

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

JAMES KASTEN

What I like best about volunteering at Colony Cats:

Donuts. And getting my cat fix in! Whether it's my intake floor friends who think I'm a walking cat tower, or the ones recuperating in condos, I like to spend a few minutes with every one of them. Playing with toys, petting and grooming, some delicious wet food, a little chit-chat to see what's new... even if they just need to vent and bite someone, whatever! I love providing some creature comfort and companionship to the intake cats before they get better and graduate to adoption. I guess the humans aren't too bad either - the Sunday crew's pretty decent.

My pets at home:

Currently we don't have pets at home. It was tough losing Hugo (the white dude chillin' on the rug with his rainbow catnip toy) after 17 years and it's just not been the right time yet, so I'm thankful to count all the CC&D intake kitties as my own.

What I'd like you to know about me:

I grew up living inside the Schlitz Audubon Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Picture the movie The Village. That's where I developed an appreciation for nature, animals, and conservation. I've had cats and dogs my whole life and would probably have 10 cats at home if my husband weren't so observant and "allergic." Big Brewers and Packers fan. Love cheese, hate beer, but together they make tasty soup. I don't always make the best first impression but people usually embrace my sarcastic, sassy sense of humor and the fact that I'm pretty low key.

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

I've worked in internal audit and public accounting for the last 15 years, which takes most of my weekday and human energy. I like to recharge by watching The Walking Dead, Supernatural, Survivor, and Amazing Race. Outside of COVID, we like to travel the globe experiencing different cities, cultures, history, people, and most importantly, food. I grew up landscaping with my dad and still enjoy making my yard bird & butterfly friendly.

Dogs or Cats Rule?:

Cats are clearly the more intelligent animal, but dumb dogs are lovable. Cats are easier to share the bed and protect me from spiders (apparently they taste like crunchy tuna fish). I like cats with big personalities and a lot of playful energy... but they don't like to go for walks on a leash. Let's just go with both (except for purse dogs).



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

Say hi, ask questions, observe to learn, and don't be afraid to roll up your sleeves and get dirty or scratched. There's always stuff to do and many different ways for you to contribute and make a huge difference.

Advice to current volunteers: It takes every single one of us to support CC&D and I'm thankful you all are part of the family and help. That said, litter box duty is just as important as anything else and I personally believe everyone should have to clean boxes at least once. Try a little bit of everything, and ask questions of what those around you are doing - so you can better appreciate how we can all work together better to see the full picture and support the mission. Read Meg's emails: lots of important information - and I love seeing the names of the cats who I've helped get healthy be adopted! And did I say be nice to your box cleaners?

Unique Q&A: What fictional animals would I fill my house with?

Certain to inspire ferocious debate... (in no particular order):

- Falkor from Neverending Story
- Drogon from Game of Thrones
- Thackery Binx from Hocus Pocus
- Gizmo from Gremlins
- Toonces from Saturday Night Live

ColonyCats
& dogs

