



Potter League
Enriching Lives

Paw-Print Press *Summer* 15

Look Inside...

- New Bunny Playgroup
- Camp Happy Tails
- Volunteer Recognition
- A Tribute to Bootsie
- Doggy 101 & Cat Conversations
- Fetching Friends Program
- Million Cat Challenge

The Robert Potter League for Animals, Inc.
P.O. Box 412, Newport, RI 02840

Non Profit
Organization
US postage
PAID
Newport, RI 02840
Permit No. 49

Board of Directors 2014-2015

Ellen Ford, President
Patty Spigel, Vice Pres.
David Thalmann, Treasurer
Leilani Brenner, Secretary

James Berwind
Carolyn duPont
Mary Edwards
David Enstone
Evan Gilden
Michael Grandchamp
Joan Johnson-Freese
Marilyn Kanter
Charlene Karns
Elena Kissel
Nancy Mayer
Howard Naugle
Eric Radler
Eric Shaw
Mary Alice Smith
Teryn Weintz

Executive Director

M. Christie Smith, CAWA

A Happy Tail: Izzy, formerly known as Snickers



I thought it was time I sent in my success story about Izzy, formerly known as Snickers. I adopted her 6 years ago and she's been nothing but a blessing to my life since. She had been abandoned and abused, was terribly skinny and she seemed to be permanently scared of everyone. With a lot of love and even more patience, the once timid little girl has grown into being a friendly, outgoing, loving, (although sometimes needy!) amazing pup. She's quirky and weird, sassy and sweet, and I'm so grateful for the Potter League for bringing her to me. I may have saved her life, but she really saved mine.

Sincerely,
Rita D.

Thank you to Rita for sharing her adoption story. If you have a story to share about a Potter League pet, please send it to KerryM@PotterLeague.org along with hi-resolution photos for future articles.

New Bunny Playgroup Helps Shelter Rabbits

For well over a year, the Potter League has noticed an increase in our bunny population. When once there were long spans without a bunny in the shelter, now between five and ten rabbits is the norm on the adoption floor on any given day. With each bunny taking months to find the right home, and more rabbits coming into the shelter regularly, the staff knew that something needed to be done to improve the lives of the shelter rabbits and showcase their adorable personalities to the public – thus Bunny Playgroup was born!

Bunny Playgroup is a time set aside in the training center where the bunnies can come out to socialize. Rabbits can be fussy about associating with other rabbits, so they can not be allowed to interact together in a big group like the dogs. Instead, separate pens are set up, outfitted with toys, small cloth tunnels, and a litter box. Each rabbit has their own space in which to hop around and is given a window view. Then one at a time, they are allowed full access to the training center to exercise those hopping muscles, explore the room, and sniff each other through the fences.



The benefits to this program are many. The rabbits obviously enjoy the time that they are able to run around and explore. It also gets the rabbits used to handling, as each rabbit must be picked up and placed in their carriers to be taken to the training center. The staff has noticed a significant decrease in the amount of struggling in response to being picked up as the weeks of Bunny Playgroup have continued. The

increased socialization has also improved the behavior of the bunnies when interacting with new people. Rabbits that were once shy are now soliciting petting from volunteers. It's hard to imagine that a rabbit lying in a small cage will be a fun and interactive pet. When you see them run and explore, they are totally different, and their sweet, spunky personalities shine through.

Potter League trained Volunteers can schedule themselves online to come down and help socialize the bunnies. For more information about this program or becoming a volunteer at the Potter League, visit our website www.PotterLeague.org or contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Gail at GailL@PotterLeague.org.



Camp Happy Tails Offers All Day Camps and Extended Day

Camp Happy Tails introduces kids to the wonders and wows of the animal kingdom while learning compassion and respect for the world around them. Our hands-on educational programs allow kids to explore behind the scenes at the Potter League and unleash a love for making a difference in animals' lives.



