

The Scratching Post



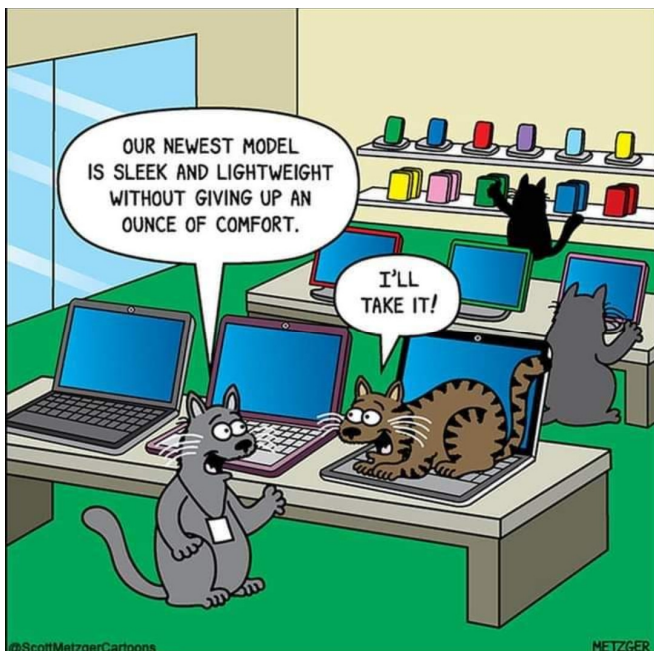
The Scratching Post Spring 2026

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www.sabcci.com 

SABCCI Committee

Lorna Blackmore, Ronnie Brooks, Hugh Gibney, Gloria Hehir,
Aedamair Kiely, Hannah Phelan, Karen Sluiters, Jim Stephens, Aimee Weldon



Fire Crew Rescues Cat From The Ice

South Glens Falls, New York - A stranded cat was rescued from the ice in South Glens Falls on Wednesday.

Workers at the Saratoga County Water Authority on Butler Road spotted a cat stranded on a thin layer of ice on the company's back ponds.

Members of the South Glens Falls Fire Company used their new banana boat to get divers to the cat. The divers safely grabbed the cat and brought it back to the shore.

The fire company said they're unsure if the cat has an owner since it wasn't wearing a collar. It was taken to a veterinarian for evaluation.



www.news10.com, C. Ward, March 2026 Photo WTEN

Editorial

Welcome to our Spring 2026 issue of The Scratching Post.

So if you're ready, sit back with a Wild Citrus Negroni* and enjoy the newsletter!

Karen and Gloria ^..^



The Dublin Championship Cat Show

3 May 2026

Ballinteer Community School
Broadford Road
Ballinteer



SABCCI and the GCCFI will hold a '2 in 1' Championship show,
2 shows running in the same hall at the same time.

Doors are open to the public from 12:00 until 5:00. Best In Show judging starting after 3:45

See you there!

NTA Proposal To Allow Small Pets On Public Transport

The National Transport Authority (NTA) is proposing to allow small dogs, cats, and other small pets on public transport in Ireland. Under the draft policy, pets must be in carriers or on laps, while larger dogs may travel on leads with muzzles. Public consultation on these changes closed on March 20, 2026, aimed at making travel more accessible.



Key details of the proposed pet policy:

- Small Pets - Small dogs, cats, and other small animals can travel if kept in a suitable container or on the owner's lap, without blocking aisles or sitting on seats.
- Larger Dogs - Must be on a leash and muzzled. They may be refused entry if the transport service is already full.
- Service Animals - Guide dogs and assistance dogs are already allowed on all TFI services.
- Scope - These changes are being proposed for TFI bus, rail, and Luas services to provide a uniform policy, though some operators have expressed concerns about enforcing the rules.

The public consultation on these changes was open until March 2026, to allow feedback from passengers and transport operators. consult.nationaltransport.ie

NB. No decision at the time going to press.

Archaeologists Discover What May Be The World's First Pet Cat Buried Beside Its Owner



It turns out our love for cats may be far older than many history books once suggested. Archaeologists in Cyprus uncovered a 9,500 year old grave at Neolithic site of Shillourokambos that changed what we thought we knew about cat domestication. Inside the burial, a human was laid to rest beside an approximately 8 month old cat. The discovery suggests that people were forming close bonds with cats about 4,000 years before the first Egyptian pyramids were built.

Even more remarkable, cats are not native to Cyprus. This means early settlers likely transported them by boat, a clear sign that these animals were valued companions, not just passing wildlife.

Nearly ten millennia later, our homes may look different, but the connection feels familiar. This ancient grave quietly reminds us that the bond between humans and cats has deep roots, stretching back to the very dawn of civilization.

FB - @greeceisreallycool

* Wild Citrus Negroni
Ingredients: Vermouth, Gin & Campari



Urgent Appeal from UCD Veterinary Hospital



Due to an unprecedented increase in numbers of sick cats, the UCD Veterinary Hospital are seeking healthy cats to donate blood to be transfused to sick patients in their ICU.

Contact: vetblooddonorclinic@ucd.ie or 01 7166137

The Rainbow Bridge

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge. When an animal dies that has been especially close to someone here, that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food, water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable. All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigour; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them. When our time comes they will be waiting for us and then we will cross the Rainbow Bridge together.



Pharoah (Rakasta Pharoah)

2009-2025

When tomorrow starts without me,
And I'm not there to see;
The sun will rise and find your eyes,
All full of tears for me.

When tomorrow starts without me,
Don't think we're far apart.
For every time you think of me,
I'm right there in your heart.

Carmel Byrne

No Heaven will not ever Heaven be - Unless my cats are there to welcome me



Scientists Finally Discover Why Some Cats Are Orange & Why They Tend To Be Male

Orange cats have won a reputation for being energetic rascals. In Italy, it's said the red cat is always the leader. That's probably because red/orange cats are almost always males, and now we know why thanks to two teams of scientists probing the genetic lineage of the orange coat in domesticated felines.

Working separately, reports Smithsonian Magazine, the two teams have independently arrived at the same conclusion - a mutation on the X chromosome. Male animals have one copy of the X chromosome, while females have two - explaining yet further why female cats with orange in their coats tend to have it mixed in with other colours such as black in the case of a 'tortoiseshell cat,' and white in the case of a calico.

