



Potter League
Enriching Lives

Paw-Print Press *Summer* 16

Look Inside...

A Day in the Life at the Shelter
Camp Happy Tails
Volunteer Recognition
Christie's Retirement
Special Adoption Program
Heart & Sole Walk for Animals
Be Kind to Animals Contest

The Robert Potter League for Animals, Inc.
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CAWA

Cancer was no match for Tenacious Tilly



Beautiful Tilly was no stranger to the Potter League when her owner had to surrender her in March 2016. This nine year old Brittany Spaniel had a tendency to run off from her home so the staff at the Potter League got to know her as she was brought into the shelter by animal control a few times. This bouncy, friendly girl was always a pleasure to have here, and she warmed her way into our hearts.

When her owner surrendered her permanently to us, we noticed a large mass on her abdomen right away. After our veterinarian examined her it was determined the mass would need to be removed as soon as possible. During her vet exam the doctor also noted Tilly's gums were swollen and red and she had some gum recession. Due to these factors

a dental procedure would also be required. Blood work was performed to make sure Tilly was fit for surgery, and in early April the large mass was removed in surgery. The mass was sent out for biopsy, and we anxiously awaited the results.

(continued on page 2)

Tenacious Tilly *(continued from page 1)*

We just couldn't wait to get this wiggly, affectionate girl on the adoption floor and into a new home; we knew someone would fall in love with her quickly, just as we had.

Ten days after surgery we received the pathology report, and it was determined the mass was a mast cell tumor – cancer. This was not the news we were hoping for. Mast cell tumors are graded for severity and survival rate and our veterinarian recommended we take Tilly to a veterinary oncologist to determine what, if anything, we could do for this dog. The oncologist met with Tilly and our staff and did have some encouraging news. Tilly's tumor had a low-grade 2 rating, and he suggested an ultrasound and x-ray be performed to determine



whether the cancer had spread to other areas of her body. If the cancer did not spread, another operation would be the best method to insure even the most microscopic cells had been eradicated. If the cancer had spread, there would be nothing else we could do for her. We were encouraged by this news yet still guarded.

Meanwhile at the shelter Tilly was having a good time – she went on lots of walks, she attended staff meetings, she spent time with staff members in their offices and she played a lot with her dog friends. She was the picture of health and her medical condition did not seem to have any effect on her energy level or quality of life. May 26 was the big day for Tilly - she went for her ultrasound and x-ray and as we worked away at the shelter, all we could think of was Tilly and what news we would get at the end of the day. Finally around 4pm we received the good news that Tilly's ultrasound and x-ray were normal, the cancer had not spread! As of this writing, Tilly is scheduled for her second surgery and for her dental cleaning. Perhaps the best news of all is that Tilly also has a family waiting patiently to adopt her. This family has had a keen interest in adopting Tilly for a couple of weeks and has been riding, right along with the staff, the medical roller coaster that Tilly has been on. Though there is always a chance the cancer can reoccur, the medical experts are encouraged that Tilly can look forward to many years of happiness in her new home.

Camp for kids who love animals

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 offers full-day camp programs as well as an extended day care option (for an additional fee) allowing time for 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 half day 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 and staff at our shelter.

Enrollment is \$250 per child for all day sessions at the Potter League and \$235 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. Other required camp forms are also available to download from the website. Enrollment is limited to 16 campers per session.

Email EleanorH@potterleague.org, or call Eleanor at (401) 846.0592 ext. 120 for more information.

 <p>Enroll today! For more information www.PotterLeague.org</p>	<p>WEEK</p> <p>2nd & 3rd Graders July 11 - 15* July 25 - 29* August 1 - 5</p>	<p>THEME</p> <p>Games Pet Play Feathers and Fur Happy, Healthy Pets</p>
	<p>4th, 5th & 6th Graders July 11 - 15* July 18 - 22 July 25 - 29* August 8 - 12 August 15 - 19</p>	<p>Games for Pets and You Training Bootcamp Forever Friends Behind the Scenes At Your Service</p>
	<p>*Potter League/YMCA camp week</p>	
	<p>2 PotterLeague.org</p>	

2015 Volunteer of the Year: Barbara Kirwin

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 2015 calendar year.

