PAVPRIN TWINGS ISSUE

The Newsletter of the Lethbridge PAW Society

Number 170 ~ October 2025

Russell: From Standing Out to Fitting In



Crystal's son had moved out of the family home, and she was experiencing "empty nest syndrome". She and husband David decided to fill some of that void with a new cat. Already resident were Jack, a black male cat, and

his sister, Eleanor, a long-haired tortoiseshell. Any new addition to the household would, of course, have to fit well with them.

The search started as Crystal "Googled rescues in the area", and found the PAW Society. Russel stood out from among the available cats for several reasons. His age was the same as the feline siblings': four years. As well, all of their teeth had had to be removed due to stomatitis; Russel, too, was missing his teeth, and for the same reason. Lastly, it seemed a good sign that he, like Jack and Eleanor, had a human name. He was brought to Crystal and David for a trial-adoption.



David with Eleanor (left), Russell (centre) and Jack (right)



Russell loves his new dad.

Not unnaturally, Russel spent some time under the bed - a day and a half - while the resident cats were not interested in him. And when he at last emerged, Jack and Eleanor accepted him quickly: "Everyone was getting along within two or three days."

Russell (an extra L was added to his name) almost immediately vindicated his description on the PAW Society's website by wanting to spend time with his new

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Russell: From Standing Out to Fitting In (continued)

roommates, playing with Jack and chasing Eleanor. He also demonstrated that he has little concept of personal space. Along with wishing to play with Jack and Eleanor right away, he was just as soon in their faces.

Despite his forward nature - or, to be fair, possibly because of it - he succeeded in enticing the established felines to play. When his new adoptive siblings don't want to wrestle or chase, Russell will find his own fun, burrowing into the toy-basket and bringing out that moment's choice.

With regard to people, Crystal stated that Russell is "the easiest-going cat I've ever met."

That gentle yet gregarious personality is slowly winning the day. While Jack and Eleanor don't want yet to cuddle with the newcomer, the latter moves a bit closer to the others each time they lie down. Crystal hopes Russell will remind the others what cuddling is.

One aspect of Russell's health might have caused some difficulties. He is allergic to chicken. Feeding him nutrition without chicken is only half the battle; the other half is making sure he doesn't steal food from ther others' bowls. That problem was solved with high-technology.



Russell (left), Eleanor (centre) and Jack (right) at their respective feeders.

Crystal and David are using programmable feeders; the brand is One RFID Smart Feeder from Petlibro.

"It basically allows each cat to have their own dedicated feeding station, that can be customized on when and how much food they receive," Crystal explained.

"The feeder has a hopper you fill with the cat's desired food, and you program a RFID [radio frequency identification] reader to recognize a tag that goes on your cat's collar... Once your cat is standing over top the reader the lid opens, and they can access their food."

Control of the quantity of food made available is through an app downloaded to a phone. A cat-guardian may set a schedule or feed manually. Statistics are kept as to how often they feed and the time they spend eating.

"We introduced Russell to the collar and tag on the third day he was here, since he had never had a collar before. By the fourth day he was okay with the collar and the weight of the tag. So, we filled his feeder.

"He had already figured out he couldn't access Jack or Eleanor's food, so he only had to be shown once that if he stood on the pad of his feeder his lid would open, and his food would be available. The first few times he had to walk up to all of them before he figured out which one was his, but by the next day he knew which feeder was his and had no issues.

"Now when we feed them wet food, we tell them to go to their spots, and each cat goes in front of their feeder and sits."

Crystal said that though the feeders are expensive, a household with multiple cats, each with a peculiar dietary problem "is really the only way to go." (One of the cats over-eats, one eats small portions multiple times a day and must have special food to reduce the chances of urine crystals, and now one has an allergy. Russell's adoption brought in a cat with an allergy.)

Though initially Russell may have stood out because of his unique qualities, it is those same qualities which are now allowing him to fit in.



Four Feet Comes Through Once More

This certainly isn't the first timethat the PAW Society is showing its gratitude to the Four Feet Companion Foundation (FFCF).

This registered charity was founded in Calgary, in 2012. Its purpose is to "award financial grants, volunteer support and supply donations to registered local animal charities"; it gives priority to "award financial grants, volunteer support and supply donations to registered local animal charities." Funds are raised "through events, donations and corporate sponsorship." (attribution from the FFCF website at:

The FFCF is run entirely by volunteers, about twenty in number. They "raise funds through events, donations and corporate sponsorship."

https://www.fourfeet.org/)

Last year, Audrey Audette, PAW's treasurer, applied to the FFCF for a grant to help cover the costs of amputation surgery for our rescued young mother-cat, Emori's amputation surgery. The surgery was successful, and Emori was adopted last year. The FFCF's grant was \$1,700.

An animal-rescue group always needs funds to help cover its veterinary costs, which can be substantial, to say the least. When Julien and Russel both required surgery, the former for an acute urinary blockage, and the latter for extensive dental work, PAW again approached the FFCF for help, and the response was very generous. The Society was granted \$2,000, which covered more than half the costs of the operations. This was following on a grant of \$1,300 for Julien alone, prior to his surgery, when his urinary tract was blocked.

Following their surgeries, *PAWPrints* remarked that both young cats were in much healthier condition, and ready for their permanent homes. Those homes have very recently been found. Russel is now adopted (see page 1) and so is Julien (see the next issue of *PAWPrints*)!

