

# SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

# AMY PIEL-GLASS

## What I like best about volunteering at Colony Cats:

Meeting all the wonderful kitties and the concerned and compassionate people who are helping them in so many ways. Having the chance to make a little difference in a living creature's life.

## My pets at home:

Dogs: Kaylee, an 8-year old, 64 lb., completely mixed mutt. Bodie, a 5-1/2 year old, 70 lb. Pyrenese-shepherd mix. Both rescues, both attention hounds and silly love sponges.

Cats: Albert, an 18-year old tux kitty who adopted us at the Humane Society as a kitten - while we were there looking for a dog! Beringar (Bear), a 14-year old gray and white CC alumnus (McDonald's and Mona's colonies). Her Most Royal and Elegant Highness The Mutant Princess Mihrimah (Mihri), 5 years old, long-haired, dilute torti, polydactyl on all 4 paws. (Thanks for filling my "order" Mona!) Tylo, going on 3, black and white, 16-1/2 pounds, found by our pet sitter on the berm of Norton Rd. when he was 4 weeks old. In the yard and under our cars is the lovely feral Bette, a TNR from a Kroger parking lot.

Fish: Sheila, a purple-blue female betta about 2 years old.

## What I'd like you to know about me:

I'm sorry, but I'm simply terrible with names - if you tell me your pet's name, you may get called by it. I talk a lot, swear a lot, and am obsessed with beads, mushrooms, travel, reducing my carbon footprint, and the (almost-finished!) renovation. And I recently became a great aunt.

## Where you can find me when I'm not volunteering for Colony Cats:

At home in my workshop or kitchen. Traveling, camping, canoeing, and hiking with my husband Allen, taking Kaylee and Bodie with us whenever we can. (They have become very good canoe dogs, and love sleeping in tents.)

## Dogs or Cats Rule?:

Ours is a very democratic household. Even Sheila gets a vote. That said, cats choose their people, people choose their dogs (and fish). So I'm inclined to prefer - all of them.



## What's your advice to a new Colony Cats volunteer?

Don't Panic! It can all be a bit overwhelming at first, with so many cats and so many needs. Slow down, take your time, and ask questions. There are no stupid questions. And if something happens that just breaks your heart, there will be as many good things that happen to help mend it, so don't give up.

## Your unique Q&A, thoughts, or favorite saying:

I'd love to see Colony Cats and every other organization like it go out of business - not from lack of support, but lack of need.

When I was in high school at the International School in Geneva, some of my classmates were hired to paint the classrooms - one was a Hindu named Ganesh. The paint had strong fumes, (it was the 1970's,) so the windows were left open during the painting. One day, a wasp flew in, landed on the wall, and was caught in the fresh paint. Ganesh gently extracted the wasp from the paint, rinsed her carefully in water, and let her crawl up and down his arm while she dried. She never tried to sting him, and flew off out the window when she had dried. All forms of life deserve respect, and many appear to recognize it gratefully when it is given. The whole earth deserves respect, but is paved and poisoned and taken for granted by thoughtless, shortsighted people.

*Since I was invited to use this as a soapbox, I'll finish with two favorite quotes from Sitting Bull:*

"For us, warriors are not what you think of as warriors. The warrior is not someone who fights, because no one has the right to take another life. The warrior, for us, is one who sacrifices himself for the good of others. His task is to take care of the elderly, the defenseless, those who can not provide for themselves, and above all, the children, the future of humanity."

"Hear me people: We have now to deal with another race - small and feeble when our fathers first met them, but now great and overbearing. Strangely enough they have a mind to till the soil and the love of possession is a disease with them. These people have made many rules that the rich may break but the poor may not. They take their tithes from the poor and weak to support the rich and those who rule."

And never forget the 3 R's - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