Each year a volunteer is honored for outstanding service to the Potter League. This year, the Potter League had the pleasure of awarding Barbara Kirwin as the Volunteer of the Year. Barbara has been volunteering at the Potter League since January 2009 and has logged 10,544 hours since she began volunteering!! You can

find Barbara every Thursday morning while she helps with Team Cat, as well at almost every event throughout the year. She is an important foster care volunteer and fostered 21 kittens in 2015. Barbara also volunteers in the surgical suite multiple days a week. She is the only volunteer doing this – the vet tech and the vet rely heavily on her and they LOVE her, as does everyone. Barbara was also recognized this year as a “Partner in Philanthropy”, an award given to her by the Association for Fundraising Professionals. *Thank you, Barbara, for all you do!*



Barbara Kirwin, 2015 Volunteer of the Year

Lee Kuruma receives Lore Owens Award



Lee Kuruma (right) receives award from Christie Smith (left)

The Lore Owens Award was established in 2000 in memory of Lore, a long-time volunteer who died tragically in 1999. This award was created to recognize an ‘unsung’ hero at the Potter League and has much more to do with personality than hours volunteered. This person is dependable, committed, always with a kind word for everyone and a smile -- the type of person who brightens your day just by being around. Lee Kuruma was presented with the Lore Owens Award for 2015 by Executive Director, Christie Smith.

Lee has been volunteering at the Potter League since 2002. She is a member of Team Cat Morning Care, and has helped with our cats over at Petco. Lee is a very special volunteer and we truly appreciate all her help.

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

Save the Date

Potter Pet University

Wednesday, July 13

Wednesday, August 17

Wednesday, September 14

Wednesday, October 12

In Memoriam

The Potter League community was saddened by the recent passing of Eric Shaw, a longtime volunteer and current board member, whose love of furred and feathered friends was tremendous and heartwarming.

Eric was appointed to the board of directors in October 2014 but had been a dedicated volunteer for more than 10 years, lending his keen mind, extensive knowledge and boundless sense of humor to many Potter League events.

Eric’s commitment to service went far beyond the Potter League. His positive spirit, knack for storytelling and intellectual curiosity was respected and enjoyed by many in the community. He had also been serving on the Board of Directors of Tall Ships America; volunteering at Newport Hospital with Squall, his golden retriever, in the pet therapy program; recording local osprey activity for the Audubon Society of RI; and volunteering at the Foster Parrots Rescue and Adoption Sanctuary in Hope Valley, R.I.

We will continue to keep Eric’s wife Adrienne and daughter Erin in our thoughts as they, too, are a part of the Potter League family. Eric is, and always will be, dearly missed and his service and dedication are a treasured part of Potter League history.

To everything there is a season. . .



Dear Friends,

To everything there is a season. . .

The coming months at the Potter League for Animals will be poignant ones for me. I've decided it is time for me to leave the organization I love and have been blessed to guide for almost 35 years. My last day will be December 31, 2016. I am as passionate



as ever about animal welfare and this community, but I believe I have taken the Potter League as far as my particular skills and attributes will allow. It's time for change.

I've been privileged to work closely with many deeply ethical and effective people in Newport County, around Rhode Island, and across the

nation who share my commitment to animals. I love the Potter League. I love it for the staff and volunteers who every day put their hearts on the line to help animals and their people. I love it for the residents of our community who care deeply and join us to educate and protect. I love it for the board members who initially hired me in 1981 and envisioned an organization devoted to addressing the complex links between animals and people. I love how *Enriching Lives* has become our mantra.

Today, the Potter League thrives and is ready to continue to lead change. I'm proud that we are reaching out to help pet parents and caregivers to ensure that all animals have access to basic veterinary care, and that human families learn to meet animals' complicated emotional and physical needs. I'm proud of the Potter League's national reach that enables the newest and best practices in animal welfare to be brought back to Rhode Island. And I'm proud that we have accomplished all of this without ever losing sight of our dreams while always knowing there is still more

work to do! For strength, wisdom and help, I am indebted to, and especially want to thank, all the great leaders, professional partners, donors and friends who have walked with me on this extraordinary journey.

I'm happy to work closely with the Board of Directors to ensure a smooth leadership transition. I am confident the Potter League will choose the right person who will continue to bring innovation and spirit to this wonderful organization. I look forward to seeing the new horizons everyone explores after my departure. And I'm confident in what will never change—the Potter League's integrity, bravery, and determination to stand up for animals. After 35 years, I am taking many important friendships and lessons with me. The most important lesson, and my advice to each of you, is to believe in the essential goodness of everyone, to believe in the intrinsic value of the



lives of all species of animal, and to do as our cats and dogs do — sleep whenever possible, eat with gusto, run and play in the sun, and greet loved ones with joy every single day.

