

Featured Felines: Cat Statues and Memorials 5 – in brief

(2020)

(page checked July 2026)

Note: References are to the Purr 'n' Fur Word pages, not the website. For a number of memorials to cats at the Cimetière des Chiens in Asnières, France, see [Working / Museum 9](#).



One of **Barcelona**'s most photographed sculptures is *El Gato del Raval* or *El Gato de Bolero*, the work of Colombian artist Fernando Bolero, who depicts his human or animal subjects in 'exaggerated volume'. The large cat first appeared in the Parc de la Citadella in 1987, before spending a few years outside the Olympic stadium. In 2003 it reached its current location in the Raval district, on the Rambla del Raval.

[Barcelona Lowdown](#) (undated)

See a further Bolero sculpture below. and two more on the next page.



I haven't been able to find out anything about this charming sculpture of an old guy on a bench being approached by a friendly cat, except that it seems to have been made by 'Stonefaction'. It's situated outside the Broughty Ferry library in **Dundee**, Scotland.



Another of Botero's cat statues stands in **Yerevan**, Armenia at the Cafesjian Arts Centre. The 2.5 m.-tall bronze sculpture was unveiled in 2002, and was said to have been welcomed by many residents, who had previously been accustomed to monolithic Soviet statuary.



Puss in Boots, bronze by Johan Keller, in **Den Haag**, Netherlands.



Another man on a bench with cat, this one at the Technion, the Israel Institute of Technology in **Haifa**.



Statue of Bastet, the Egyptian cat goddess, in the Panthéon, **Paris**, located next to Foucault's pendulum (guarding it?).



This ten-foot-tall Fernando Bolero cat graces the lobby of the Soho Hotel in **London**. Apparently the bronze sculpture was craned into place before the walls were built around it! See [this link](#).



And one further Botero cat is at the entrance to the luxury Crosby Street Hotel in Soho, **New York**. The 12 foot-long bronze is seen as 'a playful welcome for passers-by and for guests'. Firdmale Hotels are the owners of both the Crosby and Soho hotels*(*eft*).

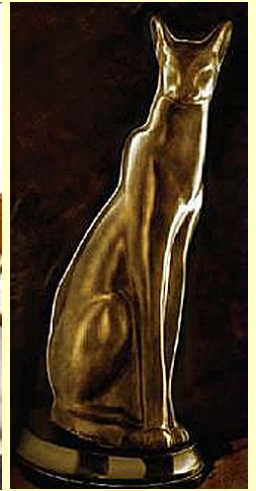


The Gotoku-ji Temple, a Buddhist temple in **Tokyo's** Setagaya district, has become famous as the legendary birthplace of Japan's *maneki-neko*, or 'beckoning cat'. During the Edo period a cat named Tama is said to have led the feudal lord Naotaka to safety from a lightning strike during a thunderstorm by raising her paw, as though beckoning him and his servants inside – so all *maneki-neko* statues have one paw raised. Enjoying tea with the priest while the storm raged, the lord expressed his thanks by donating rice and land and choosing the temple as the cemetery for his family.

Today there are thousands of cat figures, from large to small, and the number is constantly increasing as locals and tourists alike add new cats every day!



This colourful cat sculpture can be seen in **Sliema**, Malta, in Independence Gardens on the promenade. Created by Matthew Pandolfino, it was unveiled during an art festival.



The Heal's Cat watches over the grand staircase at the home-furnishing store on **London's** Tottenham Court Road. By the French sculptor Chassagne, the store's owner bought it in 1925 planning to sell it, but liked it so much he kept it instead!



The Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM), now superseded by the Peranakan Museum, occupied premises on Armenian Street in **Singapore** from 1997 until 2005. For a couple of years a tomcat would come almost daily to sit on the steps of the museum – never going inside – and would charm staff and visitors. No one knew where he came from, and when one day he stopped coming no one knew what had happened to him. A sculpture was made in memory of 'the ACM cat' by Chern Lian Shan and now occupies a spot outside the building. The plaque reads 'In memory of the cat that adopted this building and became the museum's mascot, 1998–1999.'



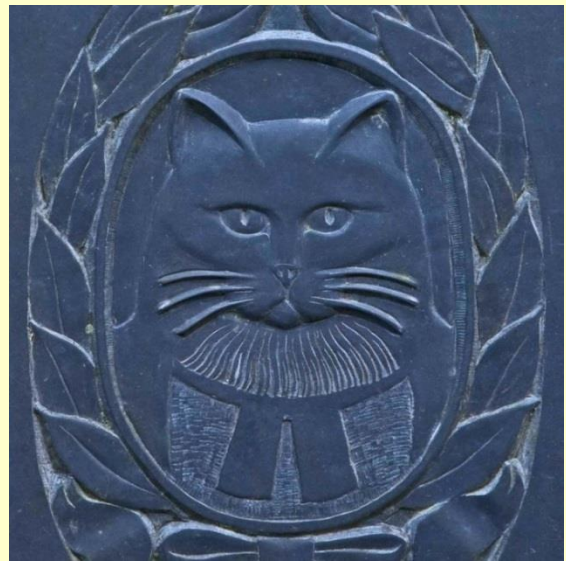
15 cat sculptures were to have been placed along the banks of the **Singapore** river, but it seems just these three bronzes remain. They depict Singapura cats, the smallest pedigree cat breed and the unofficial mascot of the Singapore Tourist Board.



'Orlando' sits on the wall outside the Cat Pottery at West Burton, near Aysgarth Falls in **North Yorkshire**. He's the work of Sarah Jane Nichols, a long-time cat sculptress. His necklaces just appeared one morning, presumably from a fan!