Kelly McGowan, a Stanford University geneticist who participated in one of the two studies, said that cats are a 'fascinating exception' to the trend of orange coloration in other animals such as dogs, sheep, horses, and rabbits. Our work provides an explanation for why orange cats are a genetic unicorn of sorts,' she told Newsweek.

In most other mammals, mutations in a protein called Mc1r lead to red hair colour, but not in cats. Instead, this decades-long mystery has been solved with the identification of the gene Arhgap36 that codes for a protein along the X chromosome. Arhgap36 has never been suspected as a potential candidate for the 'orange gene' before, in part because the protein it codes for regulates embryonic development - a life-or-death function, and not a place one would imagine to look for an aesthetic mutation.

Greg Barsh from the Stanford University team that included McGowan found that the Arhgap36 mutation in orange cats resulted in a 13-fold increase in the production of RNA, the molecule that reads genetic material contained in DNA. Furthermore, they found that rather than being a dangerous mutation, the orange cats had just a sliver of DNA missing from the Arhgap36 gene, and that this absence meant its effects were seen only in melanocytes, or skin cells that produce hair colour. www.goodnewsnetwork.org, A Corbley, December 2024, Photo: M. Anderson on Unsplash



Guidelines for Cats - Food

In order to get the energy to sleep, play, and hamper, a cat must eat. Eating, however, is only half the fun. The other half is getting the food. Cats have two ways to obtain food: convincing a human you are starving to death and must be fed *now*; and hunting for it oneself. The following are guidelines for getting fed.

- ✦ When the humans are eating, make sure you leave the tip of your tail in their dishes when they are not looking.
- ✦ Never eat food from your own bowl if you can steal some from the table. Never drink from your own water bowl if a human's glass is full enough to drink from.
- ✦ Should you catch something of your own outside, it is only polite to attempt to get to know it. Be insistent. Your food will usually not be so polite and try to leave.

Table scraps are delicacies with which the humans are unfortunately unwilling to readily part. It is beneath the dignity of a cat to beg outright for food as lower forms of life such as dogs will, but several techniques exist for ensuring that the humans don't forget you exist. These include, but are not limited to: jumping onto the lap of the "softest" human and purring loudly; lying down in the doorway between the dining room and the kitchen, the "direct stare", and twining around people's legs as they sit and eat while meowing plaintively. www.stumbleupon.com/su/2wnzJA/www.jameshuggins.com/h/hum1guidelines_for_cats.htm###4

Topkapı Palace's Cat Door Reopens

Feline 'Şerbet,' granddaughter of 'Mülayim' - who vanished three years ago, along with other resident cats, is now passing through it once more. Restoration work on the door, carried out in accordance with its original design, has been completed. This historic passage, a part of palace life for centuries, has reached the present day as a symbol of the Ottomans' compassion toward pets.



Located in a section of the Harem where high-ranking attendants such as the Darüssaade Ağaları once worked, the small door is in the part of the Karaağalar Ward that these senior officials used, and the cats followed them into these rooms. With the completion of the restoration, the quiet footsteps of the cats have once again echoed through the palace's historic atmosphere.

The cats, silent witnesses of the palace for centuries, continue to roam the Harem's stone floors and move through the small door to different corners of the palace, just as they did long ago. After restoration, Şerbet, the granddaughter of Mülayim, who lived in the palace for many years but was considered missing for three, along with other cats, has revived the historic passage, connecting the past with the present. This detail, hidden within the Harem's elegant architecture, illustrates the care given to animals in the Ottoman period, drawing attention as a living part of Topkapı Palace's history.

The Karaağalar Ward, now open to visitors following the completion of conservation and furnishing processes in the Harem-i Hümayun, served as the living quarters for the 'karaağalar,' attendants responsible for the safety of the sultan and his family. The restoration of this hidden area of Topkapı Palace took more than ten years. Speaking to the state-run Anadolu Agency about the history and restoration of the palace's cat door, Topkapı Palace Department Head İlhan Kocaman noted that the Karaağalar Ward has a significant place in the social and daily life of the palace. Kocaman explained that the Karaağalar were part of the palace staff and attendants. 'Female attendants were called cariye and male attendants were known as Karaağalar or Zülüflü Baltacılar. The Karaağalar practice, also seen in different societies during the Ottoman period, continued in the Topkapı Palace. It functioned as a lasting service unit,' he said. Kocaman added that when the Directorate of National Palaces took over Topkapı Palace in 2019, restoration work was quickly completed, including the Karaağalar Ward, which was restored to its historical state with original artifacts replaced for visitors.

A door designed for cats - Kocaman emphasized that pets were an integral part of the palace and roamed freely within it. Cats, in particular, held a special place. 'As a sign of compassion and mercy, these animals were welcomed inside. People took them with them and the relationship between humans and pets can be clearly seen here. A small door under the main door was created so cats could enter and exit easily. The Darüssaade Ağası held the highest rank among the Karaağalar. The rooms connected to the cat door were used by attendants of a lower rank before the Darüssaade Ağası. These rooms were also used by attendants who brought their pets with them,' he said.

Kocaman noted that pets were part of social life in the Ottoman period, as depicted in historical sources and miniatures. 'There were also deer water troughs in the second courtyard. Beyond domestic animals, we know that other animals were kept here as well. The ancestors prepared the necessary infrastructure for them, and these areas are open to visitors,' he added.

Kocaman stated that the restoration of the cat door on the second floor of the Karaağalar Ward has been completed. While the ground floor is open to visitors, the second floor is not yet accessible. Other floors will gradually open over time. 'We cannot always open certain areas of the palace due to the historic structure; there are certain challenges. Due to the narrow stairs, we can only admit a limited number of visitors to the upper floors,' he explained. The cat Mülayim, who lived in Topkapı Palace for many years and had been missing for three years, frequently used the cat door in the ward. Today, Şerbet and other cats continue to pass through it. 'Pets may leave certain areas at times, but their place is always taken by others. Our staff takes care of the cats in the courtyards, and they live comfortably here. We want to show this practice of our ancestors here, and we believe it will attract interest,' Kocaman said.

www.hurriyetdailynews.com, October 2025

Cat Commandments

- ◇ Leave the door open, you don't need privacy in the toilet.
- ◇ Bed making will always include at least one cat jumping on the bed to 'help'.
- ◇ After sleeping, changing the sleep position will not be tolerated.
- ◇ If you do anything to my poop box, I must immediately rechristen it.
- ◇ Clean laundry will be considered as a bed.
- ◇ We will climb up your curtains and ruin them.



www.demilked.com

Quiz Answers: page 7
5 - 30 mph
4 - 38
3 - Issac Newton
2 - 66%
1 - True

One of the ways in which cats show happiness is by sleeping.

