



Potter League  
*Enriching Lives*

# Paw-Print Press *Spring* 13



Robert Potter League for Animals, Inc.  
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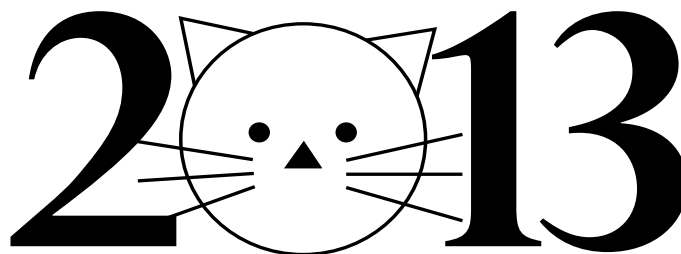
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## 2013 is the Year of the Cat

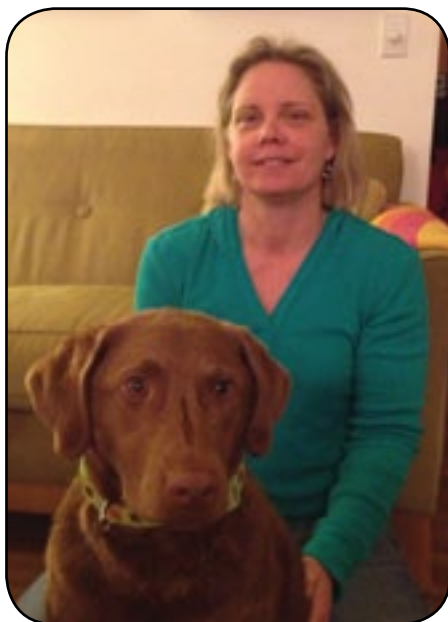


The Potter League has designated 2013 as "The Year of the Cat!" Although the Chinese calendar states it is the Year of the Snake... here at the Potter League we feel differently. We will be concentrating our efforts on a wide range of cat issues and challenges as well as spreading the word about the joy of sharing your

home with a cat (or two!). Not only can you look forward to new promotions, but we will be offering informational sessions such as Potter Pet University on a number of cat topics. Also, every cat adopted this year will be microchipped at no extra charge.

In honor of The Potter League's Year of the Cat, we will be featuring one cat a week for the low adoption price of \$20.13. This promotion will run all year long. Every Monday a cat will be featured on Facebook. On Tuesday, the featured cat will also be highlighted on our website at [www.PotterLeague.org](http://www.PotterLeague.org). The featured cat will only be available for that price through Sunday at 4 pm when the shelter closes for the weekend. Every Monday a new cat will be selected as Cat of the Week. Become a friend of our Facebook page to get the featured Cat of the Week before everyone else. Together we can make this year the best for our feline friends! *Stay tuned for an exciting year ahead. Go Cats!*

# A Training Center Story: How Playgroup Helped Our Family



Lulu and Carla

Dear Potter League,

I am writing you this letter to thank you for helping me overcome my anxiety around our dog Lulu. I have had the pleasure of keeping company with a few dogs in my life. At one point I witnessed a really scary dog fight that left me with some serious anxiety around dogs meeting and playing with each other. It got to the point that I would go out of my way to avoid going to any place where my dog might get the chance to interact with other dogs. I knew that this was bad for both our new pup Lulu and for me. She needed to meet other dogs and be socialized and I needed not to have a panic attack every time I walked her. Potter League to the rescue!

A few different people recommended Potter to me. One person spoke about puppy playgroup. She said it was a chance for the puppies to play and that it was facilitated by a trainer. She said it was a ton of fun (I thought it sounded like my nightmare). Other

people spoke about the training classes. No one had anything but positive things to say so I decided that Lulu and I would go to puppy playgroup.

Puppy playgroup was quite an adventure. Lulu loved it! At first she was a bit shy but after a few times she was running around and rough housing with all the others. I, on the other hand, was a nervous wreck. Byron Davies, Director of Behavior and Training, had to talk me through the whole thing. She talked to me about normal dog behaviors about how dogs interact with each other. She pointed out play behaviors and constantly reassured me that everything was going fine. We would go every Friday morning. I would come in with questions and she always very patiently answered me. I can't tell you how much I appreciated it. Dog Obedience Trainer Sue Sullivan was another huge support to us. We went to training classes with her. I needed the training more than Lulu did (though it helped both of us). She told me that she really wanted to help me to enjoy Lulu. With Sue and Byron's patience and instruction I got more comfortable and confident with Lulu.