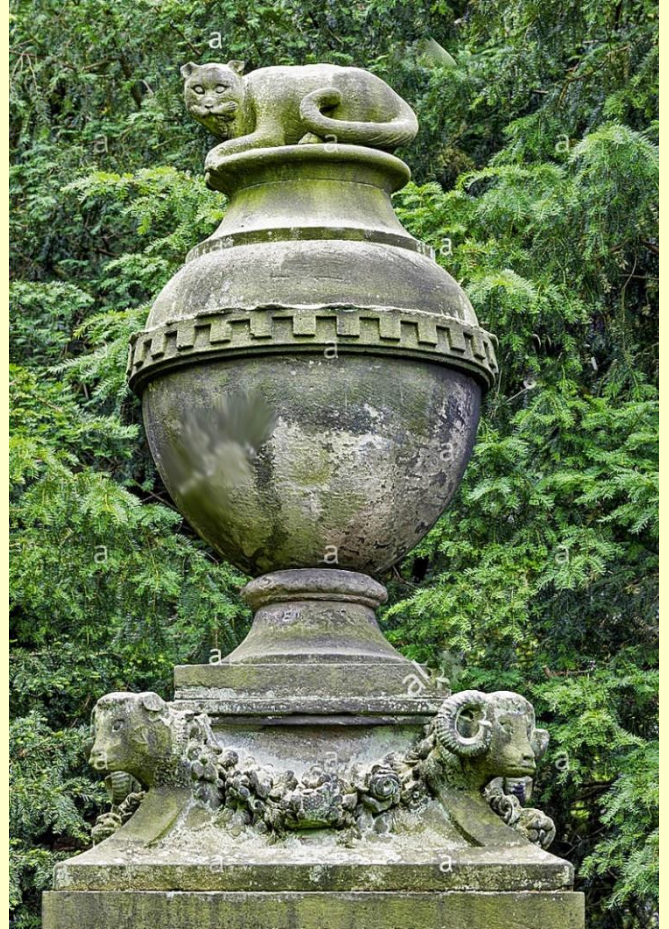
This is a wooden sculpture of a sleeping cat carved on a large tree stump at 15 Shabazi Street in Neve Tzedek, a district in south-western **Tel Aviv**, Israel. It's unsigned, so it isn't known whose work it is. There was apparently originally a poem to accompany the sculpture, but that has disappeared.



The memorial to the left is at The Laskett, the 4-acre gardens created by Sir Roy Strong, writer and historian, at his home at Much Birch, between Hereford and Ross-on-Wye in **Herefordshire**. It marks the tomb of his cat Reverend Wenceslas **Muff**, and above is an enlargement of the portrait under the 'M' at the side of the memorial. Sir Roy said, 'Muff appeared as a starved black bundle and followed me around. He used to pop his head around my study door to make sure I was OK and then trot off to check on my wife. We were so upset when he died.' (Muff was bitten by a feral cat and died of AIDS after about 10 years.) The memorial is situated on 'Muff's Parade', a place where the cat loved to stalk up and down.



This Grade II-listed monument is to be found on the **Shugborough** estate in Staffordshire, and dates from 1749. It's not known whether the cat commemorated (*detail at right*) is the one that circumnavigated the globe with Admiral Thomas Anson, a former owner of the house, aboard the ship *Centurion*, or whether it's Anson's favourite cat '**Khouli Khan**', said to be the last of a rare type of Persian of which Anson had had several in his life. Or were they one and the same?



These cats are in **Malmö**, Sweden, by the canal near the Davidshallsbronn bridge. There are a number of sculptures in the area, including two more cats (*opposite*).





The 'Hippo Cat' statue is in **Kyiv**, Ukraine, but I have no further information about it.



Sculpted cats on steps at Delamore House in **Devon**, on the estate of the former Admiral Parker, one of Nelson's captains in the Battle of Trafalgar.



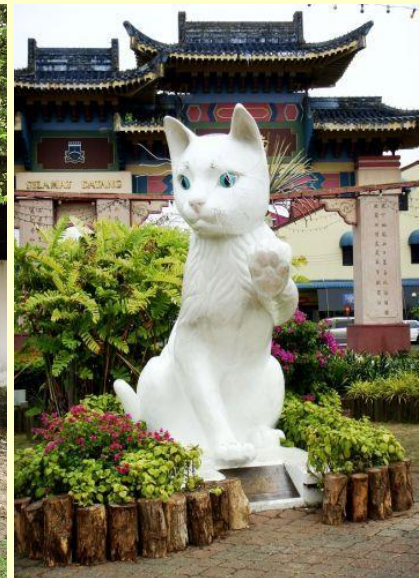
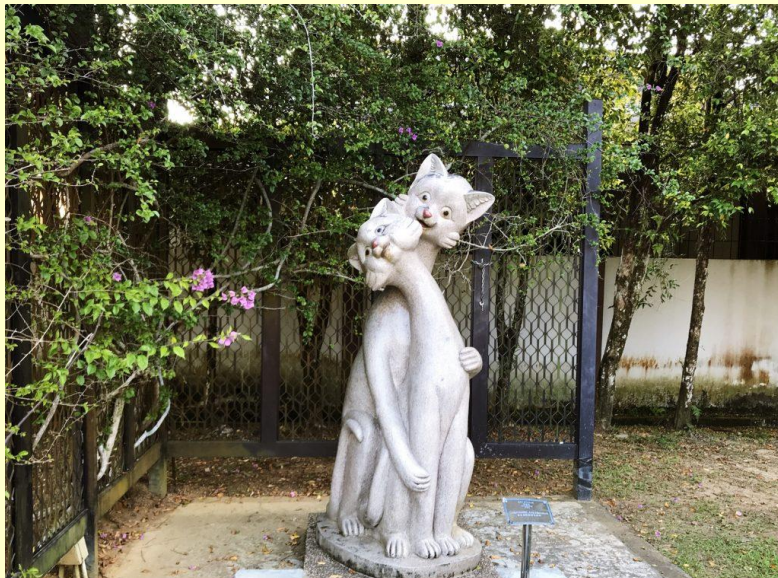
'The Cat', a concrete sculpture in Zuiderpark, **Den Haag**, Netherlands, created by Gerhatda Rueb in 1939. With his thick tail wrapped around his paws, he seems to be frowning as he watches the walkers in the park from his pedestal.



There's a tiny sculpture of a black cat clinging to the corner of Lace House in **Brighton**, southern England. It was placed there in 1926, apparently with the idea of scaring off birds. The building at one time housed a showroom for Jaguar cars, so it was thought the sculpture was meant to be a jaguar, but that isn't the case. In 1926 Jaguar's founder was selling Swallow motorbikes, not cars – and anyway, the man who helped to install the cat was later interviewed and confirmed that it is a domestic cat. [My Brighton](#) (July 2021).