Campers enjoy hands on experiences with homeless animals at the shelter

The Potter League for Animals is happy to offer full day camp programs as well as an extended day care option (*for an additional fee*) which will allow time for more projects, animals, fun, games and in-depth hands-on learning experiences. Sessions are held at the Potter League. There is also a program in conjunction with the Newport County YMCA in Middletown with a half day each at both the Potter League and the YMCA.

Each session is packed with educational activities, fun animal-themed games and crafts, as well as the opportunity to meet and interact with the animals at our shelter.

Enrollment is \$240 per child for all day session and \$225 per child for the Potter League/YMCA camps. To register, go to www.PotterLeague.org, download a registration form, return the form with payment to reserve a space. Limit 16 campers per session.

Contact Anastacia, AnastaciaS@PotterLeague.org, or 401.846.0592 ext.120 for more information.



Enroll today!
For more information
www.PotterLeague.org

| WEEK | THEME |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2nd & 3rd Graders | |
| July 13 - 17* | Happy, Healthy Pets |
| July 20 - 24 | House and Home |
| July 27 - 31* | Games Pets Play |
| 4th, 5th & 6th Graders | |
| July 6 - 10 | Behind the Scenes |
| July 13 - 17* | Pets and Vets |
| July 27 - 31* | Dog Sports & Cat-tivities |
| August 3 - 7 | Animals & the Environment |
| August 10 - 14 | Click and Treat |

*Potter League/YMCA camp week

2014 Volunteer of the Year: Rosemary Trujillo

The Volunteer Recognition Dinner was held at Green Valley Country Club in March. The dinner was held in honor of Potter League volunteers who logged 50 hours or more during the 2014 calendar year. 1,140 volunteers logged over 28,700 hours of service to the organization!

Each year a volunteer is honored for outstanding service to the Potter League. This year, the Potter League had the pleasure of awarding Rosemary Trujillo as the Volunteer of the Year. Rosemary has been volunteering at the Potter League since March 2012 and has logged over 840 hours since she began volunteering. She spends most of her time at the front desk greeting potential adopters on Sunday mornings and Thursday nights, selling raffle tickets at fundraising events, walking dogs as well as assisting at every microchip clinic and rabies clinic. Rosemary does all this for the Potter League while maintaining a full time job and caring for her family.

Thank you, Rosemary, for all you do!



Rosemary Trujillo, 2014 Volunteer of the Year

Dorothy "Dorrie" Hanson receives Lore Owens Award



Dorrie Hanson (left) receives award from Gail Lawson (right)

The Lore Owens Award was established in 2000 in memory of Lore, a long-time volunteer who died tragically in 1999. Dorrie Hanson was presented with the Lore Owens Award by Volunteer Coordinator Gail Lawson.

Dorrie has been volunteering at the Potter League since 2010. She spends most of her time walking dogs and socializing with cats. Dorrie is a Headstart Trainer, where she works with dogs on specific needs such as loose leash walking, crate training, overcoming shyness and fear,

reactivity to other dogs and overall basic training. Dorrie is a very special volunteer and we truly appreciate all her help.

The Potter League is grateful to have volunteers like Dorrie who share their time and talent with us. Thank you Dorrie!

photos by Jaclyn L Photography

Save the Date

Potter Pet University

Wednesday, June 17

Wednesday, July 15

Wednesday, August 19

Wednesday, September 16

Annual Meeting

October 2015

Private Behavior Consultations and Training Available

If you are not quite ready for a group class setting or if your dog has a specific issue that you would like one-on-one assistance with, we can help. Our professional Potter League trainers can provide a private consult with you and your dog to get you started on the right "paw" and keep you on a steady path to training success. Behavior consultations for cat problems are also available.

We also offer private training classes for you and your dog. Our private lesson package can be customized to your needs. Private training is available at the Potter League facility or in your home.

All consultations are available by appointment. Fees vary.

For more information or to schedule a private consultation or training, please contact

Sarah deVries

at

401.846.8276 ext. 104

or

SarahD@PotterLeague.org

Saying Goodbye to Bootsie

This tribute was written by long-time Potter League staff member, Teri MacKinnon, as the last Dear Bootsie article for the Newport Daily News. Bootsie lived with Teri during the construction of the new building six years ago.

