

PAWPRINTS

The Newsletter of the Lethbridge PAW Society

AN
ADOPTION
IN THIS ISSUE!

Number 174 ~ February 2026

Gus: Exactly What Was Wanted

ADOPTION

If one thinks of it, it is rather surprising that so many adoptions of cats are by people who already have a feline family member. Yes, it's true that having one or more cats often creates a desire for more.

Yet that desire has to start somewhere, some time. Well, in this issue of *PAWPrints*, we have a first-time cat adopter.

Mark remembers that his family had a cat when he was very young, but it was his "parents' cat". It was not until he was an adult that, through the influence of university friends and their two cats, he "fell in love with the idea of having a cat, and being a cat-owner." Nonetheless, he wisely waited until he was "more settled" and, recently,

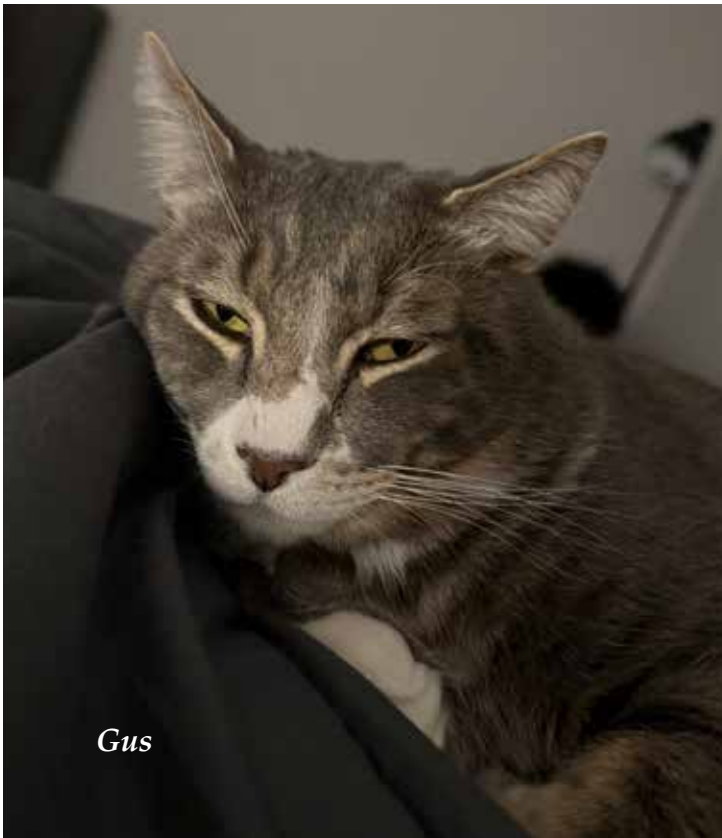


Gus likes to be on a level with his humans.

he decided that he was ready, and deliberately sought out an apartment that was "pet-friendly".

The question then became 'where to find a cat'. Mark wanted to "shop local", as it were. A colleague, Cheri, is involved with PAW, and recommended the Society. Mark found that he appreciated PAW's mission, and its important work. And that was how he met Graeme.

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Gus



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



Gus: Exactly What Was Wanted *(continued)*



Graeme, soon to be re-named Gus, came from an affectionate foster-home with an experienced foster-guardian. Even so, Gus did not really care for a multi-cat household; he was suited to be an only-cat, and that destiny was about to be fulfilled.

He arrived in his new home just a month after Mark moved in, so they were both newcomers, as if they had chosen the residence together. His first day was spent in "roaming around, all over the place," perhaps pleasantly surprised at being the only feline present. He quickly found some choice spots, such as the bathroom sink: "lying in it like he's in a hot-tub," was Mark's description. Gus was so possessive of his new luxury



that the first night, Mark and his girlfriend, Claire, had to brush their teeth at the kitchen sink. But what was more significant to them was that Gus "was comfortable right away."

His favourite room does indeed appear to be the bathroom, though it's preferable if a human is in there with him. He watches Claire in the mirror, and "they do their skin-care routine together."



Mark had a thought - before Gus - of bringing in a second cat, once he had a first, but has decided against it. He is sure that Gus enjoys being an only cat, and likes being the centre of attention. He also likes his people, following them about and, as Mark stated, "jumping up to be at eye-level, which is sweet."

