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Against All Odds

The horrors of what Chicago’s life could have been still haunt all that know him, but we choose to focus on what his life is now. Happy.

Destined to be sold to a dog meat market, Chicago was born in South Korea, slated for a harrowing fate. All that changed when the dog meat farm where Chicago was born and spent the first few months of his life was shut down. Closing the farm is just the first step; hundreds of dogs would now need somewhere to go. Most would be shipped to the U.S. and Canada to find new homes.

We were asked if we could help with some of the dogs who had recently been rescued. Without hesitation we answered yes. Chicago was one of the lucky ones and at the young age of five months he arrived at the Potter League for Animals.

After his arrival, our veterinary staff noticed Chicago had a mass on his back leg. It was surgically removed and sent out for biopsy, which confirmed that it was a metastatic mast cell tumor – cancer. At just five months old, this was beyond rare. It was practically unheard of. Our team quickly put their heads together and started consulting with veterinary oncology specialists to see what our options were.

Tests and radiology were performed to see the extent of the tumor and an additional surgery was preformed by a veterinary surgeon to get larger margins as well as removing the regional and enlarged lymph node. The next step was chemotherapy and since there are no studies with dogs this young with this specific disease we were charting new territory. But we had to try.

Chicago has now undergone multiple chemo sessions and is getting healthier and bigger by the day (currently over 70lbs at 9 months old) from the comfort of his remarkably dedicated foster dad,

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Adoption Tails Corner

Captain Jack Sparrow

Captain Jack Sparrow’s mother, a community cat that had been humanely trapped by animal control, hid Captain Jack and his littermates behind a secluded fence with so much brush they were barely visible. When the property owner discovered them, it was virtually impossible to reach them. Animal control reached out to the Portsmouth Department of Public Works desperate for help as we were experiencing a stretch of the hottest days in early summer. A DPW employee rushed out to help cut the fence back and clear the brush so that the Potter League staff could get to the kittens.

They were all in rough shape, covered in fleas, and just barely over one pound, but the little gray ball of fuzz was the worst off. He was thin and his left hind leg appeared to be dead tissue caused by some kind of trauma. Too tiny to put him under anesthesia for an immediate amputation, our staff and foster volunteers worked tirelessly over the next handful of weeks to get him and his littermates healthy.

As Jack gained weight and became healthier, his leg wound began to heal and our veterinarian decided not to amputate, as he was getting around using the leg the way it was perfectly fine. He was active, eating, drinking and using the litter box appropriately. He was ready for adoption. And there was already a home that had been waiting for him. That Department of Public Works employee who helped save Captain Jack and his littermates adopted Captain Jack and his sister, Blue. They are both now happy and loved.

Pudge the Hedgehog

When he first arrived, the smallest things like someone moving too quickly near him or a sound that was slightly too loud, made Pudge the hedgehog jump and puff up his quills. Pudge came to the Potter League with a serious injury. He had a necrotic foot, which we had to surgically remove. Once he was all healed, it was time to find him a new loving family that would help him adjust to his new life with only three feet.

Pudge’s new family saw him on our website less than a day after being listed for adoption and was at the Potter League within the hour to meet him. They had no idea he was missing a foot, but they didn’t care. They wanted nothing more than to give him a loving home and spoil him. That same night, they had a trunk full of supplies from Petco and Pudge was in his new mom’s lap on his way home.

