them! Unfortunately, beyond page 4 the links showing the pub associated with each image are 'not archived' and hence unavailable. It's a shame, as there are some lovely images, but not much use without a pub to attribute them to.

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