The 2009 Annual Report The Potter League · Enriching Lives





That transition is more than skin deep.

Dear Members of the Potter Family:

At long last, Newport County's new Potter League is up and running.

More than five years in the making, the past year has been especially challenging and rewarding for those involved in making the transition to a new building.

That transition is more than skin deep. It's not just the building that's new.

The new Potter League emerges from this process with a powerful tool to execute our mission and goals. Now, more than ever, we are fulfilling our promise of "Enriching Lives" with:

- Increase of human visitors resulting in an increase in adoptions (and thus shorter stays for our displaced companion pets)
- Decrease in shelter sicknesses
- Increase in training classes thus strengthening the human-animal bond and preventing relinquishments due to problem behaviors
- Increase in the number of volunteers enabling us to grow programs in response to community needs

As I swing into my final year on the board, I see so much accomplished, and so much yet to be done. We have a facility that is the envy of the humane industry, a LEED-certified green building that Newport County should be proud of. But I also see a Capital Campaign unfinished. By December 31, 2010, we need to reach and hopefully exceed our goal of \$7.8MM. So when you get the call/open the letter, please respond generously. We did our part; we do need you to do yours.

Warm regards,

Sheila Reilly Board President



Key Accomplishments for the Potter League August 2008 - July 2009

August

During the final phase of construction, and operating in very limited space, the Potter League places 156 animals in new homes.

September

Roofscapes, Inc., installs our environmentally friendly vegetated roof, and plants more than 3,000 succulent perennials.

October

The staff and volunteers prepare to move more than 100 animals and supplies from our old building to our new animal care and education center.

November

We officially move in; and after two days of getting settled, it's business as usual for the animals and the staff who care for them. BloomingTails, the Potter League's very own pet boutique, opens for business, offering a great variety of products for pets and a merchandise line with our logo. The old building is demolished and waste materials are recycled.

December

Critter Glitter Jewelry Sales raises \$52,000 to benefit our capital campaign, *Honoring Their Trust*.

January

Executive and administrative staff move out of temporary offices and join the staff and animals in the new building. Our state-of-the-art behavior training center opens and classes begin to fill up!

February

The Have a Heart Cocktail Party and Silent Auction attracts more than 500 people, raising \$75,000.

The Potter League is selected by Petfinder.com to receive thousands of cat carriers and distribute them to other shelters so cats can be safely transported home by their adopters.

It's not just the building that's new.

Dear Friends,

My first dog was Speck, and I guarantee that each of you can immediately name your first pet, no matter how many years have gone by. And you will recall that first pet's appearance, personality, and antics. I don't remember my first kindergarten teacher or prom date, but Specky is indelibly fixed in my memory.

Pets are important parts of our lives. They epitomize friendship and trust. They teach us patience, devotion, and the joy of living in the moment. They are good for our health and a hedge against loneliness.



The Potter League is all about creating and supporting the special relationships between people and their animal companions. Our goal is to enrich lives ... a mission we focus on every day. Our staff of 609, of whom 585 are volunteers and 24 are paid, provide absolutely phenomenal care to lost and homeless animals and ensure programs to nurture the animal-human bond.

On behalf of the animals, I thank each of you for supporting the construction of our new LEED Gold-certified animal care and education center. Your philanthropy has helped us move into this facility. But our work is not yet finished.

There is more money to raise to complete the capital campaign. There are more Specks that need homes. There are more hearts to warm and heal. Because of your trust and support, today we proudly say we are providing the best for the animals and the environment ... and for the next person who walks in our front door to get their first (or second or third!) pet.

With deep thanks,

M. Christie Smith, CAWA Executive Director



The Potter League • Enriching Lives

March

Through our transfer program, 28 dogs and puppies come to the Potter League from overcrowded shelters where they would have faced euthanasia. We are pleased to report that with the help of a list of families interested in adoption, all 28 are placed in new homes within 18 days.

April

The Potter League gets Two Paws Up as our new building is featured in *Newport Life* magazine's Green Edition.