'Kuching' means 'cat' in Malay, so **Kuching**, the capital of Sarawak, is known as Cat City, and there are numerous cat sculptures and statues there. Here are some.







Arcadia Works on Hampstead Road in **London** was formerly the home of the Carreras cigarette factory, makers of 'Black Cat' cigarettes. The story goes that the company grew from humble beginnings as a small tobacco shop in Leicester Square, where a local black cat used to favour the shop window for his daily naps; hence the name of the company. The Arcadia building had feline and Egyptian themes and there were two 3 metre-high, bronze, black-cat statues at the main entrance. Following the sale of the company and its relocation in 1958, the cats were moved, one to the new location in Basildon, Essex, and one to the company's factory in Jamaica. However, two replicas have since replaced them at the entrance to the building, which is home to several organisations and not open to the public. For the building and its other cats see [this link](#) (*archived copy*) and also [this](#) for more images.

This pottery cat on Ezra Street in east **London** marks the former site of S&B Evans & Sons, as shown on the blue plaque; they were a husband-and-wife team designing and producing pottery tableware, ornaments and specialising in terracotta garden pots, planters and the like. After closing in London they moved to Norfolk with the intention of continuing their business, but found it too difficult to get set up there and so retired.



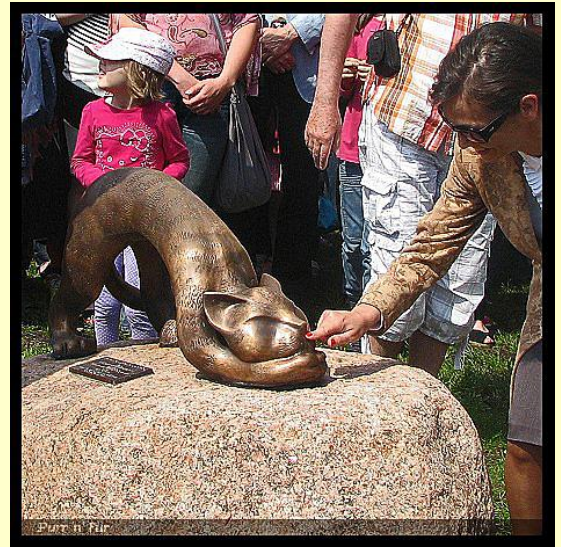
Thomas Wolsey was born in **Ipswich**, Suffolk in eastern England in about 1472, and it is there that this bronze statue of him was unveiled in 2011, the work of sculptor David Annand.

Son of a butcher, Wolsey nevertheless gained a good education and was ordained as a priest in 1498. Under Henry VIII he eventually became Lord Chancellor and the most powerful man in the land after the king – but he later fell from grace and died in 1528.

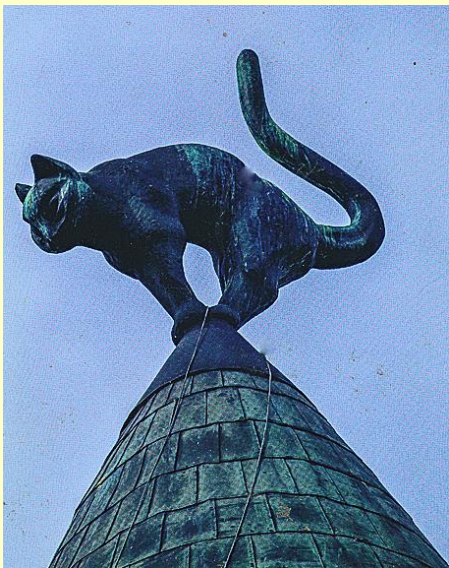
He was said to be very fond of cats, at a time when the animals had a bad name, but evidence is scarce and it's possible his rivals made up his liking for felines in order to discredit him. However, a cat peeks out from under his chair on the statue.



Dante was the much loved resident cat at the Antykwariat Naukowy bookshop in the south-western Polish city of **Wrocław**. He loved to sit in the shop window, or in fine weather on the window ledge outside. He died in 2016, and a bronze likeness of him was made and placed in his favourite spot on that window ledge, so he'll always be remembered. [See Working / Bookstore 3.](#)



In May 2011 a statue was unveiled in Balaton Park in **Warsaw**, Poland called 'Monument to an Independent Cat'. The sculptor was Bogna Czechowska, who also created a sculpture of a 'happy dog'. The cat statue was sponsored by Certech, a company well-known in Poland for the production of cat litter. Robert Janowski – veterinary doctor, TV personality and of course a cat lover – was 'godfather' of the monument, while actress and fellow cat lover Olga Bonczyk was 'godmother'. Ten years later I couldn't find it on the internet, so don't know whether or not it's still there.



This is one of two cat statues on the top of a building known as the Cat House in **Riga**, Latvia. The story goes that a tradesman either fell out with the city council, or he was refused entry to the Tradesman's Guild, both situated in buildings across the street. To express his displeasure he created the two angry-looking copper cats with arched backs, with their tails facing across the street. They were later turned round to face across the street.

This is a bronze memorial, unveiled in February 1921 on the 185th anniversary of his birth, to the Spanish romantic author Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer. It's situated in **Soria**, a city in north-central Spain, Bécquer spent about a year there, and the city features in several of his stories – but cats don't, so the significance of the cat is unclear.



A cat on a lamp-post, part of the Asheville Urban Trail, a walking tour of art, parks and history in **Asheville**, North Carolina, USA.



Cat corbel dating from the 12th century, in the Church of Great St Bartholomew in Smithfield, **London's** oldest surviving church.



The **Marysville** Public Library in Washington state, USA (35 miles north of Seattle), has a series of seven cat sculptures, dating from 2008 and depicting the life of a library cat. Ranging in size from 4 to 11 inches high, they are intended to represent a single cat and are placed in various and unexpected positions, not as display items but as though enjoying an adopted home. [Carapace Arts](#) (archived copy)



Plaque at **Belfast** Castle, Northern Ireland. Four of the cats are sculptures or statues, shown below.





