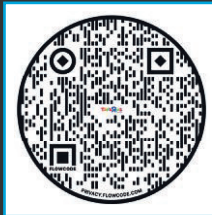


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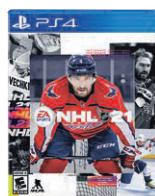


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NEWS



Patricia Taciak photo

Olly (left) and Sophie are featured in this year's Pet Valu calendar. The calendar is available at all Pet Valu stores for a donation to Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides.

A PURRFECT CHOICE

LOCAL CATS FEATURED IN PET VALU'S ANNUAL CALENDAR

HERB GARBUTT
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Patricia Taciak says her two-and-a-half year-old tabby Sophie can be a bit of a diva.

"She's a bit sassy and she owns the house," says Taciak.

And now Sophie owns the month of March, but she's sharing her moment in the spotlight with her housemate Olly, a three-and-a-half year-old domestic longhair.

The two north Halton cats, who share their home with a six-month old Bernadoodle named Zazu, are featured in Pet Valu's an-

nual calendar.

Taciak saw a Facebook post in the summer calling for pet photos for the calendar. She says her cats are cooperative when it comes to taking pictures.

"If I have a treat in my hand, they'll sit for photos, but for the most part they're napping," she said. "Olly is calmer, a docile. He just goes with the flow."

Taciak submitted three photos of Sophie and Olly cuddling together. Then in August, she heard from Pet Valu that one of her photos had been selected from more than 60,000 entries. She had to keep the news a secret until the calendar was ready.

The calendar is available at all Pet Valu stores for a give-what-you-can donation to Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides.

"That was one my favou-

"That was one my favourite parts, that the proceeds were going to Dog Guides."

- Patricia Taciak

rite parts, that the proceeds were going to Dog Guides," Taciak said. "I have friends who foster dogs for Dog Guides."

The foundation, based in Oakville, trains dogs and provides them to Canadians with medical or physical disabilities. Though it can cost as much as \$25,000 to train and place a guide dog, they are provided at no cost to the person needing assistance.

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