Featured Felines: Miscellany 3 (2019)

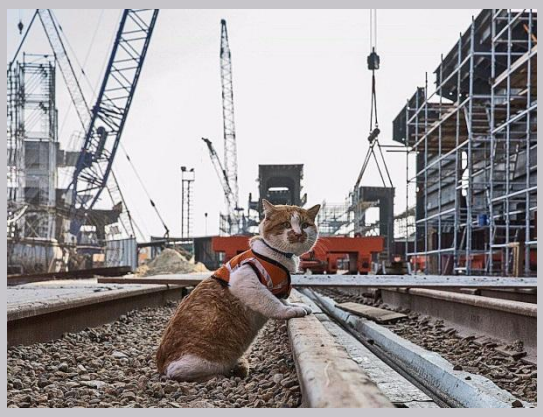
(page checked July 2026)

Mostik the bridge cat

Crimea, Russia

The controversial Crimea Bridge across the Kerch Strait, connecting the Crimean Peninsula with the Russian mainland, was opened in May 2018 and is 19 km (about 12 miles) long. During the early stages of its building, in 2015, a cold and hungry stray kitten approached construction workers; they took care of him, warmed him up and fed him, and he became the unofficial bridge mascot. Named Mostik, the honorary 'chief supervisor' was regularly driven around the construction site by a man named Mikhalych, inspecting progress. On work days Mostik lived mostly at a checkpoint on site, and greeted workers and engineers as they arrived for their shifts; among the estimated 7,000 people working on the project, many were familiar with him. On his days off Mostik went home with Mikhailych, where he behaved like a normal cat and slept on his favourite red couch. When the building work was complete, I pimagine Mostik continued to live with Mikhalyich.

On 6 November 2018 Russia issued a special stamp marking the completion of the bridge, with a label on each side. Mostik can be seen on the right-hand label, perched on a lookout point overlooking the scene. It’s reported that he actually made one of the first crossings of the completed bridge, before President Putin’s ceremonial opening of it!



Links

Cat crosses bridge first: iizcat.com (some good photos: *undated archive copy*) | Sputnik News 2017 *(Dec. 2017 – archived copy)* | Sputnik News 2018 *(May 2018 – archived copy)* | Twitter *(last used 2016)* | *Washington Post* (March 2019) | Facebook

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Featured Felines: Miscellany 4 (2019)

(page checked July 2026

Brian the cricket-club cat

Taunton, Somerset, England

The ginger cat who's made his adopted home at Somerset County Cricket Club's ground in Taunton first turned up in around 2012, seeming to enjoy taking in the atmosphere on match days and making friends with the fans. Named **Brian** after red-headed sales executive Brian Lee, he's since become a fixture at the club and in July 2017 was awarded his own staff card, making him an official member of the club family. His age and background are unknown, or even whether he has, or had, a home nearby, but he seems to regard the ground as his home now. A story on his website suggests that he left his former home when a new baby arrived, but that might not be true..

An accident – and recovery

In around 2014, a couple of years after he first began hanging around, he was accidentally run over by a car in the car park; he made his way to the members' room for help, with a bleeding and badly damaged leg and was rushed to a nearby vet's, who managed to save the leg. His treatment was funded by the club and from that time on he was really taken under their wing. He frequents the clubhouse and particularly the conference centre; meetings, conferences and even weddings are likely to encounter a four-legged guest! He will often greet guests at the door, and can enliven dull meetings with his presence. Another favoured spot is an old warehouse next to the ground, used for storage, where Brian can enjoy chasing the pigeons that gather there.

Crowds – several thousand on match days – faze him not at all, and he seems to enjoy patrolling the perimeter to find a suitable spot to settle down and watch the game, often choosing the Ian Botham stand. He counts former England players Marcus Trescothick and Mark Butcher among his particular fans – of which he has many amongst the public, Cat treats will be brought by some of them! The only problem he sometimes causes – as happens with certain church cats – is to go to sleep somewhere and then wake and start moving around in the small hours, triggering the alarm. 'The security team will turn up at 3 a.m. expecting to find an intruder, and instead they find Brian!' says the club's sales director.

Peter was still around and active in early 2024, and during 2022 a permanent home for him was unveiled outside the Brian Caddick Pavilion!

