

Five Things on a Friday – Cats of LUU

According to a very unofficial poll at the 2025 Summer Staff Conference, LUU has more cat people than dog people (a sign of excellent organisational taste, if you ask me). To honour this feline-favouring majority (and our love of all pets), we've put together a special Five Things on a Friday.

Thanks to Katie Fox, Sophie Stockill, Fabiha Chowdhury, Zack Hirst and Hannah Jones for sharing their pets with us.

Turtle Fox the L&D Queen



This is Turtle, she is 15 years old but has the life and energy of a kitten. Obviously I am biased on this one, but Turtle is the best cat!

She loves to be around her humans and will be a cute (albeit not helpful) assistant in whatever you are doing. She likes being the center of attention and will squeak at you to make her presence known, and she loves to play fight and gets the zoomies for any leaf that drifts into the garden.

Her favourite treats are Dreamies (of course), tuna, and Quorn ham slices (don't know why but she loves the stuff- no packet is safe when she's around) Her favourite things to do are to lounge on someone's lap, sit high up on her throne (the cupboards) where she effectively rules over her domain from, or

hide under tablecloths and coats in wait for the next person to challenge her to a duel.

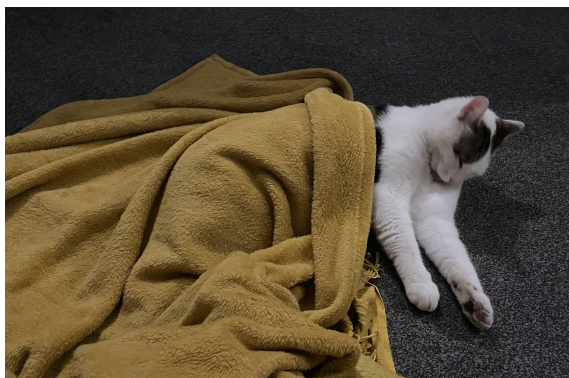
Poppy Stockill- Chief Meowperating Officer (retired)



This is Poppy Stockill. She is currently the housemate of Sophie from Leadership and Governance Support after moving from the family home for her retirement (she is 16!).

Poppy loves laying in the sun and despite being retired, takes her job of waking Sophie up with very loud miaows when she deigns to try and have a lie-in very seriously. Poppy is a very active and affectionate cat who loves being the centre of attention 🦸‍♀️

Menace the Paw-licy Champion



My partner and I co-parent a cat called Menace (short for Public Menace) with our next door neighbours - he was a stray that followed their son from school one day and decided to stick around. We met him in the grove opposite our house - he was jumping about in the grass and playing - and went SPLAT jumping into a tree - limbs out like a star fish.

We fell in love instantly and played with him for about half an hour before we decided we had to go in. As soon as we opened our front door, he came running in and decided he wanted to play even more. Now, whenever he hears our door creak open, he comes running into the house to say hi.

His name is reflective of his personality; he has made a mortal enemy on our estate: a cat that looks like his own brother, who we call the Nemesis: the Phantom Menace. Whenever they see each other, it's claws out. We're not sure why but there's a sibling rivalry.

Menace is protective of his territory, and lays down the law (and paws) when dogs on our street try to infringe. Despite all the posturing, he's actually a big softie at heart.

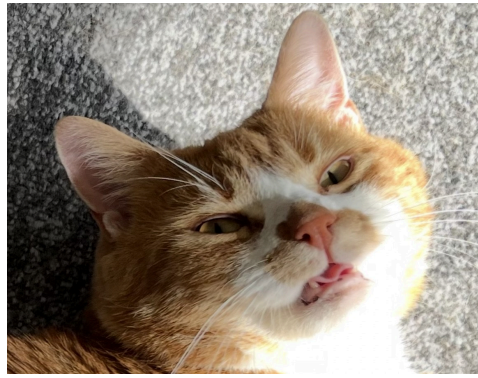
Stinky the Wobbly



Meet Stinky (yes, he is). He is 15 years old, and a double rescue, we got him last year so he's still settling in. We've been told that he had a wild youth – he had a few fights, developed a gluten intolerance and then potentially got hit by a car. The only symptoms are a slightly dodgy walk and a very picky palate.

We were told that he wasn't very affectionate and doesn't enjoy petting, but we've discovered he becomes suspiciously accepting when we give his chin a scratch and his new favourite pastime is headbutting our armpits when we're chilling on the sofa. He is not shy about voicing his opinion on the service at his current retirement home. He is also a very loud and inconsistent alarm clock making sure that Zack is always on his toes.

Prince Charming the Payroll Maven



If you're a Five Things on a Friday regular, you may recognise Prince Charming the unofficial [Tax year end mascot](#) and our [premier ginger cat](#). Prince is a very busy cat and has expanded his portfolio to include becoming the cat of judgement.

Despite having no teeth and needing all his food cut up, Prince is always judging and occasionally makes guest appearances in meetings to ensure everyone is on their best behaviour.

Jimmy the Bonus Cat



We know this is a Five things on a Friday, but we couldn't resist including Jimmy, Turtle the cat's younger brother. He is an 11 year Russian Tortoise who is going through his stropky teenager phase!

Although small, he is mighty and full of character, and will happily headbutt your feet if you are standing in his way. He loves cucumbers and dandelions, likes to sploot under his heat lamp, and loves a good scratch (but only on his terms- [click here to see the Jimmy scratch dance](#)).

Another thing he loves to do is explore and so much so that if you don't keep an eye on him, he will make a run for it. We learnt this the hard way and lost him outside in the garden for 9 months before he turned up in our next-door neighbours garden.