With warmest thanks,

Christie

M. Christie Smith, CAWA
Executive Director

A day in the life at the shelter by Zipper



Yawn...is it morning already? Here comes my bestest buddy, Nancy, and she is telling me it is time to get up and start another busy day at the Potter League. Let me take a walk and see what everyone is up to.

8:00am: Sweet voices, food cans opening – it's Nikole coming in and getting busy with food, meds and belly rubs! If I look pitiful, maybe I'll get two helpings...

9:00am: Blah, blah, blah these humans talk a LOT - the staff is in their daily meeting figuring out which lucky pets get their shots (hope it isn't me), who needs some extra playtime (hope it IS me) or behavior work and who is being adopted!

10:00am: I don't know why these humans are so obsessed with cleaning. There goes Sam with another basket of laundry! They sweep, they scrub, they scoop poop a LOT. It is nice to have servants.

11:00am: Rut ro...Jillian just got peed on. You see there is this dog who just *looves* everyone (you know those types of dogs) and he was so happy to see her he peed on her shoes. I truly will never understand dogs, so undignified. Keep it together, man.

Noon: Did someone say lunch? Austin shares his lunch with me... I'm going to go and find him.

1:00pm: Someone very important just came in...I can tell because Brittne immediately grabbed her human papers and went into that room...It's the veterinarian! Personally, I'm not a fan, but the humans seem to love these people. They come here every day and

make us all feel better when we're under the weather, I guess they're the good guys (and girls) after all.

2:00pm: What is that racket, I am trying to nap! Oh, the phones of course – they ring all day long. I love to hang at the front desk and listen to Jessica and Norah talking to families about our adoptable animals

– they're so nice and they really want to help people find the right pet to adopt.

2:30pm: OMG someone just brought in a litter of kittens they found under their shed. They're super cute but oh so needy (grow up already!). 1, 2, 3... yup I knew it – here come Michelle and Amanda– bottles in hand and ready to get these babies fed and comfortable.

3:00pm: Playtime! Probably our most favorite time of day – I sit in the window and watch the staff bring a bunch of dogs out to the exercise pen for some serious romp time. Running, jumping, smashing into each other (did I mention they're undignified?) and of course, lots of peeing and pooping. Pam and Anastacia tell me dogs need to do this, it's important for their socialization...what? Just hiss and walk away, get over yourselves.

4:00pm: Pearl told me someone special was coming in to see Jasmine today. Jazzy is one of my best friends here and we hang out a lot. I see a couple of humans paying lots of attention to her and that makes me really happy, I sure hope she finds her family today.

5:00pm: Well, I'm exhausted. No nap today because Judie was working on my computer, and I couldn't get comfortable on the keyboard while she typed. Teri attempted to brush my... well let's just say the end opposite my head...and now she is sporting a band aid (sorry Teri). It's been a long day for me but another good one here at the shelter. I wonder what tomorrow will bring? Probably more pee and poop.

P.S. I'm available for adoption!

Getting to know Gail, Volunteer Coordinator



When Gail Lawson moved to Rhode Island from Connecticut and began volunteering at the Potter League over 3 years ago, she never imagined it would turn into a job that she describes as being, "Pretty awesome!". Her background is in nursing and after graduating from the University of Virginia, she was a Critical Care Pediatric nurse at the University of Virginia Medical Center for a couple years. After moving to the Boston area, she worked in pediatric/adolescent psychiatry for 4 years. She then left nursing and worked in pharmaceutical sales for 9 years.

Gail is also a Master Gardener and had a small organic farming business, while raising her children. When Gail is not at the Potter League you can often find her helping her husband make beer, watching "Occupied" on Netflix, or jamming out to R&B music very loudly (No, I'm not kidding!). She has a serious passion for animals, and has helped the bunny program tremendously! We think you'll agree that Gail has done so much for the volunteer program, and we could not be more appreciative!



