

PAWPRINTS

The Newsletter of the Lethbridge PAW Society

AN
ADOPTION
IN THIS ISSUE!

Number 175 ~ March 2026

A Lively, Lively Boy

ADOPTION

In the last issue of *PAWPrints*, the adoption by a first-time cat adopter of Graeme, now Gus, was described. In this issue, we have a more familiar story: that of a family who already have cats, adopting another.

Yet, though familiar, the story of Felix - now Arlo - is as unique as the cat and people involved.

Geri and Keith already had two felines: Mia, adopted from PAW in May, 2020, and Maizy, brought in as a kitten. But their humans thought these "older cats were getting too quiet", and it was time to shake things up.

Enter Felix.



Geri and Keith, having adopted from the Society previously, looked there again for a new cat. What attracted them to Felix was, firstly, his age; then about eight months old, he was typically full of energy. But his profile also stated that "he's not unnerved by new situations", and that even during a veterinary visit, he was "at ease and co-operative". He sounded ideal.



*Arlo (top)
with his new
adoptive sister,
Maizy*

Felix, now Arlo, fulfilled his profile's implications about how he would behave with other cats. After hiding under a bed for a few hours of his first day in the house, he was introduced to his new feline siblings through glass doors. But his behaviour when actually meeting them was auspicious. "Other than a few hisses, it's been pretty painless," Geri said of the newcomer's integration with the older cats, adding that Arlo has been "good about respecting the girls."

Continued on next page



The Lethbridge PAW Society

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A Lively, Lively Boy *(continued)*



Arlo (lower left) with his sisters, Maizy (background) and Mia (centre right)

His family chose Arlo for his youth and vitality, and Arlo is delivering. Geri commented that he is “at his peak” with regard to health and physicality, and that he “needs lots of activity”. While his older sisters do indulge the boycat with some chasing, “they don’t play at his level,” and can’t provide all the exercise he needs. Arlo’s humans do.

“He’s a beast,” Geri stated about Arlo’s energy. She likes to wear him out at bed-time, when his exertions are exacting as they are enjoyable: he’s huffing and puffing by their conclusion.

After that, Arlo has his well-earned rest, and the night is usually spent on the bed with his people. But he’s up early again - ready to play some more.

Just as he was in his foster-home, Arlo loves his people, wanting to know where they are all the time, and talking to them in little trills.

He is also a smart cat. Because Maizy is a “gobbler” when it comes to food (and is on a diet), meals are disbursed by computerised feeders. Each cat can eat only from his or her own bowl, the information permitting this being embedded in the same micro-chip that contains the information necessary to bring them home if lost. It did not take Arlo long to recognize how his meals were delivered, and to be “right there” for his food, when it is time.

Was Arlo the right choice for the household with two cats growing rather sedate with age?

Geri answered that question when she referred to him as a “lively, lively boy”, and said that he was the “perfect pick” for their home.



Who’s New to PAW

RHAPSODY (left), TILLY (right)

These two young females represent a unique situation for PAW: we’ve taken in pregnant cats before, but not one pregnant and one with day-old kittens, and they were brought into PAW at the same time. Read their stories on page 3.



**We need many volunteers for PAW’s Casino Days (June 26th - 27th, 2026)?
See pages 4 and 5.**

Kitten-time!

It's kitten season, and it's really feeling like it at the PAW Society.

Recently we received a call from someone who lived on an acreage just outside of Lethbridge. They were concerned about a friendly, stray cat, a female, whom they were feeding, and providing with rudimentary shelter. The weather, which had been unseasonably warm up to then, was about to change for the worse, and the people endeavouring to help told PAW that they had too many animals as it was. Another factor was the fact that this female was likely unspayed, and thus a potential mother to more homeless cats.

She was brought in to a foster-home.

We were just too late in being asked for help, however, as Rhapsody, as we named her, was already pregnant.

Suspensions of her condition were confirmed by a veterinary visit, and it was expected that she would give birth at the end of March. She had at least four kittens in her, possibly five.