Wodka was visiting cat at the hospital in **Alkmaar** in the Netherlands for some ten years, and when he died in 2021 funds were raised for his statue to be placed outside the hospital. It was unveiled in September 2021. See [Working / Therapy 2](#) for more details. [Facebook](#) (in Dutch: last used 2021)



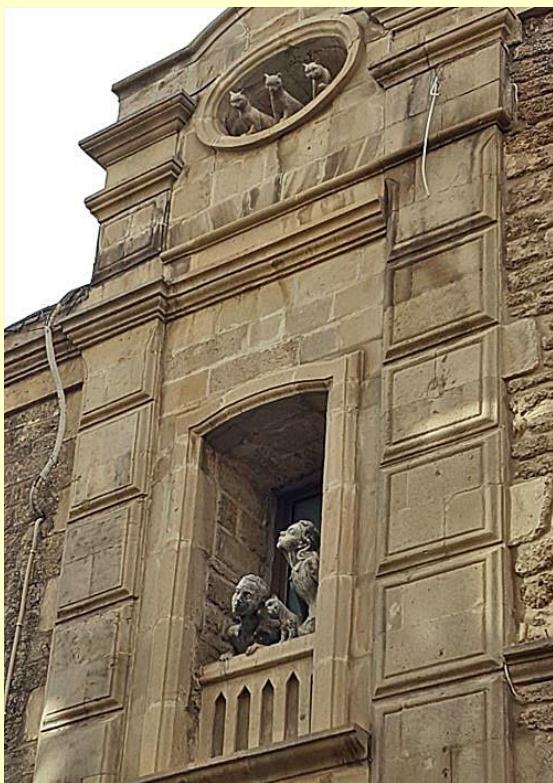
This lovely sculpture, created by the maker of Streetcat Bob's memorial, Tanya Russell, celebrates the life of 'allotment cat **Robert**', who frequented an allotment in **Birmingham**, England that became well-known when it was saved from development in 2022. He had a big following on social media, and his statue is featured in a memorial garden. See [Featured / Miscellany 16](#).



In **Odesa**, Ukraine is this monument to Sonya Fisher – I've no idea who she is. For good luck you should pull the cat's tail and slip a coin into 'Aunt Sonya's' pocket.



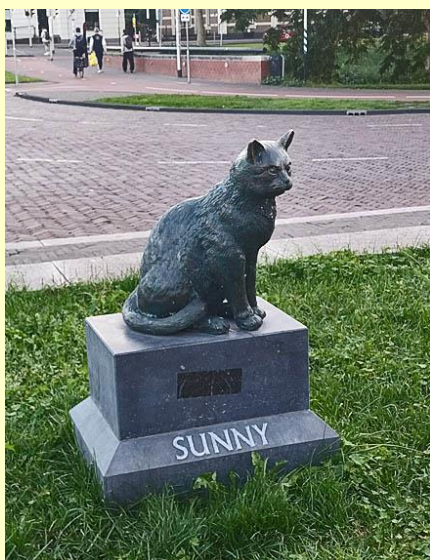
The sculpture of a cat carrying a kitten is one of many cat sculptures to be found on the Château de Pierrefonds in the Picardy region of northern **France**. They were added in the nineteenth century, while he was doing restoration work, by Eugène Viollet-le-Duc, a controversial architect who loved cats



Located a short walk from Zeferan hospital in **Baku**, the capital city of Azerbaijan, this monument on one of the city's buildings has a boy and a girl with a cat sitting between them, while three kittens look down on them from above.



Garfield, or 'Garfy' as he was known, was a much loved cat who liked to frequent a supermarket in the eastern English city of **Ely**. Sadly he was fatally injured in the car park there one day in June 2019. There was a demand for a memorial from his supporters; his human approachd the council, who gave permission, and in October 2023 this sculpture and a memorial bench were unveiled in a nearby park. See **Featured / Miscellany 14** for more details.



Cats with a home near a railway station (or library) often seem to enjoy visiting. That was the case with **Sunny**, who lived near the station in **Deventer**, Netherlands and liked visiting it and meeting staff and passengers. He did so for some three years before being tragically killed in December 2021, after being hit by a vehicle. He was just 4½ years old. See **Working / Rail 6**.



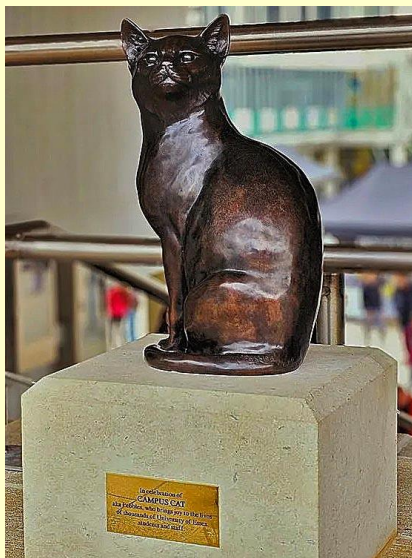
Tilly was a 'cat about town; in **Gosport**, Hampshire in southern England, much loved by residents and the many shops and businesses she visited. Her life was tragically cut short when she was struck by a vehicle in October 2023. It was hoped the bronze likeness of her would become permanently displayed in the town museum. See **Featured / Adventures & Travels 23** for more details.



The casino is now owned by the city and is known as the Historic **Gulfport** Casino Ballroom, available to be rented out for all kinds of functions, from weddings to concerts. Back in 1970, when it was still a casino, a cat wandered in one day, was taken in by the staff and became a much loved feature of the place for the next fifteen years; he was named **Morris**. When he died in August 1985 he was cremated, and a monument, complete with statue, was erected to hold his ashes, right next to the beach. The inscription reads, 'His ashes remain here by his mansion by the sea.'



