

PAWPRINTS

The Newsletter of the Lethbridge PAW Society

**TWO
ADOPTIONS
IN THIS ISSUE!**

Number 169 ~ September 2025

Thank You, Joan

It is with great sadness that *PAWPrints* must acknowledge the passing of Joan Fiddler, on September 19th, 2025.

As Audrey Audette, PAW co-founder and treasurer, stated at Joan's memorial service on September 22nd, "our gratitude is without limit for Joan's dedication" to the Society. Though she occupied the position of fund-raising director, the title carried with it a complicated set of tasks that Joan completed successfully over and over.

She became fund-raising director in 2006, two years after joining PAW as a volunteer at the Compassion Centre, the Society's adoption shelter.

"Joan's organizational skills and discipline were unmatched," described Audrey. "Year after year, as she completed one fundraising event, her attention would turn to the next."

Indeed, but along with the planning for each event came the necessity of staying current with business sponsors, making sure there were enough volunteers for an event, bringing in supplies, renting spaces... Less a fund-raising director than a general in charge of a small army's complex logistical arrangements, Joan was pragmatic.

"Joan wasn't someone who bothered overly much about things beyond her control." If something did not work, or looked to be less than successful, she moved on to a different plan, a better idea.

But Joan Fiddler was not just an officer of the Executive Board of a cat-rescue group; she was an ardent believer in rescue. She herself took in many foster-cats; some

ended their time as 'available' by being adopted by Joan herself.

And it was the humans involved in PAW whom she enjoyed, as well. The best part, she had stated, was being able to meet so many people. In return, those individuals often stopped to talk with Joan at events, and her relations with the business community - something vital for any charity - were excellent. The pages of *PAWPrints* have frequently featured photographs of Joan with a business-owner or representative.

It was clear that Joan enjoyed what she did, whether bringing together the different aspects of a homey bake sale or working with the more diverse personalities of a pool tournament, she always seemed to be in her element.

"Joan's organizational skills and discipline were unmatched," Audrey related. It was, as she said, unimaginable that PAW would ever be without Joan, though retirement was of course a possibility. Well, a possibility to the rest of the Society. For Joan, the notion never came up.

Now, the rhetorical question of "what would we do without Joan?" becomes real, for she was irreplaceable.

"Joan will be forever loved and remembered for being a generous and humble human who walked softly through this world." Those words, spoken at her memorial service are true, and sums up as simply as can be a woman who was complex and multi-faceted. Just as simple are the words 'thank you'; simple and far too inadequate.

Thank you, Joan.



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Two Personalities, One Home

ADOPTION

Neither Sara nor her husband, Jerico, were strangers to living with cats. Jerico had had a cat who passed away at 18 years of age. Sara's Quinn had lived with her, then with her and Jerico, for 21 years, dying in August of 2024. Sara did not think they would have another cat. But about Christmas-time, she found herself thinking about it.

Looking on the internet for cats who needed homes, Sara eventually noticed a young tabby kitten.

"For some reason, Mordecai caught my eye, and put me down that path [the thought of adopting another feline]."



Mordecai



Tifa (formerly Katia)

The couple read that Mordecai was a shy fellow, and, though that was not going to deter Sara and Jerico, they read that Mordecai was very open and playful with his sister, Katia. Jerico suggested that both siblings should be adopted. So it was that the youngsters came to their new home.



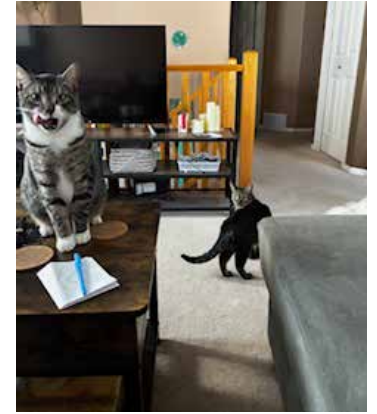
Mordecai investigating new smells.



Tifa on the cat-tree



Mordecai (foreground) and Tifa (background) didn't realize pictures were being taken.



Even though there were no other pets, a room was set aside for the newcomers, a good idea which allows cats to become accustomed to their new environment without it overwhelming them. The humans would visit them several times a day. Within the room, Mordecai and Katia, now re-named Tifa, would show themselves for food, and then for toys. An important step forward came when the kittens started waiting for their people to come in.



Mordecai feeling safe

Brought into the house on May 18th, Mordecai and Tifa started to want to come out of their safe-room by July.

Something that surprised Sara and Jerico was the change in Tifa. In her foster-home, they had read, she was the more shy of the pair. Yet she has made the greater progress in opening up to her new people. She now talks to her family, meowing, whereas previously, she spoke

Continued on next page

**Get Ready: the PAW Society Bake Sale is coming, November 22nd, 2025.
Can you bake some delicious treats for the sale?**

Two Personalities, One Home *(continued)*

only in trills. Mordecai has not made that transition.

But what *is* the same about him as in his foster-home is one of his principal motivations: Mordecai is very food-driven. Timidity doesn't stand a chance when snacks are to be had, and Mordecai will often be found right beside whomever is eating at the time.

The cats have just become adults, and have "grown so much." They sleep under the bed, rather than on it, but that may change in days to come.

"We love having them here," remarked Sara.

The daughter of the family was a little apprehensive at the idea of shy kittens, being used to the very familiar Quinn, and his long-time integration into the household. But her mother rightly stated that "every cat has a different personality", and Tifa and Mordecai are fine



examples of this: they are distinct from other cats, and even from each other. Sara states that her daughter has "come a long way with them."

And the same could be said of Mordecai and Tifa, different personalities in the same loving home.

