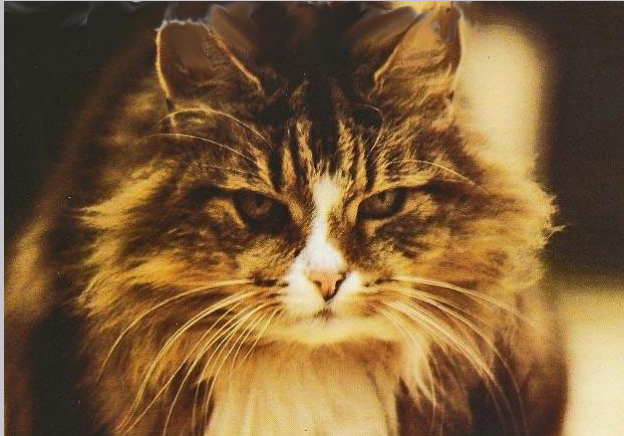


Featured Felines: Miscellany 10 (2020)

(page checked u/y 2026)

Record-breaking Felines Cats who've made it into the record books

Humans seem to be very keen on making, breaking and registering records of all kinds – fastest. largest. smallest. most, least, and so on – and cats haven't escaped this scrutiny. From the longest whiskers or the loudest purr to the most mice caught, here are some of the feline record-breakers. See [Cat Checkup](#) and also [this link](#) (both undated).



Best mouser

Born in the still-house at the Glenturret Distillery in Perthshire, Scotland in April 1963, and based there during her long life, **Towser** is generally acknowledged as having been the world's finest mouser. Using information obtained over a sample period, the Guinness Book estimated that she had caught nearly 29,000 mice – around four a day – during her almost 24 years. She died in March 1987 and there is a statue of her outside the distillery. See [Purr 'n' Fur / Famous](#) for more about Towser.

First cat in space

French cat **Félicette** had a brief journey into space in October 1963, not into orbit but a short flight of less than 15 minutes that reached about 100 miles into space. Her capsule then separated from the rocket and descended safely back to Earth. See [Purr 'n' Fur / Famous](#) for more about Félicette.



First cat to circumnavigate the world

Baron George Anson set off across the Atlantic in 1740 with four ships and in the company of his cat. Three of the ships were lost while attempting to round Cape Horn, but the one remaining, HMS *Centurion*, crossed the Pacific, became the first British ship to visit China and eventually made it back to England in 1744, having sailed around the world.

It isn't clear whether the memorial to a cat on the Anson family estate in Satffordshire (*left*) is intended to depict the sailing cat of *Centurion* or another of Anson's cats, **Khouli-Khan** – or were they even one and the same?

First cloned cat

In 2001 brown-and-white tabby CC – standing for 'cloned cat' or 'carbon copy' – became the first cat to be cloned. Born in December that year, she was to all intents and purposes a normal cat, with no cloning-related problems. She was adopted by a professor and his wife from Texas A & M University, where the cloning was carried out, and became part of the family. Later she had a natural litter of three healthy kittens, thus becoming also the first cloned cat to give birth. The kittens lived with her until she died, from kidney failure, in March 2020, aged 18.

See also [Mini Fragments 5 / Texas](#) for the first cloned-to-order cat.



Heaviest cat

I think the last cat to be recorded in this category by Guinness was **Himmy**, a tabby from Cairns, Queensland, Australia who weighed in at 47 lbs (over 21 kg.). He died in 1986 from respiratory failure caused by his obesity, aged 10. Since then Guinness has discontinued the category, to avoid encouraging people to overfeed their cats – although a number of fat cats are still to be found on the internet. I haven't found a photo I can be sure is of Himmy, but a more recent contender was [Katy](#) from Russia (*left*), who in 2003 weighed 50 pounds at the age of 5. Coming even more up to date, a black-and-white cat called [Barsik](#), also 5, was brought to a Manhattan, NY, animal shelter in 2019 weighing 41 lbs.

