

Featured Felines: Miscellany 9 (2021)

(page checked July 2026)

Campus Cats

A number of universities and colleges, in Europe and in America and even further afield, seem to have feline visitors or even residents; many are semi-feral or 'free range' and it would be impossible to document them all, but here are some of the better-established ones I've come across. It isn't always easy to define 'campus cats' and 'library cats', as some campus cats seem to spend quite a lot of time at their respective libraries! These are ones that seem to be, or were, more generally 'campus cats'.

▣ ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY, Scotland

Campus cat at Aberdeen University was **Buttons**; it seems he belonged to one of the students, but he was a friendly cat, well-known and loved around the university. In 2018 an online poll voted him among the top five campus cats in Europe, and he features in an e-book *Our Campus, their World*, by Sandra and Ekko Ros from Groningen in the Netherlands. Earlier in the same year Buttons had been put forward by the students as a candidate to be Rector of the university, as they felt the current management didn't take their interests and concerns seriously. Unfortunately it was decreed that Buttons couldn't be elected as he didn't meet the requirements – for example, he wouldn't have been able to chair governors' meetings!



In 2019 it was announced on Buttons' Instagram account (*no longer extant*) that his human had graduated and so he'd be leaving the university and retiring to the country, where he'd be able to 'grow old and catch field mice'.



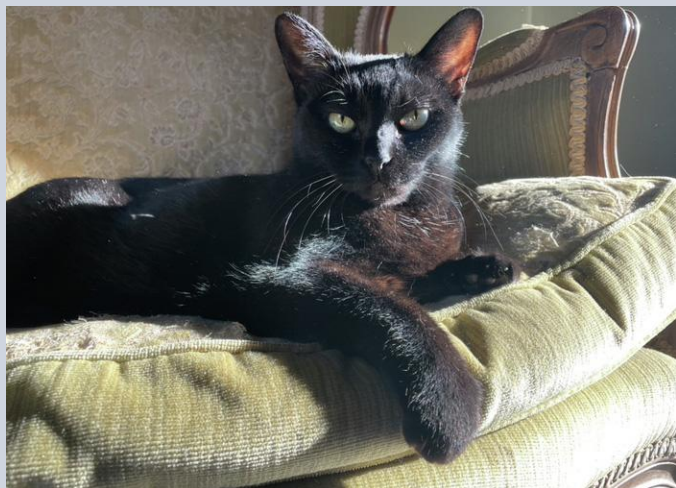
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY, England

There has long been a variety of pets and mascots at the university, with cats probably being the best-known. These are some of the felines to be found there in 2023; here's a good article heer..



Odysseus, with the fine ginger markings (*above*) belongs to the head of King's College School, who came across him in 2016 while living in Durham; he was found looking 'wild and bedraggled' in a forest. After spending some months at home, he took to wandering – hence his name – and now wears a GPS microchip so he can be located and brought home if necessary. He visits porters' lodges, the University Library, Churchill College, where he likes the laundry cupboards, and of course the classrooms of the school. He once went missing for a couple of weeks, but was returned safely. [Instagram](#) (April 2026)

Silly (*below left*) lives at Trinity Hall and was named by the master's son; he's at least 12 years old. He likes sunbathing on the lawn in fine weather, and hanging out on the path to the dining hall – so he gets maximum strokes from students going to lunch. A great 'head-butter', Silly has his own [Instagram](#) account (*last used 2025*)..



Burmese **Mavis** (*above right*) is 14 and lives with her human Dr Deborah Bowman at Gonville and Caius College; she's been described as Bowman's 'daemon' owing to her habit of following Bowman around. She likes to join in student supervision sessions – but has a reputation for stealing £5 notes from bags!

At Christ's College a pair of youngsters, just a year old, joined along with the student intake of 2022. They are **Finch** (*below left*) and **Baines** (*below right*), named after seventeenth-century alumni Sir John Finch and Thomas Baines. Finch, a female, is the more confident of the two, while Baines is said to be more introverted but is 'getting braver'. They have a student-run [Instagram](#) account (*active in mid=2026*).. [The Cats of Cambridge](#) (May 2023)



See also **Jasper** of the university's Marshall Economics library, [Working / Library / UK](#).

▣ **COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, Manhattan, New York, USA**

Columbia is the oldest higher-learning establishment in New York and one of the oldest in the United States. There seem to be a number of campus cats, including one at Columbia's satellite institution of Reid Hall in Paris, but I've no further information about them. The images, along with others not included here, are from [this](#) article (*Aug. 2023 – archived copy*).



Mocha



Youki of Reid Hall, Paris



Lion (that's the cat!)



Spade

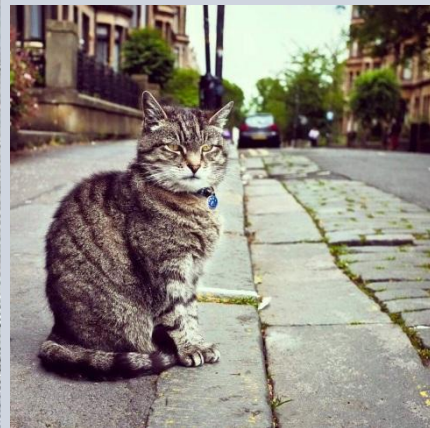
▣ GLASGOW UNIVERSITY, Scotland

For 18 years, ever since he was a kitten, tabby cat **Miller** frequented the Glasgow campus, spending much of his time at the Adam Smith building near the library, so he would often be there to cheer up students as they left the library. As with some other campus cats, he had a home nearby with his human, Laura Kerr, who'd had him since he was just a day old.