Dear Friends,

Working at a humane society is such an emotional profession, at once fulfilling and frustrating, joyful and sorrowful, uplifting and exhausting. We never know what is coming through our doors. On any given day, we may take in a scared or neglected animal, while just down the hall we are cheerfully saying farewell to another animal, leaving us to begin life with a new family. The daily ups and downs are palpable. But a few things go on without change, soothing our hearts, reminding us why we do this work. One of those



constants is our mascot. On March 26th, we lost a cherished staff member, as we said good bye to our beloved friend and mascot, Bootsie. Bootsie arrived at the Potter League as a stray in August 1999. We had been without a mascot for quite a while when she applied for the job. I'm not sure if it was her calm demeanor or her emerald green eyes that won her the position. Perhaps it was a little of both. When the new

building opened, Bootsie chose to share an office with Nancy. They became best friends.

A mascot belongs to no one and to everyone. On one particularly emotional day, I remember gathering Bootsie into my arms and lifting her onto my shoulder. She gave a tiny meow of protest before allowing me to bury my teary face in her soft, sweet-smelling fur. She was our professional comforter.

Aside from her columnist duties, Bootsie was an important member of our Dog Evaluation Team. Often a family arrives at our door, looking for a canine companion who will behave well with their cat. But many of the dogs here have no history of experience with felines. Enter Bootsie.

Pearl describes Bootsie's unique approach to dog evaluations. With canine candidate on leash, Bootsie would enter the room and look the dog over. If she sensed that he was a safe bet with cats, she would stroll over, head-butt the startled dog on his face and saunter away. But if she perceived him as a threat, she would retreat in due haste. Either way, we would have our answer. Her opinions carried great weight; when it came to dogs, Bootsie was never wrong.

Bootsie was not above showing her displeasure in other ways when it came to a dog issue. This note was placed in her file on June 24th of 2000: "Boots is the suspect for the urine on the dog room computer keypad, her urine...was strong and there was a lot of it."

Emily worked with Bootsie during the transition from old building to new. She remembers her younger, feisty days: "She loved to sit on the front counter and greet people. Boots loved her people, often seeking out those who fed her, gave her treats and catnip." She recalls a special volunteer, a nun from Cluny who would visit every Friday. "We called her Sister Tuna. She always brought tuna and Bootsie was of course always there with her. Whether it was because she brought tuna or because she was so kind and gentle, I'll never know. Bootsie was just calm as if she felt peaceful with this woman."

Emily continues, "Bootsie had a great wardrobe! One that most female cats were, I'm sure, jealous of. She had a collar for every holiday and season. I loved keeping her collars organized by color and holiday!"

Bootsie had a passive, even protective relationship with the smaller animals at the shelter. If there were hamsters, gerbils, mice or rats in residence, she could be found perched, "on guard duty" by their cages, deep in thought, as they ran frantically on their exercise wheels. She was also very cool and unruffled around Tuki, our mascot cockatiel. If she came upon Tuki, hanging out with his human friend, Jill, she would give Jill a look that obviously meant, "Why do you love that silly thing?" You could almost see her shaking her head.

There was always something to make us laugh. One afternoon, Pearl heard a rustling noise coming from the retail store in the lobby. She found Bootsie rolling in ecstasy and covered with catnip. Beside her was the freshly shredded package. Bringing the torn bag up to Nancy, she scolded, "Look what Your Cat did!"

In the mornings, Bootsie would perch atop the refrigerator in the volunteer office. That's where the bags of hot dog bits are kept for the dog walkers. Doing this, she received an endless offering of treats, as each walker came and went, not realizing that the previous volunteer had already loaded her up.

And then there was the puppy chow incident. One night, after we had all left, Bootsie went hunting for a midnight snack. The next morning, we found her in the supply closet, sprawled in a wide-spread pile of kibble and wearing a self-satisfied expression.