Cleveland Amory (1917-1998)



The Supreme Show 2025



The 2025 Supreme Show was held on the 7th of December in Ballinteer Community School.

The show was scheduled to be held on the 12th of October the usual time since SABCCI and the Supreme switched dates. It became very apparent when time was getting closer and not being able to secure judges we had no choice but to move to a different date. The only date available for the hall and the penning company was the 8th of December.

There was hope for Christmas Market stalls but when seeking stalls they were already booked for other Markets. Entries were low but eventually came in at 75 cats in show plus 6 in exhibition. A crowd drawer in exhibition was the fairly new breed, the Lykoi, also known as 'The Werewolf Cat'.

We would like to thank our sponsors - Royal Canin, June's Bedding and Ballinteer Community School also our exhibitors with their beautiful cats.

Carmel & Gloria, Show Managers

Best of Variety Winners

Section 1

Adult – Mrs C & Miss S Caughey's Hinchkitz Middlemist Red (Persian)

Section 2

Adult – Dr C Wagner's Sup GrCh & Int Ch Friendlyghosts Falkor (Maine Coon)

Kitten – Miss E Carroll's Ellclaracats Theoden (Ragdoll)

Neuter – Dr C Wagner's Sup Ib, HibGrPr & Itl GrPr Ishcus Quevaga (Maine Coon)

Section 3

Adult – Mrs A R Richardson's Celticmoonpaws Cleo (British Shorthair)

Kitten – Mrs M Mckernan's Cocobrownie Bounty Hunter (British Shorthair)

Neuter – Mrs C Wren's Ch & Sup GrPr Delphinium Summer-Morning (British Shorthair)

Section 4

Adult – Mrs C Fleming's Hollyanas Beyondthemoon of Lynavids (Bengal)

Section 5

Adult – Mr S Redmond's Int Ch Joyeux Jewel (Asian)

Neuter – Miss A French's Pr Templebar Fabulous Thunderbird (Aisan)

Section 6

Neuter – Ms I Smidta's Int Ch Shagio-Chen Kesar Mango (Oriental)

Best In Show

Adult - Mrs A R Richardson's Celticmoonpaws Cleo (British Shorthair)

Kitten - Miss E Carroll's Ellclaracats Theoden (Ragdoll)

Neuter - Mrs C Wren's Ch & Sup GrPr Delphinium Summer-Morning (British Shorthair)

Overall Best In Show

Mrs A R Richardson's Celticmoonpaws Cleo (British Shorthair)

Overall Best In Show Reserve

Mrs C Wren's Ch & Sup GrPr Delphinium Summer-Morning (British Shorthair)

Overall Best In Show Non-Pedigree

Dr A Quinn's Nuada

Overall Best In Show Pedigree Pet

Mrs J A S Collins' Sally Anne



The Quiz



- 1 A cat was launched into space many moons ago.
- 2 Cats spend how much of their lives sleeping?
- 3 Who invented the cat door?
- 4 The oldest cat to ever live was how old?
- 5 A house cat can reach speeds of up to how many mph?

<http://catsofcapetown.com>

Answers on page 5

How Many Cats Does it Take to Change a Light Bulb?

American Bobtail: - I'll bounce up there & do it.

Feral cats: - HISSSSSS! Spat Growl! Drop the food and walk away slowly, You can do it yourself when I'm done eating!

Japanese Bobtail: - I can jump higher than U can.

Manx: -That's a snap - Watch me jump.



www.petplace.co

Poppy - (see her picture on page 8)

Meet Poppy, one of our followers (Poppy and Figaro De Birman) cats, who came to our attention for a very unusual reason.

For the past nine years, she has faithfully watched BBC Strictly and Dancing with the Stars, never missing an episode. The moment the theme tune starts, she comes running to her spot, ready for the show to begin.

What began as a funny habit has become a full-blown tradition. Poppy has been photographed every single night she's watched, and friends and neighbours now look forward to their weekly photo of her settling in to enjoy the dancing.

Surely with commitment like this, she deserves a guest appearance on the show? Your Cat, Facebook.

Poppy's human is Aedamair Kiely, SABCCI member & committee member

Cat Idioms - 'There's A Locked-up Cat Here'

If you've ever had to wrestle a cat into a carrier, you know just how dangerous a cornered feline can be. Next time you have suspicions about a situation, instead of saying there's 'something fishy going on' take a cue from the Spanish phrase 'aquí hay gato encerrado' www.mentalfloss.com



No 10 Downing Street's Larry

Leaders Come And Go
But Larry Remains.

Facebook

Always
kiss your
CAT GOODNIGHT

How To Annoy Your Cat

Play together for one minute just to get your cat wound up. Then stop and do something else.

100 Fun Ways to Annoy Your Cat by Jim Erskine



Famous Cat Lovers - Winston Churchill



During World War Two PM Winston Churchill kept an adopted stray black cat called Nelson at No10, which sat in on cabinet meetings. Once, frustrated by a colleague, Winnie told him that Nelson was doing more than he was for the war effort, by acting as the premier's 'hot water bottle', so saving fuel. The US even sent Nelson supplies of catnip.

www.dailystar.co.uk, Photo: wikipedia.org

Live Like A Cat

Remember, a well-timed meow can often open more doors than a bark.

<https://sandjest.com>



[Patreon.com/ScottMetzgerCartoons](https://patreon.com/ScottMetzgerCartoons)

METZGER

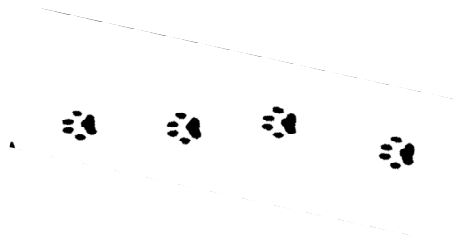
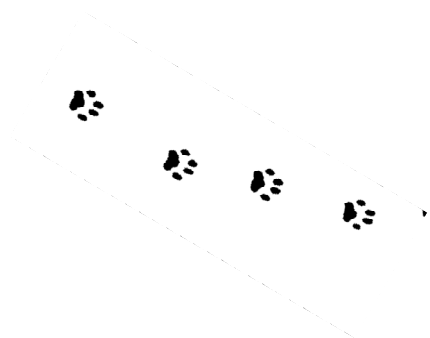
The Catwalk