Potter League isn't only for the animals, it's also for their families. Our lives got infinitely better because of all the help we received. I went from a person who couldn't think about walking her dog past another without huge anxiety to one who goes to the beach looking for doggie playmates. I can't tell you how much we appreciate all the help.

Thank you so much,  
Lulu and Carla



## SAVE THE DATE

### SUNDAY, JUNE 2

Register...Donate...Collect  
Pledges....Celebrate with us

Join us for the Potter League's 24th annual Heart & Sole Walk for Animals. We are pulling out all the stops to raise money for the animals, and we need YOU to be part of it all! The Walk for Animals is about gathering and celebrating, but mostly, it's about helping animals less fortunate than our own. And having fun while doing it! Bring the whole family to the Heart & Sole Walk including your dog and walk in honor or memory of a beloved pet, or form a team. We have great activities planned.

Last year 450 people and 200 dogs participated and raised the most money ever - \$100,000! The animals are counting on you to join us as we try to break another fundraising record! Visit our website at [www.PotterLeague.org](http://www.PotterLeague.org) for more information on how you can make a difference by participating in our Heart & Sole Walk.

**New to the Walk?** Join us for our **Walk Open House on Saturday, April 20 from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon** to receive tips and ideas on how you can raise money and use the internet to maximize your fundraising efforts. Help us be a voice for those who can't speak for themselves. This year, the need is greater than ever.

# Camp Happy Tails Offers New Programs



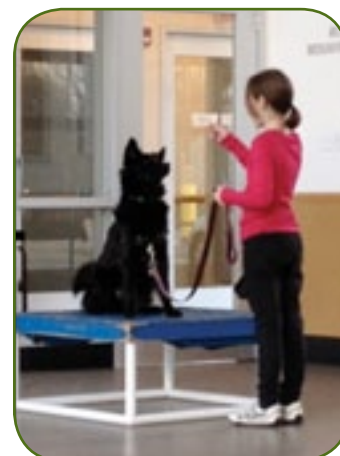
*The Potter League's Byron Davies demonstrates training techniques to Happy Tails Campers*

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 program allows kids to explore behind the scenes at the Potter League and unleashes a love for making a difference in animals' lives.

This summer the Potter League will be offering new themes for all grade levels. Grades 2 and 3 will have the choice of Animals of Aquidneck, Get Set for a Pet, Common Senses and Paws, Claws, Whiskers & Wings. Grades 4, 5 & 6 can choose The Road

to Adoption, Friends for Life, Careers with Critters, and Breeds & Needs. Full day sessions are in partnership with the Newport County YMCA. Transportation between the YMCA and the Potter League is included.

## New Kid's Dog Training Class



A new 5 week class for kids and their family dog. Learn tricks, new commands and strengthen the bond between child and dog.

**Thursdays at 4:00 pm**  
**March 14 – April 11**  
**\$100 for 5 sessions**

For children ages 9 – 12 years old with some dog handling skills. Dogs must be 5 months or older and must have some prior training.

Please contact Anastacia at 401.846.8276 ext. 120 for more information or to register.



Sessions fill up fast, so enroll today!  
For more information visit our website, [www.PotterLeague.org](http://www.PotterLeague.org).

### WEEK

#### Grades 4, 5 & 6

July 8 - 12  
July 15 - 19  
July 29 - August 2  
August 5 - 9

### TIME

Half day  
Full day  
Full day  
Half day

### THEME

Careers with Critters  
The Road to Adoption  
Friends for Life  
Breeds & Needs

#### Grades 2 & 3

July 15 - 19  
July 22 - 26  
July 29 - August 2  
August - 12 - 16

Full day  
Half day  
Full day  
Half day

Animals of Aquidneck  
Common Senses  
Get Set for a Pet  
Paws, Claws, Whiskers & Wings

## Annual Doggy Biscuit Hunt

Using their remarkable sense of smell, leashed dogs will hunt for eggs filled with biscuits & other surprises for dogs & their people!



**Saturday, March 23**  
**3:00 pm**  
**at the Potter League**  
**\$10 per dog**

The hunt will be held outside, rain or shine. Dog and people friendly dogs only please. Pre-registration not required.