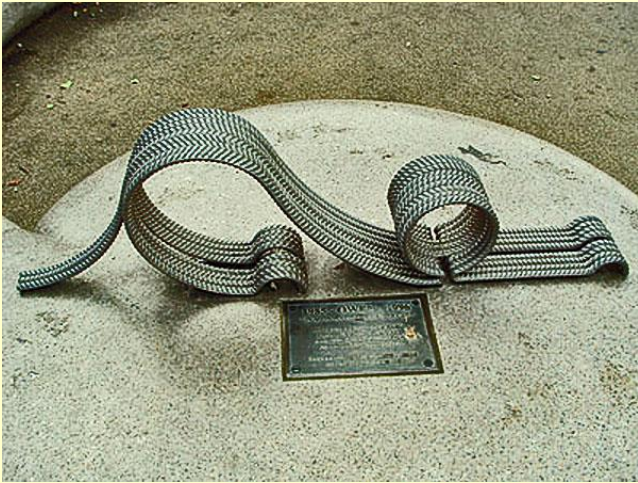
Frequenting the Tesco store in **Yate**, Gloucestershire from her home nearby since about 2017, **Molly** was much loved by customers; she would sleep on the trolleys, or patrol the car park to greet them, earning her the nickname 'Queen of Tesco'. Tragically her roaming was her undoing, as she was hit by a car and died from her injuries; the driver was devastated. Tesco agreed to the plaque in her memory, and a bench outside the store bearing the inscription above. See **Featured / Miscellany 14**.



Long-time campus cat **Pebbles** at the University of Essex in England was 16 in 2023, but although still alive was honoured with a statue, with funds collected over several years from the sale of merchandise. It's installed at the **Colchester** Campus. See **Featured / Miscellany 9**.



Cooper was a cat who loved visiting the Morrisons supermarket in **Evesham**, Worcestershire, from his home nearby. A great character, much loved, he'd been visiting for several years when he was tragically run over in May 2021. The store agreed that a small memorial plaque be placed by the main entrance. See **Featured / Miscellany 11**.



Here's an unusual one: a memorial to **Owen**, a ginger cat who frequented the town centre in **Haverhill**, Suffolk from 1985 to 1986; it stands by a public bench in the town-centre car park. The inscription reads:

He lived in the car park,
A friend to one and all;
Fed and cared for daily
As he sat here on this wall.

[Instagram](#) (April 2026)



This Cheshire cat statue is at Larnach Castle, **Dunedin**, on New Zealand's South Island. Larnach – not a genuine castle, but so dubbed by the press after its construction – was built in the 1870s, but fell into near ruin until restored by the Barker family from 1967. These days it's a tourist attraction open every day of the year. The extensive gardens contain other features on an Alice in Wonderland theme.



This sculpture is of **Dennis**, much loved campus cat at the University of **Buckingham**, who sadly was run over and died in March 2021. It has pride of place in the university bookshop.



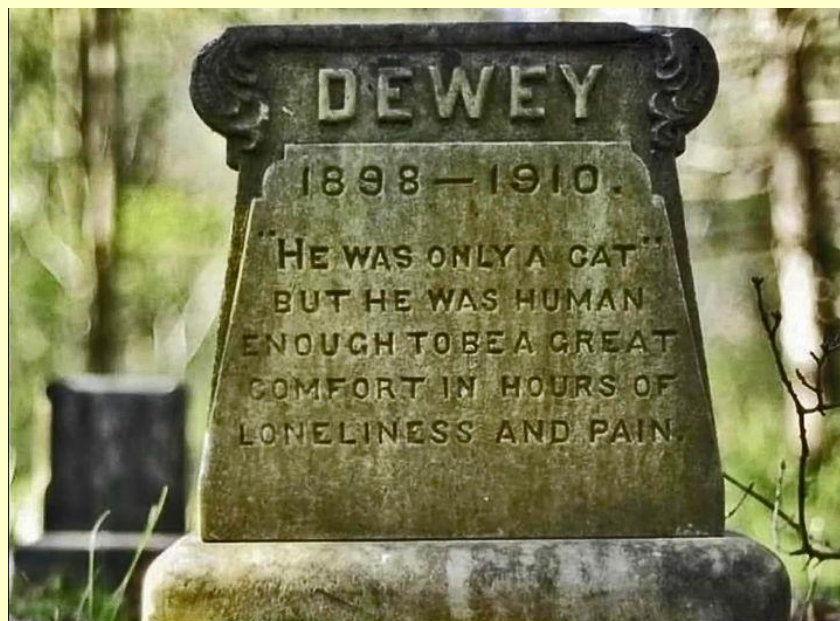
Dennis is the only cat I know of who actually has two statues in his honour! The second one (above) is in the gardens of the university. See [Featured / Miscellany 9](#).



This unusual memorial in **Las Palmas**, Canary Islands, commemorates a lady known as Lolita Pluma (1904–1987), who during her lifetime cared for and fed a large number of cats that lived in the city's Santa Catalina park. She raised money by selling sweets, combs, trinkets and souvenirs, using the money for cat food and vet fees. See [Wikipedia](#).



Humphry, a ginger tomcat and champion mouser, was resident for 18 years at the Mary Ward Centre, an adult-education facility in central **London**, but I don't know when. The sculpture was originally in Queen Square Garden near the Centre, but is now by a children's playground in Old Gloucester Street. The children love him! A man called Richard used to feed Humphry when the centre was closed, and when Richard died a wreath was placed around the sculpture's neck. [Isobel and cat](#) (May 2012)



Not a statue, but a lovely memorial to a much loved nineteenth-century cat. It's to be found in **Dedham**, Norfolk County, Massachusetts, USA.



Kolo was the beloved cat who lived near Southmead Hospital in **Bristol**, south-western England, and made it his business to visit the hospital and give much joy to patients, staff and visitors alike. He particularly liked to frequent the Emergency Department. He was put to sleep early in 2023 following severe internal injuries as a result of being struck by a car. See [Working / Therapy 7](#).



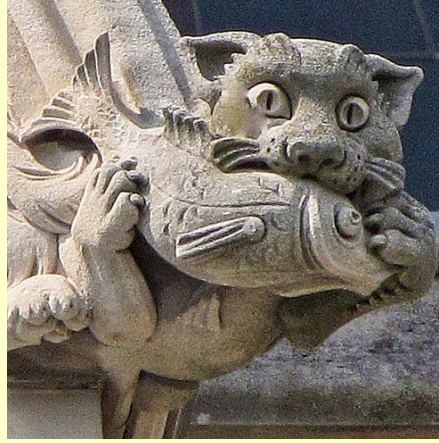
This cat sculpture has been installed at the **Cambridge** University Hospital, but I don't know at which location or what it signifies! Addenbrooke's, one of the branches, has a well-known visiting cat, Henry, but he's long-haired, so it doesn't seem to be a depiction of him.