Bootsie presided over every board meeting from her spot in the middle of the table. She loved napping in the afternoon sunbeams and enjoyed just hanging out with staff in the lunch room. She was a people person. And who knew when a treat might be tossed her way?

It seemed that Bootsie would stay with us as long as we willed her to, but as winter drew to a close, we realized just how weary she was becoming, battling illnesses and age. She needed to go home, back to heaven. Bootsie's last morning was spent with all of her favorite things and her favorite people. She had tuna for breakfast, followed by toys covered with catnip. Many of her best friends came in to see her, one last time. She greeted everyone. Then she cuddled up in her bed in the office she shared with Nancy, and took a nap. A little later, she went quietly to her rest, surrounded by her closest friends.

We shall remember her so fondly and will miss her for always. Love from everyone at the Potter League

Is Your Puppy a Star?

AKC Star, that is! The Potter League is proud to offer the AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy class for any puppy aged 3 – 11 months. AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy is an incentive program for loving dog owners who have taken the time to take their puppies through a basic training class. This class is a natural lead-in to the AKC Canine Good Citizen Program (CGC).



SOCIALIZATION * TRAINING * ACTIVITY * RESPONSIBILITY

This class is taught by an AKC approved CGC Evaluator and you and your dog will learn all the basic obedience commands as well as work on accomplishing 20 different skills set forth by the AKC. At the end of the 6 week class, you are evaluated on those 20 skills. Upon passing the

evaluation, you are eligible to receive an AKC S.T.A.R. puppy medal and will be listed in the AKC S.T.A.R. records. The Potter League offers this class on several convenient days and times throughout the year so be sure to visit our website for more information and make your puppy a star!

Doggy 101 & Cat Conversations: Free Information Classes Offered at the Potter League

Thinking of adding a canine or feline companion to your family? Spend an hour with our adoption and behavior staff learning valuable information about what to expect when you bring your new dog or kitty home. These



informative classes are strongly recommended for all potential adopters, whether you plan to adopt from the Potter League or another facility. Each class will have plenty of time for questions and answers. Classes are free and offered monthly. Visit our Calendar of Events page at www.PotterLeague.org for upcoming meeting dates.

Pre-registration is required by contacting Hilary at HilaryB@PotterLeague.org or calling 401.846.8276 ext. 100. Well behaved children who can sit quietly for an hour are welcome to attend.

Meet Hilary Bliss, Customer Care Associate

Hilary Bliss moved back to Rhode Island in 2000 to be closer to her family. The opportunity arose in 2011 to volunteer at the Potter League, as well as two other non-profit organizations located in Barrington. She logged almost 300 hours in three years lending a hand in a number of areas including cat socialization, dog walking, cleaning with Team Cat, caring for our cats located at PetCo and as a greeter at the front desk. In April 2014 Hilary was hired as a part time Animal Care Associate at the front desk which led to a full time position in the Fall of 2014.



Hilary and Willie

When asked what the favorite part of her job is, she responded, "successful adoptions." And Hilary is just the person to assist potential adopters in finding a good match! Hilary lives in Warren with her husband, Tim, a dog named Henry and two cats, Lucy and Lasagna.

Mark Your Calendar for Dog Day of Summer

August 2015



Join us for a morning of summer fun for you and your dog at the Potter League! Frisbee games, sand digging, photos with your dog, agility course, door prizes and mor.! Watch our Facebook page and website for more

information about this fun and sun filled day!

Animal Lovers Show Warm Support at the Have A Heart!

The weather outside was blustery and cold, but inside OceanCliff on Friday, February 6, over 400 friends mingled in the warm and festive environment at the annual Have A Heart Cocktail Party and Auction. In its 42nd spectacular year, Have A Heart is a celebration of good friends, fabulous food and dazzling auction items, all while raising \$83,000 to help the Potter League provide care and find loving homes for homeless animals.



