

MAY VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

SHERI PRESTON FRIEDMAN



What I like best about volunteering at Colony Cats:

Everything! I love making friends with the other volunteers while we're taking care of the cats on site - especially when we can track their growth and progress! I love going out and talking with strangers to raise money at events, I love sewing up catnip pillows, I love nursing sick cats back to health, and I love the pitter-patter of foster feet running to greet me when I open up a can of wet food at home.

It's amazing to see all the different stories of cats that come through our center - even though many of them break my heart. From fat and happy roly-poly kittens raised by their mom in a foster house to sad, scared, hurt cats who have been abandoned and need lots of care to recover, it is inspiring to see how hard everyone works to make sure every single animal gets the best chance at their best life. I wish everyone could understand just exactly how many hours of labor go into keeping everything running, and how much everyone truly loves the animals we care for.

My pets at home:

Artemis Van Guardamis Esq, nee Owl - adopted from Colony Cats in 2020: She was very, very shy and it took about a year for her to start getting on my lap. She's still a Mama's girl who pretends she couldn't care less about my husband

Ya Boi Chickie Nuggz, née Miles Davis - adopted from Colony Cats in 2020: I still had the phone number of the person who'd fostered my first cat and I asked her for a wild one the next time she had one - and WOW did she deliver with Chickie! He plays fetch, walks on a harness, and yells at you if you aren't paying him enough attention.

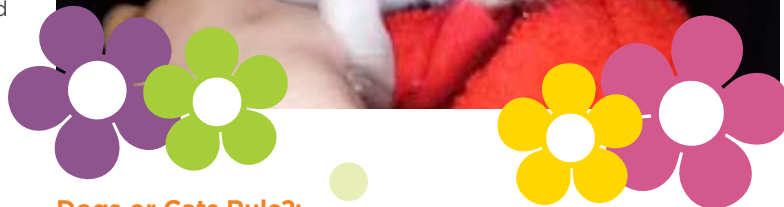
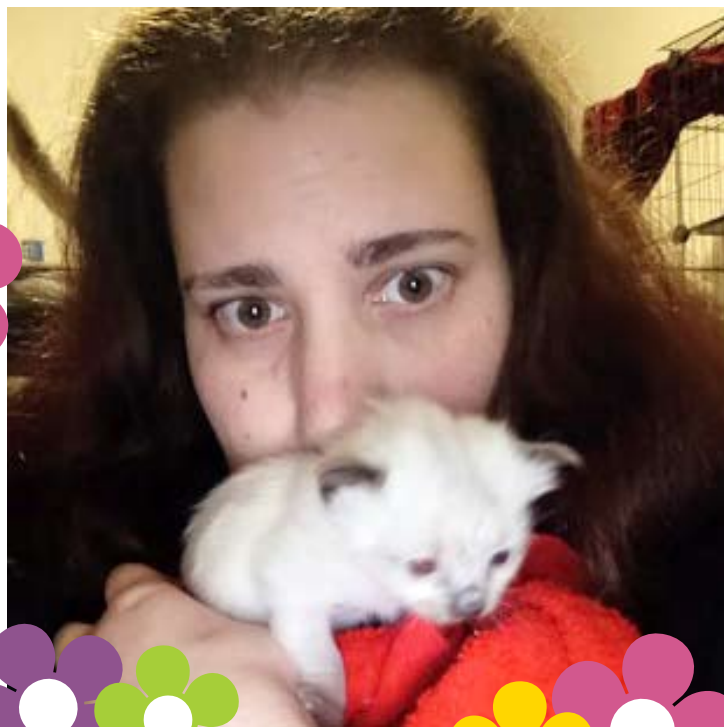
Cheese - adopted from PetPromise in 2022: Cheese is orange and maybe one day he will have his turn with the one brain cell all orange cats have to share, but that day has not come yet.

What I'd like you to know about me:

I have narcolepsy, I lived in Maryland until 2018, and I have enough neurodivergence that I tend to be pretty awkward with small talk.

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

Working with preschool and younger age kiddos, crafting, or playing on my computer.



Dogs or Cats Rule?:

Por qué no los dos? My dad is wildly allergic to cats so I grew up with dogs. I got my first cat at 30 during the pandemic.

I like dogs for rambunctious outdoor play, and cats for intelligent indoor puzzles. Both are cute, and their ability to be trained will come down to individual personalities and dedication of their human more than species or breed.

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

We have everything from processing paperwork to organizing fundraising events - in addition to the day-to-day needs like cleaning and medical care. Practically every team is always looking for help, even if nobody specifically says "we are looking for help."

Be nosy and a little bit pushy, find out who is in charge of the parts you are most interested in, and then present yourself as ready to go. They will put you right to work!