Then, Moxy and Millie, rescued cats now in foster-care, required dental work; neither had had their mouths taken care of before.

The FFCF contributed \$1,500 toward the cost of these necessary operations. Both cats are living comfortably and pain-free, thanks to this work.

PAW cannot be thankful enough to the Four Feet Companion Foundation for its generosity, which covered an appreciable portion of the costs of these expensive medical needs, supplementing greatly the funds paid by the Society.

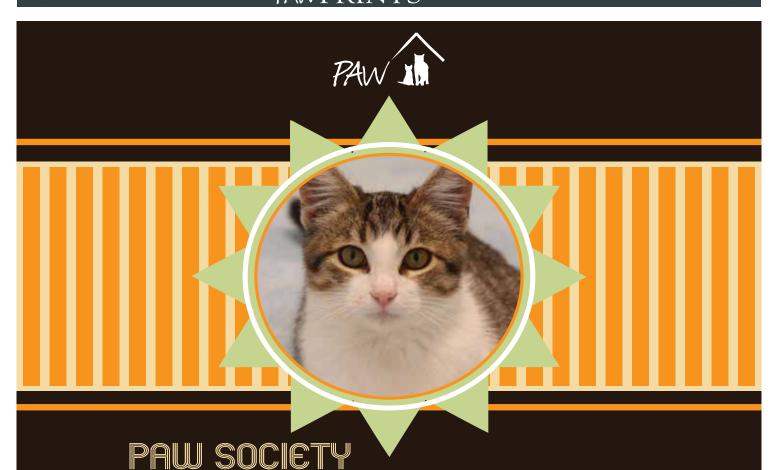
The health and comfort of Emori, Russell, Julien, Moxy and Millie are in large part due to the wonderful openhandedness of the Four Feet Companion Foundation. Thank you!

Who's New to PAW

FELIX

Born in June 2025, this little guy is friendly, gentle and cuddly. Even at the veterinary clinic for his initial health check and vaccines, he was happy to be held and petted by the clinic staff and purred with the attention. But he also wanted to explore; he's not unnerved by new situations, it seems. His foster-mom says, "Felix is one of the most loving little kittens I have ever fostered. He has to know where his person is at all times! He plays, then will find you, curl up on you or beside you or sit on your lap when you're at the computer." Felix is a typically happy, chummy kitten.





BAKE SALE

CENTRE VILLAGE MALL (Main Entrance)
1240, 2nd Avenue 'A' North, Lethbridge

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 P.m. 10:00 A.m. - 3:00 P.m.

Drop off donated baking at the Centre Village Mall the day of the sale between 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

BAKING NEEDED!

For information, e-mail pawsociety@shaw.ca, or leave message at 403.328.6700 pawsociety.ca



Don't forget the PAW Society / Purdy's Chocolates Fundraiser! This year's fundraiser is in memory of our beloved Fundraising Director, Joan Fiddler. Joan established and coordinated 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.



THE PAW SOCIETY'S 2026 CALENDAR IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE!

The 2026 calendar is a 'feline business directory' of cat-related enterprises that don't exist - but really should! And illustrating each business is a cat (or two) enjoying a happy and loving home after being adopted from PAW.

The calendar may be purchased for \$15 from Homes Alive Pets, Cupper's Coffee & Tea, The Jasmine Room, Analog Books and Highlands Pet Hospital. It will also be available at the PAW Bake Sale on November 22nd, 2025 at Centre Village Mall. They may also be purchased - by appointment - from one of our Executive Board members (please record a message to that effect on the PAW telephone line at 403.328.6700, if you would like this option.)

All proceeds of the calendar's sales go to supporting the PAW Society and the cats in its care.

Editorial: Fund-raising

Fund-raising is an essential part of a charity, and the PAW Society is no different. It's no exaggeration to say that Joan Fiddler's death left a great absence in many respects. Though her loss is of course most greatly felt among her family and friends, it also looms large in PAW, in which she was the driving force when it came to raising money.

Her passing away was not quite sudden, but such was her dedication to a cause that was important to her that she continued working at it for as long as she could. Now that she is gone, others must take up that challenge.

And what a challenge it is. But members of the Society are taking it up. The readers of this newsletter can certainly help.

First and foremost, of course, they may participate in the purchase of any items offered for sale, to the best of their financial ability; these days, that ability seems to be diminished more and more by factors out of our control.

Secondly, they may spread the word about the events. Right now, we have two on-going and one

anticipated. Telling people about them would be a trememndous help.

The PAW 2026 calendar is probably the easiest fundraiser, at the moment. It is for sale now, and may be had immediately. See the above notice for information on how to buy one.

The Purdy's Chocolates fund-raiser is always popular. There are plenty of delicious candies to choose from. Page 5 tells you what you need to know.

Lastly, as may be seen from page 4, the Autumn Bake Sale is approaching. There is a third way to help fund-raising with this one. We need baked goods! I'd help, but killing off the public through food-poisoning is bad business. No, we need people who know how to bake, and are willing to devote the time and effort to it. A lot of time and a lot of effort goes into it, I know, but I also know from past sales that the effort is worth it, in terms both of revenue and eating!

If you can, therefore, please help PAW carry on Joan's fund-raising legacy of determination and success.

~ James Thorne.