



Southern Africa Cat Council eNews

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HELLO AGAIN

There have been some wonderful shows this year and great excitement waiting to see which cats have qualified for our COTY event on 25th July in Cape Town.

The final show countrywide took place in Gauteng on the 27th June. The show manager pulled out all the stops and gave the Gauteng scorekeepers the required information in record time.

Gauteng shows also affect the scorekeepers from KZN and Kimberley because of a shared exhibitor base, so I hectic weekend was had by three lots of scorekeepers in order to ensure that the WPCC

Team got all the information before the 3rd July.

All qualifiers have been notified and are getting organized to attend COTY, hopefully the travelling part is going to be within everyone's budget. We have the day to day uncertainty of oil prices, sanctions plus the USA versus Iran saga and the ongoing Russia/Ukraine war- all of which impact our country and, unfortunately our hobby which involves travel for many of our exhibitors.

COTY is the highlight of the show season and should be enjoyed by all. Have a great COTY 2026!

WINNERS 2025

CAT of the Year
NEUTER of the Year

TRES JOLIE
JON SNOW
Gail Chirnside

ENTIRE of the Year

INCATIQUE
PAW MEWMAN
Ingrid de Wet

KITTEN of the Year

PEARL
TINKERBELLE
Penny Steyn

PET of the Year

PEARL
OOPSIE DAISY
Penny Steyn

2026

Will your cat be the 2026 COTY or Entire of the Year or Neuter of the Year or Kitten of the Year or Pet of the Year? By the 25th of July you will know!

Cancer Link between Cats and Humans

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2026/05/260523103943.htm>

The surprising cancer link between cats and humans *Date: March 18, 2026*

Scientists have mapped the genetics of cancer in cats for the first time at scale, uncovering major overlaps with human cancers. Key mutations—like those linked to breast cancer—appear in both species, and some human cancer drugs may also work in cats. Because pets share our environments, these similarities could reveal shared causes of cancer. The research could lead to new treatments that benefit both animals and humans. *Welcome Trust Sanger Institute.*

Cats and humans may share more than companionship—their cancers could be driven by the same genes, opening new paths to treatment. The first large-scale analysis of multiple cancer types in cats has uncovered genetic changes that may help guide new treatments for both animals and people.

Researchers examined tumors from nearly 500 pet cats across five countries. The work involved scientists from the Wellcome Sanger Institute, the Ontario Veterinary College in Canada, the University of Bern, and other collaborators. By studying these samples, the team identified key genetic alterations that drive cancer in cats and found that many of these changes closely resemble those seen in human cancers.

Environmental Risks and Genetic Overlap

Cats often share the same living environments as their owners, which means they can be exposed to similar cancer risk factors. Using DNA sequencing on tissue samples originally collected for veterinary diagnostics, the study, published in *Science*, showed that several genetic patterns in feline cancers mirror those found in people. One notable example is the similarity between feline mammary cancer and human breast cancer.

The findings suggest that multiple genetic pathways involved in cancer could be explored further through genomics and clinical studies. This could eventually lead to treatments that target the same mutations in both cats and humans.

First Comprehensive Map of Cat Cancer Genomics

Cats are extremely common pets, with more than 10 million living in the UK and nearly a quarter of households owning at least one¹. Cancer is also one of the leading causes of illness and death in cats², yet its genetic basis has remained poorly understood.

This study marks the first time cat tumors have been analyzed at this scale, creating an open resource that researchers can use to advance feline cancer genomics.

The team screened around 1,000 genes known to be linked to human cancer. They compared tumor and healthy tissue samples across 13 different types of feline cancer, allowing direct comparisons with cancers in humans and dogs. In several cases, the genetic drivers of cancer in cats closely matched those found in people

Key Cancer Genes Found in Cats

Mammary carcinoma, an aggressive and common cancer in cats, provided some of the clearest insights. Researchers identified seven driver genes associated with tumor development. The most frequent was FBXW7, which was altered in more than 50 per cent of the tumors studied. In humans, mutations in FBXW7 in breast cancer are linked to poorer outcomes, reflecting a similar pattern seen in cats.

The study also found that certain chemotherapy drugs were more effective in tumor samples with FBXW7 mutations. Although these results come from laboratory-grown tissue and require further testing, they point to a possible treatment strategy for both feline mammary cancer and human breast cancer³.

