

Featured **Felines: Miscellany 24** (2024) *(page checked July 2026)*

Mexican Palace Cats **Mexico City**



Some staff at the presidential palace – one of Mexico’s finest buildings – recall cats living in the gardens 50 years ago (that would be in the 1970s), but it’s not clear when they first arrived or how they came to be in the building. But in 2024 there were some 19 living there full-time, and many more were thought to come and go at night, slipping through a small crack in the palace gate. Now the residents have access to the entire palace, stalking pigeons, greeting tourists, gate-crashing press briefings and roaming the halls of the historic building. ‘They have access to every part of the palace, so they walk in on meetings, interviews and wander onto camera,’ said Jesús Arias, the palace veterinarian.

When the then Mexican president López Obrador first took office in 2018, the cats were being quietly fed by employees, bringing them left-overs from home, or sometimes tinned cat food as a treat. They worked with vets from the National Autonomous University of Mexico to vaccinate, neuter and microchip the animals, while building little cat shelters and feeding stations around the gardens. They also hired Jesús Arias as permanent vet to take care of their health.

In early 2024 Obrador’s government declared the palace cats to be ‘living fixed assets’, the first animals in the country to be so titled. It means that the Treasury has an obligation to feed and care for them for the rest of their lives, even when there’s a change in government.



'The cats are now a symbol of the National Palace,' said Adriana Castillo, general director of the palace and Cultural Heritage Conservancy. 'Just as we understand this world, I wouldn't understand the Palace without the presence of the cats. We have to make sure they're taken care of.' López Obrador himself has said the cats 'dominate' the palace, and as he goes about his duties he's often accompanied by one or more of **Bowie, Bellof, Nube, Coco, Yema, Ollin, Balam** or others. They quite often walk in front of him during official ceremonies. Bowie, a ginger cat, is named after David Bowie, who has visited the palace, while others are named after rocks, or words in the ancient Aztec language – 'Ollin' means 'movement'. Nube, a grey cat, is named after the Spanish word for 'cloud'.



A cat named **Zeus**, who has since died, became well-known when he wandered into the president's morning press briefing, standing in front of cameras and wandering among reporters until staff took

him outside. Reporters were asked to spread the word to people not to feed Zeus treats, as he would spend his days accepting treats from people around the palace and was 'becoming really fat'!



[Independent](#) | [AP News](#) (*both archived copies*) | [Lady Freethinker](#) (all April 2024) | [YouTube](#)

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Featured **Felines: Miscellany 25** (2024) (page checked Jly 2026)

Closeup of Hollywood **Los Angeles, California, USA**



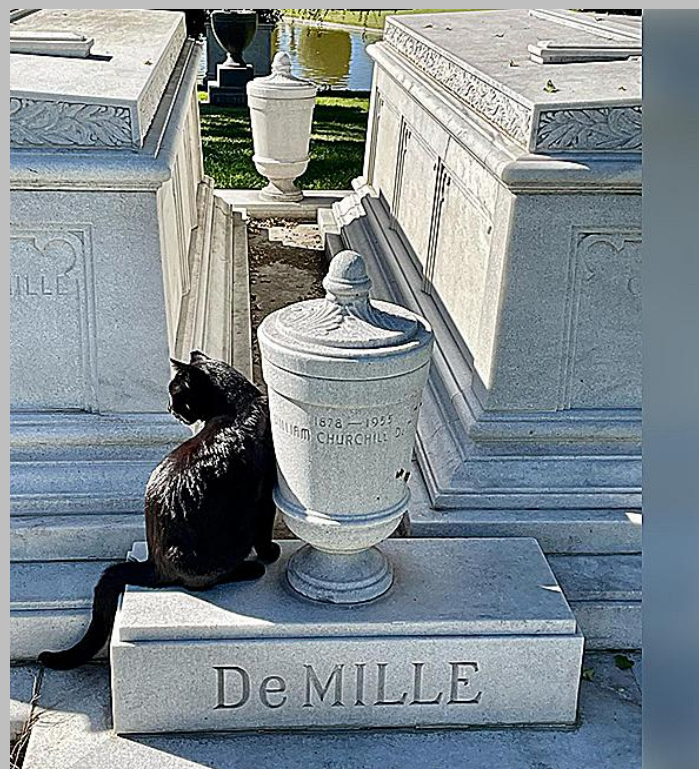
The Hollywood Forever cemetery in Los Angeles, opened in 1899, is the last resting-place of many legends of the film industry – stars, producers and other famous personalities. It's also a little 'animal kingdom', where there are to be found peacocks, geese, swans, ducks, raccoons, squirrels, possums, rabbits, turtles – and of course cats. These days there are some 60 to 65 cats, mostly feral, but they

are well provided for, with ten feeding stations with both wet and dry food, sleeping shelters and plenty of places to hide or to play. The population is controlled and kept track of with a TNR programme, and only occasionally will there be kittens as a result of a new, unneutered cat arriving or being abandoned there. Some cats, usually kittens, have been adopted out, and there have even been a few lost cats returned to their owners.



