



# 2012 Annual Report

**The Potter League • Enriching Lives**

8.1.11 – 7.31.12

# An animal's eyes have the power



*Dear Friend of Animals,*

As the leaves begin to fall and the weather begins to cool, we are preparing for 2013 here at the Potter League. We look towards improvements in our veterinary care delivery system that will benefit our shelter animals. We look forward to improvements in our volunteer program as well. As always, we seek new and better ways to serve our community and the animals and people that live here.

As my term as President comes to a close, I am feeling very grateful. I am thankful for our strong and competent staff and the many volunteers who care for the animals and run our various programs. I am thrilled that we recently completed repayment of our construction debt. However, above all else I am grateful to you, our many dedicated donors and animal lovers for your compassion and dedication to our mission. The Potter League is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of animals. Thank you for partnering with us to make that important work possible.

Thank you,

Patty Spigel  
Board President



**The Potter League • Enriching Lives**

## Key Accomplishments for the Potter League

### Heart and Sole Walk for the Animals

The 23rd annual Heart and Sole Walk for the Animals raised a record-breaking \$102,000 and is now the largest animal welfare walk in RI.

### Behavior and Training Center Expansion

The Training Center added a new "Smart & Fit" class as well as additional play groups and obedience classes. 20 "Try-It Free" Dog Sport Classes were offered in agility, doggy-O and Dance. We enrolled more animals than ever in our classes! For cats we launched a new

Meet Your Match assessment that evaluates an animal's behavior and interests and matches them to an adopter's preferences.

### Fetching Friends Transport Program

The 1,000th dog from our sister shelter Mitchell County Animal Rescue in North Carolina arrived in October 2011. We named him Kisses, and he was adopted immediately amidst great fanfare! Our transport program transferred 331 dogs and puppies this year and continues to save lives from overcrowded shelters in Pennsylvania,

North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and the Virgin Islands.

### Be Kind to Animals Poster Contest

In honor of Be Kind to Animals Week, the Potter League hosts a poster contest for children in grades 2-12. The themes were: "Make a Friend" and "Extinction is Forever." Of 156 posters submitted, the top entries are honored at an awards ceremony.

### Camp Happy Tails

Camp Happy Tails expands its sessions and introduces 96 children to the wonders and wows of the animal kingdom. The new "Kids and

# to speak a great language.

—Martin Buber

Dear Friends,

This 2012 annual report is a landmark for me personally because it marks my 30th year as Executive Director of the Potter League. The growth and changes in animal welfare have been remarkable for the animals and for our community. Thirty years later I can proudly say that the number of animals needing the Potter League's services has decreased by 20%, the percent of animals adopted has increased by 67% while the number of animals euthanized decreased by 80%.



These dramatic statistics only tell a small part of the story at the Potter League. The real story, the important story, occurs every time you, other animal lovers, our volunteers, or the Potter League staff take a step forward to help an animal that is suffering, homeless, unwanted, or scared. It happens every time you reach out to hug your own animal companion or encourage a friend to open his heart to a four-legged family member. The personal stories are not necessarily captured in the pages of this annual report but they exist forever in our hearts and in our daily exchanges with our pets.

For me, they do happen every day I come to work. I thank you for making the Potter League possible, for enabling us to do good, for supporting our work, for making sure each of us has the opportunity to enrich so many lives.

With fondest thanks and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christie".

M. Christie Smith, CAWA  
Executive Director

Dogs Training Camp" had young participants working with their dogs to teach them basic obedience.

## Brian Kilcommons Lecture

The Potter League hosted noted dog trainer and author Brian Kilcommons in August for a lecture for the community and training for our staff. Funded by Moriarity's Invisible Fence, this unique opportunity brought an exceptional trainer to ensure that there are Good Owners, Great Dogs (which just happens to be the title of one of Brian's books)!

## Collaborations & Connections

The Potter League continues to share resources and ideas through our wide associations. This year we participated as a product advisor in a new initiative for Guidestar and the Nonprofit Finance Fund and served on the Best Practices Committee of the National Federation of Humane Societies. Executive Director Christie Smith was a presenter at the HSUS' Animal Care Expo, sits on the Hill's Science Diet Shelter Advisory Committee, and continues her responsibilities as a board member and officer of the Society of Animal Welfare Administrators. Closer to

home, the Potter League is a founding member of the Ocean State Animal Coalition and works with a diverse group examining feral cat issues in RI.