Sadly, after having been poorly for a few months, Miller died peacefully and without pain in January 2015. A university spokesman said, 'Miller was a very friendly and approachable cat and everyone knew him. He was so recognisable and could often be found near the library. He will definitely be missed and I don't know how we're going to replace him.'

It doesn't seem as though he was 'replaced' and I don't think there's currently a cat at Glasgow University. [The Scotsman](#) (Jan. 2015) | [The Herald](#)



▣ GRONINGEN UNIVERSITY, Groningen, Netherlands



Sandra and Ekko Ros, who live close to the university in Groningen, took on year-old rescue cat **Doerak** – a Persian/Maine Coon cross – in 2013 as a companion to their other cat

Mickey, (left above) who was then about 10. The pair became immediate best friends and did everything together, until Mickey died of old age in spring 2018. There was an immediate change in Doerak's behaviour; he didn't eat for a week and spent most of his time outside, sometimes wandering around meowing. He was clearly grieving for his friend.

As the weeks passed nothing much changed, but his humans learned that Doerak was spending much of his time at the university entrance, receiving plenty of attention and cuddles. They'd usually go out at 5 in the afternoon to collect him, when he'd greet them enthusiastically and follow them home. His grieving seemed to continue all that summer, but when the students returned he was getting more and more cuddles – and the local shelter was getting more and more calls from concerned students reporting a 'stray cat'! He was given a collar; there was an article about him in the local press – and Sandra and Ekko started an [Instagram](#) page. They expected maybe 100 followers, but soon had many more – well over 2000, including some from far afield. The latest post, though, is from September 2023. There was also a [Twitter](#) account, although it hasn't been used since 2020.



In November 2018 Doerak was officially recognised as a university student, and a little ceremony was performed to present him with his own ID card. He has full access to the campus, wandering in and out of classes and sometimes falling asleep in them. A particular favourite spot is the Harmonie building – but wherever he goes he can be assured of cuddles, estimated at least 100 a day. And he holds the honorary title of Professor Doerak!





Inspired by Doerak, his humans Sandra and Ekko have produced an e-book featuring him and other campus cats from around the world. *Our Campus, their World* is available from Amazon. [Katzenworld](#) (Dec. 2019)

▣ HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

Another cat who lives elsewhere but likes to spend much of his time on campus is **Remy**, who lives about a mile away from the prestigious Harvard University. About 8 years old in 2022. he started wandering at a young age; his humans tried walking him on a leash, but that didn't stop him from wandering off, sometimes for days and on one occasion for four weeks. However, as the unofficial campus mascot he has many fans and followers at the university, and someone will usually spot him and report where he is.

Remy has been in student dormitories, at parties, attended lectures and had his photo taken with tourists. A particular favoured spot for a nap is the Law Library, but he has other places where in some cases staff have made provision for him to have a comfortable snooze. He has a brother at home called **Gus**, but Gus is much more of a stay-at-home cat. Remy has a [Facebook](#) page (active in mid-2026), and an [Instagram](#) account (last used Dec. 2025) and is known around the campus as Remy the Humanities Cat.





[Harvard Gazette](#) (Oct. 2018) | [Boston Globe](#) (Jan. 2019)

KONSTANZ UNIVERSITY, Konstanz, Germany

Sammy was born on a farm near Stockau in early April 2001. Two young sisters had been looking for a cat to take the place of one who had died from a tumour, and they took Sammy home when he was old enough. As he was a farm cat they agreed that he should be able to go outside, and so a cat-flap was installed and soon Sammy was making good use of it. He had a collar with his home address and phone number, which was just as well as before long he was getting lost in different parts of Konstanz and the girls had to keep going to pick him up from various places! As time went by it seemed the University was the place he favoured most, and by the end of 2003 it had become obvious to the sisters that he didn't want to live in their house any more.

So Sammy became the 'Uni-Katze', the university cat, with his favourite place a basket in the library. But he roamed all over: on the desks, on the roof ... he knew about lifts and could

even open doors! He became a much loved university institution and was well cared for, even at holiday times when the place was closed.

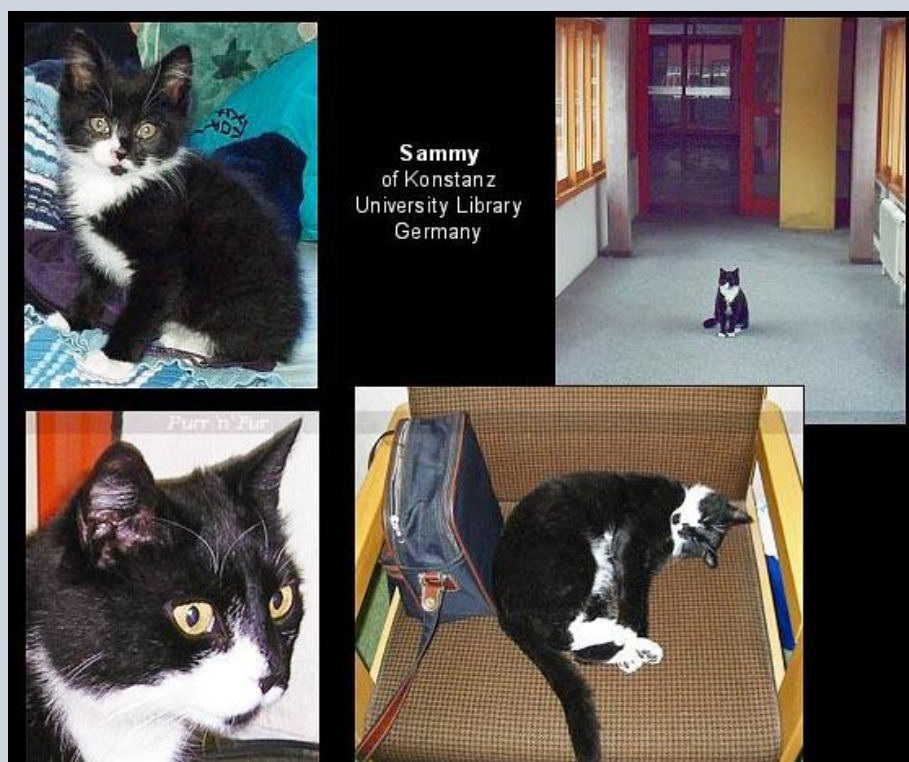
Early in 2013 it was noticed that Sammy was becoming very thin; it was known that he had thyroid problems, but he was taken to the vet for a diagnosis. It was found that he had a large cancerous tumour in his stomach; the vet felt that he didn't have long to live and it would be kinder to put him to sleep to avoid further suffering — so he died on 21 March.

