

## Foster Parent of the Month

April 2021– Patrick Kelleher

We are delighted to acknowledge Patrick Kelleher as the Foster Parent of the Month for April 2021! Patrick has made an immense impact in the 11 months that he has been fostering adult dogs for Seattle Humane. Patrick has fostered 3 very special dogs with the help of his partner Alicia. We are recognizing Patrick as FPOM for the unwavering compassion, patience and understanding he approaches each foster pet with. Patrick's attitude and home setup makes him a perfect fit for our dogs that face behavioral challenges.

As many did in the spring of 2020, Patrick found himself working from home for the foreseeable future. He accepted that as an opportunity to care for foster pets in need and his journey at Seattle humane began.

Patrick's first foster dog was Rocky, a 5 year-old Boxer mix struggling with reactivity to other pets. Patrick says Rocky brought so much joy to his life in a time of great uncertainty. Rocky reminded Patrick to appreciate the little things in life such as stopping to smell the flowers or snuggling into a soft blanket. If you look closely in the photo below of Spike, you will see a painting of Rocky on the wall that Alicia gifted to Patrick.

Rocky's time at Seattle Humane was guided by a village of support. Patrick and another foster parent even acted as co-foster parents to Rocky at one point. With this creative approach, they were able to ensure Rocky stayed out of the shelter if one of them was temporarily unable to provide care. The loving environments Rocky found himself in allowed his personality to blossom, which Patrick caught on the Instagram page he managed just for him. We're pleased to say that today Rocky is celebrating life with his forever family. You can follow Rocky on Instagram at @they.call.me.rocky, where his bio contains a nod to his beloved foster dad.

Since Rocky, Patrick has fostered Spike and Louis, two very special dogs needing a specific foster home. Spike required an attentive foster to care for his medical needs, while Louis is a spunky pup who needed an outlet for his energy and guidance on how to be a well-mannered dog.

Patrick's love for animals began during childhood in the Irish countryside where he had quite the array of pets! Among these pets were a Rough Collie, an assortment of hens, roosters, ducks, and a horse names Kojak. Patrick currently does not have his own pet, but he looks forward to adopting in the next few years when the timing is right. For now, he's thoroughly enjoying fostering and dog sitting for his friends.

One of the key reasons Patrick is so well-suited for our dogs facing behavioral challenges is his enthusiasm in providing exercise. Patrick loves taking advantage of the beautiful landscape of Washington by hiking, running, and traversing mountains. When he's not outside, he enjoys cooking new dishes and playing board games with his partner Alicia. The doggies in his care enjoy a nice regimen of exercise followed by some well-deserved R&R!

Please join us in giving a virtual round of applause to Patrick for his hard work as a foster parent!



Alicia, Patrick, and Rocky enjoying the sun



Rocky and Patrick relaxing



Louis, Patrick's most recent foster



Alicia, Patrick and Spike

