



**Potter League**  
*Enriching Lives*

# Paw-Print Press *Autumn* 12

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

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### Executive Director

M. Christie Smith, CAWA



Dear Fellow Animal Lovers,

Recently we invited the community to come to the Potter League and look into the eyes of our feline residents ... and to adopt a homeless cat. Catapalooza 2012 was a successful way to promote the value of cats, and it was a critical weekend adoption event to save lives and reduce the over-abundance of cats in the shelter. Each one of the hundreds of cats and kittens we take in each month deserves – and receives – our attention and needs a loving home.

Catapalooza helps raise the status and importance of cats and helps assure that cats will be seen as loyal companions on a par with dogs. Cats form a critical component in the Potter League’s adoption programs and our strategic plan. For years we have focused on cats as the top adoption priority. Our big hope and goal for cats is simple - that more and more people will come to love cats as we do. It is said that people who don’t like cats haven’t met the right one yet. The right one for you could be at the Potter League right now, and we encourage everyone to come and see!

I also invite you to attend the Potter League’s annual meeting on October 29th when we will close another year and reflect on all that has come before and all that the Potter League has accomplished. Numbers and statistics will be shared and stories told. But please remember - as important as the annual meeting is and as excited as we are to share the forces shaping the Potter League with our supporters, there is one place to learn the most about the Potter League. The heart of the Potter League is best shared by looking into the eyes of every animal and pet owner we help each day. Thank you for helping us enrich so many lives.

M. Christie Smith, CAWA  
Executive Director

# Camp Happy Tails 2012

Happy Tails Camp finished another great summer with fun filled days at the Potter League's Morris Education Center. Ninety six kids from Grades 2 through 6 participated in the hands-on programs led by Humane Educator Anastacia Southland. Half day and full day sessions, held in conjunction with the Newport County YMCA, were filled with educational activities, fun animal-themed games and crafts, and, of course, the opportunity to meet and interact with some of the animals at our shelter. Topics included *Talk Like an Animal* where campers discovered how animals talk using sound and body language.



*Martha and Tuki*

*Crazy Critters* focused on unique, pocket-sized pets. Participants had the opportunity to meet cats, dogs, birds, and small mammals to determine their needs and how they are different.

*Best Friends* gave insight on our favorite pets, including dogs, cats, rabbits, and small mammals.

*Click & Treat* taught participants how to train many different kinds of animals, including dogs, cats, birds, and even people, using a clicker and lots of treats.

*Paws for Animals* explored how kids can make a difference in the lives of animals, including projects to help pets right here at the Potter League.

The ever-popular *Behind the Scenes* session gave insight on the jobs of veterinary technicians, adoption counselors, dog trainers, volunteers, and veterinarians.

Volunteer counselors were a tremendous help. They too had a great time while also earning community service hours.

Anastacia was thrilled with the energy from the campers stating, "The kids were so excited to come in each day and work on crafts, play games and were especially elated with having time to interact with various animals here at the shelter." Activities included making shrinky dink pet tags and homemade dog treats, bingo, soap making, scavenger hunt, reading animal stories, making dog and cat treat picture frames and collecting recyclable items to make enrichment toys for the shelter animals. One camper commented, "This camp is the BEST! I have never been to a better one! It was really fun and full of excitement." Another camper wrote, "You will probably see me here in the same camp next year. I am looking forward to coming back!"



*Wyatt poses with a group of campers*



*Making Dog and Cat Treat Picture Frames*



*A Visit from Dr. O'Neal*



*Playtime with Seth the Rabbit*



*The Little Lost Dog Game*



*Campers Make Enrichment Toys for Shelter Animals*

## Erin O’Gara Dollard joins the Potter League Team



**Erin O’Gara Dollard**  
*Director of Development*

Erin brings over twelve years of fundraising and development experience along with multiple years of event planning and donor focused programming to the Potter League. As a native Rhode Islander, Erin spent six years in Charleston,

South Carolina with Johnson & Wales University and The Medical University of South Carolina. More recently, Erin held the position of Director of Development for Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island.

Erin is a graduate of Rhode Island College and holds a Masters from Northeastern University. She is a board member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, RI Chapter and is the 2012 National Philanthropy Day chairperson. For the last eight years she has been the membership chairwoman for The League of Women Voters, Newport County, and a board member of New England Association for Healthcare Philanthropy.