In 2026 his former [website](#) (in German) was still available as a memorial, as was his [Facebook page](#), with many photos, where his death was reported.

- Numerous images of Sammy [here](#), many taken by students.
- Access to a collection of short [YouTube clips](#) of him in action.

(links all still good, July 2026)

Many thanks to Jonny for his valued help in initially researching Sammy's story.



▣ **LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY, Leicestershire, England** (2022)

Like a number of campus cats, **Charlie** didn't live there, but had a home near the university. However, he spent a lot of time on campus, where he was well-known and loved; one of his favourite places was the Pilkington Library. It isn't clear when he began his campus visits, but they date back to 2013 or so, and his image was being used in an anti-litter campaign in 2021.



Charlie seemed to be very much part of campus life, and as well as in the anti-litter campaigns mentioned above, his image was used on colouring sheets – and he even had a mention in an earlier [Freshers blog](#)! By 2023, though, he seemed to have disappeared from the scene, so may well have retired (or died).



[Library at Facebook](#) (last used 2023)

▣ **NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England (2025)**

When Mia Fox, Roman Catholic chaplain, moved to the university, her 14-year-old cat Ozzie soon established herself as campus cat and 'student well-being' cat; soothing students' anxieties and being a calming presence around the place. I think that was around April 2022.. Ozzie had an active Instagram account with many followers (*no longer available*).

In early 2023 Ozzie had to have surgery for a malignant tumour, and students rallied round to give their support to the beloved cat and wish her a speedy recovery. Whether related to her illness or not I don't know, but in early December the same year it was announced on Instagram that Ozzie had died peacefully in her sleep. There were some touching tributes to the little cat who'd had all too short a tenure as campus cat at Newcastle. .



[Chronicle Live](#) (June 2022) | [BBC News](#) (March 2023): short video)



OXFORD UNIVERSITY: Christ Church College (2024)

Late in 2023 two youngsters were welcomed as 'the newest members of the Christ Church family'. They are **Alice** (tortoiseshell and white) and **Meadow** (black and white) – but I've no further information about them. They do, however, have their own ID collars!



[College at Facebook](#) Alice was around in early 2025; while Meadow is more in evidence in mid-2026..

Note: There's a comprehensive chart [here](#) showing over 20 Oxford college cats as at May 2025.

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OXFORD UNIVERSITY: Hertford College (2022)

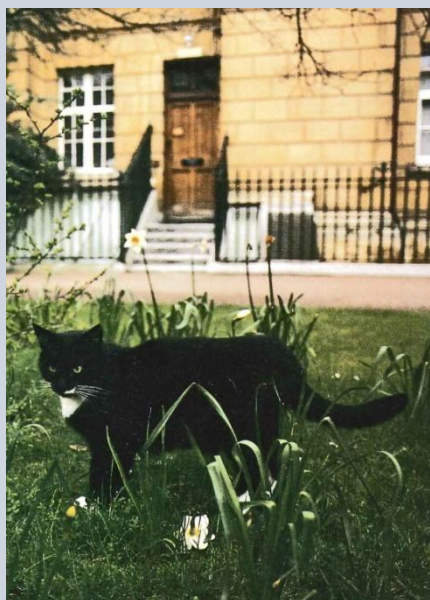
A number of Oxford colleges have their own cats, but there's a particular history – and indeed something of a [dynasty](#) – of them at Hertford College. (*archived copy – undated*)

It began in 1971 when the young daughter of the then newly elected vice-chancellor of the college, Sir Geoffrey Warnock, brought home a kitten. Although the Warnocks had had cats before, they weren't planning on having one at the college, but the kitten needed a home and so they took him in. He was already named **Simpkin**, after the cat in Beatrix Potter's *Tailor of Gloucester*, and quickly made himself at home. He loved the attention he got from people, and also liked to explore; he found ways to get into neighbouring New College and spent quite a bit of time there, while later on he often frequented the Hertford porter's lodge. Simpkin is pictured below, although I don't know who the people are.

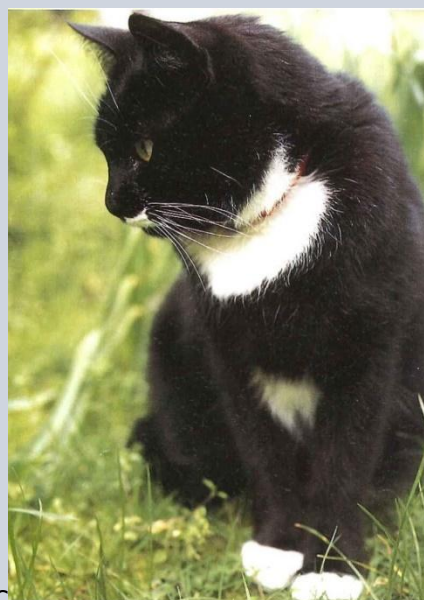


The second cat, known as **Simpkins** or Simpkin II (*below*), arrived in 1986, by which time the first Simpkin had presumably died. He was presented by a former student who'd grown up in Oxford, had attended Hertford, and whose family cat had had a litter of kittens of which Simpkins was one. When he needed neutering it was paid for by the students, who had to contribute ten pence each time they swore; the cost was raised in record time!

