

Featured Felines: Miscellany 20 (2023)

(page checked July 2026)

Graduate Cat Salem



When he was rescued as a seven-week-old kitten, **Salem** had two broken legs; but after appropriate treatment he recovered fully and grew in to the 'sassiest', most confident cat his human Hailee Weader said she'd ever met. For example, if she wasn't up to feed him at 8 a.m. on the dot, he'd swat her face or pull her hair until she got up. He'd walk around the house 'chatting' to everyone, and followed them around, even into the shower.

Hailee suffered from panic attacks, and whenever she was having a bad day or an attack, he'd be there to comfort her, kneading away and purring. So when she was preparing for her senior year at college, she felt she needed his support – so he was registered as her official emotional-support animal. She had a special stroller for him to move around college, and needless to say he became something of a celebrity around the campus!



When the time came for graduation in June 2022, Hailee again wanted his support – so she felt that Salem deserved to graduate too, as he'd been a big part of her college life. So he acquired his own little cap and gown, and graduated alongside her with a 'degree' in emotional support! Owing to the

coronavirus pandemic the graduation was set up as a drive-by ceremony, so Salem rode proudly alongside Hailee. Of course the pair, with Salem in his smart outfit, gained a lot of attention! The location of the college wasn't mentioned in the articles I've seen.



[The Dodo](#) (June 2022) | [Animal Channel](#) (May 2021)

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Security guard Elwood (2022)

Epworth Hospital, Melbourne, Australia



Richmond is a suburb of Melbourne, Australia and is home to the Epworth Hospital. During 2019 a handsome ginger-and-white cat started visiting almost every day; he didn't seem to want to go inside, but would wait by the main entrance for attention (or treats!), or would be found sunning himself around nearby bushes. He was friendly and affectionate, although he liked to keep the petting sessions fairly short.

After about a year **Elwood**, as he was known, was seen to be sporting a collar with a splendid ID badge, identical to those worn by hospital staff, identifying him as a security guard! He continues to take his job seriously, checking people as they enter the hospital. No one removed his collar and badge, so for a long time it was thought he was a stray – but it turned out he has a home nearby, a family and a cat brother called **Jake**. He just crosses the road each day to carry out his hospital duties

Elwood was still present in mid-2026.



[Bored Panda](#) (undated) | [The Dodo](#) (July 2020) | [Instagram](#)

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Brigadier Broccoli, Army barracks mascot (2026) Lyss, Switzerland



During 2004 a female tabby cat began visiting the Swiss Army barracks at Lyss, a business and transport hub in the canton of Bern. She had a home nearby, but it seemed she was bored, as her human was often away on business – so she was looking for some action! She found it among the recruits at the barracks, and her visits became so frequent that it was eventually agreed she would live there. After being seen nibbling one day on some broccoli, she gained the title of **Brigadier Broccoli**. The soldiers set up a kitty to pay for her food, until she was officially recognised as one of only three Swiss Army cats, meaning that her food was paid for from the military budget. She gained her own service book and number.

A very curious cat, Broccoli soon set about exploring every corner of the site. She had her own cat-flap – but preferred to have someone open doors for her, and her health was looked after by the army veterinary staff. While she didn't have a job as such, she 'added to the atmosphere', helping soldiers to relax after what could be long and tough days and with many being away from home for the first time. Sometimes in her younger days she'd disappear for two or three days, but always returned to base. She had a Facebook page with many hundreds of followers.

Broccoli died in August 2021 from old age; she was 18 years old.



[Swiss Info](#) (Aug. 2017) | [Newly Swissed](#) (July 2024, updated 2021)

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