Erin lives in Newport with her husband, John, and her dog Ginger, a Potter League alum.

Erin has many creative ideas for successful fundraising in the non-profit arena. Please join us in welcoming Erin to the Potter League.

## Challenge for New Volunteers

Volunteer Coordinator Tonia Croce was looking for a way to motivate new volunteers to lend a hand on a regular basis soon after they attended orientation. She came up with a contest and challenged all new volunteers at orientation.

The contest was set up by age group. Two groups of Junior Volunteers, under 15 years of age, and ages 15 to 18, who logged 20 hours within 30 days of orientation, would get entered into a drawing for a Potter League baseball cap. Adults who completed and logged 20 hours each month for three consecutive months would receive a volunteer t-shirt.

The winner of the under 15 category was 11 year old Ethan Jones. “I wanted to spend some of my summer



*Ethan and friends*

vacation helping to socialize the cats at the Potter League for Animals so that they could get used to people and find loving homes. What I enjoyed most was I got to play with the cats and get to know them personally. It was a lot of fun!” said Ethan. Ethan was accompanied by his dedicated and proud mother, Amanda, who spent every hour with Ethan socializing cats.

Samantha Guida was the winner in the Adult Volunteer category. Sam first started volunteering at the Potter League when she was 12 years old and that experience enhanced her passion for animals. Now at the age of 20, Sam has returned to volunteering at the Potter League. Sam stated, “As a pre-vet student at Bridgewater College of Virginia, I decided to return to the Potter League this summer and become part of their volunteer program once again. Someday I hope to come back and contribute my talents as a professional while supporting the mission that the Potter League has. Being a volunteer at this wonderful facility has been the highlight of my summer.”



*Sam shows off her volunteer t-shirt*

A special thank you to Ethan and Sam for all your help!

## Save the Date



**Have A Heart**  
*A Benefit for Homeless Animals*

### Have a Heart Cocktail Party & Auction

*Celebrating the 40th year  
of this amazing fundraising event!*

**Friday, February 8, 2013**  
**Hotel Viking, Newport**

For more information please contact  
Susan Ryan  
401-846-0592 ext. 125  
email [SusanR@PotterLeague.org](mailto:SusanR@PotterLeague.org)

## Ways you can help the Potter League this holiday season!

Every year we search for that perfect holiday gift. We want our gift to be something special, something that shows how much we care. A gift of any size makes all the difference to the animals. This is our favorite time of year and we are grateful for the outpouring of community support we receive in so many unique ways. Here are a few suggestions to provide inspiration for a gift that will be most meaningful to you and your family.

### Make a gift in honor or memory of someone special

A gift in tribute to a person or animal is a wonderful way to show you care about them and the animals at the Potter League. A personalized letter will be sent to the honoree acknowledging your generosity. You may also consider a more permanent, commemorative gift by reserving a tile, paver or stone bench. To make a donation call our Development office at 401-846-0592 or visit our website and click on "Ways to Give."

### Volunteer

Volunteers assist staff in our adoption, training, development and education departments. For more information contact Tonia at 401-846-8276 ext 106 or ToniaC@PotterLeague.org.

### Donate in support of our mission

Donate to a fundraising appeal, through our website, workplace giving programs or via the U.S. mail. Your gift will help save lives of homeless animals, and enable the Potter League to continue to provide vital services and programs for people and pets of our community.

### Host your own fundraiser for the animals

Gathering shelter supplies from the Potter League Wish List such as detergent, bleach, paper towels, pet beds and toys are great projects for schools and youth organizations. Businesses and individuals alike are welcome to host their own special event. For more information contact Susan at 401-846-0592 ext 125 or SusanR@PotterLeague.org.

### Shop at the Potter League

Stop by our very own *BloomingTails* for the purr-fect gift for all occasions. Choose from a colorful selection of collars and leashes, interactive pet toys, note cards, gift certificates for training classes and more. Make sure to join us for our Critter Glitter Jewelry Sale December 1-9.

### Become a corporate or business partner

Your love of animals can be a great business opportunity, and a way to show that you care. Your company's involvement can support the human-animal bond while reaping solid corporate benefits in return. Learn about marketing and sponsorship programs by contacting Susan Ryan, Development Manager at 401-846-0592 ext 125 or SusanR@PotterLeague.org

## Your Dollars Make A Difference...

### Consider Joining Your Workplace Giving Campaign!

The Potter League for Animals is a 501c 3 tax-deductible organization and is eligible to receive designations through multiple United Way campaigns.