Poppy -
I am busy right now watching my favourite Program.
Read about me on page 7.
A. Kiely, Dublin



Lola -
Don't disturb me I'm busy.
J. Collins, Dublin



Yuri -
What do you mean it isn't dinner time yet?
K. Sluiters, Dublin



Marvin -
You don't say, she did that!
B. Roberts, Dublin

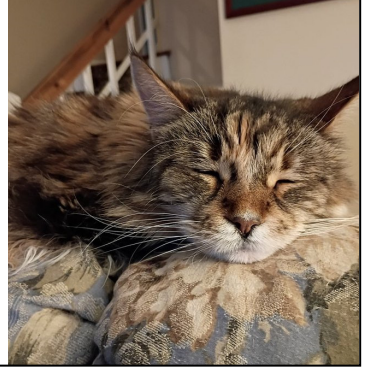


The Catwalk

Boo -

I'm with Lola on that.

J. Rosse, USA



Freddy -

Living life in the slow lane.

R. Smith, Meath



Bangkok Nights -



D. Buckley, Cork



Students Improve Skills By Reading To Rescued Cats

Students from a Guernsey secondary school are practising their literacy skills by reading to cats at the island's animal shelter.

Les Beaucamps pupils read to the cat Mr B, who was found as a stray with high blood pressure which led to him losing his sight.

Student Neva said: 'It's been wonderful, he's been very calm and he's been purring.' Lisa Harvey, inclusivity manager at Beaucamps, said: 'The reading out loud really helps with their fluency, it also really helps with their social communication and interaction skills.'

Anna Paint, head of the cattery at the GSPCA said there are benefits for the cats as well as the students. 'The cats tend to quite enjoy it, they normally all come to the front of the pens and they sit quite quietly,' she said. 'So, Mr B, even though he is blind he can still hear so he enjoys having socials with the children. And its the tone of voice as well, so when they're reading the tone is sort of quite quiet and very relaxing and peaceful.'

Harvey said the idea came from another type of animal therapy the school uses. 'We have a wag therapy dog that comes throughout the week and that was really successful so we've kind of expanded on that and then they come and read with the cats which has proven really successful.' www.bbc.com, H Whitehead, Guernsey Photo: BBC, March 2026

The Godfather's Cat: A Furry Accident That Made Film History

It's one of the most quietly menacing openings in film history: Vito Corleone (Marlon Brando), flanked by shadows and family, sits in his office on his daughter's wedding day, casually stroking a cat as he calmly discusses murder. The soft purring contrasts sharply with the words spilling out of his mouth - talk of justice, loyalty, and violent payback. It's hypnotic, and oddly domestic. A mafia boss petting a cat while arranging a hit? That image stuck.

What most people don't realize about this scene from *The Godfather* is that the cat wasn't in the script. It wasn't blocked, choreographed, or even planned. The now-iconic feline was a total fluke - a stray that director Francis Ford Coppola found wandering the Paramount Studios lot. He handed it to Brando right before the cameras rolled, without warning or explanation. The result? An unscripted moment that became one of the most unforgettable visual metaphors in movie history.

It's tempting to call this a stroke of genius, but it was closer to chaos disguised as brilliance. From unexpected sound issues to a last-minute creative impulse, this scene was built on a foundation of improvisation. And somehow, that mess became myth.

What could've thrown the whole scene off instead made it come alive. Brando, who had a soft spot for animals, took to the cat immediately. He stroked it gently throughout the take, never breaking character. The way he handled the cat was so effortless, it looked like it had always been written that way. It hadn't. It was just Brando being Brando with a side of fur.

The Director's Improvisation - Coppola didn't add the cat for cuteness. He wanted contrast. The cat gave the Don a strange sense of warmth - an image that played directly against the coldness of what he was saying. It softened the man, visually, while his words stayed sharp. The contrast made the moment creepier, not kinder. It created a visual contradiction: a killer with a kitten. www.nofilmschool.com, V Wagh, October 2025 Photo:



Man Ordered To Pay Ex-Wife Hundreds Of Pounds A Year For 'Cat Support' In Divorce Ruling

A man in Turkey has been ordered have to pay his ex-wife £180 every three months for the care of her two cats as part of a divorce settlement.

A family court in Istanbul has ruled that financial support and care arrangements for the couple's pets will be part of their settlement agreement in a rare case which may serve as a precedent for future divorce agreements involving animals.

Bugra B. will pay 10,000 Turkish Liras every three months - or £180 a year - for up to ten years for the care of the two cats he shared with his wife Ezgi B, local media reports. The cats are expected to live with his ex and the payments will increase annually in line with the Consumer Price Index, according to the *Turkiye Times*.

The couple filed for divorce after two years of marriage due to 'severe incompatibility', according to local media. As well as financial support for their two cats, the ex-husband will also have to pay his former partner 550,000 Liras, or around £10,000.

Pets are considered moveable property under Turkish law. Recent rulings have allowed courts to approve agreements regarding the custody, care, and financial support of animals following divorce. This case is notable as it established structured, long-term financial support for pets.

The Turkish couple's unusual arrangement comes after a husband and wife sought divorce in India because their pet dog and cat cannot get along.

The pair, who tied the knot in December 2024, underwent court-mandated counselling and has filed for a legal separation, counsellors said, according to reports. The couple had initially bonded over their love of animals before it all went wrong. During counselling sessions, the wife alleged that her husband's dog repeatedly disturbs and has even attacked her cat, leaving her anxious about its safety. She described the situation as 'unbearable'. www.independent.co.uk, B. Gooch, November 2025

Johnny Depp & Rod Stewart Raise \$300,00 For Cat Rescue

Johnny Depp and Rod Stewart teamed up to perform for a private benefit concert aimed at raising \$300,000 for Celia Hammond's cat and kitten rescue.

The fundraising initiative took place back in February 2024, when singer Rod Stewart and Hollywood icon Johnny Depp performed a memorable set in London. The legendary duo played some of Stewart's greatest hits, such as Maggie May, Forever Young, and The First Cut is the Deepest.

Sixties supermodel Celia, now 81, hosted the evening at the luxury Ned Hotel in Bank, with attendees bidding for a ticket last June at Mark Aldridge's Teddy Bear's Picnic event.

The cat charity was set up by the 1960s supermodel nearly 40 years ago to both provide care for cats and kittens and also offer neutering to cat and dog owners to help keep numbers down in a humane way.