Like his predecessor, Simpkins quickly made himself at home, again spending much of his time at the lodge, and also loving attention, sitting on top of paperwork and complaining if he felt he wasn't getting enough fuss. He was a keen hunter, although taking on a pair of mallards proved a step too far, and he was chased off by a very angry drake! He had a friendship with **Rosie**, the New College cat, and they would often visit each other. Simpkins was greatly admired by scholars and tourists alike, was much photographed, and received postcards from around the world – even one from **Socks**, the White House cat. He died in mid-December 1999, aged 14.



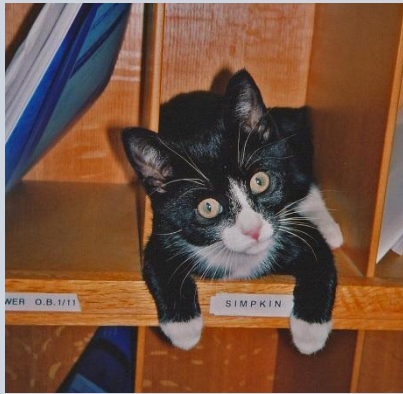
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Next in line was **Simpkin III** (*below, next page*), who became a familiar face around the college and neighbouring streets for 15 years following his arrival in 2000. One notable adventure was when he climbed into the back of a milk-delivery van and ended up in Winchester! During his lifetime he charmed three college principals, more than twenty porters and over three thousand students, who gave him affection and contributed to his long and happy life. He wasn't much of a hunter, but proved a loyal companion to students, fellows and staff.

Simpkin III died in August 2016. He was greatly missed and received a full college burial service.



Coming up to date in 2022, **Simpkin IV** (*below*) joined the college in January 2017 aged around 4 or 5, having had a difficult start to his life. He was found as a stray in Devon and sent to the PDSA, who found him a home, but unfortunately he was bullied by the other cats there, causing Buddy, as he was known, to pull his fur out and suffer from dermatitis. Returned to the PDSA, he was treated and started to recover – but then in December 2016 the PDSA building was damaged by a falling tree and he had to be moved. He went to the Blue Cross in Burford, Oxfordshire, which is where the college found him.

Now gregarious, active and friendly, Simpkin seems unfazed by the large number of people he encounters daily; he appreciates being loved – and regular feeding! But in January 2022 he was [banned](#) from neighbouring Exeter College library, which he'd taken to visiting, because it upset their own cat **Walter**. In January 2026 he celebrated nine years as college cat. In April 2026 a new college principal arrived with his own two cats, but Simpkin was reported to 'remain in possession of Main Site'!

[College at Facebook](#)



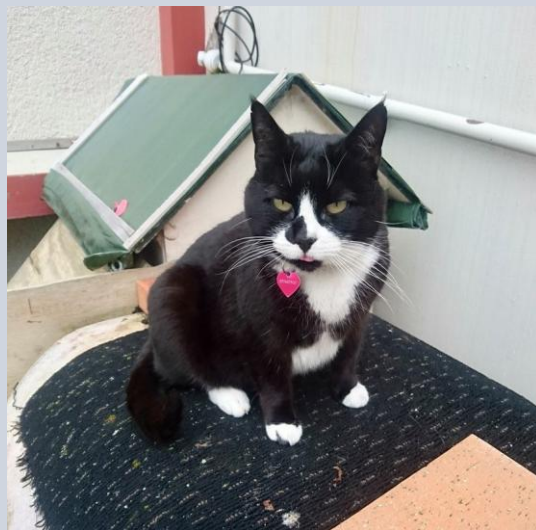
ROSARIO UNIVERSITY, Bogotá, Colombia

I have no details, but in mid-2024 there were two tabby cats here, rejoicing in the names of **Alcides** (*left*) and **Kiko** (*right*). [Facebook](#)



☐ **SOUTHERN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, New Zealand**

There's more than one campus here, and there are said to be several campus cats. The best-known is **Scooter**, who's been at the Invercargill site since at least 2014. She's a very friendly cat, often to be found hanging around the library, and is regarded as 'an essential staff member'. Still present in mid-2026.



One of the others, who frequented other parts of the campus and was also still there in early 2024 is tabby cat **Dottie** (*below*). However, in mid-January 2026 it was reported that she had died. Described as being known for her sweet nature, her friendly 'chats' and her love of pets from anyone passing by, she brought smiles to many and would be fondly remembered. At that time Scooter was still around.



▣ TRINITY UNIVERSITY, San Antonio, Texas, USA

Rather than one particular campus cat, Trinity has a wonderful scheme for caring for all the stray and feral felines on its campus. An all-volunteer group of students, staff, faculty and neighbours, known as the Cat Alliance Trinity (CAT), operates as a non-profit organisation and receives no university funding. It takes care of feeding, neutering and vaccinating the cats and provides veterinary care as needed. Feeding is year-round, mostly by students in term time and by staff, faculty and friends during the summer break and other holidays. All campus cats, whether new arrivals or 'old friends', are placed on a register and considered to be part of the CAT programme. The cats are all named, and seem to be organised into some 9 or 10 'stations', presumably according to where on the campus they are and where they're fed. In mid-2025 there were seventeen cats on the register. Very young kittens, and sometimes suitable adult cats, can be adopted out to good homes.

