

# JUNE VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

# AMY BASHFORTH



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

I've joked for several years that my ideal job would be petting cats, but I don't think anyone is willing to pay me for that job. Volunteering at Colony Cats is the next best thing. I volunteer in Intake and enjoy playing a small role in getting cats ready to find their forever families.

### My pets at home:

I have two adorable black and white cats named **Belle** and **Moana**. Our little Moana is a Colony Cats alumnus (*Rebekah*). We are also privileged to love a spirited 23-year-old Thoroughbred horse named **Devil**, who enjoys competing at hunter jumper shows with my daughter.

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

I love spending time outdoors when the weather is warm. I enjoy time spent in my yard, especially in my butterfly garden. I am a certified canoeing instructor for Girl Scouts. And spending a day at a horse show is much more fun in the summer sun than it is in the dead of winter.

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

When I'm not at Colony Cats, I'm often working as a public health professional, which meant working a lot of additional hours on COVID-19 response at some points during the pandemic. Otherwise, you can find me in my gardens, at the horse barn, volunteering for Girl Scouts, or just trying to keep up with my busy 17-year-old daughter Lexi.

### Dogs or Cats Rule?:

I truly love all animals, but cats definitely rule. My favorite creatures are cats, horses, and butterflies, but nothing beats petting a purring kitty with soft fur.

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

There are so many different opportunities to get involved. We all make the lives of cats better in our own way. Just jump in where something interests you and don't be afraid to ask questions. Our fellow Colony Cats volunteers are truly awesome people and volunteering is a team effort.

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

#### Q: What is your passion?

A: Working towards a more humane world for animals is my passion. I volunteer as a Humane Policy Volunteer Leader for the Humane Society of the United States. This role involves educating policy makers (e.g., *elected officials*) and advocating for more humane laws. Some of my work has included working on the campaign to strengthen the puppy mill laws in Ohio, advocating for an end to animal testing of cosmetic products in the U.S., advocating for the reduction of factory farming through strategies such as the Meatless Monday campaign, and advocating for the humane treatment of racehorses. I look forward to retiring some day (*but sadly not soon*) and spending more time making the world a better place for all animals.

