

# MARCH VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH CARA PHILLIPS



## What I like best about volunteering at Colony Cats:

I started out fostering in a very unintentional way when a feral cat gave birth to seven kittens on my porch almost 5 years ago. After taking in a few litters on my own, I decided to reach out to Colony Cats to see about working with them. I've been fostering for Colony Cats (& dogs) now for about 3 ½ years and absolutely love it. Not only do they take amazing care of the animals, they are incredibly supportive and compassionate towards all of their volunteers and potential adopters. Knowing I have support for anything I (or the cats) may need makes everything so much easier.

## My pets at home:

As many of us do, I have a full household of my own! I have two great danes, **Eloise** is 5 yrs. and **Juniper** is 2. I also have four resident cats, **Leo** (16yrs), **Fennec** (4 yrs), **Teddy** (3 yrs), and **Simon** (2 yrs). The most recent addition has been my baby hognose snake, **Alfred**, who is about 8 months old.

## What I'd like you to know about me:

Anyone who knows me, knows I'm a sucker for animals, any and all types. I grew up on a farm in rural Ohio where I spent every waking hour outside with them. If you look at pictures of me as a child (and even now), they almost always include an animal of some variety.

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

When I'm not home with my fur babies, I am working as a hairstylist in Dublin. I love my work so much because I get to connect with people from all parts of the community. Getting to share my love of animals with them has led to many of them adopting my babies!! I'm a homebody by nature so when I'm not working, I am home cuddling all the pets and binge watching Netflix.



## Dogs or Cats Rule?:

Dog vs cats is a hard one for me. I've always considered myself more of a dog person, but I think over the past few years of fostering, I am probably split down the middle and love them equally.

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

To new fosters, I think for me, one of the hardest parts of fostering is dealing with sick kittens/cats. It can be an emotional roller coaster, but you don't need to face it alone. If you feel like you are in over your head (happens to all of us at some point), reach out to fellow volunteers for support.

I also highly recommend following The Kittens Lady (Hannah Shaw). She is an incredible resource for literally any and all things cat related. Check out her videos and online content as well as her book *Tiny But Mighty!*

Fostering is hard in many different ways, but it is truly the most rewarding thing I've ever done. Please consider stepping up to help out, you won't regret it.