Another major gene, PIK3CA, was present in 47 per cent of feline mammary tumors. This same mutation is well known in human breast cancer and is already targeted with specific drugs called PI3K inhibitors.

Shared Mutations Across Multiple Cancer Types

Beyond mammary cancer, the researchers identified similarities to human cancer mutations in tumors affecting the blood, bone, lungs, skin, gastrointestinal system, and central nervous system. These shared genetic features highlight opportunities to study cancer across species and potentially develop therapies that benefit both.

One promising concept emerging from this work is the 'One Medicine' approach. This strategy encourages collaboration between human and veterinary medicine, allowing discoveries in one field to inform the other. Treatments that prove effective in people could be tested in cats, and insights from veterinary trials could help guide human clinical research.

Researchers Highlight Cross-Species Benefits

Bailey Francis, co-first author at the Wellcome Sanger Institute, said: "By comparing cancer genomics across different species, we gain a greater understanding of what causes cancer. One of our major findings was that the genetic changes in cat cancer are similar to some that are seen in humans and dogs. This could help experts in the veterinary field as well as those studying cancer in humans, showing that when knowledge and data flows between different disciplines, we can all benefit."

Professor Geoffrey Wood, co-senior author at the Ontario Veterinary College, Canada, said: "Despite domestic cats being common pets, there was very little known about the genetics of cancer in these animals, until now. Our household pets share the same spaces as us, meaning that they are also exposed to the same environmental factors that we are. This can help us understand more about why cancer develops in cats and humans, how the world around us influences cancer risk, and possibly find new ways to prevent and treat it."

Professor Sven Rottenberg, co-senior author at the University of Bern, Switzerland, said: "Having access to such a large set of donated tissues allowed us to assess drug responses across tumor types in a way that hasn't been possible at this scale before. This is a powerful tool to help us identify potential novel therapeutic options that we hope will translate to the clinic one day, for both cats and humans."

Dr Louise Van Der Weyden, senior author at the Wellcome Sanger Institute, said: "This is one of the biggest ever developments in feline oncology and means the genetics of domestic cat tumors are no longer a 'black box'. We can now begin to take the next steps forward towards precision feline oncology, to catch up with the diagnostic and therapeutic options that are available for dogs with cancer, and ultimately one day, humans."

The Science of Cat Longevity & AIM Protein Research.

https://heroveterinary.com/blogs/info/the-science-of-feline-longevity-and-aim-protein-research?srsltid=AfmBOopCbyo4HTdmSSdUQ8VCoIQ_FXJHfyFu3tISB8nPbNpUvvdclpAE

June 11 2026

AIM protein research is one of the most interesting science-backed ideas in feline longevity because it focuses on how cats clear cellular waste and protect kidney function over time. For proactive cat parents, the key takeaway is simple: this is promising biology, but it is still research, not a routine way to prevent or cure kidney disease at home.

What is AIM Protein Research?

AIM stands for apoptosis inhibitor of macrophage, a blood protein first identified by researchers studying how the body handles waste and inflammation. In simplified terms, AIM helps label damaged material so immune cells such as macrophages can clear it away more efficiently. That clean-up role is why AIM has attracted attention in cats, where kidney disease is common and often progressive.

The core idea is not that AIM makes cats immortal. It is that improving waste clearance in the kidneys may help preserve function longer, especially when kidney injury and inflammatory debris begin to accumulate. That makes the science appealing to owners who want to think about feline lifespan early, before obvious illness appears.

Why Cats Are Different?

Cats appear to be unusually vulnerable to kidney problems compared with some other species, which is why AIM research has been so closely watched in feline medicine. When kidney tissue cannot clear debris well, waste can build up in renal tubules, promoting inflammation and further damage. Over time, that can contribute to chronic kidney disease and a slower decline in quality of life.

This is also why generic “longevity” supplements often feel unconvincing to science-minded pet parents. A pill that sounds wellness-oriented is not the same thing as a biological approach that targets kidney waste handling, inflammation, and repair pathways. AIM research stands out because it is tied to a specific mechanism, not vague marketing language

What The Research Suggests?

Current research has made AIM especially interesting for cats with chronic kidney disease, including work suggesting that recombinant AIM may improve survival and kidney-related markers in study settings. The University of Tokyo has also described AIM as part of a strategy to support kidney function and potentially extend feline lifespan through better waste clearance. More recent publications continue to explore AIM's role in kidney repair and CKD progression in cats.