A Birthday Gift!

Analog Books (322, 6th Street South, Lethbridge) has always been a generous supporter of the PAW Society. Owners Scott and Penny Warris adopted their cat, Hugo, from the Society, and, on July 23rd, he and his adoptive brother Copper celebrated their birthdays - Hugo's seventh and Copper's second.

A celebration was held at the bookshop, with cupcakes, custom-baked cookies, a prize wheel, balloons and new coasters featuring the cats' portraits by artist Eric Dyck. All proceeds from the event were donated jointly to the PAW Society and the Lethbridge Humane Society.

This resulted in the sum of \$250 being given to both



Birthday boys Copper (left) and Hugo (right)



Roxanne Holloway (left), president of PAW, receives a donation cheque from Penny Warris (right).

the PAW Society and the Lethbridge Humane Society, an amount that shows both the popularity of Analog Books and the open-handedness of the Warrises and the local community.

We would like to thank Scott, Penny, their family and Analog's staff for their continued support. It is generosity such as this that has allowed PAW to flourish for more than a quarter-century.

**Read about another wonderful adoption
in next month's issue of PAWPrints.**



PAW and Purdy's are again working together to raise funds for cat-rescue. PAW's 2025 Holiday Purdy's Fundraiser is in memory of our beloved Fundraising Director, Joan Fiddler. Joan established and co-ordinated our Purdy's campaign for many years. She would be pleased to be remembered in this way by those who wish to support a cause that was very dear to her heart. Orders must be placed by end of November 3rd, 2025.

If you'd like to support us through purchasing some delicious Christmas gifts, click on the link below or highlight it and paste it into your browser. It will take you to where you can place your order.

<https://fundraising.purdys.com/2160859-130175>

If you haven't ordered in the past, you will need to create a member account. It's easy. After filling in the required fields, you will automatically be directed to the PAW Society's Group Home Page. Click on 'Shop Online' in the menu bar at the top, to see the delicious products available, and to place your order.

Chocolates will be available for pickup at the PAW Bake Sale, to be held November 22nd, 2025 (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) at Centre Village Mall.

Editorial: Thanks, Joan

Though I have been associated with the PAW Society since I adopted my first cat, Tungsten, in 2007, I did not know Joan Fiddler as well as some other members. But I met her often, and worked with her on a number of projects, in both my capacity as someone who dealt in design-work, and as a volunteer at many of the fund-raising events Joan directed. Thus, I cannot comment well upon her personal qualities of which I experienced but did not know detail.

I was well aware, nonetheless, of her dedication to her family, the nieces and nephews, and great-nieces and great-nephews; of her long history as a teacher; of her enjoyment in her church activities; of her strong belief in and love of God.

It was, though, through her work with PAW that I knew Joan, really. One of the thoughts that struck me during all these years of our acquaintance was how much time she must have given to the Society. Even for someone retired from her profession of public education, I wondered how she could have time for all that she accomplished. Working on a monthly newsletter requires time, of course, but it is all spent basically in one place, in my home, on a computer or a telephone. Joan seemed to go everywhere in pursuance of her work as PAW fund-raising director.

It might be reasoned that there is a list of things to accomplish with regard to an event such as a book sale or bake sale. Renting the venue, contacting participants, arranging schedules, and as each one is done, one may move on to the next. But the truth is, as everyone knows, things rarely work out so cleanly. Thus, Joan must have had to juggle numerous elements of every task simultaneously.

It's true that many people do that, just in their everyday lives, but I don't think I observed many achieve it as effortlessly as did Joan. I don't think for a moment, of course, that she wasn't worried about this factor or that; she simply conveyed the impression that all was under control. She could do that, I suspect, because all *was* under control. That was how I knew Joan's work in the PAW Society.

But it wasn't just the organisation of events that was under Joan's hand. There was more. Joan was personally at every event, and, at the smaller ones - selling raffle tickets at a grocery store on a Saturday, presenting merchandise at a small trade show - she

was often the only PAW member present. This was, certainly, her responsibility as fund-raising director, but how seriously and significantly she took that responsibility!

And on top of that, she was involved in other non-Society activities. As I wrote above, her family was important to her, and her church. And she found time to go on holidays (thank goodness!)

How did she do all of this? I did not know Joan well enough to know for certain, but I think it may have been because of her organisational skills, and her pragmatism. Certainly, she didn't do all of this alone; even in arranging times, locations and staffing, there were others who did great work. But Joan was the guiding hand behind it. I envision her moving one item to its next step, and while that is being accomplished, she visited another item and started that moving.

But now and then, there were actions that did not work out. For several years, PAW had an annual garage sale. I think these did well, but it was difficult to find a venue for them at times, and I suspect that the toil that went into their preparation was not worth the results. Consequently, they were discontinued. Joan's practicality knew this was no failure. Something was tried, it worked moderately well, but not well enough. Therefore, it was ended and the next thing attempted.

Common sense was at home in Joan.

I found that Joan could be tenacious in keeping to what had already proved successful, yet if new ideas were suggested with respect, she listened. I sometimes wonder how she had been perceived as a teacher. With no grounds for thinking so except my acquaintance of her, I think she may have been one of those teachers who, while not perhaps 'fun' to learn from, nonetheless was effective. One of those teachers who is remembered years later as actually having taught students things, imparted knowledge, whether they had wanted it or not, and which they actually found useful in their lives.

That was a large part of Joan in PAW: doing the things that were not necessarily fun - planning, organizing, calling, liaising, and just showing up - but by Heaven they got done!

That's for what I most thank Joan Fiddler: thank you, Joan, for getting things done.

~ James Thorne.