Litters

The largest known litter was born to a 4-year-old Burmese cat in Oxfordshire, England, called **Tarawood Antigone**, who in August 1970 had 19 kittens! Four were stillborn, and of the other 15 all but one were boys. The average litter size for most cats is from five to nine.

By 1952 a cat from Bonham, Texas in the USA called **Dusty**, born in 1935, had given birth to some 420 kittens in her lifetime – the last being a single kitten when she was aged 18. She must have been pregnant for most of her life, averaging 25 youngsters a year.

The oldest cat to give birth is thought to be **Kitty**, from Staffordshire in England, who was 30 years old (roughly 125 human years). at the time of giving birth to two kittens.

The youngest cat known to have given birth was **Spur** from London. It's rather a sad story, because of the 13 kits born to her in April 1971 just two survived – and after the birth she became permanently blind.



Longest cat

In August 2010 the longest cat was '**Stewie**' (Mymains Stewart Gilligan) at 48.5 ins (123 cm.) or just over 4 feet. A Maine Coon born in 2005 in Reno, Nevada, USA, he died from cancer in 2013 aged just 8 (*upper photo*). He was a certified therapy cat, visiting senior citizens and helping to raise animal awareness.

Stewie's successor in 2017, and probably the longest cat alive in the UK in 2020 is **Ludo**, from Wakefield in Yorkshire – also a Maine Coon (*middle photo*). He measures 46.6 ins (118.4 cm.). Born in 2013, he's very affectionate, 'a little clumsy because of his size and you can always find him', according to his human.

The holder of the world record in 2020 is yet another Maine Coon, **Barivel** from Vigevano, near Pavia in Italy (*lower photo*), born in 2016. He measures 47.2 ins (120 cm.) and is described as a quiet and shy cat. But he loves going for walks in a pushchair, usually causing passers-by to comment on his large size!

[MyAnimals.com](https://www.myanimals.com) (Aug. 2019) | [Gudsol](https://www.gudsol.com)

Longest fur

In November 2013 a new record for longest fur was set by 2-year-old **Sophie Smith** from Oceanside, California. At its longest point it was measured at 10.11 inches (25.68 cm.), surpassing the previous recprd holder, Colonel Meow (*see Fragments 30*), by just over an inch.

[Guinness World Records](https://www.guinnessworldrecords.com) (Aug. 2014)



Longest jump

In October 2013 female tortoiseshell cat **Alley**, of Austin, Texas, jumped a length of 6 feet (*upper left*).

The record stood until January 2018 when another American cat, **Waffle the Warrior Cat** of Big Sur, California, 10 years old, made a jump of 7 feet (213.56 cm.). (*velow Left – Waffle with his certificate*)

Then in February 2024 the record was broken again in Milan, Italy, by American cat, **Sputnik**, who jumped 7.54 feet (230 cm.). I haven't found an image of Sputnik.

But in 2025 a new record of 8ft. 5in. (2.58m.) was set by Oscar, a 7-year-old rescue catfrom Dallas, Texas.

[Guinness World Records](https://www.guinnessworldrecords.com) (2025)

Longest tail

The record for the longest tail is held by silver Maine Coon **Cygnus** – Cygnus Regulus Powera was his full name – of Ferndale, Michigan, USA. His tail was 15.58 ins (44.66 cm.) long, and his humans said he could accidentally dip it into things, and they had to be careful when closing doors so as not to trap it. Tragically Cygnus and his housemate and best friend Arcturus (see 'Tallest cat' below) died from smoke inhalation in a house fire in November 2017 – see [this link](#) (Dec. 2017 – archived copy). Now (2025) it seems a new record was set by a half-brother of Cygnus called **Altair**, with a tail of 16.07 inches.



