

Amy Barton

Amy Barton started volunteering for Dog Star Rescue in Spring 2015. She's done everything from handling dogs at events, dog walking, transporting, helping with food at Bark & Brew to fostering. Amy currently manages Dog Star's Facebook page and is part of the advertising/marketing team.

"If you ask me how it all started, it's very simple - I wanted to pet some dogs," Amy says. While living in New York, she'd often find herself at the local shelter, visiting the dogs that would bark endlessly trying to get her attention or sticking her fingers in the kitty kennels trying to pet the cats. Eventually she would end up with a cat from this particular shelter, as well as a dog*. Fast forward a few years and dogs later and a stint fostering for a rescue out of New York, Amy and her husband ended up in Connecticut and she needed a dog to pet and love on. "Funny thing is, I couldn't find any shelters. After a little Google searching, I find out there's this rescue I'd never heard of right in my own town. And guess what, you couldn't really go there and pet dogs, but boy was I itching to pet a dog. So here I am, and I guess I can pet dogs now."

Amy's not sharing her most memorable moment as a Dog Star volunteer though. "Trust me, I've had beautiful moments that brought tears to my eyes that I will never forget, it takes me 1.67 seconds to bond with any dog I come into contact with, but if you want my MOST memorable...sorry, taking it to my grave."

When she's not volunteering for Dog Star, "I wander around my house muttering things like, 'Did I post that yet,' or 'You can't write that on Facebook, Amy, that's a little too dark,' or 'Another fundraiser, are they trying to freaking kill me,' or 'Need. Pictures. Videos. A drawing of a dog. Anything.'" But seriously, Amy is married with two very athletic teenagers and a seven-year-old that has the "attitude of a teenager, but is smart as a whip and super cute to boot." They have two rescue kitties (Baloo and Indy Fat), and two Dog Star dogs (Boe and Pea). She also runs her own company and works part time with Home Sweet Home Pet Care, walking dogs, taking care of cats, and feeding fish. "I feel super lucky to have the opportunity to do that, because not only am I getting some major exercise in, if I'm having a bad day, it's the best therapy in the world, and the dogs never judge you." She also loves writing, reading, sewing, do-it-yourself projects, binge-watching TV, being left alone, training at becoming an Olympic sleeper, and most of all, listening to music.

"All-in-all, I often wonder how someone like myself ended up with Dog Star, what I'm supposed to take away from this or what the bigger picture is. Dog Star is made up of the most dog-loving, beer-loving, and downright friendliest people you could ever hope to meet and have in your life. So how did I, a definite beer-hater, a self-made loner, who is completely socially inept in-person and spends a great deal of time and energy

trying to avoid contact with people end up here? I don't know, I'm still working it out. But what I do know is, I adore them, all of them, and when one of them puts a freaking beer in your hand, just take it, try not to say something stupid and be thankful they took you in and have let you stick around this long."

**Funny little story about that dog and a very young and immature couple. "We saw an Australian Cattle Dog at this very shelter one day. As we were admiring this dog, debating whether this was a good idea or not, deciding researching breeds was for the weak, we saw a family with a young daughter walk over to his cage, the little girl was so excited, THIS was the one she told her parents. Like a scene from a dog commercial, the parents looked at one another with smiles, the girl filled with excitement, I swear there was probably sweet music starting to fill the room. So, naturally, like anyone without hearts would do, my husband and I ran to the front counter, filled out an application, forked over our money, and watched the girl out of our rearview mirror as the dust flew up and we took our new (bonkers as a rabid coyote) dog home. We now tell ourselves that we saved that little girl from near-certain death, and we're clearly freaking heroes. You do what you have to do to survive."*