Celia's devotion and commitment to protecting vulnerable and neglected animals is beyond admirable,' Depp told media at the event. 'I'm so glad to be part of the evening's success, and with the added bonus of playing alongside my friend, Sir Rod Stewart.'

As for Sir Rod, he 'couldn't be happier' to help raise awareness and funds for the vital work that the Celia Hammond Animal Trust charity does for vulnerable and unwanted animals. 'I'm thrilled to perform at this most intimate event this weekend with fellow musician, Johnny Depp.' Depp, 61, and Sir Rod, 80, previously joined forces to perform at two concerts in memory of legendary rock guitarist Jeff Beck – who dated Hammond – at the Royal Albert Hall in May 2023. Rod Stewart remained friendly with Hammond and even became a patron of one of her animal shelters as part of the Celia Hammond Animal Trust.

Rod Stewart is well known for his support for a number of good causes, with his 2016 knighthood being in recognition of his services to both music and charity.

The \$300,000 raised will be used to help sick or injured animals whose owners can't afford to treat them, or do not qualify for help from major charities. The former supermodel said: 'I cannot thank Sir Rod Stewart and Johnny Depp enough and of course, Mark Aldridge for creating such a magical experience for us. 'We are blown away by the support we have received which was desperately needed for us to continue our important animal rescue work.'

It's light years from her modelling days, when she travelled the world with fellow beauties Jean Shrimpton and Twiggy. Hammond has dedicated the last four decades to raising money and caring for unwanted, abandoned, stray, and feral cats, a remarkable achievement that reflects his unwavering commitment to animal welfare and compassion for those in need.

<https://catsofcapetown>, 2026 Photo: Facebook



Moment Owner Realizes Cat Has Been Spending 'A Bit Too Much Time' With Dog



A Nebraska farmer has told Newsweek of an unlikely friendship after sharing footage online of the moment she realized the farm cat was spending 'a bit too much time' with the Labrador retriever.

The term 'copycat' couldn't have less to do with our feline friends. Its origins date back to 19th-century Maine as a term given to someone initiating or copying the work or actions of others. However, felines are more than capable of being copycats themselves. In 2021, a study published in the journal *Animal Cognition* detailed an experiment in which a feline was trained to reproduce a small set of human-demonstrated actions on the command 'do it.' The cat involved in the experiment learned these actions by watching their human companion do them and replicating that. Over 16 trials, the feline was able to copy her owner successfully over 80 percent of the time. Their ability to do so spoke to not only their intelligence as a species but also the bond they enjoyed with their human companion.

A similar story appears to be playing out at Griebel Farms, a fifth-generation family farm located in Nebraska, where Charlie the orange cat has become a social-media sensation. But Charlie's online

fame isn't down to any of his feline behaviour. That is because, as a video posted to the farm's TikTok @griebel.farms shows, lately he hasn't been acting much like a cat. Andi Griebel, who is part of the family that runs the farm, told Newsweek that Charlie is a relative newcomer to life there. 'Charlie the orange cat joined the farm this winter, so he's a new member to the crew,' she said. 'He's very outgoing.'

That outgoing nature has seen him strike up a sweet bond with one of the farm dogs, Basil. 'Basil, our English Lab, is very friendly with all of the farm cats,' Griebel said. 'It's just a matter of which cats will be friendly back to her.'

It was only recently, however, that Griebel realized just how much of an impression Basil had made on Charlie. One day on the farm, she spotted Charlie doing something entirely unexpected: wagging his tail like a dog. 'We noticed Charlie wagging his tail probably once it got nice out, and he was able to run around more with Basil,' Griebel said.

Eager to share the moment, she filmed Charlie's unusual tail wagging and uploaded the clip to TikTok.

www.newsweek.com, J Beresford, April 2025 Photo:TikTok@griebelfarms

Cats are connoisseurs of comfort but experts in chaos.

Kansas Firefighters Rescue Chubby Cat Trapped In Massive Recliner While Trying To Hide From The Vet

A fat cat was nearly devoured by an unforgiving reclining chair as it desperately tried to evade its owner and got stuck ahead of an annual visit to the vet - forcing rescuing firefighters to destroy the lounge.

The Garfield lookalike summoned all its strength to avoid its owner ahead of a trip to the veterinarian on Saturday, when it somehow managed to wedge itself in the metal base of a mechanical recliner - which was full of sharp springs and hinges, photos shared by the Overland Park Police Department show.

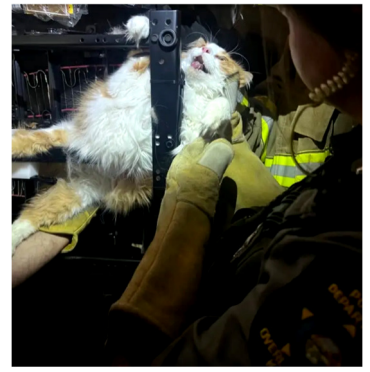
It appeared to be mewling for help while one firefighter cradled its hind legs and another tended to one front paw. The pussycat then clung to the metal grate with its other paw, not daring to take its beady eyes off a screwdriver in the firefighter's hand. The cat's pudgy belly, jutted out as the recliner's leg threatened to crush its chest. Firefighters had to saw the chair in half to free the feline with assistance from animal control. Police assured that, once the cat was safe, it 'arrived to the vet for its annual checkup.'

Feline fanatics weren't surprised by the orange cat's brainless bolt for freedom. 'Glad the kitty was safe!!! They will do anything to avoid a visit to the vet!!!!' one woman commented on the police department's Instagram post. 'Anyone who has an orange cat knows this is just standard #oneorangebraincell life,' another added. 'RIP mechanical recliner,' one user mourned.

In 2024, a 38-pound rescue cat named Crumbs got stuck in a shoe rack while trying to break out of fat camp.

In the viral snapshot of Crumbs' ignominy, it laid face-down in a blue Croc shoe while its bulbous belly hung between the slots in the rack.

<https://nypost.com>, C. McCormack, March 2026, Photo: Overland Park Police/Instagram



Italian Cat Takes Gifts to Owner's Grave

The story of a cat that visits his late owner's grave daily has made the headlines in Italy. The 'Corriere Fiorentino' reports that a three-year-old, grey and white tomcat, Toldo, takes presents to the graveside of his former owner, Renzo Iozzelli, in Montagnana, Tuscany (Pistoia). The cat visits the grave with what Renzo's widow, Ada, has told the press are presents, including plastic cups, twigs, paper handkerchiefs, leaves and toothpicks. Toldo leaves his gifts on Renzo's tombstone.

