

Foster Parent Spotlight

December 2021 — Jana Raasch

We are excited to announce this month's Foster Spotlight, Jana Raasch! Jana has been fostering with us since May 2020 and, so far, has fostered three dogs. She has a special knack for connecting with dogs that would typically struggle to find a foster because of behavioral challenges. Jana and her husband, Todd, help their foster dogs get to a place where they can relax and truly enjoy life as a dog.

Throughout their 37 years of marriage, Jana and Todd have always had rescues. Prior to fostering with Seattle Humane, they had three dogs over the years that they raised from puppyhood to old age. "I can't imagine life without an animal. Even as an extrovert that loves people, if I am in a huge room with 80 people and one dog, I'll be with the dog."

One of Todd's coworkers found their rescue, Gabe, who had been abandoned following a burglary. Jana and Todd adopted him sight unseen. "He was rambunctious and kind of a knucklehead, but very sweet." After losing Gabe, they were inspired to begin fostering, with a mission to support dogs in need of extra help before finding their forever home.

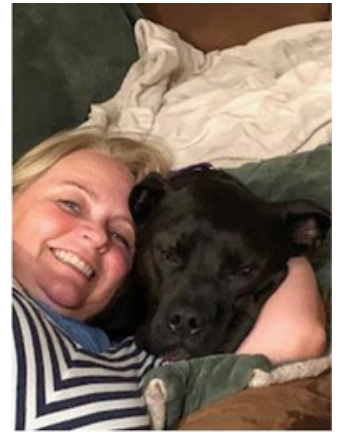
While she has adored all of her fosters, she had a special bond with Indy, her first foster with Seattle Humane - and the most challenging, so far. "We could see how much he wanted to be good, and he's such a sweet thing. We were able to get Indy to step one out of three, and his adopter took him the rest of the way. It was really gratifying to see him come out the other end with a Cinderella story." Jana feels lucky to still get to see Indy regularly when his adopter needs a dog sitter. Indy adores his stays with Jana and Todd, but nothing compares to the pure joy on Indy's face when his dad returns from a trip.

Growing up on a farm in the country with an animal enthusiast for a dad, animals have always been a major part of Jana's life, and caring for them feels natural to her. On the farm, she looked after cows, chickens, pigs, sheep and horses. Additionally, she's always had cats and dogs.

Outside of her dedication to fostering, Jana is also a serious gardener and a passionate traveler. She and Todd are also loving their full-time island life after recently relocating to Whidbey Island.

Jana enjoys how big of a difference she can make in the life of dogs as a foster. "Between my husband and I, we have a way of making any dog we meet feel comfortable. It's been that way our whole marriage. We can see the difference we make and how happy they become. We do it for the dogs."

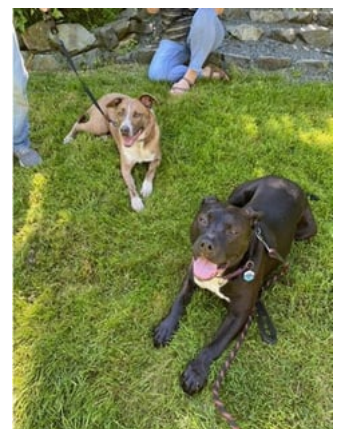
Thank you, Jana, for all of your amazing work with our foster program! The impact you've made and continue to make in the lives of dogs who need you is incredible.



Jana and Indy



Jana and Todd with Gabe



Qbert (L) and Indy (R). Indy was Jana's first foster and Qbert was her second.

