

Featured Felines: Miscellany 11 (2020)

(page checked July 2026)

Supermarket visitors 1

Graham of Boston, Lincolnshire
Brutus of Saltney; Cooper of Evesham
Sheldon Lee of Southampton

Graham Boston, Lincolnshire, England



A cat in Boston became a regular visitor at the local Pets at Home branch in 2013, having been going there for several months by October that year, and he would often be waiting for opening time at 9 a.m. He could stay for hours at a time; staff gave him treats and played with him using toys that weren't for sale, and he had fans among the customers too – especially children – who often asked where he was. The ginger-and-white male was named **Graham**, and appeared to have a home as he wore a collar, but no one knew his real name or where he lived. He particularly enjoyed watching fish in tanks and rodents in their enclosures, but they didn't seem bothered by his presence. When he tired of wandering the aisles, there were plenty of cat beds available for a nap!

Graham's loyalty was recognised by the Pets at Home head office, awarding him 'Customer of the Year' title, with a little ceremony where he received a certificate, a new gold collar and an engraved name tag. The company urged Graham's humans to come forward so that they too could be rewarded with a privilege card, and a tour of the store their cat knew so well. Whether that ever happened, I don't know. There's a [Daily Mail](#) article (Oct. 2013 – *archived copy, good images*) about him at the shop and a [BBC News](#) article (Oct. 2013, *short video*).



Graham
with Pets at Home deputy manager Vicky Coker
Boston, Lincolnshire - October 2013



Graham
pops into
his local
Pets at Home
store

Graham



visiting the
Pets at Home store
Boston
Lincolnshire

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Brutus Saltney, near Chester, England



The Morrisons supermarket chain in 2010 opened a store at Saltney, near Chester, and attracted a loyal 'customer' in the shape of **Brutus**, a tabby tomcat who lived across the street but liked to spend his time lounging in the store's foyer, heading home only for the odd meal during the day. He would

wait at the entrance for opening time at 8 a.m., and would sometimes still be around at closing time of 10 p.m. 'If the sun was coming through the window, he'd just lie down; if it wasn't, he sat on top of the recycling bin,' said store manager Les Williams. He was allowed no further than the foyer, but became very popular with customers and loved being petted and made a fuss of.

Sometimes worried customers would call the phone number on Brutus's collar tag, but were greeted by his personal answer machine, saying: 'Thanks for calling about Brutus. I assume you found him on Morrisons car park and are concerned that he may be lost. He actually goes to Morrisons every day, as I only live across the road and he goes under the bridge and across the stream, so he's unlikely to cross the road. He will make his own way back home later. I really do appreciate your call and the fact that you care, so thanks.' The message continued: 'If you found him somewhere other than Morrisons, please leave a message so I know where to find him.'



Brutus became something of a 'moggie mascot' for the store; he even had his own [Facebook fan page](#) (*little used since December 2020*) with many followers in 2013. The only problem was that some people would feed him; at one point his human took him home and kept him in for a while, 'just to remind him where he lived'.

Brutus' fame spread as time went on; he was featured on national radio and in the press, he had his portrait painted and his Facebook followers eventually numbered in the thousands from many parts of the world. He continued to delight customers with his daily presence at the supermarket. In 2014, though, he was diagnosed with PKD (polycystic kidney disease). It was managed for a while, but in January 2017 Brutus became ill and was taken into veterinary care. For a short time the treatment seemed to work and he rallied and went home; but sadly in mid-January he died. He was much missed by his multitude of fans.

A Crowdfunding campaign was launched to erect a permanent memorial at the store and to donate to animal charities. Sufficient funds were raised, and a bronze sculpture of Brutus was [unveiled](#) in the Morrisons store in September 2017 with, shortly afterwards, a plaque telling his story. They also baked a special cookie in his memory (*next page*).





Brutus' statue and painting in the store, 2017



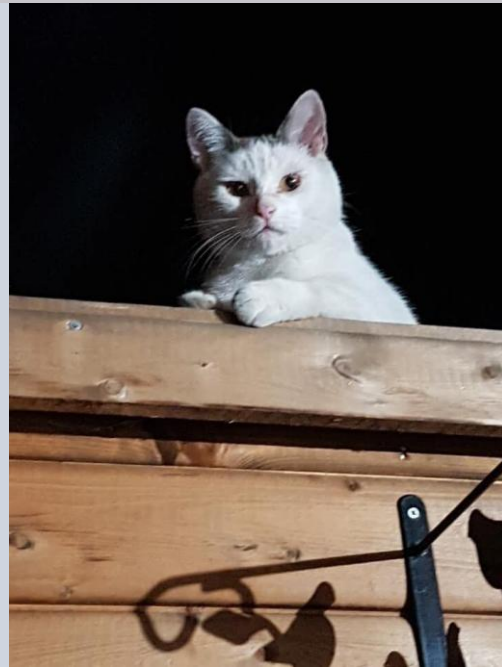
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Cooper Evesham, Worcestershire, England



Another cat who favoured a Morrisons store was **Cooper**, of Evesham in Worcestershire. Like similar cats, he had a loving home nearby, but enjoyed the attention he received at the supermarket. I'm not sure how long he'd been going there, but probably since late 2016.

Very sadly, he was run over and killed not far from the store on 23 May 2021. He was dearly loved, a real character and something of a local legend. I don't know how old he was. Although he didn't have a sculpture made like Brutus (*above*), a small memorial plaque was produced and Morrisons agreed that it could be placed by the main entrance.



[Cooper at Facebook](#) (used occasionally for missing cats) | [Evesham Observer](#) (May 2021) | [Evesham Journal](#) (Nov. 2021)

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Sheldon Lee Southampton, England



Rescued as a stray who was sleeping on doorsteps, **Sheldon Lee** was grateful for his new home – but his owner found that he had a 'day job'! Each morning at crack of dawn he would set off for the nearby B & M retail store, sometimes arriving even before the manager and staff. He liked to 'demonstrate' his favourite products (cat food, litter, etc.) to customers by sitting on said products; and of course he tried out all the cat beds for comfort! He enjoyed greeting customers, most of whom loved him – especially the children. And of course he received treats.

At the end of the day his human usually had to go and pick him up – otherwise she thinks he'd have been there 24/7!

In May 2017 it was [reported](#) that Sheldon had been kidnapped by a woman seen taking him away in a cat carrier. However, later comments on the same article say he was later found. I haven't seen any later updates, so don't know how long Sheldon Lee was still making his visits.



[Traveling Cats](#) (March 2017, updated 2023)) | [Daily Echo](#) (March 2017)

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