

APRIL VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH



AMY ASHLEY & LAURA GAINES

What we like best about volunteering at Colony Cats:

Amy: One of my favorite things is when the cats with really unique personalities or features find the perfect person for them—there's a person for every cat!

Laura: I like seeing the more shy and reserved cats learn how to trust, become more social, and ultimately get adopted!

Obviously, we are both big fans of the people we volunteer with! We love our Tuesday night crew, and getting to catch up with everyone is a highlight of the week.

Our pets at home:

Amy: I have two cats: **Gulu and Ezio**, tuxedo brothers born in my grandma's garage; they'll turn 10 in September. They represent the two personalities that tuxedo cats can have: diabolically intelligent (Gulu) and dumb as rocks (Ezio).

Laura: I also have two cats: **Ghost** (black, found in someone's front yard) and **Merlin** (tuxedo, a former Colony Cat!). They'll be 4 in August. Ghostie is too smart for her own good and is chaotic on purpose. Merlin seems to have no brain, never learned his name, and only answers to "Bubba."

What we'd like you to know about us:

Amy started volunteering in November 2022, and Laura started in January 2023. We realized quickly we were going to be good friends. From our shared love of Hitch, a gigantic gray and white tomcat, to our similar means of communication, we had a lot in common, and our friendship grew over the weeks. Soon we were watching movies, going to the Ren Faire, and forcing our husbands to also be friends so we could hang out even more (they're grateful, we swear). We always joked that we'd become Amy-and-Laura at Colony Cats, so if volunteer of the month came to us, it'd be together! We were right!

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

Amy: I'm almost always at home, reading, playing video games, and crafting, especially crochet, or at the library checking out a stack of books that I'll do my best to get through before they're due.

Laura: I can be found ballroom dancing with my husband, doing house projects to introduce more whimsy to my home, reading fantasy novels, or hosting dinner parties with friends.

You can often find us together, yapping at a coffee shop, thrifting around Columbus, or sharing our favorite movies with each other.



Dogs or cats rule?

Amy: Cats! Need I say more?

Laura: Definitely cats, but I love all animals. I just could never have a dog (not a morning person). My husband and I have considered getting Ghost a ferret buddy, but we're not sure how that would go.

What's our advice to a new Colony Cats volunteer?

Take advantage of getting to meet new people at Colony Cats! We've found that the kinds of people who volunteer at Colony Cats make for great friends! It can be hard to meet new people, especially in adulthood, so volunteering offers an opportunity to find people with similar interests and values.

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

We have developed a shared, cat-centric language over our years of volunteering together! A brief sample of vocabulary: keeks (cats), scrubbins (aggressive petting), stinkies (particularly cute cats), stinky behavior (bad behavior, especially stealing human food), snarf (when a cat rubs their face against your hand, starting with their nose), craspy (a crispy, raspy meow), and scrungle (a cat who looks a little worse for the wear).