## Partnership with Merial

Our relationship with Merial and a seat at their Shelter Partners Council has expanded to an involvement in their new Partners for Protection program. With this activity the cats and dogs in our care are started on an optimal healthcare regime that includes flea, tick and heartworm preventive protocols. Thanks to Merial's commitment, our animals receive the highest quality of life while in the shelter.

# Envisioning Homes

## Adoption Readiness

All animals in our facility are behaviorally and medically evaluated before entering the adoption program. Animals receive medical examinations, age-appropriate vaccinations and preventative treatments, sterilization surgeries as well as other medical procedures when needed. Behavior assessments identify problem behaviors and allow for training or socialization activities needed to enhance the animals' chances for adoption.



## Fetching Friends

The Potter League's Fetching Friends is truly a life saving program. We transport animals from shelters in North Carolina, Pennsylvania and other areas which have overwhelming pet overpopulation problems. We also help local shelters and rescue organizations which become overcrowded.



## Pet Adoption

The Potter League believes in new beginnings. We believe in a fresh start for each adoptable animal in our program. With ongoing support and by carefully matching our homeless animals with responsible, caring adopters, the Potter League works to ensure that these new relationships will last. There is no time limit for how long an adoptable animal can stay in our shelter.

## Reuniting Families

Not all animals entering our facility are homeless. Some are lost, frightened cats and dogs who can't find their way home. The Potter League works diligently to reunite lost pets with their loving families. Our staff maintains an extensive database of lost and found pets. A listing of all the stray animals in our building can be found on our website. To increase our chances of returning pets home safely, the Potter League issues free Potter Pet Identification Tags.

Animals Spayed or Neutered	526
Number of Lost and Found Reports	379
Medical Examinations Given by Veterinarians	1,365
Number of Animals Transported to Potter League	331
Potter Pet Tags Issued	1,163

# 2012 Animal Statistics

8.1.11-7.31.12

## Animals Received

Dogs & Puppies	868
Cats & Kittens	724
Other Animals	140

**Total** 1,732

## Adoptions

Dogs & Puppies	497
Cats & Kittens	538
Other Animals	115

**Total** 1,150

## Strays Returned to Owners

Dogs & Puppies	211
Cats & Kittens	34

**Total** 245

## Transfer/Other Outcomes

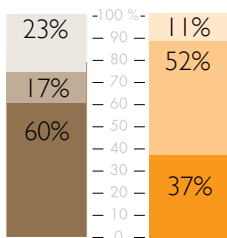
Dogs & Puppies	4
Cats & Kittens	16
Other Animals	7