May

In honor of Be Kind to Animals Week, the Potter League hosts a poster contest for first- through eighth-graders. Over 140 creative posters are submitted and the top entries are honored at an awards ceremony.

June

A special donor recognition event is held to unveil plaques and tiles, and to thank leadership donors and major contributors to *Honoring Their Trust*. The grand opening of the new facility draws 1,500 guests. Heart & Sole Walk for the Animals breaks all records, raising \$82,000. The Garden Club of America grants the Potter League the 2009 Conservation Award.

July

Tea for Tails, graciously hosted by Mrs. Claiborne Pell, raises \$26,000 for our capital campaign, *Honoring Their Trust*.

The Potter League holds its first Happy Tails Day Camp for children. More than 60 kids enjoy the one-week sessions, during which they learn about animal welfare and responsible pet ownership, enjoy arts and crafts, and even take in some yoga!

Enriching Lives

The Potter League Celebrates 80 Years of Enriching Lives

This year launched a new era for the Potter League. After years of planning, fundraising, design, and construction, the new shelter became a reality. On June 20, 2009, while celebrating our 80th year of saving and enriching lives, the Potter League cut the ribbon to a new "green" animal care and education center. The impact this new facility has had

on the health and well being of our animals is amazing. Visitor traffic increased and adoptions rose by an astounding 24%. Thanks to your generous support, the Potter League continues to enrich the lives of animals and people who love them.

Pet Adoption

At the Potter League, our staff is dedicated to finding the right homes for all our adoptable animals. Adoption counselors help people make the best choices when adding a new pet to their families. Our efforts to find the perfect match yielded impressive results; we placed 1,280 animals in permanent homes in FY2009.

Reuniting Families

Losing a pet is a frightening experience for both the animal and owner. In FY2009, we processed 412 lost animal reports and posted critical information on our Web site. Our staff educated the public regularly on the importance of ID tags and microchips and distributed 1,382 free tags. In total, 751 stray animals were brought to the Potter League, and 451 lost pets were reunited with their families.

"How do I love this dog we adopted? Let me count the ways. Thank you for providing the most wonderful environment an abandoned animal could ever find and for caring enough to place each animal in the right home. We could not imagine a better fit for us." Nancy B. and Quigley.

Remedial Measures

The Potter League provides an extraordinary level of service to all our animals. The animal care technicians examine all animals surrendered by their owners, brought in by animal control officers, or transferred from other agencies. The staff administered 3,373 exams and treatments while our associated veterinarians conducted 1,633 physical examinations. Sterilizations were performed on 535 shelter animals before adoption, and dozens more had extensive surgeries. Financial assistance was provided to 65 low-income families to cover medical treatments for their pets.



Raising Awareness in the Community

Community outreach is the key to educating adults and children and to promoting our services and programs. More than 200 animals were featured in *The Newport Daily News*' Pet of the Week and in full-page ads. Our weekly column, "Dear Bootsie," offers readers pet advice. And, six articles were published in the *Rhode Island Women's Journal*. The Potter League was showcased in several national publications including *Animal Sheltering Magazine, Sierra Club, The Bark, Back Home, USA Today* and *Newport Life*. Statewide TV coverage on WPRI/FOX Providence included two segments on the Rhode Show and more than 300 PSAs. Twelve radio interviews were conducted with Art Berluti on WADK.

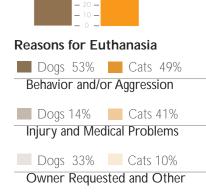
Transfer Program

Every day, thousands of animals are abandoned across the United States. Many wind up in overcrowded animal shelters with high euthanasia rates. When space allows, the Potter League helps shelters in North Carolina, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Rhode Island and neighboring states through our innovative transfer program. In FY2009, we saved the lives of 272 animals by transferring them to the Potter League and placing them in local homes.

