Featured Felines: Cats with special needs 2

(page checked June 2026)

Anakin the two-legged cat; Frank and Louie, Janus cat
Biscuits & Gravy, Janus kitten

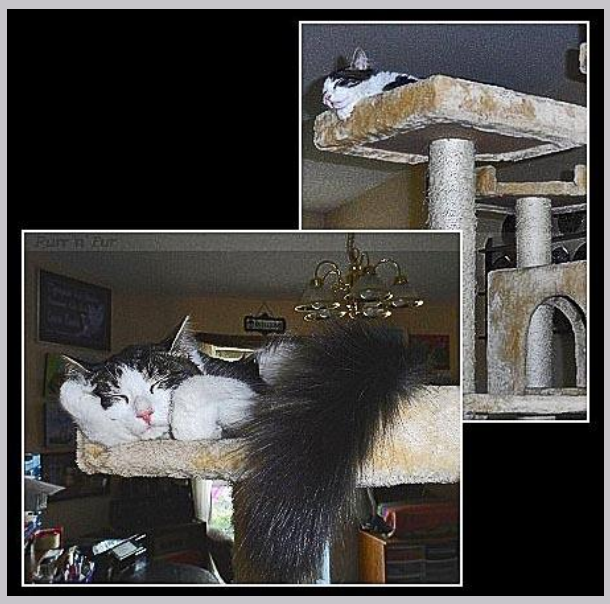
Anakin the Two-legged Cat

Pensacola, Florida
(2013)

Anakin, part of a feral cat family, was born in April 2012 with no pelvis or back legs. He was rescued and taken in by Carrie Hawks, a fantasy cat artist, and her family of Pensacola, Florida in the USA. Lifelong animal lovers, they already had a dog Buddy, 13 years old, who'd been used to cats all his life, and several other cats — George, Trixie, Pixie and Zoe, the 14-year-old matriarch. They were determined to give Anakin the best possible home, care, love and attention; he was estimated at 6 to 8 weeks old when they adopted him.

The family vet said she'd never come across a case like his before and was surprised the mother had taken care of him in spite of his handicap. Apart from the usual fleas and worms he was in good health, and X-rays showed that there was no malformation of his insides.
It really doesn't seem to bother Anakin that he has no back legs! — and the other animals treat him quite normally. He's developed his own method of locomotion — quite rapid when he wishes — and climbing seems to present no problem at all to him. He loves playing and all in all is a very happy cat, full of life.

He's had one or two health problems since, but those have been successfully overcome, and he has also been neutered. The other animals have accepted him, although Zoe remains rather stand-offish — but that's her nature, and her privilege as 'senior cat'! There's a very informative FAQ page covering all aspects of Anakin's life and care, an entertaining composite video (recommended viewing!) of his first six months; and a blog.



Since February 2013 Anakin has had a soul-mate in the form of ginger cat **Mika** (*below left*), adopted from a Texas shelter; he also was born handicapped and has only half a tail, no back feet and only half of one back leg. He also gets around quite happily, although a little more awkwardly than Anakin, and a prosthetic limb is under consideration for him. Actually Anakin was a bit slower than the others to welcome Mika; black cat George, though, became a firm friend and Trixie and Pixie are quite happy with him, as is Buddy. Later reports suggest that 'Ani' did come round.

There's a video showing Ani annoying Trixie at YouTube, and regular updates on these amazing cats are to be found at the blog page linked above and at their Facebook page (*page remains active, in June 2026)* . Oh, and the remaining feral kittens of Anakin's family were caught and rehomed, although their mother managed to escape again.

Anakin in 2019. He has the most amazing fluffy tail, measured in 2020 at 13 inches long

By mid-2026 Anakin was 14 years old and doing well. There had been one or two health scares, but they'd been resolved successfully.

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Frank and Louie *(2014)*

Janus cat, Worcester, Massachusetts, USA

Janus cats have a condition called diprosopus that leads to them having two faces, and they usually die within a few days as they are unable to nurse. **Frank and Louie** (or 'Frankenlouie') was a ragdoll kitten with the condition, born in September 1999, and had been taken to the School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University in Worcester, Massachusetts to be euthanised. However, veterinary nurse Marty Stevens decided instead to take the kitten home and look after him, despite warnings 'not to get her hopes up'. She tube-fed him for three months, after which he learned to eat on his own and started to thrive. He had one brain, but two mouths – although only one was functional – two noses and three eyes; again one eye, the middle one, was non-functional and didn't close. As the two functioning eyes were on opposite sides his vision must have been more like a horse's than a normal cat's. Frank was on the left, Louie at the right; it was Frank that did the eating, while Louie just 'hung out', as his owner put it.

Frank and Louie defied all the prognoses and grew up into a very friendly, affectionate, laid-back and playful cat who in some ways behaved more like a dog. He walked on a lead, happily got into cars and in fact loved car rides. When he reached the age of 12, way beyond the life span of most Janus cats, he had an entry in the 2012 Guinness Book of Records as the longest-living of his kind.

In November 2014 his health deteriorated, and on taking him back to the vet school the following month he was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer. Rather than have him suffer, he was put to sleep. Frank and Louie had defied all the odds and lived to 15, quite a good age for any cat; his death was quite widely reported.

There's a short video at YouTube, where Frank and Louie can be seen behaving as a normal; cat. FrankenLouie dies: Life with Cats (Dec. 2014).

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Biscuits and Gravy *(2023)*

Janus cat, Albany, Oregon, USA

In May 2020 a pregnant cat called Keenly, on a farm in Oregon, gave birth to a litter of six kittens that included a rare Janus cat. Named by the King family **Biscuits and Gravy**, he had one brain stem but two complete faces, with eyes, nose and mouth. It was uncertain whether both sets of eyes were functional, but he could use both mouths to feed – even meowing with one mouth while feeding with the other!

It's rare for such cats to survive more than a day, but at first the little soul was doing well, and became quite widely known after he was featured on a Facebook page *(no longer available).* He ate well, excreted well and his family were hopeful that he'd survive. They did all they could, bottle-feeding him and keeping him warm – but he didn't grow; and it must have been hard work for his small body to support his large head with two faces. He died after just four days, although that was already longer than most such cats live.

CBS News | Independent *(archived copy)* (both May 2020) | YouTube

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