Potter League Dog Training Center

- Obedience Training Classes
- Puppy & Small Breed Play Groups
- Fun Dog Agility Classes
- Canine Good Citizen (CGC)
- Leash Reactive Class
- Private Consultations



Training for the Family Dog

www.PotterLeague.org

Community Gathers to Celebrate Their Love for Animals

Heart & Sole Walk for Animals sets new record raising over \$100,000 for the animals!

On June 5th, more than 400 people and their dogs celebrated with the Potter League for a record-breaking afternoon. Despite a not-so-nice weather forecast, this year's Heart & Sole Walk was the biggest and best yet, exceeding the fundraising goal of \$100,000. We are amazed, humbled, and thankful for everyone who donated, fundraised, participated, volunteered, and walked!



Stella, Queen of the Walk

The Potter League shares its success with many. We are most inspired by the generations of families and supporters who have participated over the last 27 years. Team participation was robust with more than 35 teams participating and stiff competition amongst the top 5 teams – all setting new records! Several individuals have raised money for more than 20 years for the Potter League and Executive Director, Christie Smith, raised an amazing \$14,000!

Notably, one of our new and upcoming, not to mention youngest fundraisers, eight-year-old Colten Bert, whose pets were featured on the Walk for Animals brochure, spent the spring raising money at his Dad's veterinary practice, Mt. Hope Animal Hospital. Colten raised an astounding \$2,500 and had so much fun he promises to come back next year.



Funds raised at the Walk all go directly to helping, healing and finding loving homes for the animals and supporting the animal lovers in the communities we serve.



Potter Woof Pack & VIP Team

Long-time supporter Emlen Drayton emceed the event and with Potter League Board President Mary Edwards offered congratulations and awards to our top individuals and teams.

Congratulations to our Top Ten Fundraisers and Teams

Top Adult Fundraisers

Christie Smith	\$13,480
Lisa Martland Neitzzy	\$4,000
Judith Enstone	\$3,000
Howie Naugle	\$2,535
Lu LeVasseur	\$2,075
Pem Attaway	\$2,020
Mark Greg	\$1,898

Top Youth Fundraisers

Colten Bert	\$2,503
Annie Marshall	\$1,105
Nikki Merrill	\$1,026

Top Adult Teams

Potter Woof Pack (Staff Team)	\$17,965
Volunteers Impact Pets (VIP Team)	\$14,495
Portsmouth Veterinary Clinic	\$5,214
People's Pooch Patrol	\$4,697
Team Raveis	\$3,160

Top Youth Team

Peg Pups	\$390
Maddy P.	\$325
Loyal Labs	\$290

Our sincere gratitude to all the volunteers who joined the VIP Team and also helped the Potter League execute a fantastic Walk. The 2016 Heart & Sole Walk for Animals was presented by *Hill's Science Diet* and *Bayer*.

Thank you to our *Corporate Community Humane Heroes*, Media Sponsors WPRI 12, FOX Providence, My RI TV and all our event day and in-kind sponsors. For a full listing, please visit our website.

Be Kind to Animals Poster Contest Winners

The Potter League for Animals hosted its 9th annual "Be Kind to Animals Week" Poster Contest. The competition was open to students in grades 2 through 12 as part of Be Kind to Animals Week, May 1 – 7. An awards ceremony for the contest winners and their families took place at the Potter League on May 4. Eleanor Hanson, Humane Educator at the Potter League, presented awards to the following artists:

"Make a Difference for Homeless Pets" Theme Winners:

Grades 2-4

- 1st Place: Sarah-Marie Choiniere
- 2nd Place: Isabella Le Clair
- 3rd Place: Juliana Delgado
- 3rd Place: Jack Lawson
- Honorable Mention: Piper Flaherty



Grades 5 – 8

- 1st Place: Brenda Nogueira
- 2nd Place: Pierce Clare
- 3rd Place: Steven Quin
- Honorable Mention: Maya Nunes

Grades 9 – 12

- 1st Place: Meaghan Marcus
- 2nd Place: Cameron Trudell



"Wild and Free" Theme Winners":

Grades 2 - 4

- 1st Place: Aiden Chen
- 2nd Place: Makenzie Moriarty
- 3rd Place: James Faulkner
- Honorable Mention: Mariya McNamee

Grades 5 – 8

- 1st Place: Kylie Cole
- 2nd Place: Taryn Trigler
- 3rd Place: Cam Chinn
- Honorable Mention: Melisabe Figueroa



Grades 9 – 12

- 1st Place: Clarissa Briggs
- 2nd Place: Natalia Miller
- 3rd Place: Marc Hernandez
- Honorable Mention: Anthony Mazzei

Randal S. Poirier, Financial Planner, Makes Donation to Help Animals

Randal Poirier, ChFC, Financial Planner and Partner with Independence Financial Partners recently made a planned gift of life insurance to the Potter League for Animals. The donation will support the Potter League's mission of making a significant difference in the lives of animals.