Longest whiskers

Measured in December 2005 the record here seems to still be held by tortoiseshell Maine Coon female **Missi** ('Fullmoon's Miss American Pie') of Iisvesi, Finland. Born in 2001, Missi had whiskers measuring 7.5 ins (19 cm.) in length (left).

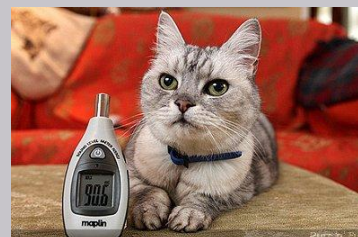
The longest whiskers in the UK may belong to **Whiskers** (right), a black-and-white female from Somerset; in 2014 they measured 12 inches from tip to tip, or almost 6 inches each side.

Loudest purr (see [Featuring / Fragments 18](#))

The holder of this curious record was black-and-white **Merlin** (upper photo), whose purr when measured in 2015 reached 68 decibels. Merlin, a rescue cat from Torquay in Devon, was 13 at the time. He narrowly beat the previous record of 67.8 decibels, set by **Smokey** (lower photo), from near Northampton. another rescue cat who was aged 12 at the time. Sadly she died from kidney failure in August 2014, but not before she had appeared in the 2014 Guinness book.

Later, Smokey's owner challenged Merlin's title, claiming that the difference was too small to be measured. After investigating, Guinness agreed and reinstated Smokey alongside Merlin as joint holder. Merlin has also since died.

The loudest purr for a living cat belongs to **Bella**, aged 14, from Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire, UK, at 54.6 decibels. [Guinness World Records](#) (Oct. 2023).





Most toes

Most cats have 18 toes, five on each front paw and four on each back one. However, cats with more toes – polydactyls – aren't uncommon and seem more prevalent on the US and Canadian east coasts and in south-west England and Wales. The Guinness book from 2002 certifies **Jake**, from Bonham, Ontario in Canada, as having officially the most toes at 28, seven on each paw. I haven't been able to find a photo of Jake, who was a ginger male. More recently female **Paws** (left: *Feb. 2018 –archived copy*), from Northfield, Minnesota in the US, also has 28 toes, with eight on her front paws and six on the back ones.

However, in 2026 a new record was established, as Maine Coon kitten **Erebus** (left), from Wisconsin, USA, was born with 29 toes! He was a sickly kitten who had pneumonia, but with prompt treatment he pulled through and recovered, and his new record was certified by Guinness.

[New York Post](#) (Aug. 2026) | [Guinness Book](#)

Most tricks in a minute

An Australian tabby cat from Coolangatta in New South Wales, **Didga** (short for Didgeridoo) set a certified record in 2016 for the most number of tricks performed in a minute – an amazing 20! They ranged from high fives to jumping over a bar while on a skateboard, and later in the year she actually raised the number to 24 in a minute. Didga's skateboarding prowess is quite well-known on the internet. See [YouTube](#) for her performing the tricks, and also [this link](#) (Sept. 2016).



Oldest cat

The oldest cat officially recognised was **Creme Puff** (left) from Austin, Texas, who appeared in the 2010 Guinness Book and whose record still stands. Born in 1967, she died an incredible 38 years and 3 days later, in August 2005. Her human, Jake Perry, also had the previous holder, **Granpa Rexs Allen**, who reached 34 years in 1998.

However, although not officially certified – and the category may not still appear in the Guinness book – **Lucy** (*Jan. 2011 –archived copy*) from Llanelli in South Wales was reported in 2011 to be 39 years old and still going strong, although she died later that year. Since then it's hard to keep track, as a number of cats are reported as being over 30. See [this link](#) (undated), which does include Lucy, and a list of 30 oldest cats at [Wikipedia](#) (seems pretty comprehensive, but no Lucy!) See also **Mini Fragments 5 / Stockport** for **Millie**, who was 30 years old in 2025.

