

# PAWPRINTS

## The Newsletter of the Lethbridge PAW Society

AN  
ADOPTION  
IN THIS ISSUE!

Number 171 ~ November 2025

### Julien: New Home, New Friend, New Family



Both Ainsley and David had a long history of cats before they brought Julien to live with them. Ainsley had adopted Prim and her brother twelve years ago, while David had had two cats for thirteen years. By September of 2025, all the felines had passed away except for Prim, a grey and white long-haired female. Since she had never been an only-cat, Ainsley felt that she was lonely.

"It was time to get her a friend."



*Prim (foreground) meets her new friend, Julien.*



*Play-time for Julien in his new home*

It was when she stopped by Homes Alive Pets, for cat-supplies, that Ainsley saw the binder on display there featuring PAW cats available for adoption. That evening, she took time to research PAW and its cats. Reading Julien's profile, it seemed that he would be a good fit.

*Continued on next page*



**The Lethbridge PAW Society**

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## Julien: New Home, New Friend... *(continued)*



*Daughter Lydia is undeniably a favourite with both cats.*

Ainsley and David did not let their new cat meet their old right away. Julien stayed initially in a room in the basement, where he would spend time with his new humans, alternately David and Ainsley. Then, the cats would be alternated: Julien would come upstairs to explore his strange environment, while Prim went to the basement, where she could familiarize herself with the newcomer's scent.

Nonetheless, Prim was, unsurprisingly, on her guard at first. She even hissed when the pair met. But Julien's personality is a gentle one, and he doesn't come across as a threat.

"He has definitely grown on her [Prim]," stated Ainsley.

Now, the only time Prim is displeased with her adoptive brother is when he runs at her, stopping just before contact. One can understand how, unused to such invitations to play, Prim would be annoyed.

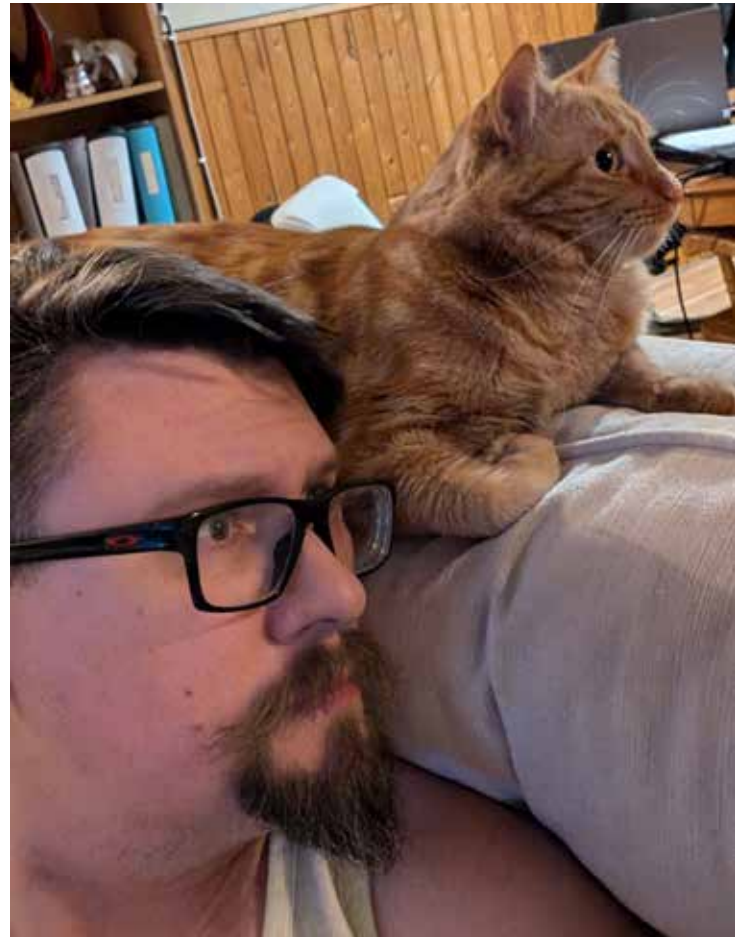
But each is growing accustomed to the other, and they sniff each other occasionally, and proximity doesn't bother Prim, as the two lie close enough for their tails to touch. Both sleep on the bed at night.

