

PAW PRINTS

The Newsletter of the Lethbridge PAW Society

AN
ADOPTION
IN THIS ISSUE!

Number 173 ~ January 2026

Evie: a Gift

ADOPTION

Erica and Chris's cats were a contrast in ages. Kimi was still a kitten, while Holly was an oldster of 18 years. Holly died on September, 22nd, 2025, the same day as a memorial service was held for Joan Fiddler, PAW's fund-raising director, who passed away on the 19th of that month. As Erica and Chris had known Joan for twenty years, the 22nd was an especially hard day for them.

Holly's passing left both Kimi and Chris out of sorts. While Erica described herself as "more of a dog-person" - though she had grown to appreciate cats during her marriage - she "knew how important [cat] companionship is for my husband." She told Chris that



Valkyrie, now Evie (foreground) has plenty of space to share with Kimi (background).



Growing accustomed to new cats was never a problem for Evie

they could bring in another cat when he was ready.

The couple started looking at available cats on the internet in late October. Though Chris did not want a very young kitten - Kimi was just ten months old - he did not otherwise have a firm idea of his goal.

"I'll know when I know," he explained.

They of course consulted the PAW website, because of their association with Joan, and as soon as he saw

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The Lethbridge PAW Society

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Evie: a Gift *(continued)*

Valkyrie's picture, Chris asked:

"Can we call them?"

Valkyrie was always a curious and adaptable youngster, and at about twenty months of age was an adult - even if her foster-guardian had dubbed her "the Eternal Kitten". When she arrived at her prospective new home, she was naturally puzzled, observant, but not reacting much.

Her interaction with Kimi was, perhaps, predictable. After some hesitation, they became playmates. Both are active and energetic, and Valkyrie - soon to be re-named Evie - loves having a pal.

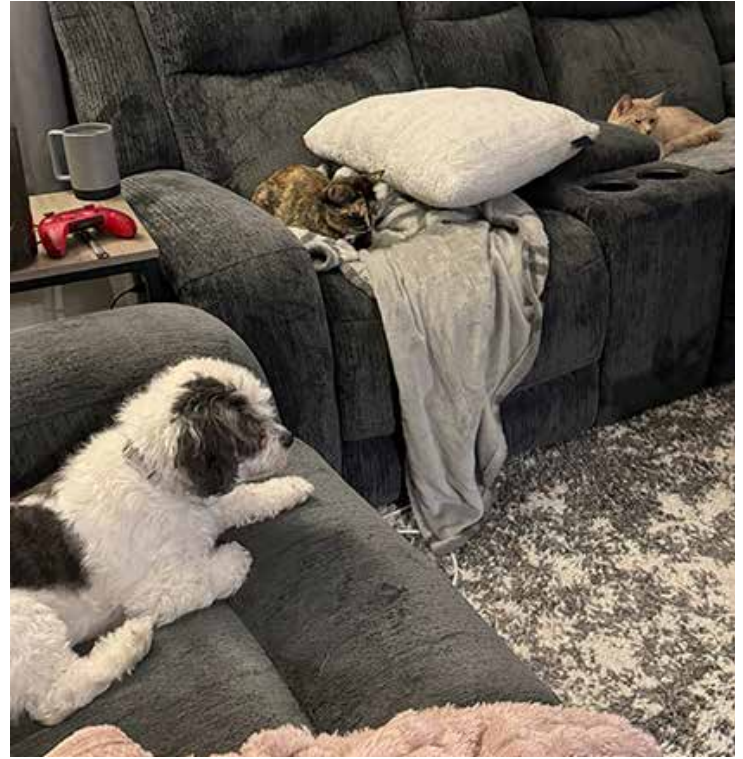


Integration complete: this was just before Evie and Kimi started a wrestling match.

The unknown factor was Rijker, a dog.

Rijker has always been around cats, and sees his feline family members as playmates. Sensitive enough to feel the changes in Holly as she aged, he changed as she did, becoming less physical, and eventually just keeping his old friend company.

Evie, however, wanted to take her time with Rijker and "let him know that he needs to give her space." Being as smart as she is, Evie quickly figured out the topography and routine of her new household. She knows that she can go places the dog can't, and rushes out to enjoy her



Evie is still getting used to Rijker...

home as soon as Rijker retires for the night. Progress on their relationship has been slow but positive.

Evie has settled in very well. Erica described her as "full of spirit" and "a live wire", adding that she has "never known a cat to be so vocal...[she] chats with us - at a high volume."

Kimi appears to enjoy his new chum, as a video showing him being groomed by the slightly older cat proves. They wrestle and chase each other, Evie taking advantage of Rijker's absence at night to indulge in "zoomies".

