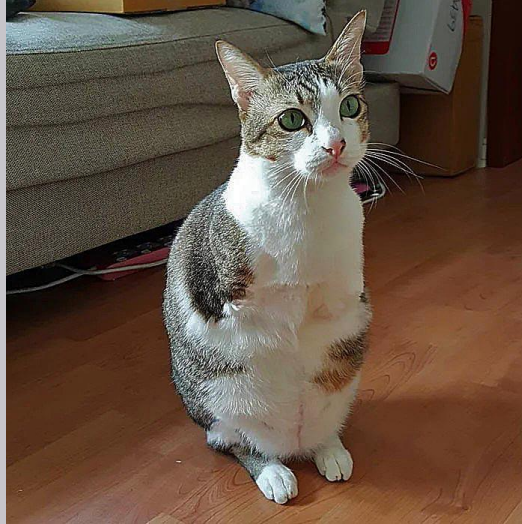


Featured Felines: Cats with special needs 9 (2026)

(page checked June 2026)

Able Maew from Thailand, who lost his front legs
Mercury from Oklahoma, USA, who also lost his front paws
Stockings from Chicago, born with twisted back legs

Able Maew Thailand



This was a kitten living on the streets, scavenging for food or, if lucky, sometimes being fed by local people. One day – and it's not clear exactly when this happened, but it was in 2012 or 2013 – he was out hunting when he fell from a rooftop onto an electrical transformer, suffering severe burns on his front legs and his rear end. A local hairdresser saw it happen and rushed him to the vet's; she had limited resources, but was able to raise money for his front paws and his tail to be amputated. Although severely injured, the young cat showed a strong will to live. He was named **Able Maew**.

He was then adopted by a kind lady who said, 'The first time I saw Able, I felt such energy and inspiration to live life. He's a very strong cat indeed.' So Able began his rehabilitation, and he found his own way to get around and live a comparatively normal life. He developed a strong back and very powerful back legs, and he learned how to stand and balance on those hind legs. Now he hops around like a miniature T Rex, can go up and down stairs on his own, and is able to jump up onto things. He seems a very happy little cat, and is also very intelligent; he has ways of getting what he wants from his human! Able has three feline housemates, also disabled: **Finfin**, **Ginny** and **Pocky**, and is particularly close to FinFin (*below left*).





Able has an active [Instagram](#) account and as far as I can tell remains happy and healthy in early 2026. There's also a clip of him negotiating stairs [here](#).

[Love Meow](#) (Dec. 2016) | [Cattitude](#) (Jan. 2025) | [Kitty Army](#) (*archived copy* – 2013)

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Mercury

Edmond, Oklahoma, USA



Mercury also lost his front paws in an accident, when he was injured by a strimmer being used to clear tall grass; he also lost the tips of the toes on his back legs. He was just a youngster when this happened in September 2013. He was taken to the Community Cat Coalition in Edmond, who fed and cared for him while cleaning his wounds daily. As he grew they helped him with his mobility and gradually he learned to stand and to walk using his back legs. He learned quickly and was eventually able to run, jump and even climb stairs.

In February 2014 he was adopted by Scott and Sara Bohn, who had been fostering him. Scott said, 'If he wants something, or finds a goal that he wants, he' finds a way to do it. He never gives up!' Mercury's efforts and progress gained many followers on social media via a series of short videos.

I haven't been able to find any recent news of Mercury, so don't know whether he's still alive in 2026.



[Life with Cats](#) (July 2014 – archived copy) | [The Dodo](#) (Jan. 2015) | [LoveMeow](#) (Feb. 2014)
[Laughing Squid](#) (Feb. 2014) | [YouTube](#) (several clips)

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Stockings

Chicago, Illinois, USA



Found in a hoarding situation at only a few weeks old, **Stockings** was underweight and had an upper respiratory infection, but most importantly suffered from a birth defect resulting in his back legs facing backwards and being twisted into a kind of 'W' shape. Fortunately he was taken to the [Tree House Humane Society](#) in Chicago, and whereas many shelters would probably have put him to sleep, Tree House took him in. They fed him and treated his infection until he had gained weight and his health was stabilised.

Attention was then turned to what to do about his back legs. Up until then Stockings had been scooting around on his hocks, which fortunately hadn't thus far developed calluses that could have easily become infected. Consulting with a specialist vet at the Chicago Veterinary and Emergency Specialty Center, it was thought that surgery might be possible to cut his tendons so that the legs could be extended and straightened, his hocks placed in the proper position and his feet fused into their correct alignment. There was no guarantee of success, but it was felt worth a try.

After two operations the little chap was placed with a 'foster mum', Priscilla Cherry, a veterinary technician who could give him the constant care he'd need to begin his recovery. Initially he suffered some swelling and soreness, but eventually, after two further surgeries, he'd made remarkable progress. He blossomed into 'a lively, energetic and rambunctious' kitten. He'd never have quite the same range of motion or mobility as other cats, but that didn't hold him back! To compensate for the imperfect nature of his back limbs, he learned incredible dexterity with his front paws. Living with two dogs, he soon learned how to take charge of the household! He raced around, jumped, played with his toys and became an amazingly resilient and determined kitten.

Stockings was adopted by his foster mum, so he had a permanent home. I've not been able to find more recent news, so I don't know whether he's still going in early 2026.



[Tree House Animals](#) (*archived copy – undated*) | [Cat Country](#) (Jan. 2014) (*both archived*)
[YouTube](#) (2014)

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