"I abide by Winston Churchill's philosophy, 'We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give,'" Poirier says. "My goal in making this gift is to help the Potter League in its commitment to animals,

so that others might benefit from their amazing shelter and adoption services, much like I did." Poirier adopted his black Labrador Retriever, Hamlet, from the Potter League in 2010.

Making a difference is at the core of Randal's financial services practice. He focuses on helping nonprofits in Newport County with their Planned Charitable Giving, along with the management and protection of their endowed assets. His planned gift to the Potter League will help support the organization in its commitment to dogs like Hamlet and other animals for many years to come.

Erin O'Gara Dollard, Potter League Director of Development, praised Randal for recognizing that life insurance can be a wonderful way to help the Potter League in the future. "In making such a thoughtful gift Randal has perfectly illustrated how important it is to think of others well-being. I admire his commitment to the animals, of course, but also to other area non-profits."

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.

 <p>\$500 outdoor 6" x 9" Paver</p>	 <p>\$1,000 indoor 4" x 4" Black Marble Wall Tile</p>	 <p>\$2,500 indoor 8½" x 11" Black Marble Wall Tile</p>
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For an order form, contact the Development Department at Development@PotterLeague.org or 401.846.0592 or visit our website

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

Special Adoption Program



As much as we think they're all perfect, some pets brought to the Potter League have quirks, idiosyncrasies, complicated medical conditions and yes, some not-so-desirable behaviors. Not to be daunted by these factors, the Potter League staff places these animals into our "Special

Adoption" program. Our Special Adoption Program ensures that we can support the Potter Pet and their new family before and during the transition into the new home. It means that the animal's adopters receive extra counseling at the time of adoption as well as post-adoption to ensure a successful, lasting match. The program has been in place since January and to date, we've placed 18 special animals in homes.

Before adopting an animal in this program our staff can prepare the adopters for what they will experience once their pet comes home, answer questions and allow the animal to become comfortable with their new people prior to leaving the shelter. This pre-adoption support is also a good time for families to realize that maybe this is not the right pet for them. While disappointing, we think everyone would agree this is better to know before taking the pet home. After the adoption, additional consultations will allow us to make sure that things are going well and give the adopters a chance to ask any questions or voice concerns before a larger problem develops.

How does it work?

Our staff works together to determine which animals need to be considered a Special Adoption when they're ready. Each Special Adoption has an individual plan tailored to the needs of that animal, including how many pre-adoption visits would be needed, what kind of ongoing training or management and what medication or veterinary oversight might be needed. Our customer care staff at the front desk guides adopters through the initial stages of the special adoption program; the Pre-Adoption consultation then takes place and the adoption proceeds according to the Special Adoption plan.

There are so many positive outcomes to implementing this special adoption program. The obvious benefit is that we're placing animals into appropriate homes and the adopters are very prepared and willing to put the time and effort into these amazing animals. The other benefit we're witnessing is the incredible people that come to us and are so very willing to take a chance on a less than perfect animal. They understand patience, they understand commitment and they see beyond the animals' shortcomings. These people are truly the heroes in these adoption stories and we thank goodness for them each and every day.

FSC Logo here

Everyone Needs a Hero!

The Potter League's Corporate Community Humane Heroes underwriting packages are available to companies, small businesses and groups interested in supporting the programs and services of the Potter League.

Opportunities range from \$500 to \$10,000 and are customizable to your organization's budget and interests. All packages include logo placement in our social media campaign, in event programs and acknowledgment and tickets to special events. Our Corporate Community Humane Heroes make a difference in the lives of more than 2,000 homeless animals annually and enrich the lives of the people who love them.

For more information on underwriting opportunities, please contact Erin O'Gara Dollard at 846.0592 ext. 116 or ErinD@PotterLeague.org.

Thank you to our heroes

Hill's Science Diet

Bayer

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Portsmouth Veterinary Clinic

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People's Pooch Patrol

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.

