



Potter League  
*Enriching Lives*

# Paw-Print Press *Summer* 13

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

Non Profit  
Organization  
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Newport, RI 02840  
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## A Letter from Potter League Alum "Mr. Spock"



Greetings Potter League,

It has been five years since I chose my humans and moved into my forever home, I thought I would check in and let you know that I'm still doing well. I've enclosed a photo for you to admire, my humans tell me I am the most handsome cat on the planet, which seems about right to me. I've gained a little weight since I left you, but I still get around well and look amazing. My humans always threaten to put me on a diet, but I have this look I give them that makes them think I'm starving, and they can't resist me.

So life is good; I'm an inside cat but we have lots of squirrels and birds on our deck that I like to chat with, and sometimes my neighbor cat Eddie comes and visits, although I usually hiss at him through the screen. I really appreciate you giving me a place to crash until I found qualified servants to take care of me, thanks again.

Lazily yours,  
Mr. Spock

# Poster Contest Winners

The Potter League for Animals hosted its 6th annual "Be Kind to Animals Week" Poster Contest. The competition was open to students in grades 2 through 12 as part of Be Kind to Animals Week, May 5 - 11. An awards ceremony took place at the Potter League's Morris Education Center on Wednesday, May 5. Anastacia Southland, Humane Educator at the Potter League, presented awards to the following:

## "Pets Are Family" Theme Winners:

### Grades 2-4

- 1st Place: Dulce Mejia-Morales, Gaudet
- 2nd Place: Michael Nolan, Melville
- 3rd Place: Ignacio Burgos, Hathaway and Sara Lombardi, Gaudet

Honorable Mention: Erin Anderson, Hathaway



### Grades 5-8

- 1st Place: Patrick Conlan, St. Philomena's
  - 2nd Place: Sydney Householder, St. Philomena's
  - 3rd Place: Lily Saulnier, St. Philomena's
- Honorable Mention: Talia Kutsaftis, Gaudet



### Grades 9-12

- 1st Place: Debbie Jess, Warwick Career and Technical Center
  - 2nd Place: Sarah Stone, Warwick Career and Technical Center
  - 3rd Place: Austin Williams, Warwick Career and Technical Center
- Honorable Mention: Jessica Petros, Warwick Career and Technical Center

## "Keep Coyotes Wild" Theme Winners:

### Grades 2-4

- 1st Place: Gabriela Marquez, Gaudet

### Grades 5-8

- 1st Place: Will Healey, St. Philomena's
  - 2nd Place: Anna Schnorr, St. Philomena's
  - 3rd Place: Michael Morrissey, St. Philomena's
- Honorable Mention: Ben Currey, Gaudet



### Grades 9-12

- 1st Place: Jessabella Baez, Warwick Career and Technical Center
  - 2nd Place: Jacob St. Germain, Warwick Career and Technical Center
  - 3rd Place: Luke Folkes, Warwick Career and Technical Center
- Honorable Mention: Tom Plonte, Warwick Career and Technical Center



# Camp Happy Tails Offers New Programs



Campers have an opportunity to interact with animals waiting for adoption

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 programs allow kids to explore behind the scenes at the Potter League and unleash a love for making a difference in animals' lives.

Two types of sessions are available. Half Day Sessions are held at the Potter League. All Day Sessions are held in conjunction with the Newport County YMCA with half day at the Potter League. For more information about the extended day options and YMCA camp activities go to [newportymca.org](http://newportymca.org) (search under Trailblazers camps).

Each session is packed 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.

Enrollment is \$225 per child for all day session and \$125 per child for half daysession. To register, go to [www.PotterLeague.org](http://www.PotterLeague.org), download the registration form, return the form with payment to reserve a space. Limit 16 campers per session.

Please email Anastacia Southland, [AnastaciaS@PotterLeague.org](mailto:AnastaciaS@PotterLeague.org), or call her at 401.846.0592 ext.120 for more information.