Trinity was the first college in San Antonio to implement a trap-neuter-return (TNR) policy, which has since been taken up by other colleges in the city. [CAT website](#) | [Facebook](#)



In 2019 there were reports that a new dean at the college was discontinuing CAT in favour of a more dog-oriented approach. However, they appeared to continue anyway, and certainly was still operating in mid-2025.

▣ TULANE UNIVERSITY, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Tulane seems to have a similar set-up to Trinity (*above*), in that there's an organisation caring for the community's stray cats; they're called Tulane Campus Cats. There's at least one shelter and feeding station. Campus Cats had their own [Facebook](#) page, but it seems not to have been used since 2020.

There was one cat in particular, though, who captured a lot of hearts, and that was **Mickey** (known also for some reason as 'Cow Cat'). (*below*)



When he died in January 2017, there was a tribute from the university president: 'Over the years, students, staff and faculty on the uptown campus have adopted an unofficial mascot, a black-and-white cat named Mickey, who was given the descriptive title of Cow Cat. He was built a house befitting his status and became a favourite member of the Tulane family. Like many of you, I often stopped to admire him, and sometimes to pet him, in the midst of a hurried day. He provided many thousands of smiles. I'm very sad to learn that Mickey died on Friday night.' The Campus Cats were still operating in mid-2024. [University at Facebook](#)

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LOS ANGELES (UCLA), California, USA

For around eight years from 2015, when he first appeared, a tuxedo cat was a feature of life on the UCLA campus; shirts with his image were sold, and tour guides showing prospective students around would mention him. (I'll call the cat 'he' and 'him', although he was referred to as 'they' and 'them', apparently because he was neutered. It surely would still have been possible to determine his gender?) Named **Powell Cat**, because initially he hung out by the Powell Library, after a couple of years his favourite place to hold court became the steps to Kaufman Hall, where he could usually be found sunbathing, playing with toys donated to him, or greeting students. One of the librarians looked after him, arranged vet visits and fed him each day during the coronavirus crisis. He was very friendly, and legions of students will have memories of him. He died in mid-March 2023 from a heart attack; he was just 10 years old. A memorial event was held a few days after his death,.



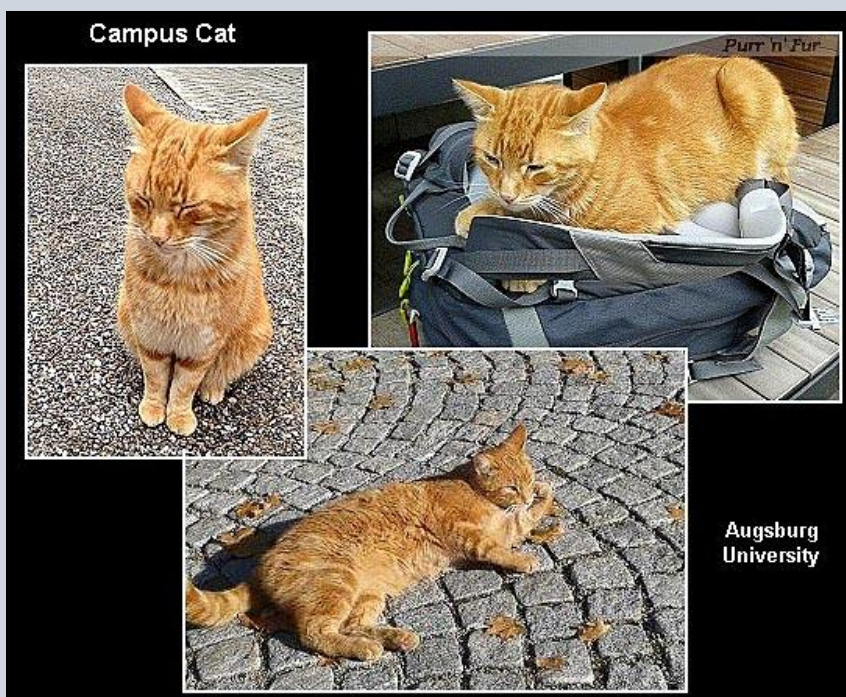
[Los Angeles Times](#) (March 2023) | [Instagram](#) (many good photos, but account no longer monitored) | [Twitter](#) (last used March 2023)

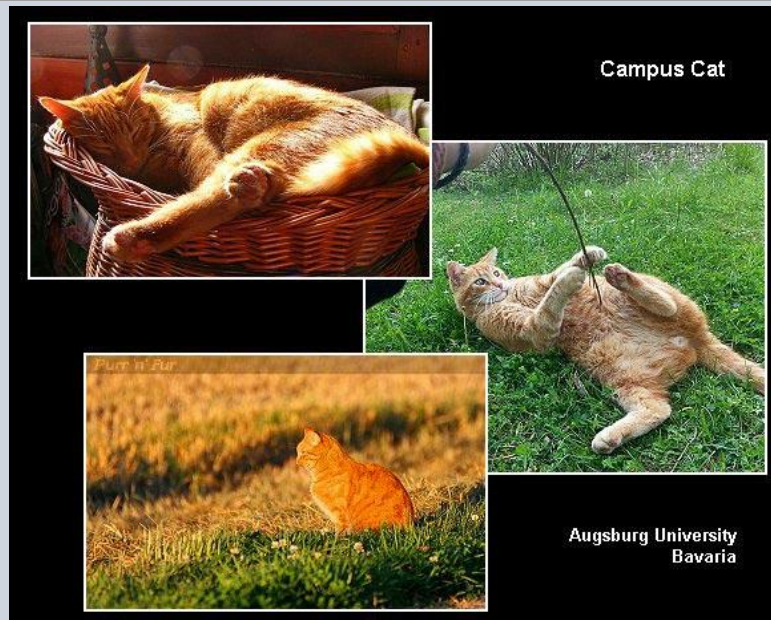


Thousands of people signed a petition calling for Powell Cat to be remembered by a statue, but the college didn't seem inclined to do anything about it. Eventually alumnus and artist Max Loy took matters into his own hands and arranged for a permanent statue (*above right*) to be produced. Some two years in the making, it was installed in the Kerckhoff Hall in late August 2025. The cost had been mostly raised by selling special sweatshirts that Loy designed. [Daily Bruin](#) (Oct. 2025 – archived copy)

