

Featured Felines: Cats with special needs 4

(page checked June 2026)

A young girl's compassion – Gulumser
Hope, disabled and rescued from the streets of Kuwait
Bubby, three-legged cat from Newfoundland

A young girl's compassion (2020)

Istanbul, Turkey



There are countless street cats and strays in Turkey's capital city, and in general the people are well-disposed towards them and will give them a helping hand. But one little kitten born among the dirt and rubbish, and constantly crying out for help, was ignored, although plenty of folk noticed her. The little female was horribly disfigured, with a misshapen mouth, only half a tongue, a missing ear, and a face full of maggots and mites. No one wanted to go near her ... until one day a seven-year-old girl, whose name hasn't been given, heard the kitten's cries, wanted to help and insisted on taking her home. Her father was a physician and agreed to do what he could. And so **Gulumser**, as she was named, meaning 'she who always smiles', began her road to recovery.

She was given food, medication, essential reconstructive surgery and, most importantly, love. Over time and with lots of care and attention, added to her own courage and determination, she began to be transformed. She was still missing that ear, but apart from that became a totally different cat, with a forever home and a happy life – thanks to the compassion of a young girl.



[Daily Mail](#) (Nov. 2016 – archived copy) | [Cat Time](#) (Jan 2016: includes video)

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Hope, the disabled cat (2023)

Mahboula, Kuwait



Walking in the streets of Kuwait one day, a lady called Mayar came across a sad-looking cat, hungry, all alone and apparently disabled, as he was standing on his hind legs like a little squirrel. He seemed to be asking for help, and she felt she had to give it, but every time she approached he would run under a car. Eventually she managed to catch him and get him into a carrier to be taken to the vet.

He was in a sorry state, malnourished and with sores and wounds on his body, as well as ear and skin infections. His deformed front legs were caused by a condition called radial dysplasia, in which a short or missing radial bone in the foreleg causes the limb to turn inwards. It can't be treated, but cats with the condition can lead a fairly normal life.

Mayar is the founder of Nadia Shelter Kuwait, a non-profit organisation that helps animals in need; using their Instagram page she appealed to followers for help with medical costs, and soon the cat was being treated for his ailments and was on the road to recovery. She named him **Hope**, and decided he would join her household..

Shy and nervous at first, with plenty of attention and love Hope started to trust Mayar and to interact with the other animals in the family. He gained in confidence, and it was found that he loved to play, so now he has plenty of toys! No longer homeless or alone, he made great progress and the former sad cat has become a happy one in his forever home. And it seems the Nadia Shelter has been renamed the Hope Shelter in his honour!



[Hope Shelter at Facebook](#) (mostly dogs) | [Instagram](#) | [We love Cats & Kittens](#) (April 2023: photos and video) | [YouTube](#)

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Bubby, the three-legged cat (2023)

Newfoundland, Canada



No one knows how long a three-legged cat had been living rough, but in 2012 he approached a house in Grand Falls-Windsor, central Newfoundland, and started eating some food that the occupant, Boyd Abbott, had put out for another stray cat. As time went by the new arrival came by the house more often, and gradually he and Boyd formed a bond. Boyd named him **Bubby** and, as time went by, he would come inside, find a comfortable spot to sleep and even snuggle up with Boyd; and he liked to play with **Seson**, the other resident cat. Even when Seson died, he continued coming – but he always insisted on going outside again.

His human dies

In 2017 Boyd himself passed away. Bubby came to the house just once more, but finding Boyd no longer there, he vanished. Food was left out for him, but was never touched. Some two years went by, and it was feared that Bubby had perished – but around the summer of 2019 he was seen again around the house where he'd once been loved. The new owner didn't care much for cats, but a neighbour, Ray Pinsent, was concerned about Bubby, who didn't look in great shape, with his return to living on the streets not having been kind to him. With the harsh Canadian winter on the way, Ray determined to trap the cat and get him some help – but for months Bubba evaded capture.

Finally Ray asked the house owner to open the door to the cat if he came round again, and Ray would come straight away to collect him. That worked! – the very next day a phone call told Ray that Bubby was in the kitchen. He took him to the shelter at Exploits Valley SPCA Adoptables, where he was found to be dehydrated and not in great health; the vet said he wouldn't have survived another storm. But he was purring on the examination table!



The shelter put out an appeal asking for information about Bubby, and it was seen by Boyd's daughter Rhonda, who was able to come forward, tell something of the cat's history, and even bring in his old feeding dishes! Meanwhile Sarah MacLeod, a volunteer at the shelter, had fallen in love with him and wanted to take him home to complete his recovery. She thought her boyfriend would need convincing, but that didn't take long.

Safe at last

So Bubby finally found his forever home, where he had other feline friends and a canine companion that he followed around. Sarah said, 'Despite having only three limbs, Bubby doesn't let anything stop him. He's smart, charming, and knows how to get what he wants. All he has to do is stare at his humans with those adorable sad eyes, and the negotiation is over!' And the former outdoor cat never showed any sign of wanting to venture outside again.

Sarah and her family had two wonderful years with the old warrior before he sadly passed away early in 2021. She was deeply thankful for having had the chance to share in Bubby's life.



[Love Meow](#) (Dec. 2020) | [Happy Whisker](#) (Dec. 2023) | [CBC News](#) (Nov. 2020) | [Inspire More](#) (Mar. 2021)