



Potter League
Enriching Lives

Paw-Print Press *Autumn* 15

Look Inside...

Camp Happy Tails

Getting to Know Nikole Meabe

Save the Date

Coyote Behavior Research Study

Volunteer Department News

Community Service Hours

Low Cost Microchip Clinics

The Robert Potter League for Animals, Inc.
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Newly Blind Dog Finds Love and Gives Love



Dear Potter League,

How can we begin to say "thank you." My husband Dave and I adopted Coco Chanel, an 8 year old Portuguese Water Dog and newly blind. While we were thinking about adopting a dog, we asked ourselves, "Are we too busy for a dog?" "Will a dog limit our lifestyle?" and "What do we know about dogs?" Something compelled us to continue. Our experience with the Potter League was nothing short of wonderful. Every staff person and volunteer was engaging, helpful and knowledgeable. They really seemed to know Coco and it became clear that insuring a safe and loving home for each animal is the common goal.

Though it has only been a few months, those questions seem very far away now. As I write this letter, I am sitting on my sofa. Coco is laying on the floor nearby and it feels as though she has been there all along. We could never have imagined the new sense of family she has brought. Coco is that just-right mix of gentleness, affection, intelligence and playfulness. She has taught us about perseverance in the face of adversity. Her blindness does not appear to be an obstacle. She is adjusting well to our home and continues to learn new things daily. Her training from Potter League's Headstart Trainer Cece has been invaluable in keeping her safe and increasingly independent.

(continued on page 2)

Blind Dog *(continued from page 1)*

Coco is for us that “thing”, that universal element (that we all search for) that takes us outside of ourselves. She is a soul for whom we are responsible and we take this duty very seriously. As my husband and I kept talking and thinking about all we could provide for a dog, we really had no idea that the real gift would be ours. Coco is devotion, loyalty, life lessons and unconditional love disguised in a dog’s body. And we are the lucky recipients! We are committed to learn and grow as dog lovers/owners and to spread the word of the great work you do.

Thank you again for all you do, for Coco, for all the other animals in need, for us and for the community at large.

With gratitude,
Virginia and Dave

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Stop By and See Us - You Might Be Surprised



Have you visited the Potter League for Animals? When entering the driveway of our building, visitors are greeted by a large chain link fence, which can be intimidating. The fence is not to deter animals from escaping from the facility (or keep people out). The shelter actually abuts government property mandating the need for the fence due to Homeland Security regulations. Our LEED Gold Certified building is worth coming to see. We are a green building with fascinating features such as recycled building materials; hospital grade ventilation systems in our animal rooms to prevent the spread of diseases; treat holes in the dog rooms to help visitors train our dogs; and a vegetative roof to help maintain the air temperature in the building throughout the year and to prevent water from running into the nearby wetland area. Stop by 87 Oliphant Lane in Middletown soon to see our building and visit with our numerous pets awaiting new homes. A home of their own is the best thing for our animals, but a *temporary* stay at the Potter League’s facility is not the worst place to be.

Camp Happy Tails Provides Fun & Education

Camp Happy Tails had another successful summer filled with educational activities, crafts, games and especially animal interaction. Eight one-week sessions provided 111 kids in grades 2-6 opportunities that an average visitor to the shelter cannot experience. The “Behind the Scenes” session took campers



beyond the adoption floor to learn how an animal shelter helps homeless animals.

Other session themes included House and Home; Happy, Healthy Pets; Games Pets Play, Animals and the Environment; Click and Treat; Pets and Vets and the very popular Dog Sports and Cat-tivities. Five of the eight sessions were filled to capacity of 16 campers. The camps were led by two humane educators and two student volunteers. This year the Potter League was able to offer a number of scholarships through a generous grant from The Frederick H. Prince Memorial Fund.

Our Humane Education Department is busy planning fun and interactive programs for upcoming vacation camps in December 2015, February and April 2016. Stay tuned for more information to come!



Getting to Know Senior Animal Care Associate Nikole Meabe



Nikole cuddles with a transport puppy

Nikole is an amazing part of the Potter League. Although many who enter the shelter may never see her, she works hard behind the scenes to make sure the cats and small mammals are well taken care of.