**Total** 27

## Euthanized

Dogs & Puppies	80
Cats & Kittens	85
Other Animals	11

**Total** 176



## Reasons for Euthanasia

60% Dogs 37% Cats

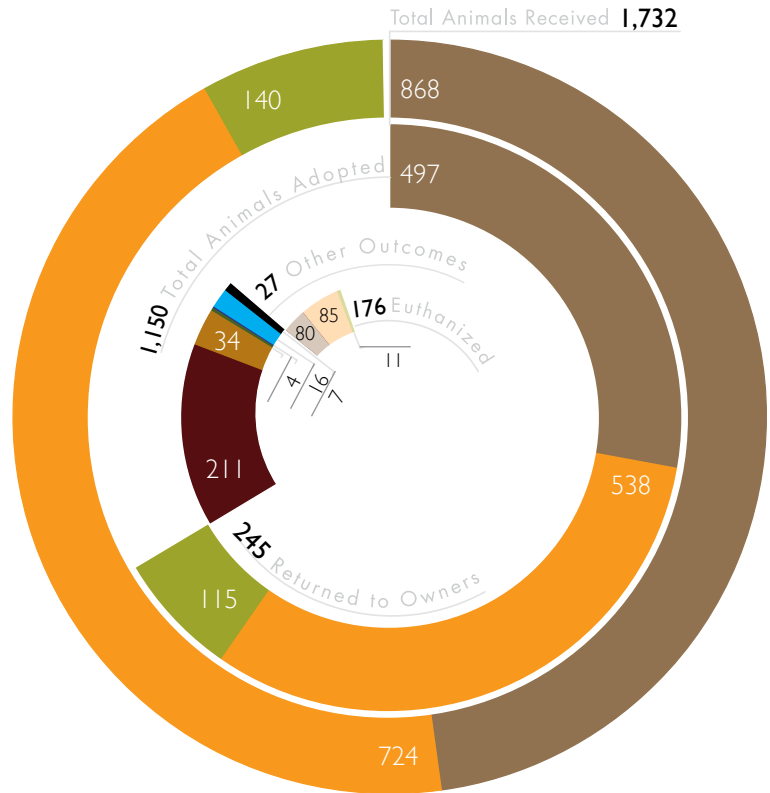
Behavior and/or Aggression

17% Dogs 52% Cats

Injury and Medical Problems

23% Dogs 11% Cats

Owner Requested



The Potter League is an open admission shelter that has adopted national standards called Asilomar Accords. By utilizing a standard language and reporting method for our statistics, we can easily and clearly track progress to end euthanasia both at our shelter and across shelters nationwide. The Live Release Rate reveals the percentage of animals that leave the shelter alive regardless of their health or behavior status. This measurement eliminates any subjective definition of the word "adoptable". Based on this method, the Potter League's Live Release Rate is 91.5%, among the highest in the nation. For the FY 2012, no adoptable animals were euthanized at the Potter League.

Thanks to your support, we are reaching our goal to save the lives of all healthy and treatable companion animals. Together, we save animals, prevent cruelty toward them and enrich the lives of people who open their hearts and home to love them.

# Community Reflection

## Raising Awareness

To promote adoptions, adoptable animals are featured in The Newport Daily News' Pet of the Week advertisements. Dear Bootsie, a weekly pet advice column, is published in The Newport Daily News and The Rhode Island Woman's Journal, a bi-monthly publication, runs a Pet Feature focused on pet related information. PSA's on WPRI 12 FOX Providence promote our Walk for the Animals and Have a Heart Party. The Potter League is a monthly regular on a radio show hosted by Art Beluti on WADK 1540. Fans regularly follow our Facebook page and supporters visit our website for the latest Potter League news and to view adoptable animals.



## Pet Visitation Program

Through our Animal Assisted Activity program, volunteers and their pets bring joy to the physically and mentally challenged, the elderly, and residents of long term care facilities and hospitals in our community.

## Pet Loss Support

In recognizing the integral role pets play in our lives, the Potter League offers monthly support sessions for those grieving the loss of a beloved pet.

## Pet Safe

The Potter League provides temporary housing for pets during their owners' challenging times. The program provides short term housing to the elderly who needed hospitalization and had no one to care for their animals, to victims of domestic violence who are fleeing from a dangerous environment, and those experiencing a disaster such as a fire or flood.

## Potter Pet University

Monthly evening lectures for adults cover a range of topics from illness in senior cats, caring for rabbits to pet acupuncture and natural horse training.

## Off-Site Pet Adoptions

Newport Animal Hospital, Newport Animal Clinic and Portsmouth Veterinary Clinic host Potter League cats for adoption at their facilities. Petco houses adoptable pets with Potter League volunteers and staff providing daily cleaning and care.

Activity	
Newspaper Columns Published	68
Potter Pet University Attendees	150
Featured in Pet of the Week	50
PSA's Aired	500
Facebook Fans	4,200
Website Visits	178,827

# Seeing is Believing; Focus on Training

The Potter League is committed to keeping people and animals together by helping them overcome challenging behavior problems and by strengthening the human-animal bond. Our Behavior and Training Department is a community resource which assists in furthering these goals.



## Behavior & Training Center

In our indoor 1,600 square foot facility, we offer a variety of classes and enrichment activities designed for dogs of all ages, sizes and training levels. Offerings range from structured six week courses to less formal, drop-in playgroups. Specialty classes target particular problem behaviors or provide practice sessions to improve handling skills.

## HeadStart

This life-saving program involves intense training for select shelter dogs with skilled volunteers and our expert staff. Consistent training plans for individual dogs provide them with basic obedience skills and increased socialization to help ensure a successful adoption.