In her foster-home, Evie was known as the gregarious sort; when a new human came to visit, it took her only a minute to decide to come out and welcome the visitor. She has taken this quality with her.

She loves people, commented Erica, and is "very loving, a real sweetheart."

It took no time at all for Evie to befriend Ember, the couple's young daughter, and their oldest son, who has his own apartment downstairs. A cat-fancier himself - with his own feline - he takes every opportunity to spend time with Evie when he visits.

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**PAW needs volunteers for our upcoming Casino Days, June 26th and 27th, 2026.
See pages 4 and 5.**

Evie: a Gift *(continued)*



But it is with Chris that Evie has bonded, as it was hoped she would.

Erica explained that she and Chris think of Evie as "Joan's gift to us."

Joan "always spoke so much about the PAW Society" and was "a surrogate mom in some ways."

Joan would indeed be pleased to see Evie in her new home, with her new family. And while Erica and Chris may think that Evie is Joan's gift to them, they are also Joan's gift to Evie.



A PAW Thank-you to the City of Lethbridge

Each year the City of Lethbridge awards a sum of money called the Non-veterinary Assistance for Animal Rescue Organizations Grant. PAW completed the application process to be awarded the grant this year and, as a result, the Society was presented with **\$5,000** by the City's Animal Welfare Committee, which oversees the grant.

As the title of the grant states, the money is not to be used for medical care. It is to be used for food, to support, as the letter informing PAW about the award stated, the Society's animal rescue efforts.

Needless to say, this amount is very welcome. Every rescue-group knows how fast money can vanish when providing for the animals in its care, so this award is greatly appreciated indeed, and never more so than now, with rising costs with which everyone seems to have to



deal. Certainly, it is not difficult for PAW to find the non-veterinary necessities on which to spend this grant.

Charities such as PAW rely on their communities for the means to operate; for their very existence. Money raised through events, and donated by businesses and individuals, is our mainstay. Yet these groups live on the edge of success or failure; contributions such as the City's

are vital.

PAW would like to extend its gratitude to the City's Animal Welfare Committee and, in particular, to Mr Dave Henley, the senior by-law officer, who collects the grant applications and submits them to the committee.

While the ultimate recipients of the grant - rescued cats - will never know of this bounty, we humans would like to say, 'Thank you,' to the City of Lethbridge.

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

Generosity Comes on Four Feet

The Four Feet Companion Foundation (FFCF) is a registered charity, founded in Calgary in 2012. According to their website, they “award financial grants, volunteer support and supply donations to registered local animal charities”, giving priority to “award financial grants, volunteer support and supply donations to registered local animal charities.” Funds are raised “through events, donations and corporate sponsorship.”

Recently, it was discovered that PAW sanctuary cat Jaycee was in great need of dental surgery. PAW's treasurer, Audrey Audette, applied to the FFCF for a grant to help cover the costs of this expensive procedure. The response was positive, and the FFCF granted PAW **\$1,000**.

This is not the first time the FFCF has aided the PAW Society. This generosity is therefore doubly appreciated.

Not many know of the Four Feet Companion Foundation. It is run entirely by volunteers, and its

mission is, in the FFCF's own words, “to bridge the gap between need and resources in the Alberta rescue community by providing financial and volunteer resources, thereby allowing these charities to expand their impact on the community.”

Clearly, the people in the FFCF understand the immense costs of animal-rescue, how the routine operations of a rescue-group can drain its coffers, and how an extraordinary situation can be beyond its financial capabilities. For this reason, other organizations than the PAW Society have reason to be grateful to the FFCF.

And we offer our deep gratitude to the Four Feet Companion Foundation for its great gift, which will contribute considerably to paying for Jaycee's veterinary care. Because of that care, Jaycee is feeling and living better. That makes us in PAW feel better, too. And that's another thing for which we thank the FFCF.



Important News About Up-coming Casino

PAW's participation in the Lethbridge Casino is coming up this year: **June 26th and 27th**. This is by far our most important fund-raiser; it doesn't happen every year, and when it does, we need a large number of volunteers to staff our two nights.

Volunteers need to fill out a specific form. The form may be obtained in two ways.

- 1) The form on the following page may be printed out.
- 2) The form may be downloaded and printed out from the AGLC website. Click on this link, or copy and paste it into your browser.