That said, promising research is not the same as a finished consumer solution. Early reports and experimental discussions around AIM-based food or injections have circulated widely, but owners should be careful not to treat those claims as proof of a proven at-home longevity product. The most accurate way to think about AIM today is as a serious veterinary science topic with real potential, not as a settled anti-aging therapy.

What Proactive Cat Parents Should Watch?

If you are trying to optimize feline lifespan early, focus on what can actually be monitored now. Early kidney disease often has subtle signs, and many cats show no obvious symptoms until the disease is already established. Watch for increased thirst, more frequent urination, weight loss, decreased appetite, vomiting, lethargy, or a dull coat, and ask your veterinarian whether baseline bloodwork, urinalysis, and blood pressure checks make sense for your cat.

This is the part many “biohacking” conversations miss: longevity is not only about future breakthroughs. It is also about early screening, hydration habits, nutrition quality, and timely veterinary follow-up when something shifts. For a younger cat, that can mean building a health baseline now so changes are easier to spot later.

Limitations And Mistakes

The biggest mistake is assuming every longevity trend is ready for routine use. AIM biology is promising, but it does not replace diagnosis, staged CKD management, or veterinary monitoring. Another common error is buying unproven supplements because they use science-heavy language while offering little real evidence.

It is also worth separating support from cure. Even in the best-case research framing, AIM is about helping the body manage waste and kidney stress more effectively; it is not a guarantee that a cat will avoid disease or live longer in every case. Any cat with kidney signs, appetite loss, vomiting, dehydration, or sudden behavior changes still needs veterinary assessment.

Four Stages of Kidney Failure in Cats



- 1. Stage 1 (Mild):** Improved diet may allow your cat to maintain their weight and avoid moving to Stage 2 for many years.
- 2. Stage 2 (Elevated):** Mild increase in waste products in the blood. 65–75% of kidney function lost.
- 3. Stage 3 (High):** More waste in the blood = more problems. 75–90% of kidney function lost.
- 4. Stage 4 (Severe):** Cats may not be able to control bladder or walk and might need to be on appetite stimulants and fluids for dehydration. 90% of kidney function lost.

25th April TCS @ The Cat Extravaganza

Once again TCS held a show together with CFSA and the Independent Clubs. Photos by the wonderful Ahmed Dockrat Ohotography

Each organisation had its own normal Best in Show, thereafter the top 4 cats from each organisation went head to head in a Top 12 Judge -off.



CAT of the DAY

NEUTER of the DAY

Crescendo Frank 'N Furter

Owner: Bronwyn Adendorff

TOP12

Placed 2nd



ENTIRE of the DAY

Abrielle Sheez

Owner: Ahmed & Ateeyah Dockrat

TOP12

Placed 11th



KITTEN of the DAY

Abrielle Amun Ra

Owner: Ahmed & Ateeyah Dockrat

TOP12

WINNER!



PET of the DAY

Tiramisu

Owner: Rosy Phillpotts

TOP12

Placed 12th

16th May ECCC Cat Show

The Eastern Cape Cat Club finally held its first show on the 16th May, after having to change the date and the venue because of the floods. The normal venue of Walmer Town Hall was being used to house flood refugees.

Nevertheless the ECC with a new Show Manager, Jan van Rooyen, presented its normal, friendly fun show. The Best in Show took the form of a TOP 12. Photos courtesy of Leonard Ferreira.



CAT of the DAY

Iskra's Oreo of Java

Owner: Tracy Nairn



Runner Up

Moulin Rouge Alchimie of Abyzula

Owner: Adri Swart



3rd Place

Taldi Mojo

Owner: Ian Taylor/Johan Groenewald



PET of the DAY

Master Zacary

Owner: Irene Sommerfeld

CFC 23rd May

Cat Fanciers Club held its first show on the 23rd May under the watchful eye of show manager, Elizabeth van Renen. Photos by Ahmed Dockrat Photography



CAT of the DAY

NEUTER of the DAY

Afriglitter Lyn

of Blougerbengals

Owner: Paola Vignani



ENTIRE of the DAY

Mela Made My Day

Owner: Jane Goble



KITTEN of the DAY

Tres Jolie Lady Million

Owner: Gail Chirnside



PET of the DAY

Herb

Owner: Renate

Hausmann

PCS 23rd May

Once again the PCS Team drove to Benoni to present a 3 Ring Show - for the first time with new Sponsors “Animal Travel Services” and “Southern Pet Traders”. The Best in Show was a TOP 15. Photos by Ahmed Dockrat Photography.