This nice cat sculpture is at Highgate Cemetery in **London** – although it isn't actually a memorial to a cat. It marks the grave of Anna Clare Bootle, who died unexpectedly in Geneva, Switzerland in 1985, aged just 31. It was designed by her sister Carol, and the wording below the dates may refer to an inscription on a 3000-year-old stone from ancient Thebes, translated as 'the beautiful cat that endures and endures'. The reason for the cat isn't clear; maybe Anna just liked cats!



This memorial featuring a cat is also to be found in Highgate Cemetery although again the significance of the cat, or who Ms Erskine was, is unknown.



On the façade of the National Cathedral in **Washington, DC** are a number of gargoyles and 'grotesques', including these three wonderful cats! I don't know anything specific about them, but such entities had their origin in superstitious beliefs that they would help to protect a building from unwanted or malicious spirits..

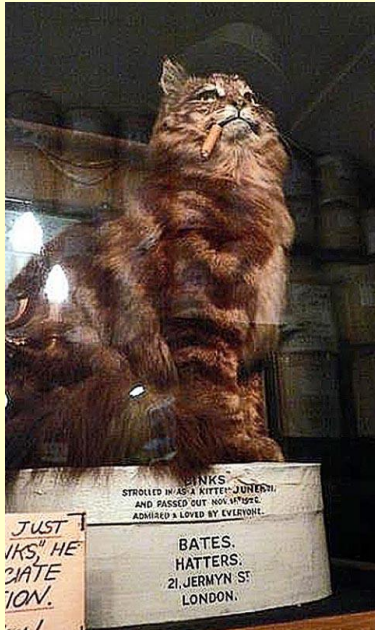


Grace was a much loved white cat who was born in the basement of the Grace Episcopal Church in **Anniston**, Alabama, USA and became the resident feline there for a number of years. When she died in 2014 a short memorial service was held, and this handsome headstone was placed in her honour in the church's Memorial Garden. See **Working / Church 16**.



Gerald was one of two Bengal brothers who moved to **York** in 2017 with their humans; they lived near the Minster and became well-known and popular there and in the area. Aged only six, Gerald was found dead one morning in 2020 without a mark on him; it was thought he might have ingested poison. The Minster bells were rung in his honour and he was buried in the Dean's Park, while this sculpture of him is to be found at Holy Trinity church, a place I think he must have frequented. See **Working / Church 20..**

See also [this page](#); Peter Close seems to produce cat and dog sculptures to order.



Binks lived at Bates the Hatters in **London**, and when he died he was stuffed and placed in the shop window with a top hat on his head and a cigar in his mouth. He remained there for many years, until the modern anti-smoking milieu led to the removal of his cigar and his banishment to the shop interior. His epitaph reads, 'Strolled in as a kitten June 1921 and passed out Nov. 1st 1926. Adored and loved by everyone.' See [Working / Shop & store 3](#).



This unusual plaque is in memory of **Domino**, former resident cat at **London's** Highgate Cemetery, and is installed at the spot where she would wait to accompany visitors on tours of the Western Cemetery. The lines are from a poem by Christina Rossetti, who's also buried at Highgate. See [Featured / Miscellany 25](#).



Rather unusual memorials here are a 'storytelling chair' and bench created in memory of the much loved and missed **Cilla**, former resident cat at Outwoods primary school in **Warwickshire**, England, until her death in November 2024. The children were thrilled with the artefacts, which were handcrafted in Wales, and were reported to be queuing up to use them! [GoFundMe](#) (April 2025) See [Featured / Miscellany 17](#).



This fine-looking cat sitting on the 'A' of the city sign in **Riga**, Latvia, marks the success of the animated film 'Flow', which gave the country its first Oscar. It follows the adventures of a cat and his companions trying to survive in a post-apocalyptic, flooded world. [Wikipedia](#)



Simba was a very handsome Bengal cat who lived near Ham House, south-west **London**, and spent so much time there that his owner eventually agreed, in 2017, that he could be adopted there. But sadly, in August the following year he died: I don't know from what. A rose bush and plaque were placed in his memory. 'Simba: the unique cat that chose Ham House and garden and made it his home with happy memories.' See [Working / Gardens 10 / Ham House](#).



Barney was a cat who lived near St Sampson's cemetery in **Guernsey**, Channel Islands and used to visit; then when his humans moved further away he decided to make the cemetery his home. A shelter was made for him and he was well-cared for by the groundsman and others. Barney made it his mission to welcome visitors, attend funerals and comfort those who were grieving. When he died in 2016, aged 20, he was buried where he'd spent much of his life, and with the community's full agreement a bench and plaque were placed in his honour. See [Working / Church 21](#).



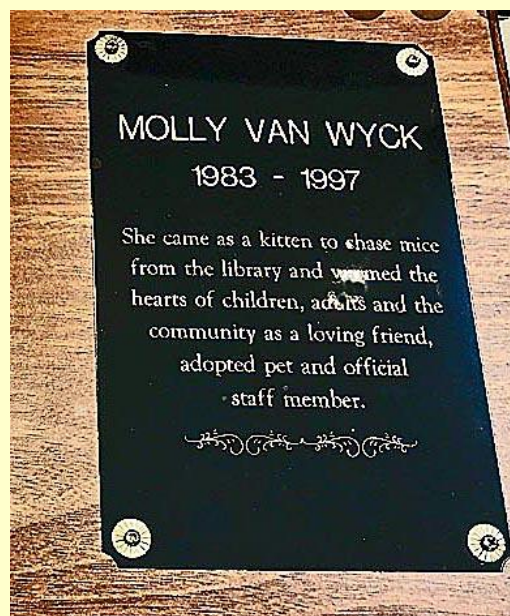
Hendrix, also known as the 'Coastal Cat', was a kind of 'community cat' who lived in the North Yorkshire town of **Saltburn-by-the-Sea** and was well-known to residents there. In particular he liked to frequent the beach, and so it was on the lower promenade there that in June 2025 his statue was unveiled, following his death the previous September aged 12. See [Featured / Adventures & Travels 26](#)



Two life-sized bronze statues were commissioned in honour of **Dirt**, the much loved cat of the East Ely Railroad Depot Museum in **Nevada**, USA. One marks his burial site in the grounds (*above left*), in the shade of a pine tree and overlooking the yard and engine- and machine-shops that were his domain, while the second, coloured one stands in the machine-shop itself. See **Working / Museum 19**.