Katie Bible has hosted walking tours around the cemetery since 2002, and noticed a large black cat who particularly seemed to like the memorial to Cecil B. DeMille and would hang out there. He was one of three black cats dumped in the cemetery in about 2020, and was first noticed because of his feral nature; he was very territorial and would growl at other cats when he was feeding, so he gained the name of Mt Growly.

But over time he mellowed, and gradually started approaching tour groups, sometimes being given treats. He became socialised, took a liking to Katie and allowed her to pet him. He would follow her weekly tours; when those resumed after having to be suspended during the coronavirus pandemic, he was there to greet her and continue their friendship. The name Mr Growly was no longer appropriate, so Katie renamed him **Closeup**, a reference to a line spoken by Gloria Swanson in one of DeMille's movies.



So friendly did Closeup become that he was something of an emotional-support animal for people who came to visit the graves of their loved ones. He seemed to be perceptive of people's needs, and would sometimes spend hours sitting with grieving families; one of the cat caretakers has family buried there, and she said that the cat's presence helped to make her visits joyful rather than sorrowful.



Finally, in May 2024, Closeup [retired](#) from cemetery life and went to live with Katie as an indoor cat. He seems very happy playing with his toys and sleeping on soft beds, and shows no wish to go outside again. He has an active [Instagram](#) account



[Palos Verdes Pulse](#) (Oct. 2023) | [Cole & Marmalade](#) (Oct. 2022)

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Domino of Highgate Cemetery (2025) London

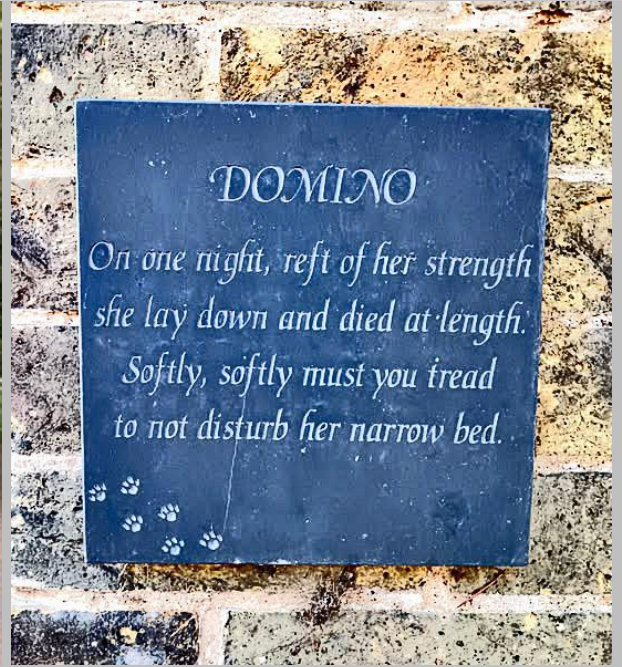


There's not much information about **Domino**, a gentle black-and-white cat who was adopted by staff at London's vast Highgate Cemetery and made it her home. A friendly cat, she liked to accompany visitors on their tours. I don't know how long she was there or how old she was, but sadly she was hit by a car in January 2017 and died.



A plaque was installed (*below right*) in her memory on the colonnade at the entrance to the Western Cemetery, a spot where she used to like to wait to greet visitors. The quotation is from a poem by Christina Rossetti, who is buried in the cemetery.

There was apparently a successor, **Domino II**, but he 'disgraced himself by killing birds and baby squirrels and scratching visitors', so when he died he wasn't replaced.



[Shadows Fly Away](#) (Dec. 2016) | [Digital Commons](#)

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Woody of Harwood Park Crematorium (2025) Stevenage, Hertfordshire, England



There's not much information about **Woody**, either, other than that he's a big, friendly chap who's been around at the crematorium for quite a few years and is well-looked after by the staff. He's a comforting presence for people attending funerals.

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

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