Nikole is a native Aquidneck Islander and can be spotted soaking up the sun at Second Beach or enjoying an ice cold drink at O'Brien's Pub.

She graduated from the University of Rhode Island with a degree in Animal Science and has always had a love for animals. She was a junior volunteer at the Potter League for a number of years prior to attending college.

When asked what she enjoys most about her position as Senior Animal Care Associate, Nikole responded "I love that every day when I walk into work I feel at home. I can truly say I love my job and I love every life we save and every home we can find for the animals that end up here at our shelter." Nikole is always smiling and brings a special energy to work with her. She can often be heard announcing morning meeting over the intercom using a multitude of accents to help liven the day. She is known among the staff as being very photogenic and we have yet to catch her not looking good in a photo... and believe us when we say we have tried!

Before working at the Potter League, pictures on Nikole's phone consisted mostly of beautiful landscapes, friends, selfies and an occasional shot of what

she was having for dinner. But now her photo albums are filled with snapshots of cats and kittens galore!



Nikole lives in Middletown with her pup named Bentley. She said, "My long term goal and dream in life is to own a ranch where I can have my own rehabilitation center for sick and injured animals. Nothing warms my heart more than helping those in need."

Contact our Behavior Helpline!

One of the most common reasons people relinquish animals is because they are experiencing a behavior problem with their pet. Sound familiar? The Potter League can help. Our Behavior Helpline offers advice so dog and cat owners can work through a variety of behaviors with their pet from house soiling to food aggression. Problems are often easily solved by implementing simple changes to a daily routine or through additional training.

Contact our
Behavior Helpline
at
401.846.8276 ext. 119
or
Helpline@PotterLeague.org

Save the Date

Holiday Open House

Saturday, December 12 and
Sunday, December 13

Artisan Craft Fair

Saturday, December 12

Have A Heart Cocktail Party & Auction

Friday, February 5, 2016
at OceanCliff in Newport

GPS Technology Assists in Coyote Behavior Research

Dr. Numi Mitchell of the Narragansett Bay Coyote Study describes the use of high-tech GPS collars she calls “forensic tracking.” The collars are used to plot the movement of coyotes on Aquidneck Island in order to identify the food sources that may be serving as attractants for the growing population of coyotes. The collars employ state-of-the-art Global Positioning System (GPS) and cell phone technology that can be programmed to report at intervals as short as one minute, making them ideal for pinpointing food sources. This data has shown that human behavior, especially in the form of intentional or unintentional feeding, has been a major contributor to the coyote population and is often responsible for human-coyote conflicts.



Narragansett Bay Coyote Study (NBCS) has been studying coyote activity on Aquidneck Island for over a decade to better understand factors influencing coyote populations and human-coyote interactions. In 2013, the Potter League, the Norman Bird Sanctuary, the Aquidneck Land Trust and the Rhode Island Natural History Survey joined forces with the NBCS to launch *CoyoteSmarts*. This public information initiative’s mission is to raise public awareness of coyotes, promote public and pet safety and encourage best coyote management practices. CoyoteSmarts has dedicated a great deal of time and energy to help spread the word about the wildlife “no-feeding” ordinances and the reasons behind it. For more information about CoyoteSmarts or to report a coyote sighting, visit their website www.CoyoteSmarts.org.



Rabbit Garden Yields Veggies and More

Volunteer Rosie Kissel chose the Potter League to be the recipient of three gardens for a college project in 2014. Since then, one garden has been designated as the “Rabbit Garden” growing herbs and greens as healthy additions to our rabbits’ diets. The remaining two gardens have a mixture of vegetables, herbs and edible flowers.

Volunteers Gary Leib and Chizu Kraska managed the garden this year. They tested the soil and augmented it with compost. Gary assembled fencing around the garden to protect the crops.

Succession planting throughout the season ensured a continual harvest of lettuces and basil and a variety of perennial herbs. The kids at Camp Happy Tails also loved working in the garden.