The memorial to **Herbie**, 'An uncommon cat', is, or was, at the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library in **Iowa**, USA. Arriving as a stray there in 1978, he made himself at home, and gained over the years a custom-built cottage and all facilities! Much loved, and well-known over a wide area, all his expenses were paid for by staff and friends, as was the cost of the memorial when he died in 1997. See **Working / Library / USA !-2**.



Not much information about **Molly Van Wyck**, but she was resident cat at the Norfolk Public Library in Norfolk, **Virginia**, from 1986 until her death in 1997. She was a very friendly cat, who got on particularly well with children. See **Working / Library / USA 2-2**.



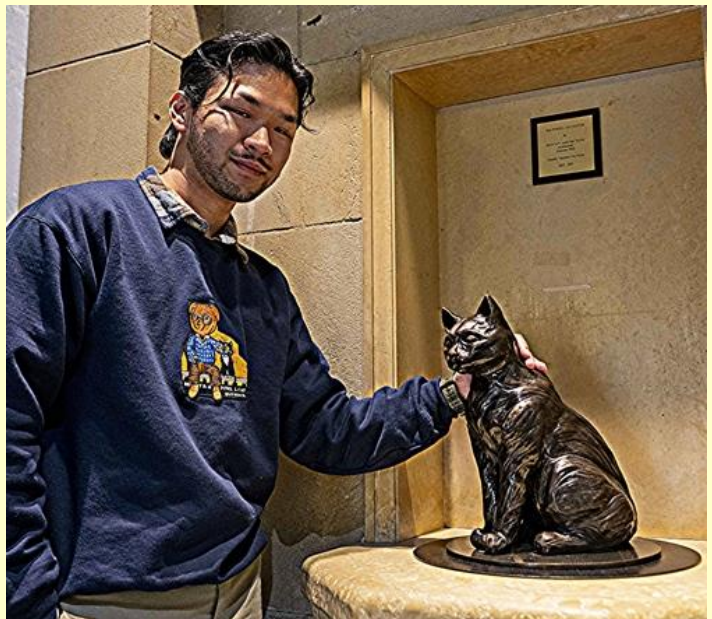
This handsome urn contains the ashes of **Sammy**, much loved cat of the university at **Konstanz**, Germany, from 2001 until his death in 2013. I don't know where the urn is now held, but imagine it may have been on display at least for a time.

See [Working / Library / Europe](#).



Boulton was the first cat to be resident at **London's** Museum of Water and Steam until his death at the grand age of 19. His grave is in the upper garden at the museum. After the Covid pandemic of the early 2020s there were no cats there, but later another was taken on.

See [Working / Museums 18](#).



Powell Cat was a much loved mascot at the University College of **Los Angeles** (UCLA) for about 8 years from 2015 until his death, aged just 10, in 2023. There was a great deal of support for a statue to remember him by, so when the college didn't seem interested in doing anything about it, alumnus Max Loy (*above right*) took it upon himself to raise money and commission a bronze statue, which was installed in August 2025.

See [Featured / Miscellany 9](#) | [Daily Bruin](#) (Oct. 2025)



On the walls of what's known as the 'Cat House' in **Tel Aviv**, Israel, are several realistic-looking cat statues.



At the former Eastern State Penitentiary in **Philadelphia**, USA, there's a series of no fewer than 41 white cat sculptures by Linda Brenner; they commemorate a colony of felines that took up residence there when it closed in 1971, and are placed at various locations around the grounds.



This striking bronze kitten sculpture is apparently to be found at the **Santa Barbara** zoo in California, USA, but I've no further information.



A plaque in Anglers Lane, Kentish Town, **London** commemorates **Boris**, a cat who lived at No. 24 from 1986 to 1996. He was a beloved and friendly resident of the area, but quite why he gained a memorial plaque is unclear.



Memorial plaque for **Lily**, much loved station cat at Penge East railway station in **Kent**. See [Working / Rail 4-2 / Penge East](#).



This unusual street sign was placed in memory of **George**, a cat who spent 14 years at **Beeston** business park in Nottinghamshire and became very well-known. He died in 2023. See [Fragments 49](#).



This memorial is in the [Aspin Hill Memorial Park](#) in Montgomery County, **Maryland**, USA, one of America's oldest pet cemeteries dating from 1920. The memorial, with two life-sized cat statues, was erected in the 1940s by Washington journalist Bascom Timmons; some 100 pets are buried there, mostly cats, including the well-known **Timmie** (see [Pot-purri / Famous / Socks](#)).



Grasa was the much loved cat and companion to the mechanics in a car workshop, location unknown. He would be found roaming between cars, sleeping in toolboxes, and always appearing when there was food around! One day he didn't wake up from his favourite corner; to honour him, the mechanics created this memorial based on an old tyre. There's even a can of food in the middle! [Instagram](#) (Feb. 2026)