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Brian at Twitter *(current in mid-2026)* | Brian's web page *(he can even be e-mailed!)* | SCCC's page for Brian *(undated – archived copy)*

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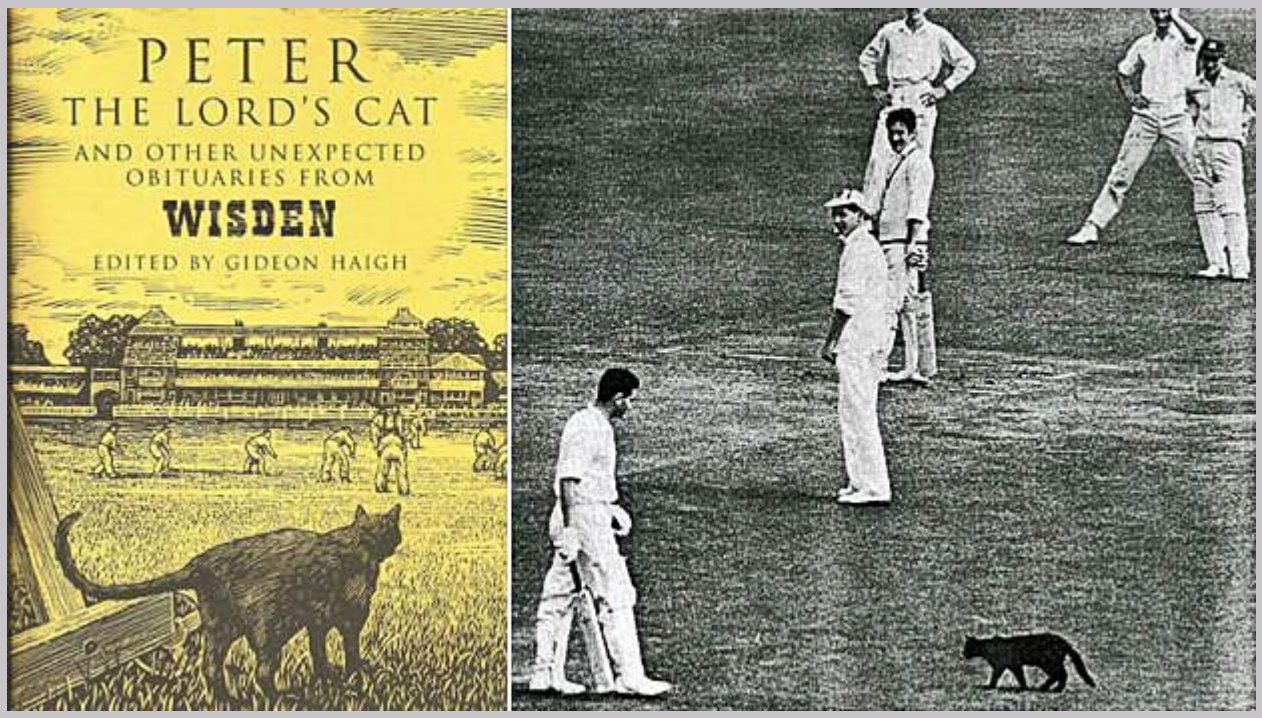
Peter of Lord's Cricket Ground

The most renowned 'cricketing cat' was **Peter**, who resided at the spiritual home of cricket, Lord's in London. Known sometimes as the 'Marylebone Mog', Peter's origins were unknown, but he was thought to have been born in 1950, and from 1952 onwards until his death in 1964 he was resident at the ground. When he died, there was an obituary in Wisden's, the cricketing almanac; he was the only animal ever to receive such an honour:

‘Cat, Peter, whose ninth life ended on 5 November 1964, was a well-known cricket watcher at Lord’s, where he spent 12 of his 14 years. He preferred a close-up view of the proceedings, and his sleek brown form could often be seen on the field of play when crowds were biggest. He frequently appeared on the television screen. Mr S.C. Griffith, Secretary of the NCC, said of him, “He was a cat of great character and loved publicity.” ‘

No close-up photo of Peter is known to exist, although the obituary describes him as ‘brown’. This is the closest thing to a photo I’ve found (presumably from Wisden):



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