Pudge now spends his days sleeping, and his nights running on his wheel, not letting his disability slow him down one bit. He is spoiled with treats, making adorable smacking noises to let you know that he is thoroughly enjoying his favorites. He is carried around in his little pouch, sticking his eyes and nose out just enough as though he was playing peek-a-boo. Pudge even has two dog siblings and two cat siblings. His family just absolutely adores and loves him. He has them all wrapped around his tiny little fingers and toes.
Tom’s, home. Tom, a Potter League volunteer, stepped up to foster Chicago when he heard Chicago’s story and knew that he had the time and ability to dedicate to his needs. We were so grateful, knowing that this was a long-term medical foster and would be an emotional roller coaster ride, but Tom did not hesitate and provides us with daily updates on Chicago’s comedic antics, health and what toys he is enjoying at the moment. Chicago is not completely out of the woods, health-wise, yet. But we’re close. He has taken every vet appointment, all the poking and prodding and treatments in stride. What matters is that he is so unbelievably happy and loved and we simply could not ask for more. Chicago has been an inspiration to everyone who hears his story. He continues to be the little puppy that could and it is because of our Potter League family that he had a chance. Furthermore we were over the moon when Tom decided to make it official. Chicago is staying put and Tom is without a doubt a foster fail and we could not be happier for both of them. A young dog once slated for a grim fate is living a life of love and comfort because of your support. Thank you for helping us, help him.

Puppy + Yoga = Puppy Love

Downward-Facing Dog is a popular yoga pose for stretching the muscles of the legs and shoulders. Do you know what makes it even more popular? When you do yoga with puppies! We held our first ever ‘Puppy Yoga’ class in July and tickets were sold out within days of being available. Nine mixed breed puppies ran around a room of over 30 people who were attempting to do yoga. Not one person seemed to mind that they were climbed on, licked, chewed or even tickled on. Wonder why.

Perhaps, because yoga-ing with puppies was amazingly fun and full of so much laughter. They say that yoga is an exercise to help heal one’s mind and body, as well as stress-relief. We’re pretty sure for that hour everyone’s stress was completely relieved and their minds and bodies left much more healed from puppy breath and kisses, oh and doing yoga. The class even ended with a resounding “Best Yoga Class Ever!” from a participant. We see more Puppy Yoga classes in the near future.

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Heart & Sole

Unleash the Power to Save Lives!

Sunday, October 14
10 am

This is a special day you don’t want to miss! Donate or sponsor one of our fundraisers and register to walk with us at www.potterleague.org!
Have you heard? It’s all the rage.

We’ve started a new Facebook group called “Potter Pet Alumni” and we’re inviting all adopters to join! Come one, come all. The group is designed to allow Potter League for Animals adopters and their families to post updates, stories, photos, and stay connected to the Potter League family. Be sure to join today!

Find us on 📚

SAVE THE DATE

Heart & Sole Walk for the Animals
Sunday, October 14, 2018
10:00am – 1:30pm
Glen Park, Portsmouth, RI

Annual Meeting
October 25th from 5:30 – 7:30pm
at the Atlantic Resort Newport

Potter Pet University
Wednesday, October 3rd
Food is Not Love: Obesity in Dogs
Presented by Amy Karls, DVM
Professional Consulting Veterinarian, Hill’s Pet Nutrition, Inc.

Wednesday, November 14th
Effective Animal Advocacy & Humane Lobbying
Presented by Joe Warzycha, Special Agent/Humane Law Enforcement, RISPCA & Brad Shear, Executive Director, Potter League

Artisan Craft Fair
December 8th from 10am – 4pm
at the Potter League for Animals

*All dates subject to change. Please check our website for more information.

YAPPY HOUR 2018: A Howling Success

Yappy Hour, our signature summer fundraiser, was held at Rock Cliff, the home of Sam and Ann Mencoff and their sweet Black Lab “Daisy”. Animal lovers were treated to the exceptional ocean views from the lawn of this Bellevue Avenue mansion as they sipped summer cocktails, and Rosé provided by Bellevue Liquors and Broken Shed Vodka. Glorious Affairs Catering passed an array of tasty treats throughout the evening and at the end of the night our friends at Providence Diamond had a special parting gift for guests. We were even joined by adoptable puppies, Rina and Riley who happily greeted guests and were plumb-tuckered out at the end of the night. We are happy to report that both have since been adopted and have gone to their new families. Guests were happy to participate in the fund-a-need to support the Nuala Pell Animal Care Fund, which helps cover the cost of medical care and surgical needs for animals while at the Potter League.

Thank you to everyone who helped us raise $115,000 for our life-saving work!