

Foster Parent Spotlight

June 2022 — Ghayda Mirzaa

This month we are excited to feature Ghayda Mirzaa as our Foster of the Month! She is one of our newest fosters, but with three kittens fostered and counting since she started in April, we are already impressed by her dedication and willingness to learn the best ways to support animals in her care.

Being a foster newbie has not stopped Ghayda from jumping in to take bottle babies and learning how to syringe feed and give subQ fluids. "Once I started fostering with Seattle Humane, the Foster team was absolutely amazing, and it feels like a true partnership."

She enjoys supporting kittens during critical periods of growth as well as helping them through potential bumps along the way. When it comes to favorites, Ghayda is quite taken with her current foster, Oscar, who is 4 weeks old. "He is such a rascal. He is a singleton, so he doesn't have siblings, but he loves to play. It is so fun to see him play and develop."

Ghayda comes from a long line of cat enthusiasts. "My sister and I are huge cat lovers and animal lovers. We got it from our dad." Growing up in the Middle East, which has high numbers of stray cats, her dad was dedicated to helping rescue the cats he found. This early exposure to strays and kittens requiring higher levels of care prepared Ghayda for life as a foster. She also credits her two cats, which she adopted at young ages, giving her experience working with cats throughout the earlier stages of their life.

Both of Ghayda's cats are Seattle Humane alums. Her eldest is a 5-year-old shorthair tabby named Ollie who she adopted at 12 weeks. After it became clear Ollie needed a buddy, Ghayda adopted Hunter, a now 1-year-old black cat. "He is the perfect younger brother. Ollie is shy and more cautious whereas Hunter is a social butterfly. They have bonded so well and snuggle together."

While initially concerned about saying goodbye to fosters once they are ready for adoption, Ghayda has found the experience to be positive. "The joys outweigh the sadness. You get to see them grow and be adopted. It's been really rewarding."

Besides fostering, Ghayda enjoys the beauty of the Pacific Northwest, often by swimming and hiking. She's also a reading enthusiast currently working her way through "Tiny But Mighty" by Kitten Lady.

Thank you to Ghayda for your enthusiasm and dedication as a foster parent — we are so grateful to have you on our team!



Ghayda's cats Ollie (tabby) and Hunter (black kitty) who are the most loving brothers and Seattle Humane alums!



Ghayda with her with her current foster kitten Oscar.



Ghayda's dad with a kitten her family rescued in Bahrain named Lina.

