



# PETS WITHOUT PARENTS

## OCTOBER'S FEATURED VOLUNTEER

### AMY CREIGHTON



**What I like best about volunteering at PWP:** I love being with the animals and being a part of an organization that is making such a positive impact in the lives of animals and people on a daily basis.

**My pets at home:** My one-year old cats, Gracie and Patty Wack, siblings and best friends. Gracie is a beautiful, muted calico. She's my laid-back kitty. Patty is a striking calico and the more ornery of the two. They are good company and so affectionate and entertaining! I am also fostering Mia, an 11 year-old cat who came to live with us because she was not thriving at the shelter. She's thriving now, though! Just ask Gracie and Patty!

**What I'd like you to know about me:** I was never a cat person until I got Gracie and Patty Wack. I grew up with a dog and always considered myself a dog person. I had no idea how much joy my cats would add to my life. So now I am a dog and cat person. It's been a good life lesson to keep an open mind and remember that change is a good thing!

**Dogs Rule or Cats Rule?** Until I got Gracie and Patty Wack, I would've said dogs. Now the answer is cats!

**What's your advice to someone wanting to adopt a pet for the first time:** I would encourage people to consider adopting two cats or two dogs at the same time. They need company as much as humans do! And, in most cases, just like kids, two is no more (or not much more) work than one!

Also, especially regarding dogs, the best advice I read when I was considering adopting a dog was, "You know you want a dog. Would a dog want you?" I really had to think about that one given that I couldn't be at home as much as I would want, and as much as a dog needs. I would love to have a dog and know that I will some day when the time is right. That is why I volunteer at PWP - I get the best of both worlds: spending time with animals without the guilt of not being able to spend enough time with a dog at home.

**Where you can find me when I'm not at PWP:** I like to compare myself to a greyhound - i.e. the 40 mph couch potato. Besides work, I'm busy with a community garden, church activities, socializing with friends, PWP and other volunteer activities. I recently passed my motorcycle skills test so you might find me riding my scooter. Otherwise, I can be found at home, often doing nothing (i.e. on the couch reading a book or watching tv, with a kitty napping on me)!

**A favorite quote of mine:** "Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive." ~Howard Thurman

And so I would encourage people to volunteer doing something they love, not what they think they should love or want to do. Find the thing that makes you happy and if you can't find it, keep looking! The something that makes you come alive is out there!