UNIVERSITY OF AUGSBURG, Augsburg, Germany

Another cat (other than Sammy of Konstanz) frequenting a German university — although he wasn't actually a library cat — was reported in late 2012 to be regularly visiting the University of Augsburg campus in Bavaria, southern Germany. He was a handsome red tabby; he didn't live there, and had a loving home close by, but seemed to enjoy being the focus of attention from students and became well-known to them. It was said of him that he helped to relieve stress at exam times — but he did seem to favour certain faculties! However, that may have been because those ones are surrounded by more green areas! Whatever the case, one student started a [Facebook](#) page for him (*last post was April 2022*), which by the end of 2018 had almost 30,000 followers, more than twice as many as the University's own page. I'm not certain of the cat's real name, as he was usually referred to as '**Campus Cat**', but sometimes also 'Professor Dr Miau', or 'Sammy', but I believe it may have been **Leon**.





There's a nice 2023 article about Campus Cat, with many photos, [here](#). But in September that year it was announced on Facebook that he'd passed away, peacefully at his home with his owner. He was 16 years old. It said that his health had been poor recently and in fact he hadn't been at the university since January. There were many heartfelt tributes from people who'd known or had followed him, and he was certain to be greatly missed. There's a nice little video tribute [here](#).

UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM, England

Rescued at the age of three months as a flea-ridden stray in London in about 2011, long-haired black cat **Dennis** became campus cat at the university, where he attended lectures, frequented the library and halls, and made many friends. He actually lived next door to the uni. 'About six months after we moved to Buckingham,' said owners Sophie and Neil Barlow, 'he started disappearing for a day here and a day there. But we soon learned that we didn't need to worry.'

Vice Chancellor Sir Anthony Seddon said Dennis was a 'force of positivity' for students and staff alike. 'I'm thinking of making him Professor of Feline Studies,' he said. When Dennis fell ill at one point, his fans clubbed together to pay his vet bills. One student said, 'He's absolutely lovely. Everybody knows of Dennis, everybody loves him – and he's a very spoiled cat!'



Very sadly, Dennis was run over and killed on 31 March 2021. On his [Facebook](#) page are an enormous number of tributes and memories; he was clearly extremely popular. Donations were made for a permanent memorial, and there is now a sculpture in the university bookshop (*below right*) . Dennis was cremated and his ashes buried at the university. The spot is marked with a *Daphne odora* evergreen plant that flowers or has berries all year round, and another sculpture was later placed there, making Dennis the only cat I know of to have two statues in his honour! [BBC News](#) (Sept. 2017)



📍 UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA, Norwich, England

Ginger-and-white cat **Sylvester** (*below*) is another university-campus visitor with a home nearby; I don't know how long he's been frequenting the uni, but he's well-known there and much loved. He can be found attending lectures, sleeping in the library, or making friends with students. His human can keep track of him via Facebook posts, and sometimes goes to collect him and bring him home. He's easily recognisable as he has only half a tail!

In June 2024 Sylvester became quite seriously ill and needed ongoing veterinary treatment. An initiative to raise money for him was set up, and such was his popularity that several thousand pounds were received quite quickly. The cat himself had previously helped in [raising funds](#) (May 2023) for a local mental-health charity, with his image used on various merchandise. Sylvester was still very much around in mid-2026.

[Facebook](#) | [BBC News](#) | [edp24](#) (both June 2024)



UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX, Colchester, England

When black-and-white cat **Pebbles** turned up on the campus in around 2010, a microchip enabled him to be identified and returned to his owner in the Greenstead area – but Pebbles had other ideas! He liked the campus, where he found attention, food and napping spots in abundance, so kept returning, and eventually his owner agreed to his formal adoption by the Students' Union. He's never looked back and seems to enjoy campus life. He's become quite a celebrity, having featured in the press and on national television; he has his own range of merchandise on sale in the campus shop; and his own registration card, even attending lectures!

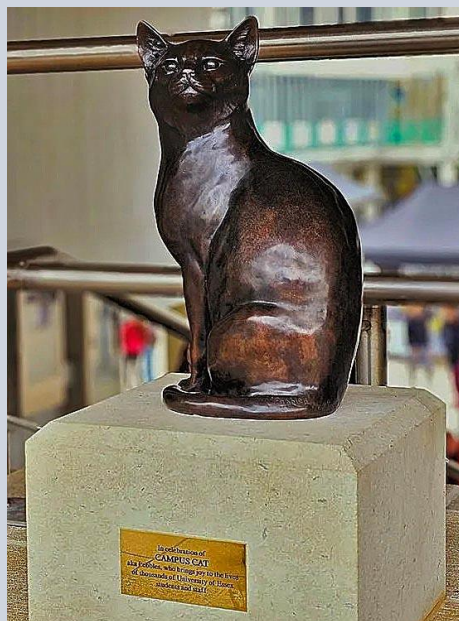
Pebbles has his own [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts, although the former hasn't been used since 2017. By 2024 the Twitter account wasn't frequently used either, but on 7 September 2023 a post announced Pebbles' 16th birthday!