## Potter League Behavior & Training Activities

Behavior Assessments of Shelter Dogs & Cats	659
Training Classes Taught	112
Dogs Enrolled in Classes	469
Dogs Attending Playgroups	1,506
Dogs Attending Free Adopter Training Classes	69
Calls to the Behavior HelpLine	417

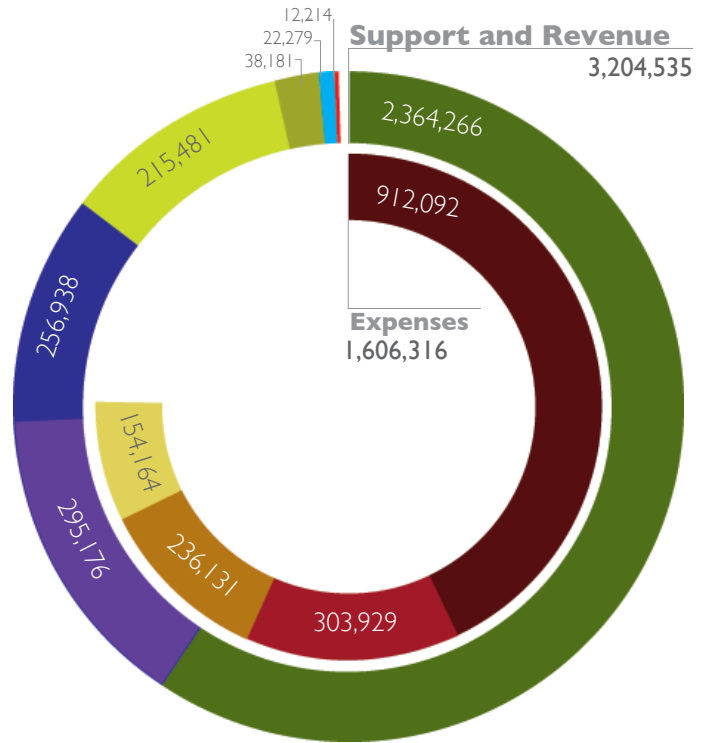
## Support

Adopters receive advice and support through our dog adopter classes. Cat adopters can attend our Feline Forum to discuss cat issues. The Potter League also offers a free Behavior Helpline which is manned by behavior department staff to offer advise on common dog and cat behavior problems.



# 2012 Financial Snapshot

8.1.11-7.31.12



The following statement of activities provides a snapshot of our operating and capital campaign revenue and expenses for fiscal year 2012.

## Support and Revenue

Contributions and grants	2,364,266
Shelter services	295,176
Fundraising events, net	256,938
Service contract fees	215,481
Investment income	22,279
Sales of pet supplies, net	12,214
Net realized and unrealized losses on investments	38,181
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>3,204,535</b>

## Expenses

### Program services:

Shelter services	912,092
Education and training services	303,929
<b>Total program services</b>	<b>1,216,021</b>

### Support Services:

General fundraising	236,131
Management and general	154,164
<b>Total supporting services</b>	<b>390,295</b>

**TOTAL EXPENSES** **1,606,316**

**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS** **1,598,219**

**NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF THE YEAR** **8,524,314**

**NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR** **10,122,533**

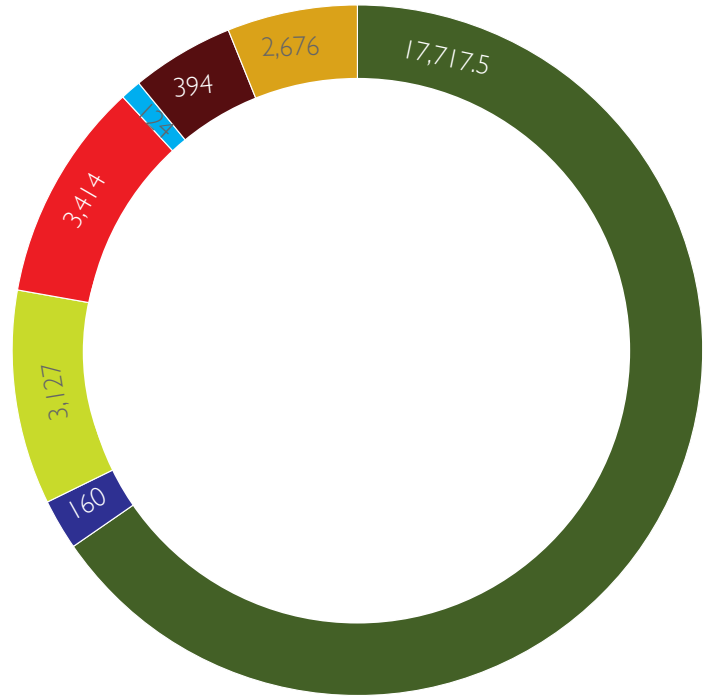
Kahn, Litwin, Renza & Co., Ltd. have audited the financial position of the Potter League for Animals as of July 31, 2012.

Audited Financial Statements are available on request.