2008 - 2009 Animal Statistics 8.1.08-7.31.09

Animals Received Dogs & Puppies 905 Cats & Kittens 839 Total Animals Received 1,968 Other Animals 224 Total 1,968 905 **Adoptions** inals Adopted 458 Dogs & Puppies 458 Cats & Kittens 648 Other Animals 174 1,280 /04 Other 1,280 Total **Strays Returned** to Owners 548 **Dogs & Puppies** 364 Cats & Kittens 80 Other Animals 7 362 Returned to Owner Total 451 **Other Outcomes** Dogs & Puppies 7 Cats & Kittens 16 Other Animals 31 Total 54 **Euthanized** Dogs & Puppies 62 Cats & Kittens 134 Other Animals 17 Total 213

The Potter League has adopted national standards called Asilomar Accords. By utilizing a standard language and reporting method for our statistics, the Potter League can easily and clearly track progress to end euthanasia both at our shelter and across shelters nationwide. The live release rate is the most compelling of the statistics. It reveals the percentage of animals that leave the shelter alive regardless of their health or behavior status. This measurement eliminates any subjective definition of the word "adoptable." Based on this method, the Potter League's live release rate is 91%, among the highest in the nation. For FY 2009, no healthy adoptable animals were euthanized at the Potter League. Reaching our goal to save the lives of all healthy and treatable companion animals will take resources and a community effort. Together, we can save animals, prevent cruelty, and enrich the lives of people who love them.



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Mya and Claire go the distance!

" Mya and I started taking classes at the Potter League when she was 6 months old. Our first class was basic obedience; we continued with Rally-O, which helped her focus her attention on me, and then went on to Agility, which was pure fun.

Mya is now training for her Canine Good Citizen Certificate. She plans to go on to complete her Therapy Dog Evaluation. This will enable us to visit patients in nursing homes and hospitals through the Pet Visitation Program." Claire

Enriching Lives Through Behavior and Training

Strengthening the human-animal bond is a key element of our mission and the driving force behind our new behavior and training center. Our goal is to make the Potter League the best place to adopt a pet AND the best place to learn about and improve a pet's behavior. Our comprehensive training programs meet this challenge by offering more than 28 different classes to our adopters and the public.

Among the highlights:

Multi-Level Training Classes were provided to 298 dogs and 137 puppies who learned basic and advanced obedience. The free shelter training classes were taken advantage of by 373 adopters, with many continuing on to more advanced Potter League classes.

Specialty Classes including Boot Camp, Variety, Rally-O, Agility, and Walk and Wag allowed people and their companion animals to work one-on-one to strengthen the human-animal bond ... while having fun.

Small-Breed Play Group is our most popular class, specifically designed to socialize a pet. We had record attendance with 559 dogs participating and many continuing on to perfect their skills in other classes offered at the Potter League.

The HeadStart Program accommodated our more challenging young adult dogs, offering them an opportunity to learn acceptable behaviors. The one-on-one behavior guidance, training, and confidence-boosting attention these dogs received from our HeadStart volunteers and staff helped prepare them for new homes.

Behavior Evaluations were conducted by staff on 360 shelter dogs. These evaluations help us identify behaviors and skills to make the very best match during the adoption process.

The Animal Behavior HelpLine provided individualized support by telephone and e-mail to more than 300 pet owners needing advice and support. Expert trainers assisted with housetraining issues, compatibility challenges, separation anxiety, and obedience concerns.

Potter Pet University classes were held on a variety of animal-related topics, including separation anxiety, children and pets, grooming, training initiatives, and rabbit and cat care. These monthly workshops featured guest speakers and were free of charge.

Volunteers Enriching Lives How we have grown ...

In November 2008, volunteers were instrumental in helping the staff move into our spectacular new animal care and education center. The new building created the opportunity for new volunteer positions. We hosted our first volunteer job fair and immediately placed more than 40 volunteers.

A new program was initiated to welcome the large number of visitors in our new facility. Volunteer greeters served as our "welcome waggin-ears" to assist the 20,000-plus annual guests to our shelter. In addition, more than 200 volunteers increased their hours and efforts to walk dogs, socialize animals, bathe and groom dogs, and clean and care for cats and kittens. Our foster families nurtured 213 young animals to prepare them for adoption.