Rhapsody

Rhapsody is a very friendly girlcat, though wary of strangers. It did not take her long to come to trust her foster-guardian, and has been introduced to her numerous feline roommates. They are cautious around her, as she is around them - except for one who likes to introduce himself to all the new cats.

'Rho' has been giving lessons to her foster-guardian on the behaviour of an expectant cat, and the human is surprised at how agile and active she still is, late into her pregnancy. He fears for her condition more than does Rhapsody herself, it seems.

Due to her situation, Rhapsody could not be vaccinated or de-wormed, though she in fact has been found to

be very healthy. Her age is indeterminant; probably between a year and eighteen months. PAW policy likes to keep kittens with a new mother at least three months before being adopted out, but at the end of that time, Rho will have received all the proper medical vaccinations and procedures, and be ready for adoption herself. She is such an affectionate girl that she would be ready for her permanent home right away, if it were not for the little ones she is currently carrying.

Just as this article was being prepared, we received word of another pregnant cat. Tilly had been coming to a cat-fancier at his home for a few weeks. She was already pregnant, and the man feeding her had three cats already in a tiny house. He contacted PAW and we hoped to make room for Tilly. In the meantime, he was urged to bring Tilly inside, even if only temporarily, since she could have her kittens at any time. He did so.

Events pre-empted our schedule when, the very next day, Tilly gave birth to four babies (three boys and a girl), in the warmth and security of her benefactor's home. She could not stay there, however; the resident cats, while only curious, were causing some natural defensiveness on the part of the new mother. The little family was relocated to an experienced PAW foster-home.

Tilly is an excellent mother, seemingly anticipating her kittens' needs before they have them. They are already growing big, and becoming accustomed to the human touch. Like Rhapsody and her future brood, Tilly and her kittens will be available for adoption three months after their birth, that is, late June.

Keep reading PAWPrints for any more news about the two families, and check our website (pawsociety.ca) for when all these amazing new PAW cats are available.



Tilly and her family

**Then there is PAW's Book Sale (May 24th - 30th, 2026).
We need books donated and people to help out. See page 7.**

Important: Volunteers Needed for the Casino

PAW's participation in the Lethbridge Casino - **June 26th and 27th** - is by far our most important fundraiser; it doesn't happen every year, but 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**).

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

Please complete and submit the form to PAW 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.

Much Ado About Much

This is a busy time of a busy year for PAW, because we have much going on. One of the problems is that, while we have three big fund-raising events happening all within a few months, each needs to be promoted first, for its own reason.

Though PAW's **Casino** is the farthest away (June 25th and 26th), it is our biggest fund-raiser and the volunteers' participation must be registered with the proper authorities by a deadline. That's the reason for the article above, and the form on the next page.

But our **Spring Bake Sale** (April 25th) needs baking donated, and asking people to do that at the last moment is neither a wise nor a successful policy. That's why there's the poster on page 6.

And then there is the **Book Sale** (May 24th to 30th.) We need many, many books donated to make this one a hit. And we need volunteers; see the link to the sign-up sheet on page 7.

So, while it is a lot to ask, we are hoping that a little from a lot - of PAW volunteers - will give us much.



**Can you bake for PAW's Spring Bake Sale (April 25th, 2026)?
We need baking donated! See page 6.**



SPRING BAKE SALE



Saturday, April 25, 2026
from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

at **CENTRE VILLAGE MALL**

(2nd Avenue 'A' North, Lethbridge)

⇒ **We Need Your Baking!** ⇐

Drop off donated baked goods at Centre Village Mall
9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m., the day of the sale.

