

## Foster Parent Spotlight

### October 2021– Edmund Wong

We are excited to share this month's foster spotlight, Edmund Wong! When it comes to fostering, Edmund typically has a steady stream of cats in his care. Once he drops a foster off at the shelter, it's not long before he's ready for another. While he's only been fostering with us for a little over three years, Edmund has already cared for 35 animals! Always open to help any animal in need, he fosters many cats undergoing medical treatment, especially upper respiratory infections (URI).

From a young age, Edmund always loved cats. His childhood neighbors' cats would burrow under the fence to come visit him when he was playing in the backyard. His neighbors even offered to give the cats to Edmund because they liked him so much. While he wasn't able to have pets as a child, his frequent interactions with these cats instilled an early appreciation of animals for Edmund.

Once his own children began to express an interest in animals, he decided to give fostering a try. Between his two daughters, Kharisma, 12, and Taylor, 10, and his wife Julie, taking care of fosters is a family affair. At first, his daughters had a hard time saying goodbye to their foster pets once it was time to return them to the shelter, but over time, they've gained a better understanding of their role in a foster pet's life. Now, they're always eager for their next arrival — they even have a chalkboard tracking every cat they've ever fostered! While his daughters typically want to adopt the cats they are fostering, often exclaiming, "This is the one!", Edmund is committed to not adopting for now to ensure space and flexibility for fostering cats in need.

Edmund says that his favorite part of fostering is getting to know the personalities of so many cats and the joy of watching a cat who is sick or with a challenging condition improve while under his care. Looking back on his first experience at Seattle Humane, Edmund remembers feeling supported throughout the process and says that the positive attitude of staff has had a "tremendous impact" on him and his family. In particular, he says that Foster Supervisor Catie Waits helped ease his nerves, and made him feel like "a seasoned pro" the first time he had to give medications to a foster cat when she took the time to explain everything to him.

Outside of fostering, Edmund is passionate about working with students of marginalized, underserved communities as an elementary school principal. Working with these students has inspired him to be a positive role model, and to always have compassion. Edmund currently works at the school his children attend on the Eastside of Seattle, but he hopes to get back to serving as a principal in marginalized communities once his children move on to junior high. Edmund shares his experiences from Seattle Humane with his students and hopes that his stories will help encourage more families to adopt rather than buy from breeders. When he's not fostering or working at school, Edmund loves to play sports with his children, as well as work in his yard.

We truly appreciate Edmund, who is always patient, grateful, kind, respectful and an overall joy to work with. Thank you, Edmund and the entire Wong family!



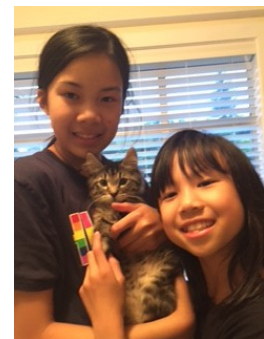
Penny, a foster favorite among Edmund and his family



Edmund and his family



Boris the kitty



Kharisma and Taylor with a foster kitty