For his own part, Julien is "very balanced" between playing and sleeping, though Ainsley remarked that she had to "re-arrange the plants" in the home, to keep them away from the active newcomer.

Ainsley and David's determination that Julien would be the right addition to their family has proven correct - or more than correct.

"He is fitting in really well," Ainsley said; "better than we'd hoped."

*Continued on next page*



*Something has caught the attention of both David and Julien*

**The PAW Society Bake Sale is coming, November 22nd, 2025, and we need bakers to donate delicious goods for the sale. See page 4.**

## Julien: New Home, New Friend... *(continued)*



*Things to see and places to explore  
in the new home*



*Above: Is it a matter of "What is it?"  
or "Who gets it?"*



*Prim went from en garde to touché,  
with her new brother.*



*Ainsley (left) was right: Julien is a good fit.*

**Another PAW cat has found her family.  
Read about her adoption in the next issue of PAWPrints.**



**PICK UP  
YOUR  
PURDYS  
ORDERS AT  
THE BAKE  
SALE!**



PAW SOCIETY

# BAKE SALE

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

10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

# NOVEMBER 22

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](mailto:pawsociety@shaw.ca), or leave message at 403.328.6700  
[pawsociety.ca](http://pawsociety.ca)

# Tanya Plonka: the Woman Behind the Pictures

Each year, the PAW Society calendar features pictures of at least twelve cats who have found their loving and permanent homes through the Society. But how do we come by those beautiful images that capture so well our PAW cats in the calendar? Through the talented lens of Tanya Plonka, professional photographer.

Tanya has been capturing the images of the cats for PAW since 2014 - with the exceptions of 2021 to '24, when the calendar was on hiatus. And she has been doing it all as a volunteer, with no payment for her services.

This is a remarkable gift to PAW, considering a pro photographer's time is indeed money. Tanya photographs up to 30 weddings a year - giving her summer and autumn a hectic schedule - while the rest of the year is taken up with other shoots. And she has over seventeen years of professional experience behind her.

Tanya began taking pictures as a child but the realization that this was her vocation didn't come to her until her time in the University of Lethbridge, from which she graduated with a Baccalaureate of Fine Arts (Multidisciplinary) with Great Distinction.

After that, she began photographing as a career, first in Sears Portrait Studio and studio manager at Litwin Photography, while recording images as entertainment

editor for the U of L's newspaper *The Meliorist*. Then she decided to go to work for herself, a propitious decision that she finds still "so fresh and fun". So, though Tanya has been seventeen years in her own business, it's clear that is only a portion of the time she has spent creating pictures.

Such dedication has been recognised in numerous ways: several times first place in the *Sun Times* Best of the Best contest for Lethbridge photographers (in the top three for every other year she's been in business!) From 2021 to 2024, she won the Consumer Choice Award for best photographer in the Lethbridge region and the Quality Business Award for best wedding photographer in Lethbridge in 2021. In April 2019, she was named one of Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce's Top 40 Under 40.

This, then, is the expertise that the PAW Society has been blessed to have bring its calendar to life. Each year, Tanya's obvious and genuine enthusiasm for her discipline, her career and her subjects captures the spirit of each cat she photographs. PAW - and those who purchase its calendar - are the beneficiaries of that enthusiasm, and of her talent.

Thank you, Tanya Plonka for making the PAW 2025 calendar - and every calendar since 2014 - come alive.



## Purdy's Fund-raiser: Our Best Yet!

The Purdys Chocolates Fund-raiser is a big generator of revenue for PAW. The Society interests its members, friends and acquaintances in purchasing Purdys products. In return, the chocolate company donates 25 per cent of the revenue to PAW. But in case, PAW's sales pass the \$5,000 mark, that percentage rises to 27. And they did!