Other links [Pebbles' story](#) (*archived copy – undated*) | [Pebbles greets freshers](#) (Oct. 2017)



In March 2023 it was announced that Pebbles was being honoured with a sculpture – even though he’s still alive! Then 16 years old, the former semi-feral cat has mellowed a lot, doesn’t hunt so much and prefers snoozing in a warm spot. He’s well-known and loved across the campus. The cost of the sculpture was raised over several years from the sale of ‘campus cat’ merchandise and alumni support, and is to be placed at the Colchester campus. Pebbles was still round in early 2026.

[BBC News](#) | [Sixty Stories](#) (both March 2024) | [Pebbles at Facebook](#)



▣ UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS, West Yorkshire, England

In around 2013/2014 there was certainly a cat at the Headingley campus of the university. It's thought he lived nearby, but would spend time particularly at the student hub and cafeteria areas, with occasional visits to the Leeds Beckett library. Notices asked people not to feed him, as he was on a special diet. He was known as **Carnegie Cat**, although no one at the uni seemed to know his real name. Apparently a few years ago he was said to be 19 years old, so it's most likely that by now (2022) he has died. There was a [Twitter](#) account active at around the time that he was frequenting the university (*last used Dec. 2014*).



▣ UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM, England

It's difficult to find much reliable information about **Bertie**, but for a time he seems to have been campus cat at Nottingham-Trent University. One of his favourite spots to hang out was by the Hallward Library, but it isn't clear whether he actually went inside. I think he must at one time have been a stray who made his way to the uni; anyway, by early 2019 he was said to be getting old and had been around for about two years. It was felt best that a permanent home should be found for him, and he went to a couple in Beeston who are credited with saving his life when he needed urgent veterinary treatment. However, they had other cats and Bertie didn't settle in well there, so he went to the local RSPCA shelter while a new home was sought I believe he found one, but details and timing are sketchy.



[Impact Nottingham](#) (May 2018) | [Blogs Nottingham](#) (Feb. 2019 – archived copy)

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN, Texas, USA

As with a number of universities, there's more than one campus cat at Austin – one estimate was as many as 40! But again as often happens, it was one particular feline who became well-known, and he was **Domino**. He first showed up as a stray kitten in about 2009 and became a kind of campus icon; one reason was that, unlike many of the other cats, he was quite friendly and would allow people to pet him when he got to know them. Thousands of students passed through the uni over the years and came to know Domino (so named because of his black-and-white coat), and he gained the nickname 'King Domino'. Although he lived outside, he had various shelters, and no shortage of people to feed him – in fact there's a coordinated network of organisations that care for and feed the campus cats. In his case a group called the Domino Council fed him and took care of his needs, while of course he could always rely on snacks from students.



It seems he became ill in early 2022; he was diagnosed with FIV, an upper respiratory infection and a potentially cancerous mass in his throat, so I imagine he was put to sleep. His death was reported in early May. A kind of impromptu shrine sprung up the following day near the spot where he would spend much of his time, and it grew as people left bouquets, cat food and notes on the outside of one of his shelters. The following day a short memorial service was held at the spot to remember him and honour his legacy; he was regarded as something of an ambassador for stray cats. During the service, attended by a large number of students, the university carillon played tunes such as 'Amazing Grace' and 'The Lion Sleeps Tonight'. Truly a good 'send-off' for a much loved cat.



[UT News](#) (July 2021) | [Fox News](#) (May 2022) | [YouTube](#)

▣ **UNIVERSITY OF WALES TRINITY ST DAVID**
Swansea, South Wales

In 2014 the Facebook page said that cat **Telford** (*below*) was a 'constant at UWTSD', but that's the only reference to him I could find, so I don't know whether or not he's still there, and an enquiry wasn't answered.



[University at Facebook](#)



Like some other campus cats, Warwick black cat **Rolf** actually lives with his humans, about a mile from the campus, but almost as soon as he was old enough to leave the house he began to disappear, sometimes for days, and was found to be visiting the campus and the woods round about it. People would phone using the number on his collar; but then in early 2018 he was hit by a van. Luckily a student saw the incident and saved Rolf's life; he had a broken hip and cage rest was needed for recovery. He received thousands of 'get well' messages! After that he was fitted with a collar with a digital tracking device, so it's always known where he is. He's driven to the campus by car, or may be walked there on a leash, which he's quite happy with, and he wears a high-visibility vest so he can be easily seen.

Rolf's been to most area of the campus, but particular favourite spots are the library, where he has many friends, and the Economics Department, where the office of his 'campus mum' is fully equipped with everything a cat needs! Before the coronavirus crisis of 2020 the library held several 'cat cafés', where students could meet Rolf and relax, especially during the stressful exam period. He has been awarded the 'Freedom of the Cam-puss' by the university's Vice-Chancellor.



Rolf's adventures can be followed regularly on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), while a [Facebook](#) page was last used in 2024. My account of Rolf is summarised from [this](#) page (Feb. 2021). Unusually for a cat, he also has a [LinkedIn](#) account!



UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER, London, England

Some 180 years old, this was one of the first polytechnics in Britain. The university has four campuses, and the one at Harrow, in the north-west of London, had for several years a very handsome black campus cat known as **Batman**. He was still there in 2022, but I've found no later news.



[University at Facebook](#)

UNIVERSITY OF WORCESTER, England

Like several other 'campus cats' I think **Toby** had a home nearby, but he clearly spent a lot of time at the university over a period of some years; I don't know how long he was there, but at least 8 years. I haven't much information about him, but sadly his death was announced in mid-April 2025, cause not given; he was 11. 'Toby wasn't just a familiar face – he was a friend to many,' the announcement on the university's Facebook page said. 'Whether you stopped for a quick cuddle on the way to class or followed his adventures online, he brought a smile to countless people across our community.' There were nearly 1000 comments, tributes and photos posted in response to the announcement of his passing.