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PAW needs a co-ordinator for its Spring Bake Sale, **April 25th, 2026.
See pages 4.**

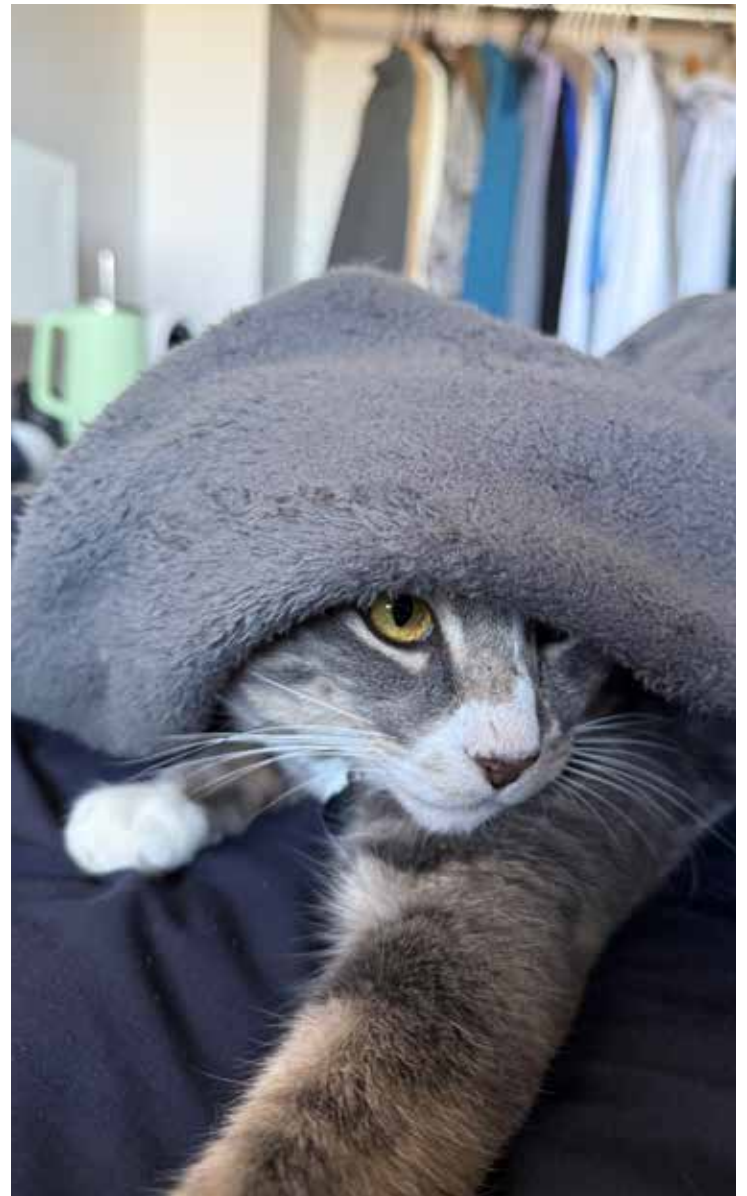
Gus: Exactly What Was Wanted *(continued)*

When Mark works from home, Gus is usually in the cat-bed that has been put on the desk; from there, he either gazes out the window, or watches Mark. Gus also spends much time in the new "cat-tower", especially in the soft-sided, enclosed room on the tree - his "Bat-cave" - from inside of which he enjoys swatting at the fabric if someone is obliging enough to poke it.



In fact, being hidden is rather a pastime for Gus. A propped pillow or a rumpled blanket is an attraction; anything that provides a little space in which he can stay out of sight. From there, Gus can reach out swiftly at anyone unsuspecting enough to come within paw's length.

Mark thinks Gus loves being in his own place, as much as his humans love having him there. Mark praised the Society's adoption counsellor, Roxanne Holloway, and was thoroughly satisfied with the adoption process PAW has. He recognized that "it is about finding the right fit... allows the cat to find the perfect home... Gus is exactly what I wanted in a cat."



**We are on a winning streak: another PAW cat has found his family.
Read about his adoption in the next issue of PAWPrints.**

Can You Co-ordinate a Bake Sale?

Readers of PAWPrints have already received a February 'Extra' of the newsletter, describing the Society's need for a co-ordinator for the bake sale it's hoped to have on **April 25th**. As this is an important event, it's felt that reiterating the need in this month's regular issue is warranted.