If you are a federal or state government employee, if you participate in a United Way Campaign, or if your company conducts its own giving campaign, then designating the Potter League to receive your workplace contributions is another important way that you can help animals. Please follow these important procedures:

- **United Way Campaign** donors can designate the Potter League by writing in our agency by name, Potter League for Animals, in the appropriate place on the United Way Pledge Form.



- **Rhode Island Area Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)** donors can designate the Potter League for



Animals by writing in the NEW FIVE-DIGIT CODE # 37967 in the appropriate place on the pledge form provided by CFC. The code number is the *only way* you can designate the Potter League on your pledge form.

- **State Employees Charitable Appeal (SECA)** donors can designate the Potter League by writing in the FOUR-DIGIT CODE #3450 on the pledge form. The code number is the *only way* you can designate the Potter League on your pledge form.



If these programs are not available to you, chances are good that your employer sponsors a program that will allow you to make a one-time gift or have regular payroll deductions. Contact your Human Resources department to find the option that's best for you.

The funds that the Potter League receives from workplace contributions do make a difference-a huge difference! Thank you for your support! If you have any questions, contact Susan Ryan, Development Manager, at 401-846-0592 ext 125.

# Honoring Our Forever Friends

The Potter League recently honored our Forever Friends and Best Friends at the annual Forever Friends Society recognition evening. The Forever Friends Society is a unique group of individuals who have created a legacy of hope by including the Potter League in their estate plans, and Best Friends are major contributors to our Annual Fund.

Potter League staff and Board Members Harriet DiCicco and Mary Alice Smith provided a warm welcome to guests upon arrival and gave tours of the shelter. The dogs and cats were a wonderful backdrop to a festive evening. A logo, created by Tom Roskelly, was unveiled to celebrate the Forever Friends Society and to mark the important role that is played by donors who remember the animals in their estate planning.



During the evening Executive Director Christie Smith shared the stories of those Forever Friends whose gifts were realized during the past fiscal year. They included: M. Louise Abbott, Natalie D. Brown, Lucy Ann Job, Marcella C. McCormick, Dorothy L. Millington, Harold B. Werner, and Edna Wood.

This diverse group of special donors is united in their passion and commitment to animals, the Potter League and our community. Their gifts came in all amounts



*(left to right) Ralph and Barbara Earp, along with Ken and Em Stern*

and types, and each represented the unique giving style and personality of the donor. Louise and Harold left the Potter League specific amounts in their wills. Lucy made the Potter League the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. Marcella left funds from her trust. Dottie and Natalie ensured a percentage for their estates were available for the animals. Edna left the Potter League the residual of her estate after all other gifts were made to friends and charities. The total of their gifts is an astounding \$1,800,000. The largest single gift the Potter League has ever received will create The Edna and Herbert Wood Endowed Fund which will forever shape the future of the Potter League.

Another trait common to these donors – we didn't know any of them had included the Potter League in their estate planning. Each gift was a surprise. Sadly,

we could never thank Louise, Harold, Lucy, Marcella, Dottie, Natalie or Edna in their lifetimes for being so very generous and thoughtful. With a tear and heartfelt gratefulness we thanked them at the Forever Friends Society reception.

To close the evening, Forever Friend Annette Pelletier spoke eloquently of her deep commitment to the Potter League's mission and her desire to leave a legacy that will help animals for years to come. She acknowledged that she could never take all the homeless animals home with her, but she could ensure they would always be provided for by the Potter League.



*Christie Smith, left with Annette Pelletier*

We thank all members of our Forever Friend Society for their dedication to enriching the future for animals and to our Best Friends for helping homeless animals throughout the year with their generous support.

Your love and concern for animals can be never ending. For more information on planned giving opportunities or to inquire about joining the Forever Friends Society, please contact Executive Director Christie Smith at 401.846.0592.

## Please Join Us!

**Annual Meeting**  
Potter League for Animals  
Monday, October 29, 2012  
6:00-7:30 pm

*Special Guest Speaker*  
**Dr. Scott Marshall**  
Rhode Island State Veterinarian

**"State of the State  
for Animals in Rhode Island"**  
Dr. Marshall will address  
a variety of statewide programs  
to help animals.