[University at Facebook](#) | [BBC News](#) | [Worcester News](#) (both April 2025) | [Instagram](#)

▣ UNIVERSITY OF YOPK, England

Reports vary as to whether he was originally a stray, or belonged to a student who graduated and left him behind, but whatever the case **Oscar** – also known as 'Senior Cat' – in 2025 had been at the university for some five years. He's become the official mascot, is fed by students and faculty, and has his own 'dorm'.



Oscar is also well-known for attending classes! He regularly attends lectures, often sitting on a desk at the front, or he might curl up next to a student or even join the professor. He does sometimes fall asleep during a lecture! He's become a familiar figure on campus, bringing a lot of joy and comfort to everyone he meets.

[Instagram 1](#) | [Instagram 2](#)

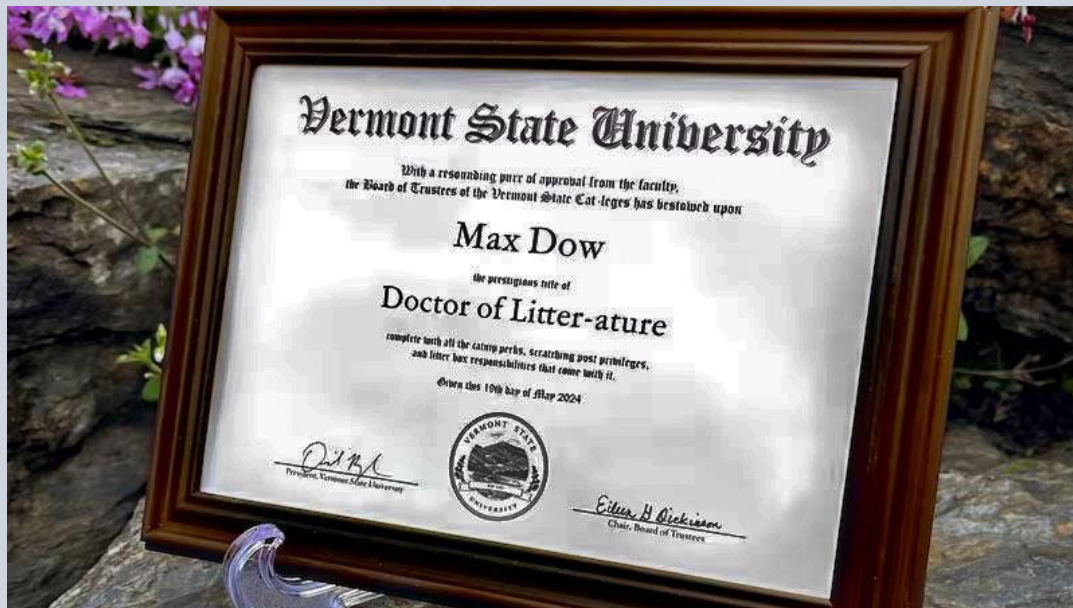
▣ VERMONT STATE UNIVERSITY, Randolph, Vermont, USA

Like some other campus cats, tabby **Max** has a home nearby, but since about 2020 he has liked to visit the university's Castleton campus, with his family's house on the street leading to the main campus entrance. He's a very friendly cat and the students love him, making a fuss of him and taking 'selfies' with him. Just across the street from his house is a building where prospective students meet before going on a tour of the uni, and sometimes Max likes to join them too and follow them on the tour.



In May 2024, just before the graduation ceremony for students who'd completed their

studies, the university made Max an honorary Doctor of Litter-ature', complete with certificate (*below*). It reads: 'With a resounding purr of approval from the faculty, the Board of Trustees of the Vermont State Cat-leges has bestowed upon Max Dow the prestigious title of Doctor of Litter-ature, complete with all the catnip perks, scratching-post privileges and litter-box responsibilities that come with it. Given this 19th day of May, 2024.'
(Dow is the family name of Max's humans.)



[AP News](#) | [1 News](#) (both May 2024) | [University at Facebook](#) | [Washington Post](#) (June 2024)

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY Detroit, Michigan, USA

Probably like most American college campuses, Wayne State has its share of feral cats, although so far there isn't a formal TNR programme as some colleges have. In spring of 2023, librarian Virginia Thomas of the David Adamany Library noticed what she thought was a small dog around the library – but it turned out to be a large, long-haired cat with a stubby tail. When Virginia spoke to others about him, it turned out that he was known to a number of people, various of whom – unbeknownst to one another – had looked out for or helped him, and he had a number of supporters. He'd probably been on campus for a couple of years or so, and was known as **Cookie**, because of his friendly nature; it seemed likely that he'd been someone's pet at one time..



Concerned for his ongoing welfare, Virginia – who has extensive experience with cat fostering and adoption groups – led efforts to trap Cookie with a view to eventually having him fully socialised and then adopted. She fed him regularly, gained his trust and was finally able to trap him. A health check at the vet's showed that, surprisingly, he was already neutered, reinforcing the view that he must have been someone's pet at one time. Taken in for fostering, Cookie was on the way to finding his forever home once he'd become adjusted to indoor life. It was thought there'd be no shortage of people wanting to take him in.

[Wayne State News](#) (Sept. 2023)

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<https://www.study.eu/article/meet-europes-cutest-students-these-5-campus-cats-will-melt-your-heart> (Nov. 2017)

and

<https://web.archive.org/web/20201108165010/https://www.kaplanpathways.com/about/news/meet-our-campus-cats/> (Sept. 2020 – archived copy)

and University of Malta: <https://www.facebook.com/hashtag/campuscats>

College cats of Oxford University: <https://oxfordclarion.uk/college-cats-of-oxford/>