# Volunteer Insight



Volunteers are crucial to every aspect of the day-to-day operations at The Potter League. Their contribution of time and talent assists us in providing the highest quality of care to our animals and the best customer service to our constituents. Over 500 new volunteers attended orientations this year. In 2012, volunteers donated 27,612.5 hours of service.

Volunteers perform many jobs such as socializing our cats and small critters, walking and training the dogs, and providing foster care, making sure the animal rooms are clean and comfortable. Front desk volunteers and greeters assist visitors and promote animals for adoption. Volunteers represent the Potter League at community events, help organize and run our special events, mentor students and teach humane education classes, assist in Fetching Friends, bring animals to veterinary offices for surgeries, and so much more.

All of our volunteers are held in the highest of esteem. Volunteers who log 30 or more hours of service in the calendar year are invited to attend the Volunteer Dinner. At the 2012 dinner, Bernadette Emery was recognized as the Volunteer of the Year, Patricia Fairchild received the Lori Owens Award, and over 50 volunteers received service awards.

## Support received in terms of hours

Animal Care	17,717.5
Animal Assisted Activities	160
Clerical	3,127
Community Service & Restitution	124
Education	394
Special Events	2,676
Other	3,414

**Total Hours** **27,612.5**



# Seeing through Education

The Potter League has a deep commitment to securing a better future for animals. Our humane education programs teach younger generations about the responsibilities of caring for companion animals and the vital role animals play in our world. These successful programs foster compassion and encourage a respect for all living things.

This year, over 2,700 children benefited from 353 humane education presentations and sessions in local schools. Program offerings ran the gamut from a pet overpopulation lesson as part of the seven lesson curriculum for third graders to an endangered species lesson taught during the five lesson curriculum for seventh graders. A variety of grade levels receive presentations on pet care and safety around animals. *Coyotes and Dog Safety* educated students on how to stay safe around animals.



Two new school vacation camps were added in the months of December and February. The December camp offered crafts and animal interaction based on the summer camp programs. The Kids & Dogs Training Camp held in February included a small group of kids who worked to train their own dogs. Both programs proved to be very successful.

Children visited the Alletta Morris Education Center at the Potter League to tour the shelter and to learn about the role of an animal shelter, earn a Girl Scout patch on pet care, attend a birthday party with a humane theme, and participate in camp sessions with interactive, hands-on animal activities.



## School Based and Youth Organization Presentations

Program	Presentations	Students
Third Grade Multi-Lesson	177	775
Fifth Grade Multi-Lesson	16	208
Seventh Grade Multi-Lesson	80	352
Coyotes & Dog Safety Lesson	15	332
Special Requests	65	1,102
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>2,769</b>

## Shelter Based Activities

Program	Sessions	Participants
Shelter Tours	9	134
Camp Happy Tails	8	96
December Staycation Camp	2	24
Kids & Dogs Training Camp	1	4
Birthday Parties	15	184
Girl Scout Patch Program	15	229
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>671</b>

## Other School Based Activities

Program	Sessions	Participants
Reading Fur Fun	58	24
After School Program	1	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>36</b>

# Donors

## Philanthropic Support

Contributions and pledges from individuals, businesses and foundations are critical to achieving our mission at the Potter League. Support from our donors has a lasting impact on the lives of thousands of animals and builds a more humane community for all. Together, we can prevent cruelty and neglect, save animals, and enrich the lives of the people who love them. The Potter League would like to thank the following donors for their generous contributions to our Annual Fund as well as those who made Capital Campaign pledge payments from 8/1/2011 through 7/31/2012. The list does not include those who have purchased event tickets or goods and services at our auctions and events.

### \$25,000 +

Mr. James D. Berwind &  
Mr. Kevin Clark  
Ms. Linnea Bostrom  
Mrs. Alfred S. Wisley

### \$5,000 - \$24,999

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### \$1,000 - \$4,999

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Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Clappi  
Ms. Patricia F. Confort &  
Mr. Thierry Deegan  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter R. Conway  
Mr. & Mrs. Joel M. Costa  
Ms. Kerry A. Costa  
Ms. Elizabeth J. Costantino  
Mr. Patrick D. Creely  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert J. Cronin  
Ms. Laura S. Cutler  
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Mrs. Lois D. Dickson  
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## Our Mission

The Potter League for Animals is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of animals.

We promote humane treatment of all animals and provide shelter and care for lost or unwanted companion animals.

Through community education and the fostering of relationships between people and animals, we enhance the animals' future and enrich the human experience.



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