CAT of the DAY

1st TOP 15

Pearl Tinkerbelle

Owner: Penny Steyn



Runner-up TOP 15

Abrielle Bastet

Owner: Ahmed &
Ateeyah
Dockrat



3rd Place TOP 15

Incatique Sparkle & Shine

Owner: Ingrid de Wet



PET of the DAY

Kaptein

Owner: Karen Labuschagne

WPCC 30 May

Adri Swart and her team held their final show before COTY at the end of May. Photos by the talented Ursula van der Riet Photography.



CAT of the DAY

ENTIRE of the DAY

Great Fate Alex of Aristocub (Imp)

Owner: Yusuf Dawood



NEUTER of the DAY

Kamdeboo Ollie-Me

Owners: Leonard & Susan Ferreira



KITTEN of the DAY

Aziza Alex

Owner: Clive Goosen



PET of the DAY

Supreme Master Lego

Owner: Christelle Rossouw

CAT of the YEAR 2026

Western Province Cat Club will be hosting SACC's COTY Event.

There are no more further qualifying shows and the scorekeepers have sent all information relating to the qualifying cats and their owners to Adri Swart and her team.

Gala Dinner Booking Forms are available from Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/sacccoty2026/about>

Or the SACC Website

<https://www.tsacc.org.za>

Or the Western Province Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/wpcatclub>

This form is also to be used for Sponsorship of rosettes, prizes or cash donation as well as the booking of Vendor Tables or Catalogue Adverts.

VENUE: Mount Nelson, a Belmond Hotel, Cape Town.

This historic and world known 5* hotel has been selected for COTY 2026. Known as the "Pink Lady" it is situated in the Garden area of Cape Town with an amazing view of Table Mountain.



The Hotel Clock is a absolute masterpiece and truly beautiful.



And there is even a resident cat! Perfect venue for COTY!



Inspection of the renowned “High Tea” at the Mount Nelson is a prerequisite!

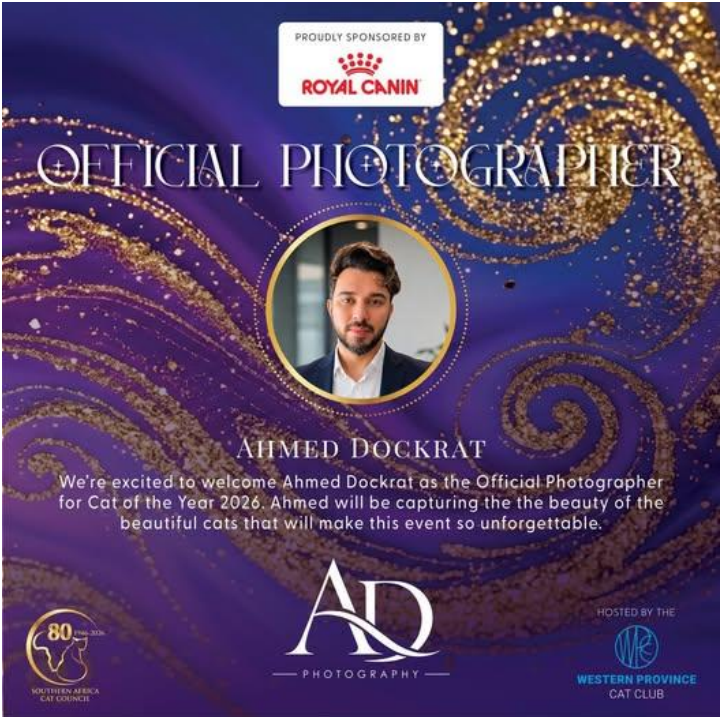
Limited accommodation is available for you and your cat in the Hotel at a reduced rate- contact anene.engelbrecht@belmond.com for further info or to make a booking.

THEME: A Night with the Stars



Amazing creativity and graphic design by WPCC Committee Member, Emma Gernetzky-Loftus.