This year, PAW was responsible for selling \$5,168.50-worth of Purdys items. That means that the Society's share is **\$1,454.27!**

This amount is about fifty per cent more than last year's total, and is an almost incredible increase. Audrey Audette, PAW's treasurer and co-founder, stated that she believes the result may be in large part a tribute to the Society's late fund-raising director, Joan Fiddler, who passed away in September of this year.



Contributions to this year's Purdys campaign, the first since Joan's death, undoubtedly included those from her many friends, who knew the importance that this fund-raiser held for Joan.

PAWPrints would like to express gratitude to Audrey for her work on this campaign. As well-organized as Joan was, her passing, almost immediately prior to the campaign's scheduled commencement, left an empty place in its leadership, and might have resulted in confusion. But, working

laboriously at short notice and, in effect, learning on the job, Audrey was able to arrange matters, and see the event through a more than satisfying conclusion.

Thank you to everyone who gave to this fund-raiser, promoting it and buying chocolates, and thank you to Audrey for her fine direction in PAW's latest success.

## Who's New to PAW

### TALYA

We estimate that Talya was born in early August, 2025. She was found abandoned; probably another kitten who was inconvenient. Whoever gave her up parted with what her new foster-mom calls "such a little sweetheart". She is a "very social" girlcat, though she is a little skittish when it comes to being picked up. Was she roughly handled? Well, a little time with caring people will solve that problem. Talya will be available for adoption in a few weeks, after we've come to know her better. You can bet that what we'll learn will be all good.



The PAW Society's time to work at the **Lethbridge Casino** is scheduled! It is for **June 26 & 27, 2026**. We will need 18 volunteers for the various duties on those two days. This is the biggest fund-raiser we have, and the revenue it generates is vital for what we do. Please consider volunteering, and contacting PAW as soon as possible, by email ([pawsociety@shaw.ca](mailto:pawsociety@shaw.ca)) or by leaving a message at our telephone number (403.328.6700).



**The 2025 PAW calendar is now available for purchase.  
Find out where to buy your copy on page 7.**

## 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.

PAW

2026  
Calendar  
and  
Feline Business Directory!

\$15

Thank you for supporting  
our calendar fundraising

Helping homeless cats in Southern Alberta since 1999

## Editorial: News from PAW

I find it interesting that this issue of *PAWPrints* has many different elements of the Society in it. Firstly there is an adoption. Julien is a wonderful little fellow, and his new family is fortunate to have him, and he to have them.

We have them going and coming: Talya is new to PAW, another kitten who has found a refuge with the Society. Considering her character, she will probably not be with us for long: she's very adoptable.

The upcoming Bake Sale is advertised, and I know of at least two people who are creating delicious items for purchase at the event. For myself, someone who has no baking skills, I intend to enjoy eating what will be created.

The Purdys fund-raiser turned out to be our best yet, and that too has its space in this issue.

Another fund-raiser, our time at the Lethbridge Casino, is now scheduled, and we need volunteers for that. It's big for us, and important.

Not only is the 2026 calendar now for sale, but we have an article about the talented and generous woman behind the pictures in the calendar. We are

very lucky to have Tanya Plonka capturing PAW cats for posterity. With the time and effort involved, it is astonishing that she continues to volunteer both each year. Yet that is the sort of person she is.

Then there is this: Joan Fiddler's church, Trinity United Church, in Picture Butte, has decided to continue Joan's vision of a Community Christmas Concert. It will be held Friday, November 21st, at 7:00 p.m. at the church. In the past, Joan has set up a free will offering, with proceeds going to the local food bank. This year, in Joan's memory, it will be donated to PAW. The Church has extended an invitation to Society members to join them, if possible.

This is an unexpected gift but, considering those involved, not uncharacteristic.

With all of this going on, and all of this to report, readers may gain a sense of why I enjoy putting together this newsletter each month. Though there is sometimes sadness to report, even that is part of the story of this rescue-group, and I am pleased that I can tell it to you.

~ James Thorne.

**Editor's Note: the staff of *PAWPrints* welcomes all comments regarding this and past issues, and suggestions for the benefit of future issues.**