

MARCH VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH **BRIAN & NANCY BENTON**



What we like best about volunteering at Colony Cats:

It has been very rewarding to know that we're playing a small part in improving lives of many cats. We especially enjoy spending time with the cats, getting to know their unique personalities, and giving them some extra love and attention. So many of them have been dealt such rotten luck that we hope by helping we can make a small difference in their lives. We also enjoy working and spending time with the other volunteers and the public.

Our pets at home:

Shaggy and *Sheba* are our 10-year old Shepherd/Retriever mixes. They are brother and sister.

Bean, *Boo* and *Hot Rod* are our cats. Bean and Boo are 5-year old brothers that were 5-week old stray kittens when we got them. Hot Rod is 2 and we adopted him from Colony Cats this past December.

We also have a rabbit named *Bunny*, a guinea pig named *Alfa*, a one-winged Quaker parakeet named *Petri*, and a small 28-gallon saltwater reef tank.

What we'd like you to know about us:

We're pretty laid back and low key. We have been married for over 32 years and have 3 grown children and 2 grandchildren. Nancy is retired from the State of Ohio and Brian is a bus driver for COTA. Nancy started volunteering with CC last summer and Brian followed suit shortly after since he was on short-term disability with COTA. Weather and time permitting, we enjoy riding the Harley and doing things outdoors. We are also huge CBJ/hockey fans!

Where you can find us when we're not volunteering for Colony Cats:

Hanging out at home watching hockey!

Dogs or Cats Rule?:

Brian loves both cats and dogs. Nancy loves dogs too, but finds cats to be irresistible.

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

Whatever it is you do for Colony Cats, give it the same effort and care as you would at home. Pay attention to protocol and cleanliness. It's so important that we try not to transfer germs/bacteria from one cat to another. Also, volunteering in different areas (cleaning, intake, open hours, etc.) helps you gain a lot of insight on how the center functions as a whole. Finally, spend as much time as you can loving on cats!

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

We have been very impressed by how nice and friendly everyone has been to us at Colony Cats. Everyone has been so patient in educating us newbies and answering our many questions. It goes a long way in making us want to continue to serve. So, bottom line, follow the golden rule: treat others (and cats!) as you would like to be treated, whether it's fellow volunteers, people we encounter on a daily basis, and the general public.