CAMP

HAPPY TAILS

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

WEEK	TIME	THEME
<b>2nd &amp; 3rd Graders</b>		
July 15 - 19	Full day	Animals of Aquidneck
July 22 - 26	Half day	Common Senses
July 29 - August 2	Full day	Get Set for a Pet
August 12 - 16	Half day	Paws, Claws, Whiskers & Wings
<b>4th, 5th &amp; 6th Graders</b>		
July 8 - 12	Half day	Careers with Critters
July 15 - 19	Full day	The Road to Adoption
July 29 - August 2	Full day	Friends for Life
August 5 - 9	Half day	Breeds and Needs

## Meet the Potter League's Newest Team Member, Molly

Molly Mele grew up in Washington DC, but spent many happy childhood summers visiting her grandparents in Newport. In 2006, she graduated from St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia with a degree in psychology. After that, Molly moved around a lot. She spent several years modeling in New York City, she taught kindergarten in DC for two years, and worked for her father's clothing company while in Los Angeles. She is happy to have finally discovered her true calling helping animals find their forever homes. When not working at the Potter League, she can be found in Newport spending time with her husband Nick, their dog Bodhi, and their cat, Mikey.



**Molly Mele**  
*Adoption Counselor Associate*

## Lore Owens Award Presented to Volunteer Roxann Press



*(l to r) Christie Smith and Roxann Press*

The Lore Owens Award was established in 2000 in honor of the longtime volunteer, Lore, who died tragically in 1999. Roxann Press was presented with Lore Owens award by Executive Director Christie Smith.

Roxann has been volunteering at the Potter League for over 20 years. "I remember when Roxann and her husband first moved to Portsmouth and she started volunteering. She brought with her great experience and passion from the work she had done for a shelter group in NY State. Roxann's passion for all things animal showed through then and still does today," said Christie. Roxann has helped in adopting animals, working at events, answering phones, making calls. She has been efficient, dependable, sharing stories, bringing articles and ideas from other animal organizations, being the Potter League's greatest ambassador in the community. Her role these days is as our adoption follow-up specialist. Roxann makes phone calls to every adopter, has conversations, gets updates on the animals in their homes, taking copious notes, sending letters if she can't reach them on the phone. The information she gets is invaluable and is transferred to our database. The adopters continue to feel connected to the Potter League by Roxann reaching out, they know we are here for them with any question or issue.

## 2012 Volunteer of the Year: Karen Wilkey

The Volunteer Recognition Dinner was held at Wanumetonomy Golf and Country Club on March 21st. The dinner was held in honor of Potter League volunteers who logged 50 hours or more during the 2012 calendar year.

It is not easy to pick one volunteer for any award, since the Potter League is extremely fortunate to have an amazing group of people who donate their time day after day. We would like to take this opportunity to recognize a truly amazing woman as our volunteer of the year, Ms. Karen Wilkey.

Karen has been volunteering at the Potter League since 2003. She was selected as one of 20 VIPs (Very Inspirational People) by *Newport Life Magazine* and is known as the Cat Whisperer. Karen has been assisting the animal care staff in a project to socialize shy cats. Karen spent countless hours working with one cat in particular. She also helps potential adopters find their feline match. Karen's skills go beyond her involvement in the cat area, she can be seen at every fundraising event including Have A Heart and Critter Glitter.

**Thank you, Karen, for all you do!**



# Meet the Potter League's Coordinator of Training & Behavior Services

## Byron Davies



Byron has over 20 years experience in dog training. She started training traditionally with her own dogs and was never quite satisfied with the methods or the results. In the late 90's she started volunteering at the Potter League and saw a need to find a more effective, humane training method. At the time she started teaching puppy classes for

adopters Byron was introduced to a new type of training using a clicker and a food reward and saw great results. In 2000, she attended the HSUS Pets for Life Program in Denver. Their intensive training program and curriculum included clicker training, behavior modification, body language, evaluations, animal care and programs for shelter animals. She returned to the Potter League eager to start these programs for cats and dogs.

