

Featured Felines: Miscellany 18 (2023)

Cats in Schools 2

(page checked July 2026)

Simba from Maine, USA; Bubba from California, USA; Macaroni from the UK

Simba

Westbrook, Maine, USA

See also the story of [Room 8](#), famous Californian school cat and of some other cats in schools, [Featuring / Miscellany 17](#).



As with a number of cats that visit libraries, universities and the like, **Simba** had a loving home with his humans, but in 2004 he began visiting nearby Westbrook High School in Maine, USA. One day one of the teachers met him and he followed her into the classroom – and from then on for nearly two decades he hardly missed a day when school was in session. It became his second home, and he would attend lectures, snooze on books, attend meetings, and sit next to students while they worked. He put a smile on people's faces, and helped to calm students when they became stressed. He greeted them at the door each morning, visited the supervisor's office for cuddles, and became part of the school community. In the guidance office he acted as a therapy cat, and had his own dedicated chair there.



Sadly, Simba died in late June 2018, aged 21. His human 'mom' wrote, 'Simba enjoyed over 20 years of family, school and neighbourhood life, and brought peace, friendship and affection to all he befriended. He possessed contemporaneously a fierce independence and yet a deep love for human interaction. A steadfast "outdoorsman", he taught us to slow down, to "just be" and to appreciate time with each other and the simple joys of the world around us. Simba will be greatly missed by his family and all who shared his huge, feline heart. His benevolent spirit will always be with us.'



[Newscolor](#) (undated) | [Cole & Marmalade](#) (July 2018)

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Bubba

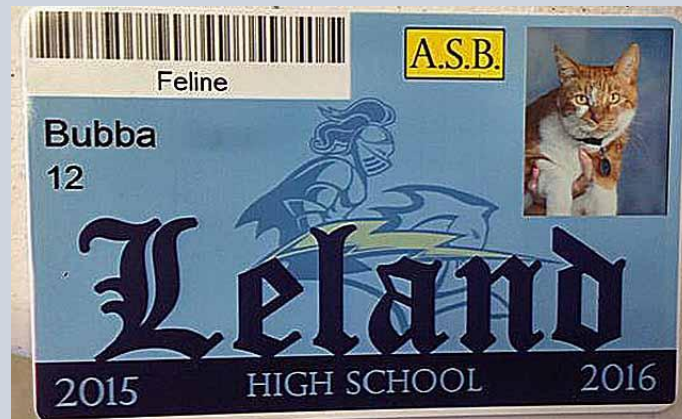
San José, California, USA



Adopted from a shelter in 2009, Bubba the cat lived with his human, Amber Marienthal, close to Leland High School in San José. She found it difficult to keep the adventurous cat at home, and before long he was following Amber's son Matthew to the nearby Bret Harte Middle School. When Matthew graduated to the high school, Bubba went too! First roaming the grounds, he then started attending classes and sporting events; he'd wait patiently for school to begin in the mornings, and tended not to come home until everyone had left at the end of the day.



He became well-known on campus, had many friends, featured in the school newspaper, on the school magazine cover and in the yearbook. In 2015, after some six years of attending the school, he was given his own student ID.



It was hoped that Bubba might be given permission to 'graduate' in 2017, along with the class he'd spent most time with, but I haven't seen any reports that it actually happened. However, although not as spry at 17 years old in early 2023 as he used to be, he still visited the school, as well as being a familiar sight around his neighbourhood. Lately he wore a tracker on his collar, so he could be found if he hadn't returned home by dark. He had an active [Facebook](#) page.



[Independent](#) (Aug. 2015) | [Cheezburger](#) (undated)

In early 2023 Bubba suffered several strokes, but survived them all until he had a fatal one early in the morning of 22 May, surrounded by the people who loved him most. His Facebook page carried this lovely tribute:

'From the beginning Bubba carved out a singular existence in this world. He was loved by thousands, and he returned that affection. Many students have said that his presence made their time at Bret Harte and Leland more enjoyable. He graced many classrooms with his charm, and teachers grew to accept his orange self strutting through their lessons. He made the yearbook, the senior magazine and the local newspaper when he was given his school ID card years ago. He showed up for Senior night, school plays, sporting events and dances. He refused to have his freedom curtailed by anything as mundane as a door and roared incessantly if anyone dared to shut him inside. That cat had a mission in this world and no mere human was going to stand in his way. R.I.P. TO A LEGEND.'

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Macaroni

UK, location unknown



The only information I have about **Macaroni** comes from a [YouTube](#) video clip of 2024, and it doesn't say where the school is that he visits – but the spoken commentary would suggest that it's somewhere in England.

His story is that he was adopted at 8 months old by Becki, a teacher at the school, and from the outset he was very friendly and outgoing, making it clear he liked people and wanted to be outside. She took him into school with her to see how it went – and he absolutely loved it! So he gained more or less the freedom to visit classes and to roam wherever he wants, and he's become much loved and appreciated by the pupils and the staff. He's become an important member of the school, with the title of 'purr-formance manager'! I think he travels there each day with Becki, rather than being resident there.

[Instagram](#)



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