

PAW PRINTS

The Newsletter of the Lethbridge PAW Society

Number 164 ~ April 2025

Their Safe Haven

The PAW Society exists to rescue cats. To quote the statement on our website in full,

"The PAW Society's goals are to raise the value of cats; assist the public with the rescue and rehabilitation of abandoned, homeless or unwanted cats; spay or neuter, vaccinate and provide other necessary health care for cats accepted in to the PAW rescue program; improve cats' lives by finding appropriate, loving, permanent adoptive homes; provide public education and awareness with regard to responsible guardianship including proper nutrition, health care, the importance of spaying/neutering, safety and the lifetime commitment that every pet deserves; monitor current and proposed local animal control bylaws and regulations as they relate to cats."

There is one other service that we perform. We give permanent homes, within our foster-care system, to those cats who, several months or years after rescue, we feel would not benefit from being taken from their foster-home. These are our 'sanctuary cats'.

No cat enters the Society as a sanctuary cat. Some are eventually put into this category because of the length of time they have spent in foster-care, coupled with their ability to adjust to new surroundings. Some cats successfully adopted have spent years in foster-care, but we don't give up hoping for them.

One might ask, if such cats have already spent such long periods in foster-homes, why not keep them? That is not how a sanctuary cat comes to be. If there is nothing preventing a feline from having the happiest of homes except being overlooked, then he continues to be available. There are very few cats who will not adapt, if brought into a wonderful home.

There are other factors that create a sanctuary cat, and it is not an easy decision to make, concluding that he must no longer be offered for adoption. Let's take a look at those who comprise PAW's sanctuary cats, and why they do.

In the March issue of *PAWPrints*, the editorial told of



Neville

Neville, and explained that he is a sanctuary cat. This current article may be seen as an expansion on that editorial, to include all those who share his designation.

If readers wish to know more about Neville, they may consult the March issue; his story won't be repeated in detail here. Suffice it to be that Nev's health deteriorated to the point at which he is better off not being removed from the person who knows him and his condition best. Neville is, despite set-backs, doing well, and hopefully will do so for some years yet.

Continued on next page



Tangie



The Lethbridge PAW Society

Website: www.pawsociety.com • Email: pawsociety@shaw.ca

Tel: 403-328-6700 • P.O. Box 255, Lethbridge, Alta., Canada, T1J 3Y5



Their Safe Haven *(continued)*

Tangie is perhaps our most pointed example of a sanctuary cat. What seemed initially to be a mysterious allergy to certain foods turned out to be hypertrophy of the intestinal smooth muscle causing maldigestion syndrome.

She had been adopted by the time this diagnosis was made, and, despite her new humans loving her greatly, it was impossible to make sure that her highly specialized diet could be maintained without isolating her. Busy work schedules, along with other cats in the household, meant that strict supervision of Tangie's health could not be assured. Isolation for most of her day would have been the only answer.

Tangie now lives in a foster home where an experienced provider has the necessary time to manage Tangie's needs.

A cat who does have a severe and complicated food allergy is **Peggy**. She can tolerate only one protein - unadulterated venison - and great care must be exercised to keep her from eating what is meant for others. Similar to Tangie's situation, Peggy's also involves a cost that is best assured through remaining with PAW.



Peggy

Jaycee was born into a feral colony and it was thought that he and his fellow kittens, when trapped, were young enough to be socialized. Except for one (see Rebus, below), the others were successfully socialized but this did not happen to a satisfactory extent with Jaycee. He has grown accustomed and trusting of his foster-family, who devoted much time and effort to him - as they continue to do. But the risk of him regressing in a new home is too great. He remains with his foster-guardians, where he enjoys the company of other cats, knows his people, and loves his surroundings.



Jaycee

Rebecca also never shed her extreme shyness enough for her to be adopted. Even after years of work by her guardians, she is not ready for another home. She does enjoy her indoor life, the comforts and the regular food; she, like Jaycee, has adapted to the other cats present, her roommates, as many cats from outside colonies do.

Continued on next page



Rebecca

The PAW Spring Bake Sale is coming up, April 26th (see page 4) and the Book Sale, June 11th to 14th. Please consider volunteering.

