

Foster Parent of the Month

May 2021– Erika Walker

Congratulations to our May 2021 Foster Parent of the Month, Erika Walker! As a Seattle Humane foster parent for close to 5 years, Erika has fostered nearly 200 animals! She is an expert in working with kittens that require intensive care and often takes on our toughest kitten cases! Erika provides professional level care, keeps detailed notes, and approaches each foster kitten with an abundance of love. We enjoy working with Erika because she is kind, optimistic, and patient with the foster team. She's no stranger to long vet appointments, yet she always meets the Foster team with a positive attitude and a smile.

Erika enjoys fostering high maintenance kittens as much as we enjoy sending them to her. She finds it rewarding to watch kittens transform from ill and weak, to healthy and flourishing as a result of the care they've received. She also appreciates observing the fast rate that kittens develop– they can grow from uncoordinated neonates to pouncing mini panthers in as little as 2 weeks!

While Erika's specialty is kittens, she's also fostered adult dogs, adult cats, and puppies. In fact, her one 'foster fail', Henry, was a 2 week-old puppy she fostered as a part of a litter. Henry's mom, Velma, was extremely fearful when she went to foster with Erika. Erika found it fulfilling to watch her blossom from a dog who would shy away from touch to a comfortable, affectionate dog. Today Henry is almost 4 years-old and happy to be a member of Erika's family where he gets to meet all the kittens and puppies they foster.

In addition to Henry, Erika's foster pets might also get to meet her dog Bruno. Erika adopted Bruno as a puppy from Seattle Humane 7 years ago. Growing up, Erika's family had purebred Golden Retrievers. When Bruno came into her life, she recognized just how special shelter dogs can be and was inspired to start fostering. Bruno can be counted on to play with almost anyone, catering his play style to match that of his playmate. Not only is he polite with other animals, but he's also a great companion for Erika's children. Bruno spends every night sleeping with Connor, Erika's son.

Aside from her pets and fosters, Erika also has two young children that keep her busy, Brylie (9) and Connor (12). Erika loves to spend time hiking, swimming, and traveling with her family when she can. She says fostering has been a great learning experience for her children. In fact, Brylie has found a new passion for animals and hopes to be a veterinarian when she grows up. She helps Erika care for foster pets by preparing subcutaneous fluids, lending a hand with bottle babies, and even reading to soothe mom cats. The experience of fostering will undoubtedly be useful for her once she gets to vet school!

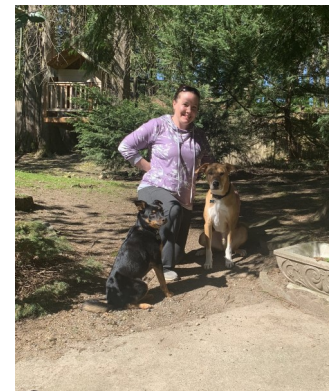
We are so grateful for foster parents like Erika that are willing to put in the hard work of overnight feedings, subcutaneous fluids, administering medications, multiple vet appointments per week and so much more. Without them, we would not be able to save the lives of all those tiny, vulnerable babies. Please join us in giving Erika Walker a huge round of applause!



Brylie, Erika, and Connor



Washington, Hamilton, & Jefferson



Erika with Bruno (left) & Henry (right)



Henry (right) & his littermates

