

Featured Felines: Cats with special needs 8 (2024)

Rexie Roo of Utah, USA, who lost his front legs
Bitsy of Edmonton, Canada, born with six legs
Rex, who lost his front paws

Rexie Roo, who lost his front legs **Utah, USA**



This little tuxedo cat didn't have the best of starts in life. When brought to a rural shelter in Utah in January 2020, he had broken front legs, was unneutered and malnourished, had no microchip and, to cap it all, was found to be FIV-positive. Putting him humanely to sleep had to be considered – but the shelter staff wanted to give him a chance. He needed emergency care, and quickly, so they put out a plea for urgent help. It was answered by Best Friends in Utah, and the little cat was soon on his way to their Lifesaving Center in Salt Lake City.

His front legs turned out to be badly crushed, probably in an accident with a car, and it was felt the only choice if his life was to be saved was to amputate them. The surgery was successful, and **Rexie Roo**, as he was named, started the long road to recovery. After a few days at the Center he went first to an experienced fosterer, Megan; it was hard at first as he was on various medications to fight infection and manage his pain, and he had to be carried to his food and litter tray. But he was a fighter; he enjoyed cuddling with her resident cat, made good progress and after some 10 days was eating well – and purring! It looked as if he was going to make it.



Rexie then moved to another fosterer, Danielle, who was tasked with helping him to start walking. At first he couldn't manage more than a foot or two, motivated by making him walk for treats; but then one night she heard him meowing in the bathroom where he'd been confined, and when she opened the door she was astonished that he walked past her into the bedroom! He learned quickly and before long was able to successfully negotiate the litter tray, and even jump up onto the couch. Rexie was ready for a permanent home.

By that time there was an [Instagram](#) account (*last used 2022*)_devoted to him, and his details were seen by a lady called Cairistiona; she liked what she saw, and was looking for a companion for her existing cat **KeeKee**. She wasted no time in going to meet Rexie Roo and learn his story, and she quickly decided to adopt him. He was soon finding his way around her house and continued to make good progress. Cairistriona said, 'To me he's extra special. He's been through so much, and yet he remains the sweetest animal I've ever met.'



[Best Friends](#) (May 2020) | [Happy Whisker](#) (July 2024) | [YouTube](#) (2020)

Unfortunately the latest message posted on the Instagram account was in late 2023, so I hope nothing untoward has happened to Rexie Roo since then...

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Bitsy, who had six legs (202t) Edmonton, Canada



Cat watchers in the Canadian city had noticed a stray tabby cat on the streets in spring 2025 that seemed to have an odd gait, but at first couldn't work out the reason as they saw her only from a distance. When she was still around a few days later, they decided to investigate and managed to trap her. She turned out to be quite friendly, but dirty and covered in sores – and she had six legs! They were obviously causing her difficulty in walking, and she must have been in pain. She was taken into the care of Forget Me Not Animal Rescue while her condition was assessed. She was named **Bitsy**, from an 'Itsy Bitsy Spider' nursery rhyme.

It turned out that in her mother's womb she must have partially absorbed a sibling, resulting in two extra legs and also a partial second pelvis. One of her 'normal' back legs was attached backwards to this second pelvis and was completely useless. The only solution for her to be able to live a relatively normal and pain-free life would be to remove three legs and the partial extra pelvis.

Fundraising was begun to meet the cost of surgery, but the operation was carried out without delay at The Windermere Veterinary Hospital. The two-hour surgery went without a hitch, and so Bitsy began her rest and recuperation as a 'tripod' with a foster family. As her story became known, the \$5000 needed to cover the cost of the surgery was successfully raised.



Bitsy settled well into her foster home – so well, in fact, that they decided she would stay with them permanently and officially adopted her. Not a fan of other animals when she was found, that started to change, and she gained a feline friend called Scout and a dog called Walker. She was soon learning to get around happily on her three good legs.





[Edmonton Journal](#) | [CBC News](#) (both May 2025) | [Cole & Marmalade](#) (June 2025)

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Rex (2025)

Unknown location in the USA



I haven't found any indication of where in the United States he's located, but **Rex** was originally a farm cat. Apparently he had the misfortune to fall into a water tub during a bitterly cold winter, suffering severe frostbite to his tail and his front paws, which had to be amputated.

Now living indoors in a loving home, he's a happy cat in spite of his disabilities and doesn't seem to let them bother him! He enjoys playing, has a very loud purr, and has even learned how to descend a flight of stairs in his own fashion. He has an [Instagram](#) account with many followers.



[Pet Helpful](#) (Nov. 2025) | [Newsweek](#) (Dec., 2021)

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