EVENT PHOTOGRAPHER: Ahmed Dockrat



JUDGES: 4 SACC Judges will officiate as well as a WCF Judge and a FIFe Judge who comes all the way from Finland.



SACC and WCC President, Jan van Rooyen, will be the expert scorekeeper and our proficient auditor will be our Registrar, Johan van Rooyen.



Jan and Johan during the “Beatles Tour” as part of the WCC Conference.

Lets keep our fingers crossed that WPCC organises an on line presentation of the COTY Gala Dinner and Presentation Event, so that those who cannot make the event can join in over cyberspace.

SAVE THE DATE! 25 JULY 2026

CREW- Cincinnati Zoo

<https://cincinnati zoo.org/conservation/crew/>

The Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW) are utilising ART or Assisted Reproductive Technologies to help endangered cats.

CREW is using the power of science to help endangered cats around the world. Through assisted reproductive technologies like artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization, and embryo transfer, researchers can preserve valuable genetics, support breeding programs, and give new hope to species that are struggling to survive. These innovations are helping to grow healthy wild cat populations and ensure that future generations will continue to thrive.

IMPERILED CAT SIGNATURE PROJECT

Key Assisted Reproductive Technologies

- Artificial Insemination (AI)
- In Vitro Fertilization (IVF)
- Embryo Transfer
- Cryopreservation and Genome Resource Banking

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION

Artificial Insemination involves collecting sperm from a male and depositing it into a female's reproductive tract to achieve fertilization.

CREW in Action: CREW scientists pioneered a breakthrough laparoscopic oviductal AI (LOAI) technique that places sperm closer to the natural site of fertilization. This approach dramatically improves pregnancy success, often using only very small numbers of sperm. With LOAI, CREW has produced term pregnancies in six wild cat species, including the Sand Cat, Pallas Cat, , fishing cat, Ocelot, Tiger, and the first Jaguar cub ever born through assisted reproduction.. This milestone demonstrates the power of reproductive science to help secure the future of imperiled cat species.

In Vitro Fertilization involves collecting sperm from a male and eggs from a female, then putting them together in a lab dish to allow fertilization and create an early embryo, which can be transferred into a surrogate mother.

Embryo Transfer involves depositing an early embryo into a surrogate female so it can implant in her uterus and be carried to term.

CREW in Action: CREW scientists are demonstrating the power of combining IVF and embryo transfer for conservation. For Ocelots, CREW and collaborators in the U.S. and Brazil have achieved five pregnancies and five healthy kittens from frozen-thawed IVF embryos. The approach has also produced two Sand Cat kittens in the United Arab Emirates using fresh IVF embryos. By creating healthy embryos in the lab, researchers can safeguard rare genes and strengthen future populations.

Cryopreservation is the process of freezing sperm, eggs, embryos, and other genetic material at extremely low temperatures to preserve their viability for future use. When these frozen samples are systematically collected and maintained long-term, they form a **Genome Resource Bank** that secures essential genetic material for future conservation work

CREW in Action: CREW stores essential genetic material from 30 felid species within liquid nitrogen tanks in their **CryoBioBank®**. Using frozen-thawed sperm from this collection, scientists recently produced two litters of **ocelot** kittens through LOAI from the population's most genetically valuable male, who had never reproduced naturally.

How ART Helps Wildlife Conservation

Protect genetic diversity: ART can move valuable genetics between isolated populations through the transport of sperm or embryos, helping to prevent genetic bottlenecks and inbreeding.

Incorporate genes from free-ranging animals without removing them from the wild: Semen collected from wild founders can be banked and used later to infuse valuable new genetics into zoo populations, without removing more cats from their natural habitats.

Extend the impact of each individual: Frozen sperm and embryos make it possible for an animal's genes to contribute to future generations long after its lifespan, helping maintain genetic diversity over time.

Boost breeding success: Techniques can overcome challenges such as subfertility, behavioral incompatibility, or poor reproductive timing.

Support sustainable zoo populations: By improving breeding outcomes and slowing genetic loss, ART helps zoos build healthy populations of cats.

Provides a “hedge against extinction”: Cryopreserved samples stored in Genome Resource Banks safeguard irreplaceable genetics, ensuring they remain available for future reintroduction efforts.

