

JUNE VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

ANNIE CHEN



What I like best about volunteering at Colony Cats:

I love how many cats (and dogs) I get to meet as they pass through the shelter. It's so fun seeing all the different personalities that come through and getting to love on them and help them for however long our lives intersect. With Colony Cats in particular, I'm especially grateful for all the different opportunities to learn, the willingness of others to teach, and the chances to apply new knowledge/skills to help cats, especially as part of the med team.

I also have to mention, one of my greatest joys is naming cats; I'm guilty of some of the titles like RuPaws, Traitor Joe, and Missile Toes, as well as the three black kittens named Rainbow, Funfetti, and Skittles. I've always been creative and mischievous, and cats have taught me that growing up is no reason to stop having fun! As a kid, one of my (many) dream jobs was naming shelter cats, and I've actually made that dream come true!

My pets at home:

Bast (raw marshmallow): Named after the Egyptian cat goddess Bastet, my odd-eyed girl was found as a scrawny stray teen by a friend. Bast is 3 years old, with her birthday celebrated on July 14th, 2020 (Bastille Day).

Titania (burnt marshmallow): Named after the Fairy Queen, my youngest girl made squinty eyes at me and literally "spoke to me" while I was volunteering at Colony Cats. Titania persuaded me to adopt her in August of 2023, and she's 1 year old, with her birthday celebrated on June 24th, 2022 (Midsummer).

What I'd like you to know about me:

I'm friendly! I love getting to know people (especially animal-lovers) so don't hesitate to say hi or ask me about the latest cat shenanigans. I love a good challenge, so if you need a crafty fix to an obscure or mundane problem, I'm your human! I can't always guarantee a solution, but I'll definitely have a good time trying. My attitude role model is a golden retriever. Life is already hard enough as is, so might as well enjoy everything you can.

I love music. Music is a lifelong passion of mine. I think it's a beautiful intersection of the sciences and the arts. I've played several instruments since I was little, and I'm always dabbling with more. I love the nerdy aspects like music theory and the science of sound as well as the more expressive aspects like lyric writing, electronic composition, and performing or jamming with others.

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

My hobby is picking up hobbies - so you can find me wherever my miscellaneous adventures lead. I love exploring new places, activities, shops, parks, etc. I'm currently pursuing a degree in cybersecurity, and enjoy visiting new cafes to study at. I also spend a fair bit of time at home dutifully spoiling Bast and Titania.

Dogs or Cats Rule?:

BOTH! ALL!! All the animals!!! My favorite response to the cat person vs dog person question is "idk dude, are you an inhale or an exhale person? Just hand me an animal so I can make dumb noises at it!" I love pretty much all animals and will attempt to make friends with any creature I can. Why not?

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

Ask questions! The cool thing about literally everyone being a volunteer is that everyone wants to help. Asking questions/clarifications only improves the level of care we give these critters. I'm a feline-level of nosy and curious, and that's how I learned a lot of the cat care and knowledge I know.

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

The full saying actually is:
Curiosity killed the cat, but satisfaction brought it back.