RSVP to Susan  
401-846-0592 ext 125  
SusanR@PotterLeague.org

# Hip Hip Horay! Two Paws Up to All Who Have Helped in So Many Ways!

A special thank you to the many individuals and businesses who have raised money for the Potter League in so many ways. Your unique fundraising efforts including special events, birthday parties, lemonade stands, fashion shows, photo contests and fairs have made a difference! Here are just a few of the many people who have donated their time and talents to the Potter League:

Animal lover **Charlotte DePaola** makes beautiful jewelry. She decided to hold a holiday sale and donated \$150 of the proceeds to the animals at the Potter League.



Charlotte DePaola

The **Lawn School in Jamestown** held a dance themed *Born to be Wild* to raise funds for homeless animals. With more than 75 kids in attendance and a \$5.00 admission fee, they raised \$410 in just a few hours!

**Gustave J.S. White & Company** donated \$690 in admission proceeds from their auction preview to the Potter League. Thank you **Mike Corcoran and friends!**

**Nature's Goodness** celebrated their 26th anniversary and held a raffle to benefit the animals. A total of \$446 was raised through \$1 ticket sales and the lucky winner took home a fabulous basket of healthy products for humans and pets!

In celebration of her birthday, **Shayla Petrie** chose to request donations of leashes, collars, toys and gift cards for shelter supplies in lieu of birthday presents. Shayla loves animals so much she has done this for 3 years in a row!



Victoria and Madeleine

**Victoria Boatwright and Madeleine O'Shea** held a lemonade stand for the 6th straight year in a row and raised \$176.25 for the animals.

**J. McLaughlin** hosted a Second Annual Sip and Shop event and donated 15% of the proceeds of store sales to the Potter League.



Amy Loudon, center, and Associates from J. McLaughlin

**Charlie van Beuren, Abby Tuthill and Julia McGinn** all held their birthday parties at the Potter League and requested donations for the animals in lieu of birthday gifts! Bow wow!!

**Wag Nation** owner **Lynne Wieder** has hosted multiple special events throughout the year. One of the largest is Canine Couture, a fabulous fashion show featuring people and their pets at Rough Point.

**Domina's Agway** hosts an annual holiday event where customers and their pets can have their photos taken with Santa. A day of fun and festivities raised \$582.00 for our furry friends.

Would you like to plan a fundraiser of your own to raise money for the Potter League? Contact Susan Ryan, Development Manager, at 401.846.0592 ext 125.

## Holiday Open House

December 8th and 9th  
at the  
Potter League for Animals

You are invited to  
a weekend of  
holiday activities  
including

- Critter Glitter
- Tree of Hope Lighting
- Toys for Pets
- Home for the Holidays



The Potter League proudly feeds Hill's Science Diet exclusively to all the cats and dogs in our care.

# A Happy "Tail"

About Penny the Chihuahua  
(formerly known as Peanut)



I would love everyone to know that we are very happy now that Penny has become a part of our family. At the risk of sounding corny, our hearts are full and eyes fill with tears of

joy as we watch Kirby, our Chihuahua, and Penny, his baby sister Chihuahua who we adopted from Potter, as they sleep together and now play together. Kirby was (as we all were) lonely and sad after he lost his furry sister, Bette (also adopted from Potter), three years ago.

It's always a challenge bringing another furry loved one into your home and into your heart, but it was well worth it. It's been a month now, and even though we hit some choppy waters in the beginning, it's amazing how well Kirby and Penny get along now. They are truly a brother and sister who love each other.

So I'd like everyone who's considering adopting a wonderful Potter Pet to know, whether it's your first pet that'll be in your home, your second, or your third (or more), give them lots of love, a large spoonful of patience, and a big dash of a sense of humor, and you'll have the perfect recipe for a happy household!

Thanks for all you've done!

Sincerely,

Maria, Karen, Kirby, and Penny

# Determination & Love Readies Foster Animals for Adoption



Sue and Abbey

"We got her!" The cry came through the front lobby on an early February morning. Finally, the small female beagle that had eluded concerned citizens and shelter staff for seven months had been lured into a large dog Have a Heart trap set especially for her. Director of Operations Pearl Gonzalez knew there was only one person

she would trust with rehabilitating this run-away girl, and she immediately called Sue Sullivan.