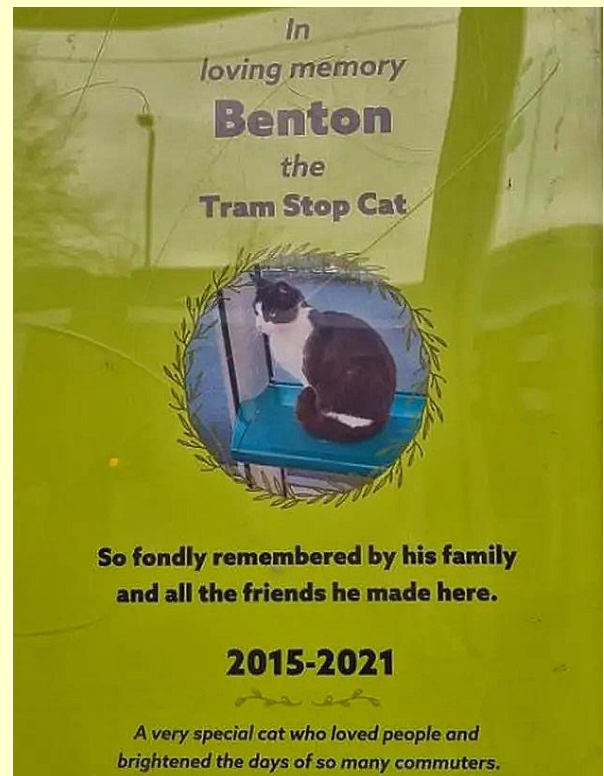


**City cat Zak rests peacefully in a country woodlot.
Durham Region, Ontario**



Govan is a community on the western bank of the river Clyde, north-west of Glasgow. In Victorian times its prosperity was linked to the Clyde shipyards – but its buildings tended to be plagued by rodents, which could carry disease and destroy expensive materials. Enter the **Govan Cat** – a ferocious feline who was well-known for clearing whole buildings of the pests. He met his end when dealing with one particularly savage rat, and the community decided to honour him with this little memorial, carved on the southern side of what is now a listed building.

[Atlas Obscura](#) (Jan. 2023)



Tribute poster installed on the information board at a tram stop in Chilwell, **Nottingham**, in memory of **Benton**, who loved to hang out there and greet passengers.

See [Featured / Adventures & Travels 1](#),



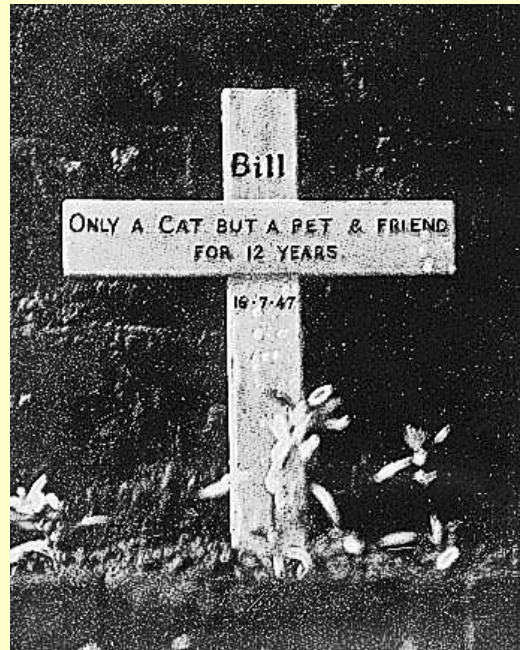
Benjamin, the much loved library cat at the **Devonport** Library in New Zealand for some 15 years until his demise in 2017. He's often decorated for various holidays. See [Working / Library / Australasia](#)



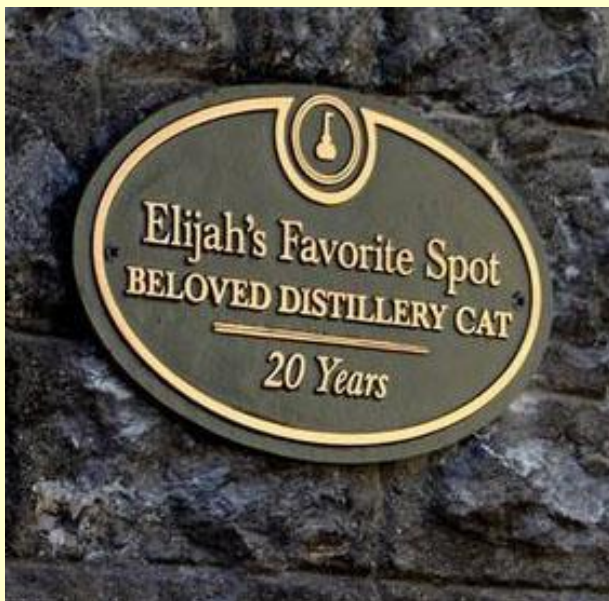
Riley arrived in Ambleside, Cumbria during a snowstorm in 2011 and never left! Not apparently wanting a single home, she became a sort of community cat, belonging to no one but known to everyone. This statue was placed at one of her favourite sunny snoozing spots following her death early in 2024. See [Featured / Adventures & Travels 29](#).



Mo was a community cat and supermarket visitor in the former Scottish mining town of **Newtongrange**. He died in early 2026, and this statue of him was unveiled outside his favourite store, the Co-op, in mid-May that year. See [Featured / Miscellany 13](#).



Bill – ‘Only a cat, but a pet, a friend for 12 years’ – died in 1947, having spent his whole life at the Tower of **London**. His grave is, or was, in the moat. See [Working / London cats](#).



Elijah was the much loved resident at the Woodford Reserve Distillery in **Kentucky**, USA, for some 20 years from 1994. When he died this plaque was placed above one of his favourite napping spots. See [Working / Distillery 3](#).



Simba was a beloved cat who lived at Ham House in **London**. He died unexpectedly at a young age, and a rose bush and plaque were placed in his memory. ‘The unique cat that chose Ham House and made it his home. With happy memories.’ See [Working / Gardens 10 / Ham House](#).



Erik was the much loved 'rodent control officer' – the last one of several – at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic in **Halifax**, Nova Scotia, Canada. He retired in 2015 after 17 years on the job, and died in 2017. His statue stands by the Boat House next to the museum. See [Working / Museum 1](#).



The Oyster Box Hotel in **Durban**, South Africa, commissioned a bronze statue of their beloved cat **Skabenga**, following his death in 2025. Its base incorporates a QR code that enables people to make a donation to the Durban SPCA. See [Working / Hotel 7](#).



This splendid statue commemorates **Dude**, much loved resident 'meeter and greeter' at the Delaware Museum of Nature and Science in **Greenville**. He died in 2025 after nearly 16 years of service; his statue reclines on a bench outside the museum, as though surveying his domain. See [Working / Museum 25](#).

