

# PAW PRINTS

The Newsletter of the Lethbridge PAW Society

AN  
ADOPTION  
IN THIS ISSUE!

Number 165 ~ May 2025

## A Little Less Brings In a Little More

The first PAW bake sale of the year was held April 26th, at the Centre Village Mall. It was a pleasant day for the event and the location in the mall was well-placed to catch shoppers' attention.

"We had a very good day..." commented Joan Fiddler, fund-raising director for PAW. She also noted that there was a little less baking on hand than in previous sales, with fewer items left over. (These are always sold by Joan informally at other venues.)

Interestingly, despite this, the amount of revenue generated was about the same as that from the two



previous bake sales; in fact, it was just over the better of the two previous sales. The May, 2024, sale brought in \$932 in baking sold; that of November, \$861. This most recent sale gave PAW **\$947**. There was no merchandise available this time, so ancillary revenue was less.

This writer observed, at about eleven o'clock on the day of the sale, the number of people entering the mall was beginning to increase in number and frequency. Thereafter, custom was steady through most of the day.

Once more, we take pleasure in thanking those who contributed to the sale, the generous bakers, the volunteers who prepared and worked the event, and of course the people of Lethbridge who bought the baking, and so helped the rescued cats of PAW.

**The Lethbridge PAW Society**

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## August: Starting With Retirement

**ADOPTION**

Not many lives start with retirement, though one might say that August's did. That's where he was when he came to PAW's notice: a kitten being fed - for about a year - by the sympathetic residents there. Of course, August's life began before that. He had probably had a home of sorts, though he was not neutered and was very wary of people. PAW was contacted in May, 2022, which proved fortunate as one of our few foster-homes - with experienced foster-guardian Pat - had a rare space open.



*August*

A trap was loaned to the retirement home's residents, who were shown by Pat how to set it. It took three days before August, as he was named, was caught, on May 26th. Initially, it was undecided whether he would be kept. If he was feral, he would be neutered and released. But Pat recalled that "there was no hissing or screaming," so August would become a foster, hopefully to be adopted one day.



Though he was not completely unsocialized, August's adjustment to the inside of a house already home to cats was not simple. For one thing, he escaped his safe-room and disappeared into the tiled ceiling of the lower level. Pat had to start pulling out ceiling tiles until August, avoiding her approach, fell from above and onto the bed of the guest-room. As he hid under the bed, it was decided that his new safe-room was a fait accompli.

Life alone and outside had made August very cautious, and he was "two or three months in the bedroom", much of that time under the bed. But Pat had "made a commitment to try to socialize him" and, eventually, though, August began emerging when Pat was in the room, though keeping his distance. And integrating with the resident cats was not easy, even with August neutered. Alley life had told him that "other cats were for fighting."

Nonetheless, things improved, as they usually did with time and patience, both of which Pat provided.

A complication arose when it was discovered that

*Continued on next page*



*August (left) with his adoptive brother, Nicky*

**Read about a *double* adoption  
in next month's issue of PAWPrints!**

## August: Starting With Retirement *(continued)*

August is allergic to chicken, the consumption of which leads to “throwing up and diarrhea”. His diet now is healthy and stable, with plenty of salmon and mackerel. A question of what a cat can eat always affects his chances of adoption.



*Nap-time*

Yet August had no serious inquiries for him. PAW could not understand why, as this attractive and strong youngster was a good candidate. Sometimes, however, no matter how inviting a cat is, they are continually passed over by the public, and that was August’s fate. After three years in his foster-home, Pat realized that “this is his home” and made it official.

August “loves to play”. The first thing he does every morning is hurry over to a track-ball for some appetite inducing activity. He is also a fan of the ‘floppy fish’, and at one time enjoyed knocking a ping pong ball about a dry



*Playing with the track-ball is an early-morning routine for August.*



*Outside but safe in their catio: August between Nicky (left) and Claude (right)*

bathtub. He tries to play with his feline roommates but one, Claude, has no interest, and the other, Nicky, thinks August is too rough. There are the usual disagreements among brothers, but nothing serious.

Nonetheless, the three boys share space on the bed at night, and, though not a cuddler, August often comes downstairs to spend time with Pat while she watches television.

It’s not many who reverse the trend, but out of his ‘retirement’, August has embarked on an active and happy life, with no plans to slow down and retire again, not for a very long time.



**With the Bake Sale’s success behind us, we are planning for our next event: the PAW Book Sale, June 11th - 14th (see page 4).**

**PAW Society**  
**BOOK  
SALE**

at the  
**Fish and Game Hut**  
**(9th Avenue and 10th Street South  
s.w. corner of Kinsmen Park)**

**Wed., June 11th - Fri., June 13th, 2025  
(11 am - 7 pm)**  
**and Sat., June 14th (10 am - 3 pm)**

**Donations of books  
accepted at the Hut**

**June 8th - June 10th  
(11 am - 7 pm)**



*No textbooks or encyclopedias. No books accepted after June 10th*  
**403-732-5708      [pawsociety.com](http://pawsociety.com)**

## CAN YOU VOLUNTEER?



The PAW Society needs a large number of volunteers for its **Book Sale** (June 11th - 14th), not just for the sale itself but for the set-up and packing up (June 8th to 14th), and for transporting left-over books. **(We will need vehicles!)** To volunteer, type the link below into your browser's address bar to go to the electronic sign-up sheet.

<https://volunteersignup.org/WJA3R>

## Who's New to PAW

### MILLIE

This adorable little tortoiseshell isn't precisely new to the Society: she was a PAW cat years ago, adopted in late December, 2018, and returned this month. The adopter was moving and was not going to take Millie, who had some issues with inappropriate urination. Millie's situation was highly stressful and she is now in a quiet foster-home where her issues are being addressed. She is nine and a half now, with a sweet and friendly personality. She is quick to trust people, is strong and active, with a streak of playfulness. This soft and tiny girlcat is sure to win hearts wherever she goes.



## Editorial: Adoptions, at Last

Some readers of *PAWPrints* may be wondering if the newsletter has missed reporting an adoption recently, since the last adoption previous to August's (see page two) that appeared in our pages was back in October. Unfortunately, it is true that August represents our first adoption in seven months. We have even had a return, our first in years.

Though we have gone through slow periods before, this one is unusual in its extent. The problem isn't our cats. We have a number of highly adoptable felines: two are on a trial-adoption now, and we will have another adoption to report in our very next issue.

I believe the economy is to blame. The PAW Society is not the only rescue-group to experience slow progress in adoptions. I have read of others, and this weekend I met a woman from a sphinx rescue who stated that

she too is experiencing unprecedented doldrums in adoptions.

An average grocery bill, a cursory glance at rental prices demonstrate increased costs not just in Canada, but everywhere. Our adoption fee, while seeming high to some, never recovers what we put into a rescued cat, and has risen but slowly over the last decade.

As members of the Society, please put the word out regarding rescued cats. Explain how many PAW cats ready for adoption have received medical care far in excess of the adoption fee, and how even the basic - neutering or spaying - costs more than the fee.

Each PAW cat adopted may vacate a spot that will be used for another rescue. And if you are thinking of fostering for the Society, now is the time.

~ 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.**