Whether enjoying a Paw-tini while browsing the array of silent auction items, sampling the Wine Bar, "oh-ing and awe-ing" over the pictures in the Adoption Café, or gathering with friends at one of the many spectacular OceanCliff rooms, attendees celebrated in style at the sold out event.

The success of the Have A Heart is a tribute to the caring community of Potter League supporters, a bevy of enthusiastic volunteers, the overwhelming support of individuals and businesses who donate auction items, and the magnificent sponsors and underwriters. From the bottom of our hearts we thank you!



Presenting Sponsors:

BankRI, People's Credit Union, Moriarty's Invisible Fence, BankNewport, Portsmouth Veterinary Clinic, Gustave White, BMW of Newport, Horan Building Company, Karns Law Group, A. Tesa Architecture and PetFirst Pet Insurance

In-Kind and Underwriters: OceanCliff, Exquisite Events, Rentals Unlimited, Chanterelle Boutique Catering, Lila Delman Real Estate, Newport Lobster Company, Opulent Vodka, Bellevue Wine & Spirits, Greenvale Vineyards, Newport Vineyards, Sayles Livingston Flowers, Flint Audio Video, Horizon Beverage, WPRI 12 and FOX Providence.

Come. Walk. Save Lives.

Sunday, June 7th

Glen Park, Portsmouth

Registration Opens at 10:00am

Walk Begins at 12:00 Noon

Rain or shine!



The Heart & Sole Walk is the event that the animals count on most – and we are counting on YOU! Please join us for a howling fun day with an important purpose. The Walk helps the Potter League care for more than 2,000 animals that will need our help this year.

Register today at PotterLeague.org and help us reach our goal of \$100,000. Raise funds fast by creating your own online personal fundraising page. Using the internet and social media you can reach fellow animal lovers and ask them to help, or download a sponsor sheet to collect cash and check donations. Everyone who raises \$100 will earn a Walk T-Shirt (\$50 for kids). Then, fetch your sneakers and your friends (both two and four-legged) and head to the Walk on June 7th for a great time!

Event Festivities

- Early bird coffee compliments of Custom House Coffee and music by DJ John Bellagamba
- Come early to drop off donations and pick up prizes
- Win ribbons at the obstacle and agility courses
- Enter your favorite kitty's photo in the Feline Photo Contest
- Children's activities galore
- Get helpful tips for your pets at the Healthy Pet Marketplace
- Visit with exhibitors and sponsors
- Compete in the pet contests followed by the Potter Pet parade
- 1 Mile Walk in scenic Glen Park
- Lunch, Awards, Drawings

Presented by:



Community Humane Heroes:

BankRI, People's Credit Union, Moriarty's Fence Company, BankNewport, Petco Foundation, Pet First Pet Insurance and Independence Financial Partners.

Thank You to our Corporate Community Humane Heroes

Thank you to all of the businesses that contribute financially to the Potter League. We are so fortunate to have each one enabling us to make a difference in the lives of more than 2,000 homeless animals annually and enrich the lives of the people who love them.



Our Corporate Community Humane Heroes are comprised of corporations, organizations and businesses that support the activities of the Potter League. Underwriting opportunities are tiered and begin

at \$500. Each level can be tailored to your group's interests.

The 2015 Corporate Community Humane Heroes include: Hill's Science Diet, Frontline Plus, Heartgard, BankRI, People's Credit Union, Moriarty's Invisible Fence Brand, Bank Newport, BMW of Newport, Gustave White, Horan Building Company, Portsmouth Veterinary Clinic, Karns Law Group, A.Tesa Architecture, PetFirst Pet Insurance and Independence Financial Partners.

There are extensive opportunities available to meet your corporate budget. Please contact Erin O'Gara Dollard, Director of Development at ErinD@PotterLeague.org or 401.846.0592 ext. 116 for more details on how you can become one of our treasured Corporate Community Humane Heroes.

