

# Foster Spotlight

## May 2022 — Ellie Ish

Ellie Ish started fostering with Seattle Humane in March 2017 and has fostered 41 animals to date! They primarily foster cats, doing everything from caring for bottle babies to geriatric seniors.

"I've always been obsessed with animals," says Ellie. "I took any opportunity as a kid to cat sit, walk dogs, and hang out at local barns and ranches." Their lifelong love of cats began with their childhood cat, Natasha, who 4-year-old Ellie and their family adopted from a local rescue.

"I'm 25 now, and she's still alive and well at 21! She's slightly deaf, but gets around well and loves birdwatching and talking to her humans."



Ellie and Natasha throughout the years.

What Ellie enjoys most about fostering is drawing out the personality of the cats they care for.

"For the elderly cats, it's a matter of figuring out what turns the crunchy, grumpy old lady kitties into a puddle of purring fuzz. For the kittens, it's fun seeing them turn from fuzzy jelly beans into actual cats! Then I get to send the kittens off to their new homes before they hit the wild teen stage."

When it comes to favorite fosters, Ellie has a major soft spot for an elderly cat named Socks they cared for during this past winter. When Socks and Ellie first met, Socks was shut down, dirty and had no interest in eating. Luckily, Ellie discovered Socks' intense love for treats.

"I went to a local shop and got her one of everything and we spent her last few weeks trying every cat treat under the sun. By the end, we were best buds and she would snuggle so close to me every night that she would regularly push me out of bed. She taught me a lot about what it meant to enjoy the moment."

Outside of fostering, Ellie works at the Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center, which provides horseback riding for folks with disabilities. They are able to bring their fosters in to work, which helps support the rigorous feeding schedule when fostering kittens. "It's also great for socializing kittens – coworkers, volunteers and riders love meeting the babies!"

When they are not fostering or working at the Riding Center, Ellie spends most of their time hanging out with horses, making art and having game nights with friends. They are also working toward getting certified as an equine specialist in mental health and finishing up requirements for a degree in psychology. Once both are complete, Ellie plans to partner with therapists to provide equine therapy.

We are so grateful to Ellie for their amazing skills and dedication as a foster parent. They take excellent care of their foster pets, whether they are itty-bitty bottle babies or super-senior geriatric. We appreciate their ongoing help, and support and for being a great communicator with our foster team.



Ellie with foster kittens  
Toothless,  
Cheeto and Meeko



Ellie and Socks