Renzo died on 22 September, 2011, aged 71. Renzo was very close to Toldo, who he had saved from a colony of feral cats when Toldo was just a three-month-old kitten. Such is Toldo's loyalty to Renzo, and his grief, that the cat followed Renzo's funeral procession to the cemetery. Ada said that Toldo showed he missed his beloved master immediately. She told the 'Corriere Fiorentino' that the day after the funeral she went to the cemetery with her daughter and found a sprig of acacia on her husband's tomb. Ada said: 'Straightaway I thought that it was the cat, but my daughter was convinced that I said so because of the emotional state I was in then. And that's not all. In the evening, my son-in-law went to the cemetery and found Toldo right there standing 'guard' over his master.'

Locals have become used to seeing Toldo prowling around the cemetery where Renzo is laid to rest and the cat has been spotted sitting on Renzo's tombstone. The heartwarming true story shows that a cat can be man's best friend just as much as dog.

www.italymagazine.com, C. King, July 2013. Photo: website

What Psychology Says About People Who Love Cats

They say a dog is a man's best friend, but for many, cats offer a different kind of companionship - one that deeply resonates on a personal level. If you find yourself drawn to feline friends, you might have noticed how these animals quietly fit into your space, offering companionship without overwhelming. But what does psychology say about those who love cats? As it turns out, these animal lovers often share some distinctive personality traits and emotional tendencies.



For years, psychologists and researchers have explored why cats form such a close and meaningful bond with their owners. These connections often reflect something deeper, revealing aspects of personality and emotional life that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Independence and empathy in cat lovers

One of the first things psychologists notice is that people who love cats tend to value independence both in themselves and in others. Cats are famously autonomous creatures, and those who appreciate that quality often have a strong respect for their own space and that of those around them. It's no coincidence that many cat lovers seek relationships that don't demand constant attention or emotional energy.

But it's not just about wanting space. Research shows that cat lovers are often more empathetic and sensitive to the feelings of others. They can pick up on emotional cues, sensing when someone is off or in need of comfort. Cats themselves respond to these emotional vibrations, creating a bond that feels both subtle and deep. I remember a close friend who always seemed to have a calming presence, especially during tough times. She said she never needed to say much; her cat's quiet company was enough to make her feel understood and supported. That kind of intuitive connection reflects the special empathy many cat enthusiasts share.

Continued on next page

Seeking calm and peaceful environments

One hallmark of many cat lovers is a preference for tranquillity. Cats are known for their calm demeanour, spending hours lounging in quiet corners with an air of serene detachment. For people drawn to them, this often mirrors a desire to escape the noise and chaos of everyday life.

Stressful, loud, or chaotic environments can feel overwhelming to those who cherish peace. Having a cat nearby - an animal that doesn't require nonstop attention but offers comfort when needed - provides a soothing refuge. This companionship encourages moments of stillness and calm, which research shows can significantly lower stress levels and improve emotional well-being.

When I first moved into a noisy, bustling apartment complex, adopting a cat was one of the best decisions I ever made. That soft purring in the quiet moments helped me carve out a daily oasis amid the noise. It's no wonder that people who love cats often seek quieter spaces and value peaceful living.

Curiosity and openness to new experiences

Maybe one of the most surprising insights about cat lovers is their curiosity and affinity for mystery. Cats are naturally inquisitive creatures, exploring hidden corners and unknown spaces with a playful spirit. People who relate to these animals often share this trait, delighting in new ideas and experiences that challenge their thinking.

Psychologists note that cat enthusiasts tend to be more open to diverse experiences and less afraid of the uncertain or unknown. This love for mystery can fuel creativity and foster a unique willingness to see the world through different eyes.

Have you ever noticed how a cat's every move seems connected to some silent story only they know? Those who love cats often find themselves drawn to puzzles, books, or conversations that open new doors - much like a cat slipping through a barely open door into an undiscovered room.

Interestingly, studies also find that people who love cats often maintain lower stress levels and better emotional regulation. Stroking a cat can release oxytocin, the so-called hormone of happiness, helping cat owners stay calm and handle emotional ups and downs with greater ease.

This combination of calm, curiosity, and empathy creates a special kind of personality often associated with cat lovers. They don't just appreciate a pet; they connect with the animal in a way that reflects their inner world.

www.cmu.fr, Arnaud Walter, June 2025

Amsterdam Is Building Tiny Staircases To Help Cats Exit Its Canals

Amsterdam has allocated up to €100,000 to install steps along city centre canals to help cats out of the water. The tiny wooden staircases aim to save felines and other animals from drowning in areas with high walls. According to animal welfare organisation Dierenambulance Amsterdam, 19 cats have drowned in the city's canals in the last six months – six of them in the city centre.

Judith Krom from the Party for the Animals (PvdD) proposed that Amsterdam spend an unused €100,000 fund found in the city's biodiversity plan to fund the wildlife exit points. Councillor for animal welfare Zita Pels had already supported the plan but had previously noted that 'funding was lacking', said PvdD. On 10 July, the Amsterdam City Council voted in favour of Krom's motion. Krom said: 'A simple measure can prevent enormous animal suffering. The adopted motion demonstrates that as a city, we take responsibility for protecting the lives of animals.'



The Dutch capital will work with Dierenambulance to identify areas where cats are most likely to drown before the small animal escape routes are installed. Steps will then be built at the highest-risk locations later this year to help cats safely climb back onto the shore.

It's not the only city taking steps to improve canal safety for animals. In June, Amersfoort, a nearby city in the Netherlands, announced the construction of around 300 cat traps along its quays and canals this year. Amersfoort councillor Johnas van Lammeren said: 'Unfortunately, animals that end up in water in areas with high quays or quay walls can't get out and drown. Together with the animal ambulance, a research agency, and residents from Vathorst and other areas, we've mapped out where cat traps are needed. We'll be installing hundreds of them in the coming period, preventing a great deal of animal suffering.'

The municipality plans to install approximately 300 cat stairs per year as part of an animal welfare sub-environmental program that the municipal council adopted in 2024.

www.independent.co.uk, N. Wison, August 2025 Photo: Facebook - Thingsyou don't know

Cat Proverbs

- **If you want to know the character of a man, find out what his cat thinks of him.**

As the proverb suggests, the cat is the shrewd judge of character. They are not easily fooled and can see past outer pretence.