Create a Legacy. Become a Forever Friends Society Member

We are thankful for the support of our endearing Forever Friends Society members. If you have an interest in leaving a legacy and naming the shelter in your estate plans or would like information on becoming a Forever Friend of the Potter League, please contact Erin O'Gara Dollard in the Development Office at 846.0592 ext. 116. Each member's gift exemplifies their values and their commitment to our mission.



Give Monthly Through Our Friends Enriching Lives Program



Friends Enriching Lives is an easy and efficient way for you to make a monthly gift and provide reliable support that is so vital to the animals and programs at the Potter League.

Visit PotterLeague.org or call Susan at 401.846.0592 ext.125 to enroll.



Tile & Paver Legacy

Touch an animal's life by leaving your mark.....

Our animal care and education center is an exceptional facility for sheltering animals and providing essential programs to the community. These services and programs enrich and save the lives of so many animals. Here is an opportunity to make a commemorative gift by reserving a tile or paver.

| | | |
|--|--|---|
|  \$500 outdoor 5" x 9" Paver |  \$1,000 indoor 4" x 4" Black Marble Wall Tile |  \$2,500 indoor 8" x 11" Black Marble Wall Tile |
|--|--|---|

Potter League
Enriching Lives

For an order form, contact the Development Department at Development@PotterLeague.org or 401.846.0592 or visit our website

The Potter League 87 Oliphant Lane, Middletown, RI 02842 • www.PotterLeague.org

Fetching Friends Transport Program

We have been actively transporting dogs and puppies since 1996 and each year we are encouraged by the well-socialized and friendly dogs that arrive and the fabulous adopters who take them home. While the majority of animals we bring into the shelter are dogs, Fetching Friends also saves cats from over-populated shelters or hoarding cases that may otherwise be euthanized.

Transporting domestic animals is an involved process with many regulations, permits and guidelines. Over the years, the regulations and procedures set by the State of Rhode Island for bringing pets across state borders and from other facilities have gotten stricter and tighter to



ensure, to the best of anyone's ability, that the animals being brought into the state are healthy. The Potter League is in compliance with all of these regulations and holds a Category A License with the Animal Health Division of

the R.I. Department of Environmental Management. Our registration is required to be renewed annually. These regulations are crucial because health concerns should never be a barrier for transport programs; they should only work to improve the lives of the animals and their potential adopters.

When our Fetching Friends transport van arrives with our new four-footed friends, the animals are isolated for a number of days while they are evaluated medically and behaviorally. This isolation period also allows the animals time to acclimate themselves to the changes in their environment and allows the staff to get to know their new charges.

Through our Fetching Friends program we've saved more animals and made more adopters happy due to the expansion of the exposure of our shelter. We've also gained a better understanding of other shelters' needs, problems and frustrations and used those in turn to help us improve our own.

Feel good, give hope.

FSC Logo here

The Potter League Joins the Million Cat Challenge

The Million Cat Challenge is a shelter-based campaign to save the lives of one million cats in North America over the next five years. The core strategy of the campaign will focus on five key initiatives that offer every shelter, in every community, practical choices to reduce euthanasia and increase live outcomes for shelter cats.



This life-saving campaign is a joint project of the UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program and the Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program at the University of Florida, led by Drs. Kate Hurley and Julie Levy.

The Five Key Initiatives are: Alternatives to Intake, Managed Admissions, Capacity for Care, Removing Barriers to Adoption and Return to Field. Look for more information about this life-saving project in the future.

"BloomingTails" Offers New Merchandise

Did you know that the Potter League has a retail shop called BloomingTails located in the lobby of the shelter? It is packed with toys and accessories for your pets, volunteer shirts, books, jewelry and more. We just received some new Potter League logo merchandise including leashes, collars, key chains, stuffed toys and belts. Stop by during shelter hours to see our adoptable animals and shop, too.



The Potter League proudly feeds Hill's Science Diet to all the cats and dogs in our care. Hill's Pet Nutrition has a mission to help enrich and lengthen the special relationships between people and their pets. Learn more about Science Diet® and Prescription Diet® pet foods at HillsPet.com.