Their Safe Haven (continued)



Rebus

Rebus is Jaycee’s brother, and, like him, never entirely socialized. He can be rather too dominant with other cats, and needs people familiar with him to understand his behaviour. He nonetheless responds well to his humans, and is quite pleased to have them taking care of him.

Cher and Loki are in a separate category of sanctuary cat. Though unrelated, they live in the same foster-home, and both have the feline leukemia virus. While



Cher

humans are immune to this rare disease, as are other animal species, FeLV+ cats cannot live with those who don’t have it; the risk of infection is too great.

These two youngsters live together and are enjoying life for as long as they can. They can have their rough days, but, with a good diet, regular health-checks and plenty of love and attention, they are happy little creatures: they play and cuddle and purr.



Loki

Cher and Loki are sanctuary cats but PAW would be willing to waive this status for the right home. The Society would pay for all veterinary costs related to these two if they were adopted, and would be available for advice and consultation at any time. They could not, of course, go to a home with uninfected cats. It’s true that their lives will likely be shorter than normal, but while they live, they love, and there really is no telling how long they will have.

PAW’s sanctuary cats demonstrate one of the rules of cat-rescue: once rescued, a cat is given every chance. Perhaps she must receive the closest attention; perhaps he needs to be watched around other cats; perhaps his health is delicate. But these cats will be cared for until their last minute, whenever that may be.

They have come to us for sanctuary; it will not be denied.

The 2026 PAW calendar is in the planning stage! We’re looking for people who have adopted their beloved family member from the Society to feature in the upcoming calendar. The cost is \$65 per cat (includes calendar). Twelve cats, twelve months - no limit on the number of cats from one family (if you’ve adopted more than one!) Call 403-328-6700 or email pawsociety@shaw.ca



If you would like to inquire about being a permanent foster-provider for Cher and/or Loki, please leave a message at 403-328-6700 or email pawsociety@shaw.ca.



Lethbridge PAW Society

BAKE SALE

Saturday, April 26, 2025

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Centre Village Mall

1240, 2nd Avenue 'A' North



Call Joan:
403.732.5708

Website:
pawsociety.com

BAKING NEEDED!

Drop off donated baking at the Mall's Main Concourse
the day of the sale, between 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.



The Coalhurst Spring Market was busy on Saturday, March 29th, and the PAW Society had a table there.

Staffed by Joan Fiddler, fundraising director, and Rita, volunteer, \$72 in merchandise was sold, and a \$10 donation given, for a total of \$82. It may seem a small amount, but these are the amount that add up.

Thank you, Joan, Rita, and the people who attended the market.

Editorial: Do You Know Web Design?

I am going to use the editorial in this issue of *PAWPrints* to make a request.

Most readers know of the Society's website at pawsociety.com. It has served PAW well for decades. The ability to manage it effectively is, however, degenerating; I know little about web-design, but this denegeration is likely due to the site's age. Specifically, our site was designed for file transfer protocol (ftp), however our server host now requires the website to be secure file transfer protocol (sftp). Our ability to change or add to our website is unreliable. **We need a new website.**

The trouble is that to create one would cost a considerable amount, likely running into several thousands of dollars. Hiring someone to do what needs to be done, whether it is those already overseeing the site, or someone new, would be a tremendous expense to PAW, a loss of funds that are needed for the care of cats.

The Executive would like to find a volunteer or friend of PAW who would be willing to

undertake revision or re-construction of the website without charge.

This is, of course, a tall order, given how much people who do this sort of thing for a living charge for it.

As I have stated, I am largely ignorant of web-design. What I know of working on computers is in composition; compared to web-design, it's rather like being able to sail a boat as opposed to building one. Nonetheless, I do understand that it is an intricate business, detailed in the work and time-consuming. Even so, we hope that someone with the expertise might donate his or her time and skills to the task.

If a reader can do this, or knows someone who does, the PAW Society would be obliged to them. If you can help, or if you would like to ask questions about the matter, please contact the PAW Executive by calling 403-328-6700 or emailing pawsociety@shaw.ca.

~ 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.