Within the last year, 609 active volunteers donated more than 30,000 hours of time and energy to help animals and the Potter League. Their efforts are valued at \$620,561.

With tremendous growth in volunteer needs and coordination, the Potter League launched Volgistics, a cost-effective Web-based software, to track volunteer activity. This enables the staff and volunteers to access volunteer information 24/7 from anywhere, reducing the need to post volunteer service hours manually and helping keep volunteers informed and engaged.

In 2009, we added new community outreach events, fundraising activities, and programming. We partnered with Meals on Wheels to help families in need feed their animals. Mentoring programs were facilitated with students from Met School and Portsmouth and Rogers high schools. Outreach and job skills programs were offered to volunteers from Goodwill, East Bay Collaborative, Martin Luther King Center, Child and Family, and others.

Approximately 100 cats visited Petco with our volunteers, offering additional exposure and opportunities for adoption. More than 200 volunteers participated in various fundraising events and outreach fairs, advocating for homeless animals.

HeadStart trainer Cece Levesque was recognized as Volunteer of the Year at our annual volunteer recognition dinner. The Lori Owens Award was given to Janet Heffernan. Deb Elliott and Harriet DiCicco tied for Board Member of the Year, and Harriet DiCicco was awarded the Capital Campaign Member of the Year.

Volunteers of the month included Rose Gomes, Deidre Carte, Karen Laskarzewski, Brenda Cardullo, Betsy Lee, Lisa Hassett, Gail Cronin, Barbara Kirwin, Anna Lane, Maria Flood, and Donna Levesque.

We are inspired by the compassion and dedication of our volunteers. Their tireless efforts contribute enormously to enriching the lives of homeless animals and the extensive programs and services we offer the community.



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Making A Difference

586 Volunteers and 23 Board Members

Animal Care	18,313
Animal Assisted Activities	1,091
Clerical	2,262
Special Events	1,814
Education	425
Other	2,446
Community Service & Restitution	4,294
Total Hours	30,645

"I volunteer because I can interact with animals in our shelter today and know that there is hope, joy, and unconditional love in their future. I volunteer my time because I love the love I feel there." Gail

Capital Campaign

Honoring

The past twelve months, may well go down in the Potter League's history as the most significant in our 80 years of service. We forever changed the way the Potter League houses our homeless animals. Gone are the chain-link kennels and small cages, which lacked ventilation, light, and climate control. In their place are sun-drenched rooms with state-of-the-art ventilation, radiant heated floors, and comfortable spaces in which to move.

Fifteen months after construction began, our new animal care and education center opened to the public on November 5, 2008. As exciting as it was, opening day was low key since the project was still a work in progress. While the biggest task remaining was the demolition of our old building to make way for construction of a new parking lot, the next eight months proved challenging as workers completed many final touches on the interior and exterior of the building.

Our new spaces for outreach programs allow the Potter League to fulfill our mission of "enhancing the animals' future and enriching the human experience through community education and the fostering of relationships between people and animals." The dog training classes held in our new behavior and training center have become increasingly popular, and we've added many new class choices. The Alletta Morris Education Center played host to fundraisers, volunteer orientations, school groups, workshops, meetings, and Happy Tails Day Camp since opening. On June 20, 2009, after work was finally completed on the building and grounds, the Potter League held an official grand opening and ribbon cutting. Hundreds of well-wishers turned out to cheer as the ribbon was cut and to tour the new building. Compliments were plentiful as all agreed that the new Potter League is an amazing asset to the community.

Over the past year, we really enjoyed watching our garden grow. Planted in September 2008, the vegetated roof is one of the favorite "green" features of our building. We are especially proud that the

> Potter League's animal care and education center has been awarded Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. We are the first LEED Gold-certified project in Rhode Island and the first LEED Gold animal shelter in the country.

Despite turbulent economic times, the Capital Campaign Committee persevered in its efforts to raise the funds necessary to complete the campaign. As of the fiscal year end, the campaign has raised \$6.97 million in gifts, pledges, and bequests. Yet fundraising must continue to reach the campaign's goal of \$7.8 million. While it is challenging to raise the remainder of the funds needed, the committee is committed to completing the campaign.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to making this dream for the animals become a reality. Names of all donors will be published at the end of the campaign.