Byron continues to attend seminars and conferences to broaden her skills in training and strengthen our behavior programs. Through her desire to help pet owners, she set up the Potter League's Behavior Helpline. The Helpline offers free advice on training and behavior to pet owners. She also started HeadStart, a program to teach manners and improve behavior to our more challenging dogs in order to make them more adoptable. Byron oversees dog

evaluations, runs training classes and playgroups. She also offers private training and behavior consultations which are available to both adopters and dog owners in the community.

"My goal is to help people with their training and behavior problems so that they can keep their pets for life. I want to teach people that training should be fun and will strengthen the bond between you and your dog!" Byron said.

*We sat with Byron to ask her some questions about training.*

### **What is it about working with dogs that you find irresistible?**

*I love the moment when the dog starts to get it! Once they learn how to learn, the possibilities are endless. It always amazes me how smart dogs are!*

### **What are key steps dog owners can take to head off common problems?**

*Learn about dog body language and how they communicate, take some training classes and exercise your dog's body and mind!*

### **What is new and exciting in the dog training industry?**

*Though not a new concept, the popularity of clicker training has improved the human/animal relationship and has moved us away from the dominance-based training of yester-year.*

### **What are your biggest challenges as a dog trainer?**

*Training the owners to think like a dog and understand the importance of being a benevolent leader.*

### **How should one choose a dog trainer?**

*One of the first things you should look for is a trainer that will allow you to observe a class. Once you're there, look for positive reward-based training for dogs and owners. I would be very leery and cautious about a trainer that used any harsh training methods.*

### **Do you work with cats, too?**

*Yes, I have worked with many very shy cats and have taught clicker training classes for cats, too.*

### **If people do nothing else, what is the most important message you would relay to owners regarding training their dogs?**

*Reward what you like and ignore behaviors that you don't! Dogs do what works!*



## **Contact our Free Behavior Helpline!**

One of the most common reasons people relinquish their 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. Call our **Behavior Helpline** at 401.846.8276 ext. 119 or email [helpline@PotterLeague.org](mailto:helpline@PotterLeague.org).

# Longtime supporter and volunteer Kim Renk Dryer to be honored at Tea for Tails



Tea for Tails will be held this year on Sunday, July 21 at Sonnenhof, the home of Mr. & Mrs. John A. van Beuren. This festive afternoon of tea, champagne, scrumptious culinary treats and hats galore has become one of Aquidneck Island's premier summer events.

Funds raised help the Potter League provide quality care to thousands of animals who have been relinquished, abandoned or injured.

This year the Potter League will honor Kim Renk Dryer, a lifelong friend of animals, large and small, and a true supporter of the work of the shelter. "Over the years, Kim has shared her love and compassion for animals. Honoring Kim at the Tea is a wonderful way to celebrate the generosity and kindness of our treasured friend," said Christie Smith, Executive Director

For more information about Tea for Tails, please contact Christie Smith, Executive Director at 846-0592 or email at [ChristieS@PotterLeague.org](mailto:ChristieS@PotterLeague.org)



# The Forever Friends Society



The Forever Friends Society at The Potter League is comprised of a thoughtful group of animal lovers who have made an investment in the shelter by including us in

their estate plans. In doing so, these individuals have guaranteed the future of the Potter League's financial security and have satisfied their own dreams and dedication to help our animals for years to come.

As a small token of our admiration and thanks to our Forever Friends, a special summer gathering is planned. This event, set for Thursday, August 15, at the home of Jim and Jane Moore, provides a unique opportunity for us to share important updates on the Potter League and the stories about all of our own favorite animal companions.

For more information about the Forever Friends Society or estate planning to benefit the Potter League for Animals, please contact Erin O'Gara Dollard, Director of Development at 401-846-0592 or by email at [ErinD@PotterLeague.org](mailto:ErinD@PotterLeague.org).



## Cremation Services offered at the Potter League

The Potter League's services go beyond adoption and training. We offer cremation services and pet loss support to help you through the difficult times with your beloved pets. For more information about our compassionate services, please contact us at 401.846.8276.