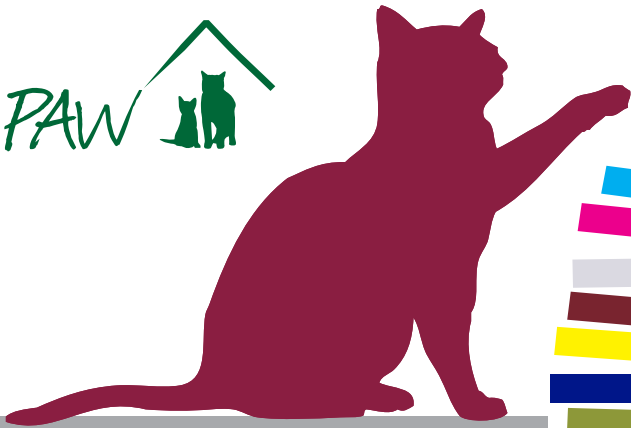
Helping
rescue cats...
like this one!



PAW Society
403-328-6700
www.pawsociety.ca



To sign up for a shift - many are available - click on this link.
<https://volunteersignup.org/MY7RF>



PAW
SOCIETY
BOOK
SALE



Wed. May 27 - Fri. May 29 10 am - 6 pm

Sat. May 30 9 am - 2 pm

Fish and Game Hut

(9th Ave. & 10th St. South, s.w. corner of Kinsmen Park)

Donations of books accepted at the Hut

May 24 1 pm - 6 pm and May 25 - 26 10 am - 6 pm

Editorial: PAW's Kitten Rules

Our story on page three described our new in-take very well: a cat expecting kittens any day and a cat who had them the day before she came into PAW. Tilly will have beaten Rhapsody to the delivery by a few days, a week at most; four kittens, and we expect at least four from 'Rho'. That means ten or more new cats for PAW, our biggest addition to those cats available for adoption all at once.

Of course, the kittens, and their mothers, will not be ready to adopt out until the youngsters are twelve weeks old. That's our policy, to make certain that the youngsters receive as much motherly attention as possible, both emotionally and physically. There have been exceptions to this rule, but they are rare. The one that I can think of off-hand was when Oleo and Bisto - two kittens I myself was fostering - were adopted. But their new lives began very close to their three month mark, if I recall correctly, and their circumstance was different: they arrived without a mother.

Tilly is everything one could want in a cat-mom, and there is no reason to expect Rhapsody to be any less complete in her parenting. Therefore, the twelve-week rule will undoubtedly apply.

Another rule - or recommendation, to be truthful - is that kittens be adopted in pairs, or to homes which already have an active cat.

In terms of companionship, the reasons for this policy is obvious. Kittens, being immature, need friends around them, for play and other activities, for snuggling at slumber-time, and for courage in a new world that will be quite uncertain to them until they make it their own.

But there is also something that may not be readily apparent. Kittens learn from each other. I've seen it myself with the aforementioned Oleo and Bisto ('the

Felons', I called them). I have a set of stairs by my bed for the use of middle-aged and old cats. They were also handy for cats so small that the distance from bed to floor was fearful. One of the Felons utilised the steps without much hesitation. The other watched his brother repeatedly execute this strange action, and only then copied it. Then again, the roles of teacher and pupil were reversed when one taught the other how to use a litter-box.

Certainly, in this case, an older cat, wise in the ways of the world, would fill the role of mentor very well, if he is the social sort, and tolerant and patient. He would also serve as the companion a kitten needed, if the latter had no sibling to go with him.

Having a companion does not exempt a kitten from needing a great deal of attention from his human. This will be a heavy responsibility - as well as a joy - for a foster-guardian, while kittens are in their care. Physical handling is required to socialise these new and wild creatures, to accustom them to human touch and proximity, to ensure as much as possible that they are undisturbed by people, even strangers. (This latter accomplishment is never certain, but it is a goal.)

Adopting a kitten is a great deal to take on. Indeed, adopting any pet is a great demand on a conscientious human, but the immature pets require more than the average adult. Even so, the inclusion of kittens in one's life is an adventure unique in human/animal relations, and a truly happy one.

It is, in fact, an adventure that continues into the kitten's adulthood, its middle-age and its time as an oldster. When a kitten is adopted, a cat is adopted, not for the duration of kittenhood, but for the life of the cat. And that's a PAW rule, too.

~ 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.