- * **A cat makes all the difference between coming home to an empty house and coming home.**

This proverb is true. You are never alone once a cat moves in. A cat makes all the difference between coming home to an empty house and coming home.



Health (Human) –

Forget Dogs & Birds - This Is The Ideal Stress-Relieving Pet For Seniors Over 65

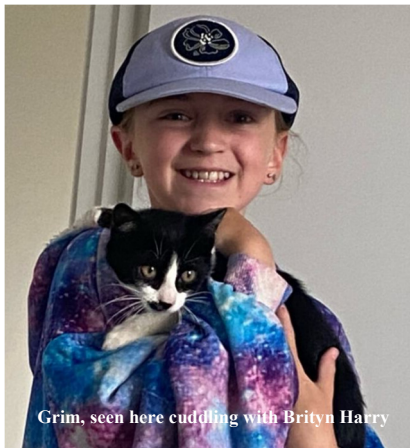
Looking for the perfect pet to help reduce stress after 65? You might be surprised - neither dogs nor birds take the top spot. For many seniors, one special pet offers the right balance of comfort, calm, and companionship without demanding too much energy or care.



Why cats are a top pet choice for senior.

- Cats often shine as the ideal companion for people over 65 looking to reduce stress and add a lovable presence to their day. Their quiet, affectionate nature combined with relative independence makes them perfect for seniors with limited mobility or lower energy levels.
- Unlike dogs, cats don't need daily walks or hours of playtime, allowing you to enjoy their company without feeling overwhelmed by responsibilities. Just petting a cat or listening to its purr can lower anxiety and promote a sense of well-being.
- Scientific studies confirm that regularly interacting with cats helps regulate mood and reduce symptoms of depression. Having a cat around provides comfort and structure, especially for those adjusting to life changes, like retirement or losing a spouse.
- Feeding, grooming, and caring for a cat offers a simple routine that can give seniors a renewed sense of purpose each day. Far from overwhelming, these small tasks help keep loneliness at bay and foster emotional connection.

It's important to remember that cats have individual personalities. Breeds such as the Ragdoll, Persian, and Birman are particularly known for their gentle and calm temperament, making them excellent companions for older adults. Every cat is unique, so spending time with a few before adopting is always wise. www.cmu.fr. C. Chauveaud. August 2025



Grim, seen here cuddling with Brityn Hurry

Stowaway Italian Kitten Finds Forever Home In Nova Scotia After Transatlantic Voyage

A furry whiskered stowaway has survived an unlikely trip across the Atlantic and is now safe in a Nova Scotia home. The kitten, now known as Grim, was discovered aboard the Grimaldi Grande Congo - a Ro-Ro vessel carrying Fiat vehicles from Savona, Italy, to the Autoport in Halifax.

Master Sailor Mike Hurry, a member of the navy working alongside Canadian Border Services Agency officers, was part of a team that searched the ship on June 25. The mission got a little hairy when they learned the crew had reported a stray on board. 'We kind of made it our mission to find the cat and safely get it on the shore,' Hurry said.

He said the search ended successfully when some other officers found the black and white fluffball cowering under a lifeboat. Hurry said the the ship's crew were kind to their uninvited guest, but were unable to take it inside because of health and safety

concerns. He said the crew tried to feed the cat in a very Italian way. 'Believe it or not, I was talking to one of the crew members and they were feeding him little bowls of pasta,' Hurry chuckled.

The ship's captain was determined to find the stowaway a good home in Canada. After a brief stay with the ship's agent, Hurry and his wife decided to make the kitten a part of their family of three kids, a Saint Bernard dog and another cat. 'When I told the kids we were bringing the cat home, they were over the moon,' he said. 'It was hilarious.' The family officially adopted the kitten on June 28, when he is estimated to have been about eight weeks old.

Hurry said little Grim was initially extremely skittish. But after a bath to remove the grease and oil covering his fur, and some acclimatizing, he's settled into domestic life perfectly. 'We couldn't even get within arms reach of him,' Hurry said. 'But now the cat sleeps with us and we can pet it and he's totally warmed up to the family.'

As for naming the cat, the family felt an Italian name was appropriate and eventually settled on Grim, a truncated version of Grimaldi - the shipping line whose vessel he was found on. Hurry said his father prefers Fiat.

Grim's days of hiding under lifeboats are now over and he is a legal Canadian resident with vaccinations from Eastern Passage Veterinary Hospital. Hurry thinks it was all a happy accident that meant the kitten in the right place at the right time. 'It was just so out of the blue.... It just so happened everything lined up. And now we have a great cat in our in our family.'

www.cbc.ca, V. Ramesar, September 2025 Photo: Mike Hurry

The Ancient Egyptians

- Egyptians revered the cat goddess Bastet (or Bast), also known as Sekhmet. As Bastet she was protective, but as Sekhmet she was bloodthirsty and believed to be responsible for the plague. These two incarnations represented the two faces of the sun: Bastet embodied the warming, life-giving properties of the sun; Sekhmet the destructive, searing heat. Followers of Bastet made her offerings of mummified cats and bronze effigies of herself. Her cult lasted for over 1000 years

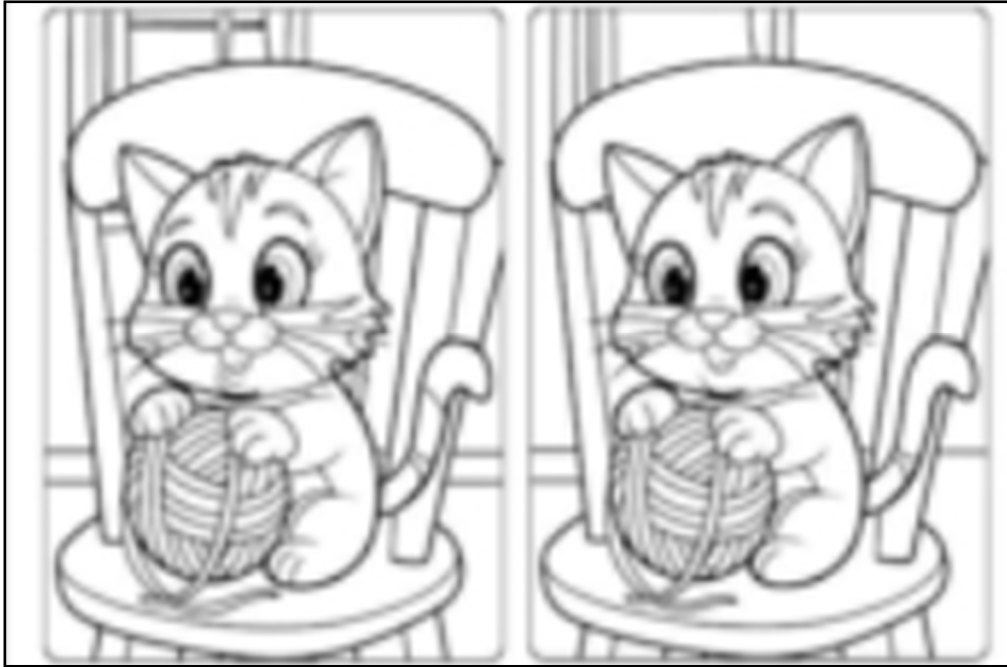
- Thou art the Great Cat, the avenger of the Gods, and the judge of words, and the president of the sovereign chiefs and the governor of the Holy Circle: thou art indeed the Great Cat.