## A Special Thank You to the Newport Skating Center and Newport Waterfront Events

for choosing  
the Potter League for Animals  
as their Community Partner

# Van Donated for Transport Program

Thanks to an anonymous donor, the Potter League has acquired a new van to be used primarily for the transporting of homeless animals through our Fetching Friends Transport Program. Fetching Friends is a lifesaving program that the Potter League started in 2000. We transport animals from high volume/low adoption shelters to our facility in Rhode Island where adopters are eagerly awaiting their arrival. In 2012, the Potter League acquired 296 animals through this program. Transports are generally dogs but in November, the Potter League assisted in recovery efforts after Superstorm Sandy and brought cats from New Jersey for adoption.



## Save the Date

### POTTER PET U

**Wednesday, March 20 - 6:00-7:00 pm**

Low-Stress Veterinary Care for Your Cat  
presented by Dr. Toni Ellis

**Wednesday, April 17 - 6:00-7:00 pm**

Clicker Training presented by Barbara Scavotto

### ARTISAN CRAFT SHOW

**May 4 & 5**

Potter League's Training Center, 87 Oliphant Lane,  
Middletown

### CRITTER GLITTER SPRING SALE

**May 4 - 10**

Potter League, 87 Oliphant Lane, Middletown

### HEART & SOLE WALK FOR THE ANIMALS

**Sunday, June 2**

Glen Park, Portsmouth

FSC Logo here



SVF FOUNDATION



## SVF Lecture Series

March 27, 2013

7:00 - 8:00 PM

### Rebuilding the Foodshed: Remapping Our Expectations for the Food We Share

*Presented by Philip Ackerman-Leist*

It's not enough to say "local food" and declare victory. We need to consider that as consumers, our decisions at the grocery store, farmer's market and restaurant make an impact on the foodshed.

Rebuilding the foodshed happens when we create local and regional food systems that are sustainable and just, and doing so can improve how we eat, shop, grow, and connect.

Farmer, professor, and author Philip Ackerman-Leist explores local scale from a national perspective and proposes strategies for creating more democratic and secure food systems.

The SVF Lecture Series features topics pertaining to local farming systems, sustainable agriculture and conservation. Lectures are held at Swiss Village Farm, Newport, RI. For more information visit [www.svfoundation.org](http://www.svfoundation.org).

**Advance registration is required.**

Please contact Jill at [jill@svffoundation.org](mailto:jill@svffoundation.org)  
or (401) 848-7229 x10.

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](http://HillsPet.com).



# Celebrating 40 Years of the Have a Heart!

Rain, wind, sleet or snow could not keep our Potter League friends away from the 40th Annual Have A Heart Cocktail Party and Silent Auction. Close to 400 friends, neighbors and animal lovers joined us at The Hotel Viking on February 12th after the infamous Blizzard of 2013!

Raising almost \$90,000, these event funds will directly support the Potter League in continuing to provide shelter, medical and general care to our loving homeless animals.

Auctioneer John Silvia emceed the event and hosted a fast-paced live auction featuring destination packages to St. Lucia & Costa Rica, yacht excursions and exquisite jewels. The silent auction featured over 300 items, including jewelry, golfing and sports packages, spa and beach get-a-ways, fine works of art and vintage wines.

This year, Kathy Barilla won the 50/50 raffle winner which raised \$3,985.00! Special attention was given to The Year of the Cat. Our guests contributed to this agency initiative which will assist us as we plan special community educational and outreach programming, support vital cat issues across Aquidneck Island and address the needs of all things feline.

Once again, we are truly humbled to see such overwhelming community support. A heartfelt thank you to the hundreds of folks – our volunteer committee, our Ruby, Emerald and Cat's Eye sponsors, our party sponsors, the fabulous Viking staff, Exquisite Events, Chanterelle Boutique Catering, violinist Ilana Katz and staff – all for their time, treasure and talents.

Regardless of the challenges the weather has provided us, the 2013 Have A Heart was a beautiful, warm and heartwarming success.

Our hearts are full of gratitude because of you. THANK YOU!



Celebrating 40 Years!



# *Have A Heart Cocktail Party & Auction*



## **Thank you to our Ruby Sponsor**

*BankNewport*

## **Media Sponsors**

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The Animal Print*

## **Emerald Sponsors**

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BankRI*

## **Cat's Eye Sponsors**

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Lila Delman Real Estate*

## **Party Sponsors**

*Exquisite Events  
Chanterelle Boutique Catering  
Opulent Vodka & Kinky Liqueur  
Newport Vineyards  
Bellevue Wine & Spirits  
Newport Lobster  
Greenvale Vineyards  
Horizon Beverages  
Hotel Viking & PSAV Services  
Newport Storm  
Ilana Katz*



Photos by Al Tetreault