

Foster Parent Spotlight

September 2021— Liza and Richard

Over the past two and a half years, Liza and Richard have collectively fostered over 75 pets for Seattle Humane. From pregnant guinea pigs, puppies, nursing cats, adult dogs, and bonded pairs, they've done it all. As members of our foster program, as well as being part of our Shelter Care team, these two go above and beyond for our furry friends every day.

Both have been lifelong animal lovers. Growing up as an only child with a parent in the military, Liza and her family moved around a lot. The constant change made it difficult to maintain friendships. Luckily, when she was 3 years old, her parents adopted a dog that became her best friend and companion through the many location changes.

After college, Liza started volunteering at a local city shelter in Illinois where she had one of her first major experiences with fostering. The shelter asked her to foster a semi-feral mom and her kittens, which she did by converting her one-bedroom apartment into a cat haven. When the foster mom did not get along with her resident cats, Liza moved the fosters to her bedroom and slept in the living room for four weeks, so they could have the space to themselves. Shortly after, she moved to Washington and began volunteering at Seattle Humane. She eventually became a staff member— she is now an Animal Pathway Coordinator.

Richard grew up with a Boxer named Buster who fueled his initial love of animals by following him around everywhere. But it wasn't until he started fostering later in life that he considered working with animals professionally. While he had previously been a caretaker for his grandmother, he had never experienced anything like fostering bottle babies, who require feeding every few hours. Richard enjoyed fostering so much that it led to his decision to apply to Seattle Humane where he now works as an Animal Care Associate.

When it comes to their fosters, Liza and Richard do have some favorites. For Richard, it was a cat named Sprout who quickly became a permanent member of their family.

"She's the most malleable animal. You can pick her up however you want and she will stay in that position," he says.

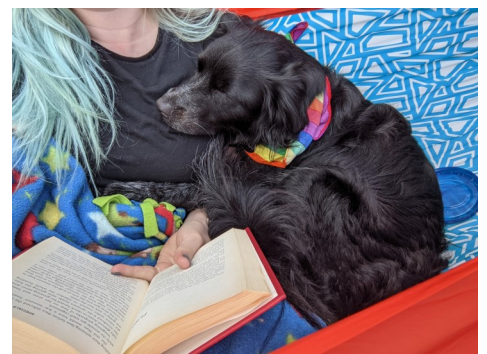
For Liza, it was the Ice Cream Kittens she rescued from Spokane with Seattle Humane colleague, Manders Vandel and former colleague, Cali Weber. After driving over during the early hours of a May morning in 2020, they found the kittens lying in a barn behind a bale of hay, underweight and in poor condition. Cali, Manders and Liza took turns bottle feeding the kittens during the drive back to Seattle and from there, Liza decided she wanted to foster them.



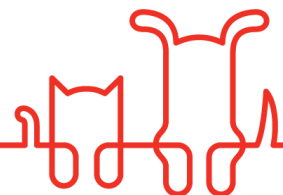
The Ice Cream Kittens



Richard with one of his foster cats



Liza and Zulu read together



September 2021 Continued– Liza and Richard

Outside of their many fosters, Liza and Richard also have several pets of their own: a 3-year old dog named Zulu, their “gateway cat,” Aeris, that “makes people that don’t like cats, like cats,” and Sprout. Plus, three fish tanks with various fish and a snake named Al dente.

In their free time, they love taking Zulu on adventure hikes to lakes for swimming. Richard also enjoys video games and Liza likes to watch TV shows.

As Seattle Humane staff members, fostering provides many valuable, first-hand experiences with managing different behavioral and medical cases. Plus, as two homebodies, fostering provides endless amounts of entertainment and a fun level of commotion around the house.

Even with their busy schedules, Liza and Richard provide some of the most thorough care we have ever seen. Thank you, Liza and Richard!



Aeris and Sprout



Al dente the Snake



Kitten mayhem!



Zulu, with fosters Purple Rain and Blue Monday