# A Community of Animal Lovers Walk to Save Lives at the Heart & Sole Walk for the Animals



More than 400 Potter League friends and their four-legged companions walked at Glen Park in Portsmouth for the 24th annual Heart & Sole Walk for the Animals, and raised over \$90,000 for homeless animals!

Funds from the Walk will provide medical care, lost and found services, and shelter for thousands of dogs, cats and small mammals in Newport County. The Potter League's education, training and support programs and services for pets and people also benefit from everyone's dedication and efforts.

The Potter League shares our success with many. We are grateful for the fantastic efforts of hundreds of fundraisers and their canine friends, more than 50 teams, generous donors, supportive sponsors, in-kind donations of goods and services and a group of 75 dedicated volunteers. Through their enthusiastic support and generosity, we can continue to save lives and give homeless animals the love, care and attention they deserve.

Congratulations to the Top Ten Fundraisers (7 adult and 3 youth) who were inducted into the Heart & Sole Walk of Fame and to the Top Adult and Youth Teams (as of 6/2/13)



photos by Al Tetreault, Billy Black and Carol Chabot



## Top Fundraisers inducted into the Walk of Fame

### Adult Category

1st Place	Lisa Martland Neitzey	\$3,105
2nd Place	Roe O'Brien	\$2,620
3rd Place	Deb Elliott	\$2,455
4th Place	Christine Tellefsen	\$2,380
5th Place	Margo Waite	\$1,345
6th Place	Judith Enstone	\$1,220
7th Place	Carol Chabot	\$1,180

*Honorable Mention:* Christie Smith, Marilyn Kanter, Harry Violet, Karen Wilkey, Howie Naugle, Jane Moore

### Youth Category

1st Place	Nikki Merrill	\$900
2nd Place -Tie	Walter Winchenbach	\$500
	Emily Winchenbach	\$500
3rd Place	Oscar Quester	\$400

*Honorable Mention:* Annie Marshall, Talia Kutsaftis

### Top Teams

#### Adult

1st Place	VIP Team (Volunteers Impact Pets)	\$5,165
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2nd Place	Team Potter Paws	\$3,693
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*Honorable Mention:* Team Emmitt, Portsmouth Veterinary Clinic, People's Credit Union, Healing Paws

#### Top Youth Team

1st Place	The Wichenbach Team	\$1020
2nd Place	Flip 4 Animals	\$551

If you would like to make a donation to the Walk or sponsor one of our walkers, visit [www.PotterLeague.org](http://www.PotterLeague.org). Fundraising for the Heart & Sole Walk continues through July 31. It is not too late...you can still help.

We are already gearing up for a fantastic and special **25th Anniversary Celebration of the Heart and Sole Walk in June 2014!** Stay tuned for all the exciting details!

The 2013 Heart & Sole Walk for Animals was presented by Hill's Science Diet, Heartgard Plus, Frontline Plus, Petco Foundation, People's Credit Union, Moriarty's Fence Co, The Landings Apartment Community, Merck Animal Health, WPRI 12, Fox Providence and The Newport Daily News. In-Kind donors include Rhythm Productions, Wag Nation, Custom House Coffee, Crystal Spring and Whole Foods.

# You Can Save Lives

Your financial support and generous contributions to the Potter League save lives. The shelter relies heavily on donations from the private sector – friends, adopters and animal lovers near and far. Our special events, grant support from foundations and corporations also generate funds to cover our operating expenses. We do not receive government funding. Every gift to the Potter League impacts the lives of our animals and the people who love them.



If you would like to help, you can make a secure online donation at [www.PotterLeague.org](http://www.PotterLeague.org), or mail a check or cash to the Potter League for Animals, P.O. Box 412, Newport, RI 02840. You also can call us to make a gift over the phone.

You can also help our homeless animals by making a donation to the The Animal Care Fund. This Fund was created to support homeless animals needing basic care as well as treatment for serious medical issues. With the rising cost of veterinary care, more animals arrive at the Potter League with serious needs. With the increased number of animals and costs, these funds can quickly be depleted. We want to help every animal to the best of our ability, but we need your help to accomplish this goal.

