



Enriching the lives of cats and  
communities in Greater Cincinnati.



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## Volunteer Spotlight: Ruth Bertagna

OAR volunteers make all the difference in the lives of our cats. We are recognizing some of them in OAR 2.0 and at [www.ohioalleycat.org/volunteer-spotlight/](http://www.ohioalleycat.org/volunteer-spotlight/).



Ruth visits with OAR adoptable kitty Sparky.

It was an online search that led Ruth Bertagna to OAR, and for nearly 2 years now, she's been sharing her time, talent and love with our furry feline residents.

After volunteering with another shelter, Ruth was drawn to working with a no-kill rescue that had a mission she could support. She has found that at OAR. "I really love the people and the fact that we share the same passion for cats," Ruth explained. "All of the volunteers truly have the cats' best interests at heart."

Ruth initially became involved with OAR by adoption hosting at the Oakley Petstmart and is now a regular host on Sunday afternoons at the rescue. Helping adopters find just the right kitty is often bittersweet, she said. "I love seeing the cats get great, loving homes, but it's hard letting them go, too, because you get so attached."

Many adopters tell us that a particular cat or kitten caught their attention via an adorable Petfinder or Adopt-a-Pet listing, the credit for which goes to Ruth's photography and creative writing skills. It's a huge job keeping the cats' photos and bios updated, and we couldn't be more grateful to Ruth for her efforts.

"I just help wherever I'm needed," said Ruth, who also serves on the adoption committee and has represented OAR on air during several television appearances.

Ruth and her husband, Rich, an all around good guy who serves on OAR's board of directors, currently have four kitties of their own: Gabby, Nakomi, Humphrey and Mini-Mee. And, while she loves all the cats at OAR, Ruth admits to being partial to Sparky, a sweet senior boy who has had a hard time adjusting to shelter life after his owner passed away. "I call him my boyfriend," she admitted. "I'd just love to see him in a home of his own."

After an afternoon of greeting potential adopters and photographing adorable kitties, Ruth said, "It's often hard to leave OAR. I've found a little bit of heaven here. There's just something so good about this place."

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