Sheila Reilly – Board President

"We got this far with your vision and your support, now we need your help to get to the finish line."



2008-2009 Financial Snapshot

8.1.08-7.31.09

<image>

The following statement of activities provides a snapshot of our operating and capital campaign revenue and expenses for fiscal year 2008-2009.

Support and Revenue

	Contributions and grants	2,180,339	CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	+ 37,085
	Shelter services	223,452		
	Service contract fees	182,068	NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	7,954,061
	Investment income	56,216		7,754,001
	Sales of pet supplies, net	9,948	NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	7,991,146
	Net realized and unrealized losses on investments	(589,152)		
-	TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	2,062,871		

Expenses Program services:

Shelter services	899,352
Education and training services	293,756
Total program services	1,193,108

Support Services:

-	TOTAL EXPENSES	2,025,786
-	Total supporting services	832,678
	Loss on disposal of property and equipment	26,403
	Management and general	267,829
	General fundraising	538,446

Ellen Ford – Treasurer

"The Potter League is very important because it gives so much back. It does so much for the animals and community, and it's such a two-way street."

Sansiveri Kimball & McNamee have audited the financial position of the Potter League for Animals as of July 31, 2009.

Audited Financial Statements are available on request.



Enriching Lives of Children through Humane Education

Director of Humane Education Lynne Mallonee Sabel and four volunteers taught 1,847 children in 18 local schools with our extensive humane education curriculum. During these interactive sessions, students learned about the needs and behaviors of animals, responsible pet care, the environment, and respect for all living things.

Humane Education Overview

Grade Level	Classes	Presentations	Students
Preschools	10	10	118
K 1st and 2nd	20	20	443
3rd	32	256	704
5th	4	8	100
7th	16	80	400
Misc. Grades	5	5	82
Sub Total	87	379	1,847

Reading Fur Fun		
Location	Participants	Sessions
In School	118	242
Group Homes	22	320
After School & Camps	59	150
Total	199	712

Highlights of the Year

Potter League staff and volunteers gave 63 educational tours of our new animal care and education center to 565 children, who learned of the important work an animal shelter provides to the community.

In partnership with the Narragansett Bay Coyote Study, 1,204 students at the third-, fifth-, and seventh-grade levels participated in a unique education series about coyotes in our community.

The Reading Fur Fun literacy program helped young children improve their reading skills and





"I have noticed a big difference in Joshua's reading. At the beginning of school he had no interest in picking up a book. After participating in Reading Fur Fun, he now picks out his own books that he would like to read. I think he feels more confident because he previously struggled with sounding out words. Thank you for helping Joshua with this task." Ann

build confidence. For some reluctant readers, the opportunity to read to a dog was just the motivation they needed to want to read. This year, 199 children in grades K-3 participated in this program.

Sixty enthusiastic children attended our first Happy Tails Day Camp. Day camp activities included interacting with shelter animals, learning about animal welfare, animal crafts, understanding wildlife, nature tours, and responsible pet ownership. Campers discovered the wonders and wows of the animal kingdom while learning compassion and respect for the world around them.





Donors Contributions from 8/01/08 through 7/31/09

The Potter League would like to thank the following donors for their generous contributions to our Annual Fund from 8/01/08through 7/31/09. This list does not include event tickets, purchase of goods and services, or capital campaign gifts. Capital campaign gifts will be listed in a separate publication.

\$5,000 or more

Mr. & Mrs. Howard D. Elliott Mr. Roger H. King, Jr. Ms. Edith McBean Mrs. Claiborne Pell Susan Ruf & Michael Walsh Mr. & Mrs. Archbold D. van Beuren Mrs. Lorraine N. Vermillion

\$1,000 - \$4,999

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The Potter League for Animals is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of animals. We promote humane treatment of all animals and provide shelter and care for lost or unwanted companion animals. Through community education and the fostering of relationships between people and animals, we enhance the animals' future and enrich the human experience.

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