Saving Imperiled Cats

Most of the world's cat populations are declining due to habitat loss and degradation. Zoo-housed felids serve as assurance populations, helping prevent extinction and providing opportunities for potential reintroduction of zoo-born animals back into the wild.

For over three decades, **CREW scientists** have been advancing the understanding of felid reproduction through systematic research. These studies have improved the management, welfare, and breeding of imperiled species.

Assisted reproductive technologies (ART) such as artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization, embryo transfer, and cryopreservation of sperm and embryos are essential tools in addressing the conservation and management challenges of these species.

The Imperiled Cat *Signature* Project has pioneered semen freezing and artificial insemination methods, enabling pregnancies in multiple cat species, including the sand cat, Pallas' cat, fishing cat, ocelot, jaguar, and tiger.



NA-

Brazilian Ocelot cub (classified as vulnerable) born via Artificial Insemination.



Sand Cat Kittens (classified as Near Threatened) born via Artificial Insemination.



Pallas Cat kitten (classified as Near Threatened) born via Artificial Insemination.

NCFS 6 June

NCFS had a Tea Party themed show this year and Wendy Welham and Carol Kotze made sure that everyone had a good time in Kimberley. The show follows a TOP 12 Best in Show. Photos by Ahmed Dockrat Photography.



CAT of the DAY (1st Top 12)

NEUTER of the DAY

Purrbridge Dream Again Darling

Owner: Lilani Botha

2nd Top 12

ENTIRE of the DAY

Abrielle Asteroid

Owner: Ahmed & Ateeyah Dockrat



3rd Top 12

KITTEN of the DAY

Abrielle Amun Ra

Owner: Ahmed & Ateeyah Dockrat



PET of the DAY

Savanna

Owner: Jade Myburgh



TCS 13 June

TCS held a Winter Wonderland themed show in June. Bronwynn Adendorff was the Show Manager. Photos by Ahmed Dockrat Photography.



CAT of the DAY

ENTIRE of the DAY

GeeDee Easy On The Eye

Owner: Athylle Caw

NEUTER of the DAY

Crescendo Frank 'N Furter

Owner: Bronwyn Adendorff



KITTEN of the DAY

Abrielle Amun Ra

Owner: Ahmed & Ateeyah
Dockrat

PET of the DAY

Kumquat

Owner: Karen Pepler



RCC 27 June

Daniel Germishuys and his Team held a Winter Sunset themed show and included a special Best Orange Cat side class. Photos by Ahmed Dockrat Photography.



CAT of the DAY

ENTIRE of the DAY

Awesome Bengals Clover's Honey

Owner: Lorraine Kennard

NEUTER of the DAY

Purrbridge Hamilton

Owner: Rindi & Clint Fourie



KITTEN of the DAY

Awesome Bengals Neo

Owner: Lorraine Kennard



PET of the DAY

Pixie

Owner: Paola Vignani



BEST ORANGE CAT

Westwood Franjelico

Owner: Brett Pheiffer

TRIVIA

1. Which large cat has a larynx suspended by flexible cartilage and square vocal cords to create a roar when exhaling?
2. Which archaeological find gave researchers a clue as to when the first cats may have been domesticated?
3. Which ancient culture does the mythological big cat, sith, belong to?
4. What do cats have in common with giraffes and camels?
5. Which continent has no large cat populations?
6. In which African Countries will you find tree climbing lions?
7. There is a cat called Tardar Sauce- but what is his more famous title?
8. Who provided the voice for the swashbuckling Puss in Boots in the animated Movie Shrek 2?
9. What is the name of the chubby grey cat known for her GIFs and Social Media Sticker Sets?
10. What is the name of the comic character Cat Woman, the love interest of Batman?
11. What is the name of the creator of Simon's Cat?
12. The feminist punk rock group Pussy Riot come from which country?
13. Which English football club is nicknamed the Black Cats?
14. Whats the name of the cat who lived in Huddlesfield Station until her passing in 2023?
15. In which year did the group Cure release a stand alone single called The Love Cats?

Answers

- 1 Lion
- 2 Jawbone
- 3 Celtic
4. They have the same pacing gate when walking.
5. Australasia
- 6 Uganda and Tanzania
7. Grumpy Cat
8. Antonio Banderas
9. Pusheen
10. Selina Kyle
11. Simon Tofield
12. Russia
13. Sunderland AFC
14. Felix
15. 1983