

COULEE REGION HUMANE SOCIETY

# A FOSTER'S STORY

CHRISTINA



## READ HER STORY



### What is your favorite thing about fostering with CRHS?

My favorite thing about fostering is getting to meet and socialize happy and well-adjusted kittens to then go to their forever homes. We constantly get to help and watch babies grow. They get the opportunity to engage with other adult cats in our home and my children. I also love the people at the humane society that I have worked with over the years.



#### Coulee Region Humane Society

911 Critter Court  
Onalaska, WI 54650  
(608) 781-4014  
[www.couleehumane.com](http://www.couleehumane.com)



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## Foster Fact with **CHRISTINA**

I set my record this summer for most fosters in the house at one time. **12 FOSTERS!**

This July I had 5 Cloud Kittens, a Mom Siamese and 6 Babies, plus Bottlefed Lumine (I am sure there are others who have done more, but it was an adventure).



My previous high was a mom who had 7 babies in April 2019. I had 8 foster cats total.

### What are some of the benefits of fostering that you didn't expect?

I think the benefit that I didn't expect is everything that my children have gotten to experience. They help me with the kittens and help with the chores, but they also learn how to say goodbye. We have also had a couple losses while fostering bottle babies, which has helped learn to cope when they hadn't lost anyone/any pet prior. It is always something that they can share with their classmates. I think that I also didn't expect how much my students (I am a teacher) love hearing about my current fosters and that is bonding that I wouldn't have otherwise. Which also helps show some servant leadership.

### Even though we know we shouldn't, we all pick our favorites. Tell us little bit about your favorite foster experience or pet.



Our family's favorite foster was Zinc, most call him White-Nose because of his white nose. We got him and his siblings with his mom when he was only a couple days old. He was the sweetest and friendliest little guy. He liked to follow and snuggle all the time. He was just a likable guy. The week he received an approved application his breathing was labored. It turned out that he had a heart defect and there was fluid building up in his lungs. We ended up keeping him until he passed away. He was the very best, but was also the most loved as he lived his short and very impactful life.

Another favorite experience we had was with another grey and



### Interested in Fostering?

Contact our Foster Care Team

Call (608) 781-4014 ext. 235 or email at [fc@couleehumane.com](mailto:fc@couleehumane.com).

# Featured Foster

## CHRISTINA

### FAVORITE FOSTER EXPERIENCE OR PET. (CONTINUED)



white cat named Gimlet. He was at our house from a young age to be socialized and grow. He was put into the cat room at CRHS, but after a week of not being adopted he started to have a head tilt. He came back to use for a little while longer to medicate through an ear infection. He was so talkative and lovable. Our latest foster fail from last summer Gimgim (originally Wylen, who I bottle fed last year) is named after this original Gimlet.

There was also a fun time when I was called to take a bottle baby for a couple days and I took it to my hair salon appointment with a heating pad and fed it there. She was an absolute hit with everyone else there.

Obviously, Gimgim and Rocky (our two foster fails) are also a couple of my favorites. After so many it is so hard to narrow down!!!

## Fostering is a lot of work, what brings you back time and time again to fostering a new pet?

We just love cats. Sometimes it can be overwhelming, but overall it is worth it. Worth seeing them get adopted. Sometimes I wish I would hear more about my foster babies' lives as they grow, but I know that was never part of the plan. I think that it is great that everything is provided, so all I really have to provide is the time, love, and care.



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## Foster Feature

# KAREN

FAVORITE FOSTER  
EXPERIENCE OR PET.  
(CONTINUED)



working from home. He said, "Ok I am going to just let her smell me, no eye contact, and please keep her on a leash while this is going on". In just a few minutes we learned what a gentle giant she was. The nervousness was definitely on our part. It turned out to be the best 6 weeks with Lady. She was the perfect gift through the first COVID-19 holidays in 2020.

Our son was working in Japan, and we were not getting together with any family due to the pandemic so my husband, Lady and I spent lots of time together as she recovered from her surgery. She kept our minds calm and relaxed, as we went for walks and watched lots of movies. She was an excellent snuggler. It was strange for our son when he Skyped with us from Japan to see a Big dog in our house. When he left a year earlier we still had our 15 pound Havanese. Lady will always have a special place in our hearts (as all the fosters do!)

### What are some of the benefits of fostering that you didn't expect?

I love getting a new foster, taking their photo and sharing it with my family and friends. It's so fun to get to know the dog and share cute pictures of them. Some people may think we are doing the humane society a favor by fostering dogs. In fact, the dogs are doing us a favor my letting us love them, care for them, and provide them a home. It brings us closer to friends and family by having a dog to talk about.

### Fostering is a lot of work, what brings you back time and time again to fostering a new pet?

We love having a dog around the house to keep us active, as we go on walks/hikes. They are also excellent snuggle buddies. They make us laugh everyday. When I am walking a foster dog and I meet a person, the dog always become the topic of conversation. I have met many people in our neighborhood that have reached out to say, "didn't I see you the other day with a different dog?" Then I get to share the great experience of fostering.

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# FOSTER FACTS



**While we're aware we shouldn't play favorites, we'd love to hear about a foster experience or pet that holds a special place in your heart.**

Our family's favorite foster was Zinc, most call him White-Nose because of his white nose. We got him and his siblings with his mom when he was only a couple days old. He was the sweetest and friendliest little guy. He liked to follow and snuggle all the time. He was just a likable guy. The week he received an approved application his breathing was labored. It turned out that he had a heart defect and there was fluid building up in his lungs. We ended up keeping him until he passed away. He was the very best, but was also the most loved as he lived his short and very impactful life.

Another favorite experience we had was with another grey and white cat named Gimlet. He was at our house from a young age to be socialized and grow. He was put into the cat room at CRHS, but after a week of not being adopted he started to have a head tilt. He came back to use for a little while longer to medicate through an ear infection. He was so talkative and lovable. Our latest foster fail from last summer Gimgim (originally Wylan, who I bottle fed last year) is named after this original Gimlet.



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Fostering animals through CRHS offers these animals a nurturing, temporary home as they await permanent adoption, alleviating shelter overcrowding and reducing stress. It also provides potential adopters the opportunity to meet and welcome animals in a relaxed environment, thereby enhancing their prospects of finding forever homes.

Fostering also contributes to:

**Socialization:** Fostering assists animals in becoming more sociable and adjusting to a home setting, enhancing their adoptability and behavior.

**Emotional Rewards:** Fostering can be emotionally gratifying, allowing individuals to positively impact an animal's life and play a vital role in their journey to a forever home.

**Temporary Commitment:** Fostering represents a temporary commitment, typically spanning from a few weeks to several months, based on the animal's needs and adoption timeline.

**Financial Support:** CRHS provides comprehensive financial support to foster caregivers, covering expenses such as food, supplies, and veterinary care for the animals in their care.

**Networking:** Foster caregivers often network with others in the animal rescue community, sharing experiences and knowledge to improve the lives of animals in their care.



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