In January 2024 Guinness recognised **Flossie**, (left) living in Orpington in Kent, UK as the oldest living cat, born in December 1995. See the [Guardian](#) (early 2024), and she even has a [Wikipedia](#) entry!

Shortest cat

In July 2013 **Lilieput** was officially named the world's shortest living cat. She's a tiny, nine-year-old Muinchkin from Napa in California, and stands just 5¼ inches tall (13.34 cm.) from the floor to her shoulder. [See below: not sure what the difference (if any) is between 'shortest cat' and 'smallest cat'.] [Twitter](#) (Aug. 2016)



Smallest cat

According to the Guinness book, the smallest cat was named **Tinker Toy** and lived in Taylorville, Illinois, USA. A Himalyan-Persian cross, he was only 2¾ inches (7 cm.) tall and 7½ inches (19 cm.) long, weighing 1½ lbs. when fully grown at 2½ years. Tinker Toy was born in 1990 and died in 1997 aged 6, but no photo of him is available..

A later contender, in 2004, was **Mr Peebles** (left), the runt of a litter of farm cats in Illinois who was rescued and became the house cat at the Good Shepherd Veterinary Clinic in Pekin, Illinois. Fully grown he was 6.1 ins tall, 19.2 ins long and weighed 3.1 lbs. Several other very small cats can be found by researching the internet. See [this link](#). (Sept. 2019)

Tallest cat

In 2010 the Savannah cat [Scarlett's Magic](#), of Corona, California, was recognised as the world's tallest domestic cat, measuring 18.07 ins (45.9 cm.) from shoulder to toe. She was also at the time the world's longest cat.

However, in 2017 the record for tallest cat was taken by **Arcturus** (left below) of Ferndale, Michigan, USA (full name Arcturus Aldebaran Powers), measuring 19.05 ins or 46.4 cm. Arcturus was housemate and best friend of longest-tailed cat Cygnus (*q.v. above*), but both tragically died in a house fire in November 2017. In 2022 the tallest living cat was another Savannah, [Fenrir](#) (Oct. 2022) (*below right*) from Michigan, USA, standing at 18.83 inches (nearly 48 cm.). [Video](#) here.





Wealthiest cat

When British antiques dealer Ben Rea died in 1988 he left most of his fortune, US\$12½ million, to his cat **Blackie** (*left*), who was the last of 15 cats that had shared his mansion. He left money also to three cat charities, his gardener, his plumber, his mechanic, and a friend for whom he bought a house – but his estranged family received nothing.

In 2011 a black cat in Italy called **Tommaso** (*left*) was left \$13 million. He'd been a stray from the streets of Rome who'd found his way into the home of property magnate Maria Assunta, and when she died aged 94 she willed her fortune either to the cat or to an animal charity that would look after him. It appears that no suitable charity could be found (which seems a bit surprising), so Tommaso got the money, held in trust for him by Stefania, Maria's nurse and friend, who looked after Tommaso at an undisclosed address outside Rome.

[Guardian](#) (c. 2012)

Largest cat



I suppose 'largest' is a bit subjective; does it mean 'longest', 'tallest', or even 'heaviest', all mentioned above? Anyway, in 2024 Maine Coon **Kefir**, from Stary Oskol – a city some 600 km. south of Moscow in Russia – was billed as maybe 'the largest cat in the world'. In 2022, aged just 2, he already weighed 28 lbs (nearly 13 kg.), while the average weight for the breed is 18 lbs – and Maine Coons can continue to grow until the age of 3 or 4. A photo showed him almost as tall when standing on his hind legs as his owner's 4-year-old daughter. However, Kefir (named after a milk beverage whose colour resembles that of his fur), despite having a somewhat formidable appearance, is gentle, playful, affectionate and intelligent.

[Mirror](#) (May 2024) | [Express](#) (July 2023) | [iHeart](#) (Dec. 2023) | [New York Post](#) (July 2023) | [Instagram](#) (*hardly used since 2023*).

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