This shy, petite beagle, Abbey, was going to be an intense project as she had escaped from two owners, avoided humans and lived in marsh and brush surviving the winter and fending for herself. Sue has been fostering Abbey since March and tells us "She has come a long way! She is friendly yet still a bit shy with people but she adores other dogs." Abbey also has issues with separation anxiety and confinement in the crate so Sue and Abbey's work is far from over. Being on her own for so long, Abbey was "afraid of everything" but Sue does not baby her. Sue introduces Abbey to all kinds of places and people so that one day Abbey will hopefully be able to cope more easily.

Being a foster "mom" is not for everyone, but Sue does it because she "wants to give animals the best chance possible even though it is hard work and sometimes heartbreaking." The goal of fostering is to get the animals ready for adoption and that is the goal for Abbey, too. Sue says that Abbey is still a work in progress, many days taking two steps backward but Sue's energy and enthusiasm doesn't dwindle. Of the many animals Sue has fostered, she has adopted several over the years, and if Abbey plays her cards right, she might join this lucky group!

Sue has been fostering shy dogs, orphan puppies and kittens for over 8 years. Sue credits her first Potter adoptee, Chili Dog, who passed away this summer, with helping to raise many of the foster puppies and shy dogs over the years. Chili was the matron of the house and taught all the younger dogs vital lessons in their formative years. A quick look at Sue's history shows that over the years, she has fostered 68 kittens and 83 dogs and puppies for a total of 151 animals! Sue lives in Middletown with her dogs and when she isn't taking care of foster animals, she works as a dog obedience instructor at the Potter League.

## Save the Date

### ANNUAL MEETING

**Monday, October 29 - 6:00-7:30 pm**  
at the Potter League Training Center

### CRITTER GLITTER

**December 1-9**  
at the Potter League Education Center

### HAVE A HEART COCKTAIL PARTY & AUCTION

**Friday, February 8, 2013**  
Hotel Viking, Newport

# All Work and No Play.... Not at the Potter League Training Center!

At the Potter League Training Center, we make learning fun. Many of our basic training classes incorporate some playtime and of course our play groups are full



of play! The Potter League knows that playtime teaches dogs invaluable social skills such as reading other dogs' body language and signals. These seemingly fun interactions are preparing dogs for a lifetime of appropriate behavior around other dogs. Dogs that are comfortable around other

dogs and know how to politely interact are a joy to have and can accompany owners on outings safely. In addition to our weekly drop-in playgroups, we also offer several fun doggie events each year. Our Halloween Dog Parade, Doggy Biscuit Hunt and Dog Day of Summer offer the dog owning public the chance to come to a dog-friendly themed event where they can play games, win prizes and even try their paws at dog agility. The Potter League strongly urges young dog and puppy owners to get their dog involved in fun and play - as well as training - early owners and dogs can enjoy the world together.



## Mark Your Calendar for Halloween Fun



The Potter League will be hosting a **Halloween Dog Parade Saturday, October 27th at 3:00 pm**

Join fellow dog lovers and dogs for this festive fall event. Dogs of all sizes and ages are welcome to show off their costumes as they parade around the Potter League.

**A Halloween Small Breed Playgroup will be held on October 24th at 6:00 pm.**

Check out our website or call 401.846.8276 ext 122 for more information on either event.

## Weekly Playgroup Schedule

### Puppy Playgroups

Learn to Play & Play to Learn! Bring your puppy to play with friends his/her own age! A great way to work off that "puppy energy" and teaches puppies how to get along with others!

### Pups 2 through 5 months

Wednesdays from 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Fridays from 9:00 - 10:00 am

\$7 per dog

### Pups 5 through 9 months

Fridays from 10:00 - 11:00 am

Sundays from 9:00 - 10:00 am

\$7 per dog

### Small Breed Play Group (All ages 25 lbs & under)

Here's your opportunity to give your dog all the fun with none of the "big" guy intimidation! Small dogs interact in a supervised, safe environment with appropriate play.

Wednesdays from 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Thursdays from 10:00 - 11:00 am

\$7 per dog

Limit of two dogs per family.

Email [ByronD@PotterLeague.org](mailto:ByronD@PotterLeague.org) to pre-register for any playgroup. All classes are held indoors in our Behavior & Training Center.

## Join Our Monthly Giving 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](http://PotterLeague.org) or call Susan at 401.846.0592 ext.125 to enroll today.

