

JANUARY VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH JEANNE

What I like best about volunteering at Colony Cats:

Raising kittens in foster care. I love seeing them go from TINY to "real" cats and ready for homes. Or when you get the sick ones and see them get better and ready to leave. Don't get me wrong, there are times it is heartbreaking and hard, but then you sit for a while with purring kittens on your lap and it is all OK.

My pets at home:

Ivy the torbie girl (9 years old), Spud the long haired brown tabby boy (9 years old) [no, they aren't related], Junior the orange tabby boy (7 years old - our semi feral boy), Daiquiri the brown & white tabby girl (3 years old - Colony Cats foster fail), and Chanel the tuxedo girl (8 months old - Colony Cats foster fail)

What I'd like you to know about me:

I have been doing animal rescue volunteering for over 12 years. I have fostered over 295 cats and kittens in that time. I have a 13 year old niece who is interested in animals and rescue, and next spring will be our third trip together to Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Utah.

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

Work (I'm a bankruptcy paralegal), home with foster kittens and my cats or curled up with a book, or out with friends.

Dogs or Cats Rule?:

I love both - so long as the dog is owned by someone with half a brain. I also volunteer with a bloodhound group out of Ontario Canada helping transport dogs. I will admit to being partial to big dogs however. At this point in my life I can admit cats are easier - I don't have a yard and I don't have to get up to walk them at 6am.



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

Ask questions. But also be respectful. Understand that there is a reason for the process - even if you don't understand it. But don't fake it - lives are at stake and it is up to you to be their champion.

Your unique Q&A:

My least favorite question when talking to people about fostering is "why don't you keep ____?" or then they say they couldn't foster because they couldn't give them up. It is hard - though it gets easier the more you do it. BUT - if you don't give them up, you can't help the next group. I only have so much space in my house and I know my limits. Have I gone over that limit? Sure, but for very short periods of time. Is it hard to give them up? Sure, but then again a litter of 12-week old kittens is kind of like having armed gangsters in your house....

