

 **PETS WITHOUT PARENTS** 
NOVEMBER'S FEATURED VOLUNTEER
JOYCE VENT



What I like best about volunteering at PWP: I love having the chance to meet so many great animals and the people at PWP aren't bad either! It's fun to go to PETCO and meet people who love animals. Most people who love animals are usually pretty good. Even the ones who are a little wacky!

My pets at home: Riley is my 7 year old collie mix adopted from CHA. Howard, my big orange tabby man and Maple my beautiful torti cat were adopted from PWP. I also have my kitty fosters, Fisher, Michael, Tim and Nina too.

What I'd like you to know about me: I want people to know that I love helping people and animals and that my philosophy is that you make a choice to be as happy as you want to be.

Dogs Rule or Cats Rule? Well, at my house right now cats definitely rule, but I admire my dog for his patience with mysterious feline ways.

What's your advice to someone wanting to adopt a pet for the first time: Do some research. Be sure to pick a pet that fits your life style. Don't be swayed by a "pretty face" or the latest "hot" pet. Always remember that your pet doesn't "speak English". An animal's motivation for his/her actions usually doesn't have anything to do with what a person might do in that situation. I guess that goes back to research. Training classes that use positive reinforcement are fantastic and should be a must for dog owners.

Where you can find me when I'm not at PWP: I work in the diabetes education department for Central Ohio Primary Care Physician. We have the best diabetes education program in central Ohio and I work with absolutely wonderful people who are passionate about helping people improve their health and their lives. When I'm not there I might be on the couch reading a book with Riley at my feet and a cat (or cats) on my lap. You might also find me at the IndiaOak, the little pub on the same street as PWP. Stop in sometime. The people are friendly and they have great sandwiches.

My Special Pets: I've been lucky to have a number of wonderful pets in my life. I imagine all of us who love and own animals have had those special pets. At the risk of sounding schmaltzy I'll call them our "soul pets". I just want to mention a few of mine: Riley, my current dog, my special tabby man, and Tinker, the dog I got when I was twelve.