If we cannot find someone to fill the position, it will be cancelled. This must be done relatively soon, to be fair to any other individual or organization who would like our reserved date.

Joan Fiddler had always taken on the responsibility of the bake sale, in her capacity as the Society's fund-raising director. Her death in September left a vacancy in PAW in a great many ways. The Spring Bake Sale is one of them.

It is, as most members know, a one-day event. The preparation does not require physically setting up the tables for the sale; this is done by the Mall staff. The co-ordinator must, however, be present before the sale starts; donors begin bringing baked goods to sell as soon as the Mall's doors open at 9:30 a.m.

Duties require pricing of the goods, arranging the baking, accepting payment for the goods from

customers, keeping track of the money and, at the end of the day, gathering up the remaining baked goods, if any, at 3 p.m.

There will, of course, be volunteers to assist in these tasks, but these must be contacted by the co-ordinator. Most of the volunteers will likely be experienced in what needs to be done. Advertising will be conducted through PAW's usual media.

The manager of the bake sale need not have done something like this previously; much more will depend on general preparation for the event than experience.

As stated already, PAW needs to know if anyone can fill the manager's shoes as soon as possible. If we cannot find somebody soon, Centre Village Mall will need to be notified.

If a member or friend of PAW would like to volunteer for this important position, please contact the Society, preferably by email (pawsociety@shaw.ca), or by telephone (403-328-6700) or through our **Facebook** page. If anyone has questions regarding the bake sale or its responsibilities, feel free to contact PAW through the same channels.

And Can You Volunteer for the PAW 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.

Editorial: Gus and the Process

AS described in our first page story, Graeme, now Gus, has been adopted. It is a thoroughly satisfactory adoption from every angle. That it is, is due in great part to the process by which cats are adopted through the PAW Society.

I have written about this previously, but I think it is a principal reason for the success we have had in finding permanent homes for the cats we rescue. It was not a complete process, ready all at once, from the start. It evolved over time - a relatively short time - and was derived from experience.

It is what some of have termed a lengthy process, involving the applicant filling out an adoption inquiry from our website, followed by a telephone conversation, a home visit, possibly a conversation with a landlord (if the applicant is renting). Nothing is rushed, though some steps may be avoided if the applicant is someone who has adopted from us previously, and are known to PAW.

The care that the Society takes in its adoptions is not liked by some applicants; they don't appreciate the reasons for that care, or think that such detail in the process is unnecessary. But an adoption is not just a matter of giving a cat to someone who would take care of it; it is a matter of finding the right cat for the right person, for the rest of the cat's life.

This was fully understood by Mark, when he was seeking to adopt Gus. There was a possibility of another cat; this one would have made an excellent companion for Mark. Yet this alternate cat was one who liked the company of other felines, whereas Gus was eminently pleased with being the only one in his household. Both would have been good choices but, through the work involved in the PAW adoption process, it was seen that Gus was the better selection, and the weeks that have followed have proven it -



certainly to the satisfaction of both Gus and Mark.

That the PAW adoption process works in almost every other instance is testified by the long list of successful adoptions and very short list of returns. Very often, it results in a match between cat and human that is not only lasting but deep.

Roxanne Holloway, PAW's adoption counsellor, is the one primarily responsible for finding the correct match between human and cat. But I know from personal experience that the possibilities and permutations of adoptions is something discussed by all the Executive Board, and other members, too.

As we learn about the foster-cats in our care, we talk about their characteristics, their strengths, their weaknesses; who would be better for a multi-cat

home, who wants to be an only-cat; which cat would love the raucous lifestyle of a young and active family, who wants the serenity of a peaceful house. These are all things that are considered, and considered often, in talking about the cats available for adoption.

The input of numerous people in PAW, those with experience of cats in general, those with knowledge of specific cats; all of it goes to strengthen the process of adoption. That those involved in it

feel that others' opinions are important and, indeed, in many cases, necessary, is impressive.

So Gus is in his new home. It must have seemed simple to him: thrust into a carrier, a puzzling ride in an automobile, then being debouched into a new world. Little does he know, or will ever understand, all the work that went into his arrival in his home, a permanent loving home that appeared made just for him.

Thanks to the PAW adoption process, it *is* just for him.

~ 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.