

# In So Many Places, Cats Are the Stars

今回は、ネコが世界の観光地の名物になっているという、ちょっとユニークでほっこりするニュースです。イギリスの首相官邸に住むネコや、フロリダの博物館にいる六本指のネコなど、思わず会に行きたくなるエピソードが満載です。ちなみに、本文に出てくる「house」は名詞の「家」ではなく、「住まわせる」や「収容する」という動詞として使われています。あなたの街にも、動物と人が共存している場所がありますか？ぜひ講師と話してみましょう。



## 1. Article

Read the following article aloud.

From the United States and Britain to Russia and South America, cats often appear in famous public places.

Cat fans say the animals bring value to the places where they live. Cats can add a cute element or reduce the number of [rodents](#). Sometimes, cats even come to define the place they live in.

### Cats in the United States

In 2020, a green-eyed cat named Willow appeared at a Joe Biden campaign event in Pennsylvania. The cat jumped onstage and left with soon-to-be first lady Jill, who later wrote a book about the creature.

But the White House is not the only well-known place in the United States to [house](#) cats.

The Hemingway Homes and Museum, in Key West, Florida has fifty-nine cats that move freely through the estate. Half of the creatures are related to Hemingway's own six-toed cat, Snow White.

Visitors are kept away from the furniture, but the animals sit on the writer's desk. A large "Cat Bible" shows the family history, or [lineage](#), of the resident cats.

Alexa Morgan of the Hemingway museum said the cats bring extra public interest.

"We have visitors that come here for Hemingway, and then once they see the cats and they love them, then it's like they visit again so they can come back and see the cats," she said.

## Cats in Britain

In Britain, there is Lilibet.

She is a Siberian Forest cat who spends time sitting by the fire at the Lanesborough Hotel in London. Plenty of people visit the hotel just to see the cat, who is named after Queen Elizabeth II, said managing director Stuart Geddes.

Lilibet has special hair known as hypoallergenic fur. That means her hair is not likely to cause problems for people who are sensitive to cat hair. Lilibet is not the only cat living in an important British building.

Hodge sits inside Southwark Cathedral, which was established in 1106. He moves around bringing happiness to visitors and going into the shop for [treats](#).

Not far away, across the Thames River, is Larry, the famous cat of 10 Downing St., the official home of the prime minister of Britain. Larry has stayed longer than most prime ministers — Kier Starmer is his sixth.

Employed as Chief Mouser to the Cabinet Office, Larry pays his way by keeping the prime minister's office and home more cat than mouse.

He has lasted longer than his rival Palmerston, a previous Foreign Office cat who retired to the British countryside in 2020.

## Russia and beyond

Cats also live in the Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

About 80 cats get to call Catherine the Great's palace home in return for keeping the pest population down. They have their own press officer and volunteer assistants, who keep them [publicized](#), fed, and watered while they walk around Russia's state museum.

In Venezuela, under a banner of Hugo Chavez, an unnamed cat has become well-known to the journalists of Caracas. Often found moving near TV crews at the National Electoral Council, this mysterious animal keeps reporters company as they wait for updates.

Far away in another part of the world, Lule is so beloved at the Day and Night bar in Pristina, Kosovo, that her cat face has become its symbol. Owner Genc Salihu says she is part of the family, and people come just to see and pet Lule.

“She is very much the soul of this place,” he said.

I’m John Russell.

Hilary Fox reported on this story for the Associated Press. John Russell adapted it for VOA Learning English.

Source: **In So Many Places, Cats Are the Stars**

[VOA](#)

## 2. Key phrases and vocabulary

First repeat after your tutor and then read aloud by yourself.

**1. rodent (n.) a rat, mouse, or similar mammal**

Because there are no birds on the island, the rodent population keeps growing.

**2. house (v.) to give shelter or a house for**

A new shelter is being built to house the homeless in the downtown area.

**3. lineage (n.) the biological history of a living thing**

The lineage of King Charles goes back about 1,200 years.

**4. treat (n.) food or entertainment that is given by another person**

We were offered cake and other treats at the party.

**5. publicize (v.) to spread information about someone or something**

The company used social media and TV ads to publicize its new product.

## 3. Questions

Read the questions aloud and answer them.

1. What kinds of roles do cats have at famous places around the world?
2. What is unique about some of the cats at the Hemingway Homes and Museum?
3. Who is Lilibet, and what is special about her?
4. What roles do cats play in your culture or your area?
5. Do you like cats? Why or why not?