Inscription on the royal tomb at Thebes, Ancient Egypt





KIT'S KORNER



Spot The Difference

The Final Miaow

As you can see we have come to the last page of our newsletter and we hope you found it interesting and enjoyable. Many thanks to everyone who sent us material and photos for the **CATWALK**. We can always do with more photographs and stories, so please keep sending them in. *Stay Safe.* Karen & Gloria ^..^

Jim Stephens, Companion Behaviour Counsellor, will be back for the next issue of The Scratching Post

Cat 'Arrested' With Mugshot Taken For Attacking Thai Police During Rescue, Amusing Netizens

A cat in Thailand was 'arrested' and had a mugshot taken after repeatedly attacking police officers following its rescue and subsequent arrival at a police station, amusing countless netizens across the internet. On May 9, a Bangkok police officer known online as Da Parinda Pakeesuk shared the tale of an unusual 'offender' - a lost American Shorthair cat brought in by a citizen.

Officer Pakeesuk warmly welcomed the feline into the station and took care of it. Clad in a cute pink harness, the spirited little cat scratched and bit several on-duty officers, revealing her feisty personality. 'This cat has been charged with assaulting police officers and is about to be detained. Please share this post so her owner can come and bail her out,' Pakeesuk wrote in a lighthearted post.

Later that evening, he took the cat home for the night and posted an endearing photo of her perched in his car. One observer humorously noted: 'That cat looks like she is frowning. She does not seem too grateful for her rescue. 'Hey kitty, without this officer, you would be homeless right now!' another online user quipped. Pakeesuk mentioned that he had already prepared a cosy set-up of food, litter, and toys for his unexpected guest. 'She is living her best life, while the police are the true victims,' Pakeesuk joked playfully.

Dozens of eager netizens expressed interest in adopting the cat, but Pakeesuk emphasised that the priority was finding her rightful owner. 'If you truly love cats, feel free to adopt one of the many strays at my home, or from a local shelter,' he suggested. A passionate animal-lover, Pakeesuk has reportedly rescued 20 stray cats and six dogs over time.

A day later, the owner reached out to the police station. According to the Thai media outlet Khaosod English, the cat is named Nub Tang, which translates to 'counting money'. In a celebration of her return, the owner adorned her with a delicate lace collar at the police station. Pakeesuk then humorously drafted a playful police report in the cat's persona, stating: 'I was just hungry. I did not mean to bite anyone.' Nub Tang 'signed' the report with two adorable paw prints and even posed for a mugshot.

Pakeesuk issued her a verbal warning, advising her to behave, and then happily relinquished her to her owner. No fines were imposed, he noted, but he expressed hope that Nub Tang had learned an important lesson. 'This case must be handled properly. We cannot have other cats thinking that biting people is acceptable,' Pakeesuk added with a smile. Before releasing the cat, an officer followed protocol by recording the paw prints of the 'little' suspect adding a touch of humour to the situation.



The story quickly went viral on social media platforms. 'This is the cutest 'crime' I have ever seen,' one user commented. Another chimed in: 'This officer is both kind and humorous.' 'I showed this case to my two cats. Hopefully, they will take it as a warning not to scratch my sofa or chew my computer cables,' joked a third user.

www.scmp.com, Z. Zhang, May 2025, Photos: P Y Pakeesuk/Facebook

Thieving Cat Who Raided Woman's Kitchen Sent Packing With Post-It Message For Owner



A thieving moggy who raided a woman's kitchen in Cork this week was sent packing with a message for his owner on a Post-it note stuck to his collar: 'You owe me a chicken.' It wasn't the cat burglar's first time in Siobhan Ní Chorcráin's home, and his penchant for ham, chicken and salmon drove her to take the unusual step of sending a note home addressed to his owners. She also shared a photograph of the feline offender on a lost pets page on Facebook, appealing to those responsible to 'please come get your cat' after his latest raid on her kitchen.

When she checked his collar, Ms Ní Chorcráin found a tag that read: 'Don't worry, I'll get home safe.' She was less worried about his safety and more concerned about her food, however, and

reported on social media that the cat had munched his way through a chicken worth €7.99 and ham costing €2.69. 'I'll let you know about the salmon,' she added. She got a Post-it note and penned a message for the owner of the rambling rascal. 'You also owe me a chicken,' she wrote. On the back, she added: 'Ham as well.' Ms Ní Chorcráin stuck the note to the tracker on the cat's collar.

Her post got a big reaction on social media, with one individual claiming that they spotted the same cat scavenging outside a filling station in Blackpool, Co Cork, sharing a photo of him climbing out of a bin. Others offered unsolicited advice, including one woman who suggested that the best way to stop the moggy from stealing her chicken may be to feed him a bowl of chicken, so he might 'eat and leave'. One person explained that the tracking collar was probably dead and needed to be charged. Another recognised the cat and said he regularly calls to their house as well. They spotted Ms Ní Chorcráin's note on his collar during his last visit. 'He's a bit of a celebrity now,' another woman wrote on Facebook, adding that the same cat had also stolen her chicken.

Others entered a heated debate over whether the cat should be offered food or sprayed with water when it comes near people's houses, while some people blamed Ms Ní Chorcráin for leaving her door open for the crafty kitty.

www.independent.ie, D. McDonagh, February 2026, Photo: Facebook/Siobhan NiChorcrain/Munster Pets Lost & Found