

JUNE VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

ELLA ROXEY

What I like best about fostering for Colony Cats:

There is no better feeling than watching a cat blossom in my home. I only foster adult cats, and my kitties are often shy, sick, or stressed - which means I get to help them feel better and be the best version of themselves. It is so rewarding to earn a cat's trust and provide a peaceful environment for them. Over the course of days, weeks, and sometimes months, I get to know each kitty's unique quirks and preferences. Then, we get to find the perfect forever home for them. I love, love, love seeing all the happy updates from their adopters! Letting them go is hard, but there is always another kitty looking for a reprieve.

My pets at home:

My only pets are my fosters, but they keep me plenty busy! I am able to take care of sick kitties, cats that prefer solo living, and FeLV+ cats (which I wouldn't be able to do if I had my own pets at home). Maybe someday I'll foster fail, but so far fostering is my favorite! Right now I'm fostering Floyd and Earl, the sweetest pair of senior bonded brothers. Despite some tough beginnings they are so friendly, playful, and adaptable. They might be 10 years old, but you should see these guys get the zoomies and sprint around my apartment together - then they love to snuggle up with me and have their chins scratched. I absolutely adore them and I hope they find the perfect forever home soon!

What I'd like you to know about me:

The question I get asked the most is how I don't fall in love with every cat - and the answer is that I do! Each kitty gets my whole heart for as long as they're with me, and I've cried at more than one adoption. However, I know all my previous fosters are in wonderful, loving homes and I get to keep helping more cats. I've fostered 17 cats so far!

What I like to do when I'm not busy with my fosters:

You can usually find me hanging out with friends, cuddling my nieces and nephew, or relaxing on my family's little farm. I love trying new restaurants and taking full advantage of all the fun events in Columbus. In the spring and summer I like to walk along the Scioto mile while listening to an audiobook, enjoy outdoor yoga on the commons, and scope out farmers' markets on the weekends. My hobbies include reading, complicated board games, crochet, and puzzles - all of which are great fun for my fosters to interrupt! For work I run an advocacy resource center called OhioASK that provides tools, resources, and guidance for individuals and organizations to engage with state government.



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

Be honest about your circumstances and what you're comfortable with. The foster coordinators will help you and will find cats that match your lifestyle. For example, I only foster adult cats since I work in an office and have a busy lifestyle. I love that Colony Cats provides me with everything I need to take care of the kitties, and I have a support system if I have questions or need help.

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

My recommendations to everyone 1) find a cause you love and work to make a difference: perhaps volunteering or fostering with an animal shelter 2) engage with government: if you're not at the table you're on the table 3) read or listen to a fun book this year!