Save the Date

February 5, 2016

Have A Heart Cocktail Party & Auction
at OceanCliff in Newport

Sponsorship and underwriting opportunities available.
Contact Susan for more information at 401.846.0592 ext.125 or SusanR@PotterLeague.org

Animal Lovers Enjoy Yappy Hour to Benefit Lifesaving Programs

Sunday, July 19th was a beautiful evening for “Yappy Hour” a fundraiser to benefit the Potter League. The event, formerly known as Tea for Tails, was attended by



225 animal lovers who enjoyed spectacular views of the bay, fun cocktails and delightful culinary treats. Several Potter League pups mingled with enthusiastic guests who generously supported the Potter League’s

special funds, the Fetching Friends Transport Program and the Nuala Pell Animal Care Fund. Cool Caribbean steel drum sounds added to the festive atmosphere.

Fetching Friends is a Potter League lifesaving program which brings animals from high volume/low adoption shelters to Rhode Island where adopters eagerly await their arrival. The Nuala Pell Animal Care Fund supports homeless animals needing basic care as well as treatment for serious medical



issues including veterinary care, surgery, extensive rehabilitation, and life-saving medications enabling them to be placed in their forever homes.



Fulfill Community Service Hours at the Potter League

Are you a high school student, college student or military personnel requiring community service hours*? You can fulfill your hours at your convenience through our online scheduling program and remove yourself if your plans change.



The process is easy! Submit a short online application at www.PotterLeague.org and attend an orientation class. That’s all there is to it! Hours are fulfilled between 8 am - 10 am, any day of the week.

This is a great way to interact with the animals, it contributes enormously in a very important way and you will get to know and become a part of the Potter League staff and volunteer family.

Once your hours are fulfilled, you may volunteer doing dog walking, cat socialization, helping with events, or in any other area you like. Schedule yourself... and a friend today. For questions or more information, contact Gail at GailL@PotterLeague.org or 401.846.8276 ext 106.

**This program does not apply to court-ordered community service.*

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 or contact Susan at 401.846.0592 ext.125 or SusanR@PotterLeague.org to enroll today.

Community Gathers to Celebrate Their Love for Animals

Dogs of all breeds and sizes - small ones, big ones, young ones, old ones, feisty ones and also curious ones arrived at the walk by the hundreds along with the people who love them. They came early to enjoy music, treats, camaraderie, lots of festivities and, perhaps most important of all, to raise money to help homeless animals of Newport County.



The Potter League held its 26th annual Heart & Sole Walk for Animals under brilliant sunshine at Glen Park on June 7. More than 450 walkers and 250 dogs did not disappoint raising \$86,500 in support of the Potter League. These funds will provide for medical care, shelter and adoption services for thousands dogs, cats and small mammals this year.

The Potter League is grateful for the extraordinary efforts of hundreds of fundraisers and their canine friends, all the team leaders, generous donors and supportive sponsors, in-kind donors and dedicated volunteers. Through their unwavering support and generosity, we can continue to save lives and give homeless animals the love, care and second chance they deserve.

The event featured a 1-mile walk, pet contests, informational booths with vendors marketing everything from preventatives and microchips to wholesome foods, pet insurance, obedience training and animal massage services in addition to real estate and banking services.



Portsmouth Veterinary Clinic team



VIP (Volunteers Impact Pets) Team

Congratulations to our Top Ten Fundraisers and Teams

Top Adult Fundraisers

Lisa Martland-Neitzey	\$3,600
Howie Naugle	\$2,500
Judith Enstone	\$2,095
Lu LeVasseur	\$2,020
Pem Attaway	\$1,440
Ellen Ford	\$1,325
Meredith Chapman	\$1,105

Top Youth Fundraisers

Calla-Lilly Robello DeFusco	\$675
Annie Marshall	\$655
Nikki Merrill	\$575
Anastacia Scott	\$575

Top Adult Teams

Volunteers Impact Pets	\$7,462
Potter Trotters Staff Team	\$5,665
Portsmouth Veterinary Clinic	\$4,168
People's Pooch Patrol	\$3,789

Honorable Mention:

Top Youth Team

Flip for Animals	\$260
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The 2015 Heart & Sole Walk was presented by Hill's Science Diet, Heartgard Plus and Frontline Plus. Special thanks to all our participating sponsors: Petco Foundation, Moriarty's Fence Company, People's Credit Union, Bank Rhode Island, Independence Financial Partners, Pet First Pet Insurance, HomeAgain Microchips, The Landings, WPRI 12, FOX Providence, The Newport Daily News and Rhythm Productions.



