

JANUARY VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

CASSIE & REESE DONOVAN

What we like best about volunteering at Colony Cats:

We started volunteering in 2016 once Reese was old enough to help out in the Adoption Center. It was important to me to lead by example and instill in my daughter a love and compassion for animals. I felt Colony Cats was the perfect place for us to grow as volunteers and give back to the organization that had given our kittens, and so many others, a home. Recently, we started helping out on the Medical Team, assisting with spoon/syringe feeding and nebulizing. Our favorite part of helping with Medical is the joy of seeing a severely ill cat go from syringe feeding to eating on their own, thriving, and moving into the Adoption Center all ready for their forever family!

Our pets at home:

We have one cat and two small dogs at home. **Izzy**, our cat, is very sweet but painfully shy, and will only come out of hiding when the house is calm and quiet. She and her littermate Ally (who passed away earlier this year) were our first introduction to Colony Cats back in 2015. We adopted our first dog **Oliver**, a Morkie (Maltese/Yorkie) in 2017. He is a bundle of playfulness and doggie kisses. The last addition to the fur-baby bunch came in 2019 when we adopted **Otis**, our Yorkie, from Colony Cats. He was featured on "Fur Baby Friday", and walked across the stage going #2 the whole way. (A feat accomplished by Oliver earlier that week in the vet office waiting room.) I knew we had to have him! Otis lives for walkies and is never more than a few steps away from me at all times.

What we'd like you to know about us:

Reese is a Freshman at Hilliard Davidson High School. She participates in indoor track and conditioning in preparation for the spring track season. She also loves creating all kinds of art, and hopes to make a career out of it someday. I have been married to my husband Chris for 16 years. I co-own Avant-Garde Impressions, a Wedding Invitation, Custom Stationery & gift store near Worthington. I started out with my own small invitation company around the time Reese was born, and then merged with a longtime friend in the same industry in 2017.

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

We enjoy traveling as a family - we travel and explore new places whenever possible. Our favorite destinations are warm, with beaches and palm trees. In the warmer months, we enjoy spending time at the lake on the boat, tubing and swimming and lounging around the fire pit. The dogs always accompany us on our trips to the lake and have become quite the little country-loving lake dogs.



Dogs or Cats Rule?:

Had we been asked 6 years ago, I think our answer would be different. I grew up having only cats, and had cats all of my adult life. When my family started asking for a dog, I held out for a long time because I knew how much work dogs were compared to cats. But "The Boys", as we call our dogs, have changed our lives for the better. They are full of personality and have us wrapped around their tiny little toe beans. I'll admit that over the years we have become Dog People. We still adore cats, and since our cat Izzy is pretty stand-offish, volunteering at Colony Cats gives us the kitty snuggles we are missing at home.

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

If you have ever thought about volunteering, there's no better time than now to jump in! There are so many opportunities available no matter if you have a few hours a week or a few hours a month to dedicate to volunteering. There are also ways you can help from home such as doing laundry for the center, processing applications, or returning phone calls. All volunteer positions are important, especially to the animals whose lives you change!

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

We both love this quote - and the same can be said about all of the cats this wonderful organization has saved.

"Saving one dog will not change the world, but surely for that one dog, the world will forever change" - Karen Davison