<https://aglc.ca/forms/casino-volunteer-worker-application>

Once downloaded, fill out **only** the section titled “Particulars of Volunteer”. **Do not** fill in “Key Positions”. While each volunteer may have a preference as to the position to fill, this cannot be completed on the form as the PAW Executive won't be

able to fill positions until all volunteers have sent in their applications. The preferences of volunteers will be accommodated as much as possible.

The form, once the “Particulars of Volunteer” section is completed, and the form signed, must be provided to the PAW Executive Board. It may be scanned and emailed (to pawsociety@shaw.ca), mailed (to **P.O. Box 255, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, T1J 3Y5**), or other arrangements may be made by inquiring by email or telephone (**403-328-6700**).

Make your choice of position when your application is submitted; also, let us know which day you prefer to work.

Please complete and submit the form as soon as possible; they in turn must be sent to the AGLC as soon as possible.

Feel free to contact the Executive if you have any questions regarding this vital fund-raiser.

Please FILL OUT the appropriate section and SIGN the form on the next page.

Eight New Homes for Ten Cats, in '25

Each January, PAWPrints looks back to see which cats found their homes in the twelve months just ended.

The number of our adoptions in 2025 is lower than in previous years, due in part to prospective adopters' worrisome finances, and to fewer foster-homes available to PAW. Nonetheless, each adoption represents a

formerly homeless cat who has found a loving family or individual, and we take pride in each and every successful placement.

The faces below are those of the cats who found love and safety for a lifetime. These faces are the rewards of every PAW member, volunteer and friend.



August



Tali and Rosie



Julien



Lola



Moxy



Russell



Valkyrie



Mordecai and Katia

Would you like **your** future cat to be featured on this page next January? Look at who's available for adoption: <https://pawsociety.ca/adoption-cats/>

Editorial: Loki

Even as the final version of the last article was being written for this issue of *PAWPrints*, I learned that one of the Society's foster-cats, Loki, had died.

Loki was a PAW cat before he was born: his pregnant mother was taken in to the Society, and he and his siblings were born in the home of experienced and loving foster-guardians. Loki's parent and siblings were adopted.

We expected a wonderful future for this little black kitten, for he was a typically happy and active youngster. Alas, our hopes received a severe blow, for Loki was accidentally exposed to feline leukemia (FeLV), a disease caused by a virus, and which can be transmitted from cat to cat, but not to other species, such as humans or dogs. Naturally, this limited his chances of adoption, for the majority of those who adopt cats already have at least one, and are likely to want to adopt others in the future.

But Loki did not know of his misfortune. Born on October 4th, 2023, he thrived in his affectionate environment, and became a handsome young mancat. For most of his short life, Loki might have been mistaken for a perfectly healthy feline; his FeLV was lurking in his body but was kept in abeyance.

He was very active. His foster-guardian stated that Loki was the "zoomiest" cat she knew. He found the big exercise wheel, and loved to run on that. It didn't matter to him that he wasn't getting anywhere: Loki loved to run for the joy of it.

He was a strong fellow with a very good appetite. As he matured and shed the fluffy little body of a kitten, his black coat became smooth and glossy.

This energetic little creature loved his people, too. He was a very social animal, and would have loved to go partying - if he'd been able - but he settled for napping on humans' laps or lying on their shoulders.

At night, he would sleep next to his people.

While a cat with FeLV will probably not have a long life, his life can still be full and enjoyable. He doesn't know when his end will come, so he plays and eats and watches and snuggles, just like every cat - a lesson to us all, I suppose, for none of us knows when our time will be used up, either.

But with this zest for life in mind, PAW advertised Loki as the perfect companion for any other sociable cat with FeLV. Indeed, there is no reason why a cat with this illness should be alone, when the possibility exists of having a pal who is similarly afflicted.

Or, such a cat could be an only cat for someone who wants only one. Loki's delight in life was contagious - unlike FeLV, it could spread to humans, and every animal he contacted.

Neither scenario occurred. That didn't bother Loki, for he had his foster-guardians to love him and take care of him. This they did marvellously until it was time to make the decision to end his suffering. For Loki's sickness caught up with him at last. Even a few days before, he was running and playing, a seemingly ordinary young cat.

But he took a turn for the worse on the weekend of January 24th/25th, and to save him from pain which could not be alleviated, his foster-family said good-bye to him on January 26th, 2026.

Loki has been called "one of PAW's happiest cats". He didn't know that his life would be shorter than most - no more than does any of us know our allotted amount of time. But this little fellow made the most of what he was given, making fun for himself and enjoyment for others, eating with gusto and sleeping as though he had all the time in the world.

What he had was a lifetime of good things, of love and companionship, of food and safety. We just wish it could have gone on a little longer.

Godspeed, Loki.

~ 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.