Forever Friends Society- A Legacy of Hope

The Potter League honored 60 guests at the 13th Annual Forever Friends Society recognition evening at the home of Judy Clagett McLennan on August 13th. The Forever Friends Society is a unique group of individuals who have created a legacy of hope by naming the Potter League in their estate plans. This year, the Potter League received bequests from Marie Louise Betty and Doris



Cinq Mars. These generous donors have contributed to our long-term financial security while satisfying their own dreams and dedication to making a difference in the lives of animals.

This annual reception was sponsored by Randal Poirier, ChFC, Financial Planner, of Independence Financial Partners. For more information on the Forever Friends Society and Planned Giving to the Potter League, please contact Erin O’Gara Dollard, Director of Development at 846.0592 ext. 116 or email at ErinD@PotterLeague.org


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 shelter. Opportunities range from \$500 to \$10,000 and are customizable to your organizations 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 ErinD@PotterLeague.org or 846.0592 ext. 116.

Thank you to our heroes

- Hill’s Science Diet
- Merial Frontline Plus & Heartgard
- Bank Rhode Island
- People’s Credit Union
- Moriarity’s Invisible Fence Brand
- BankNewport
- Petco Foundation
- Independence Financial Partners
- BMW of Newport
- Gustave White Sotheby’s International Realty
- Horan Building Company
- Portsmouth Veterinary Clinic
- Karns Law Group
- A Tesa Architecture
- PetFirst Pet Insurance



Cremation Services at the Potter League

Each of us has animal companions who weave themselves into our hearts and the fabric of our daily lives. At the Potter League, we understand the strength of the bond between you and your animal companion, and we are dedicated to help you find closure. We offer a variety of services to provide support and comfort during this difficult time. Please contact us for more information.

The Potter League for Animals
87 Oliphant Lane • Middletown, RI 02842 • 401.846.8276
www.PotterLeague.org



People’s Pooch Patrol

Low Cost Microchip Clinic Offered at the Potter League

Once your pet is loose, there is no telling what kind of trouble they will run in to. Anyone who has lost a dog or cat knows that there is no worse feeling than wondering



if you will see your precious pet again. Pets that have collars with identification tags and/or microchips find their way home more times than animals that do not have any form of identification. Often the reunion will take place within hours.

A microchip is a tiny radio-frequency identification (RFID) device and is about the size of a grain of rice. The device is implanted under the loose skin between the pet's shoulder blades also known as the scruff. Once the microchip is in place, there is a simple registration process with the microchip manufacturer. When activated by a specialized handheld scanner, the chip emits an alphanumeric code that uniquely identifies him. Microchips are permanent and are designed to last for the life of your pet. Microchips never need to be charged or replaced and are easily injected using a specialized needle and syringe. It is quick and is practically painless, causing no more discomfort than a routine vaccine injection.

All cats and dogs with microchips should still wear a visible ID collar and tag as backup if possible. The collar and/or tag should have the owner's contact information as well as the microchip identification number. Rhode Island state law requires dogs to be licensed and cats wear identification. All animals that come to the Potter League are scanned upon arrival to determine if a microchip is in place.

Visit our website www.PotterLeague.org for the schedule of microchip clinics and more information.

FSC Logo here

Your Payroll Deduction Will Save Lives

Consider Joining Your Workplace Giving Campaign!

For 86 years, the Potter League has made a difference in the lives of animals. Your contribution will provide quality care to thousands of homeless animals and funding for programs that offer people and animals a more humane future.

To donate through your Workplace Giving Program, please follow these procedures:

United Way Campaign:

Write our agency name, Potter League for Animals, in the appropriate place on the United Way pledge form.



Rhode Island & Southeastern Massachusetts Combined Federal Campaign (CFC):



Give online via CFC–Employee Express, CFC Nexus or MyPay, or you can complete a paper pledge form provided by CFC. Please make sure to note our five digit code #37967.

State Employees Charitable Appeal (SECA):

Write the Potter League's **four digit code #3450** on the pledge form.



For more information on workplace giving, call Susan at 401.846.0592 ext 125 or email SusanR@PotterLeague.org

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.