Another way to support the shelter is through our monthly giving program, Friends Enriching Lives. It is an easy and efficient way for you to make a donation, knowing that it will directly help the animals at the shelter and our programs at the Potter League. For more information please call our development office at 846-0592.

For our donors, 70 ½ or older, an IRA Rollover Extension might be of interest to you. This would allow you to make an outright gift to the Potter League by transferring funds directly from your individual

retirement account (IRA) without paying federal income taxes on the distribution. Check with your financial advisor for more information.

And finally, Gifts of Appreciated Assets might also be a consideration for donations of stocks, bonds, or real estate to contribute to our annual fund or to fund a planned gift. For further information on funding initiatives, please contact our Development Department at 401.846-0592.



#### Helpful Information:

The Potter League's federal Identification Number is 05-0301553

#### Legal name and address:

Robert Potter League for Animals, Inc.  
87 Oliphant Lane  
Middletown, RI 02842

#### Mailing address:

PO Box 412  
Newport, RI 02840

## The Yellow Dog Project

#### What is a Yellow Dog?

The Yellow Dog Project was created to bring awareness to the general public about dogs who need space while training, recovering from surgery, or being rehabilitated. It is a simple concept, if you see a yellow ribbon around a dog's collar or leash, give the dog some room. Do not approach or try to interact with the dog, he needs his space. For more information about this world-wide awareness program, visit [www.theyellowdogproject.com](http://www.theyellowdogproject.com).



# Potter League Partners with Ewaso Lions Project to Help All Cats

It is fitting that during the Potter League's Year of the Cat that we tell you about our sister organization in Kenya, Africa. While we protect small domestic cats, Ewaso Lions works to conserve Kenya's dwindling lion population. Big cats or little cats – it doesn't matter as our non-profits have very similar programs and a passionate focus to help animals.

As a result of habitat loss and conflict with humans, Kenya's lion population is now less than 2,000 individuals. The Ewaso Lions Project was formed to address this problem and ensure a future for lions in northern Kenya. Founded in 2007 by Oxford PhD



Shivani Bhalla

candidate and Kenyan national, Shivani Bhalla, Ewaso Lions uses scientific research and community-based outreach programs to promote coexistence between lions and people. Ewaso Lions uses sound science, education, and capacity building to foster support for conservation and help guide the long-term conservation management of lions in community areas.

Ewaso Lions firmly believes that the success of predator conservation hinges on involvement of the local people who live among predators. The survival of the lions depends on finding ways people can benefit from their presence. The Potter League also must work with people but for the opposite reason: there are too many domestic and feral cats. Whatever the issues, under-population or overpopulation, the cats on two different continents need help.

As you can imagine, educational activities are slightly different between us. Ewaso Lions has created a unique Warrior Watch program and activities to unite tourism and conservation, and it has wonderful adventures in camera trapping the lions. The Potter League shelters, rescues, provides medical care, finds new homes and provides humane education lessons. To help fund their work, Ewaso

FSC Logo here

Lions held in May their 4th annual Running Lions half marathon (with the 1st place prize of a fat goat!) and the Potter League just concluded is 24th annual Heart & Sole Walk for the Animals. So similar and so different!

Animals tug at everyone's hearts and have universal appeal in all countries as evidenced by an excerpt from a poem written by one of the children attending Kenyan Kids on Safari Camp this year:

*Lions my heritage  
The splendour of my country  
The beauty of my mother land  
Hoi Conserve lions for future generations*

Visit [www.ewasolions.org](http://www.ewasolions.org) to learn more about our African sister agency. More importantly, mark your calendars and please plan to join us and **meet Shivani and her Field Officer Jeneria Lekilele on Wednesday, October 16, 2013 at the Potter League.** Watch for upcoming details.

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## 2013 Year of the Cat Celebration Continues

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 see 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!*

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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).

