



Potter League
Enriching Lives

www.PotterLeague.org

Spring 2019

Paw-Print PRESS

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87 Oliphant Lane
Middletown, RI 02842

Hours:
Tuesday - Thursday 10am - 7pm
Friday - Sunday 10am - 5pm

www.potterleague.org

401.846.8276 (p)
401-846-0681 (f)



A Temporary Home

Governor Gina Raimondo declared a State of Emergency in Newport County on Monday, January 21, after low-pressure in Newport and Middletown left more than 7,100 homes without gas.

When news of the outage originally broke, no one was sure what we were facing. Potter League staff began making preparations while awaiting the 'official word' from the state to start accepting evacuated pets. Dr. Scott Marshall, Rhode Island State Veterinarian, is responsible for the state's response to animals in emergencies. He called late in the afternoon to ask us to activate to support evacuation efforts. Temperatures were holding near zero degrees and without gas for heat, both people and animals would be in danger.

Our team immediately mobilized. Staff prepared kennels, rooms, and paperwork to take in animals from the community. Staff volunteered to stay overnight so we could be available 24 hours a day to assist the public if they needed a place to keep their pets safe while they found temporary housing for themselves. The Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency, as well as the Governor urged people not to attempt to stay in their homes or to ride it out. It was simply too cold and dangerous for them and for their pets.

The Potter League took in 10 animals that first night, but soon became a temporary home for 101 community pets, including dogs, cats, rabbits, snakes, birds, hamsters, ferrets, and guinea pigs. *(continued on page 4)*

Graycie



ADOPTION IS Love

Winslow



Adoption Corner

Graycie

If you asked Graycie's new mom, Liz, what brought them together, she would tell you fate and Graycie's big, yellow memorizing eyes.

After weeks of searching shelter websites, Liz happened upon the Potter League's site and Graycie. A young, gray, longhaired cat with a calm, yet spunky personality was looking at her through her computer. She felt an immediate connection to this orphaned cat.

Graycie had been a resident of our administrative office "foster home". This spot has been the way station for many cats that needed a little extra and Graycie was our most recent "project". Graycie's litter, found outdoors, was most likely born to a feral mom. Lacking socialization, she was very unsure of people, noises, and indoor life in general. What Graycie found in that office was a quiet space, consistent unthreatening companionship, and patience. With time, she began to trust and gain confidence to be comfortable napping, rolling over and playing with new friends and toys.

In her new home, Graycie's days now consist of napping on her favorite kitchen chair or sitting on her cat tree looking out the window. Her nights are spent throwing a party with her seemingly endless supply of toys. Her favorite morning activity is watching her mom search on all fours for toys that ended up under furniture overnight from her circus-like antics. Best of all, Graycie constantly seeks out her mom for love and attention. Thankfully, because of your support, we were able to give Graycie the care, love and, most importantly, time that she needed to flourish.

Winslow

Denise and her husband were devastated after losing their longtime family dog, Cooper, in November of 2018, especially since their children now live thousands of miles away. She tried almost daily to come to the Potter League but turned around each time. She wasn't ready.

On December 9th, she finally made it. The day she visited, Winslow was running up and down the hallway being silly as staff cleaned his kennel. Her intention was not to adopt a dog quite yet, as her heart was still broken over the loss of her beloved companion, but something pulled her towards Winslow. Denise asked to meet him. On their walk, Winslow was so friendly and kept leaning on her leg providing her comfort as if he knew that was what she needed. When she asked staff how old he was, she learned that he just had his second birthday; the same day her Cooper had passed. She knew it was meant to be.

Denise and Winslow now enjoy their days together. He sleeps in their bed and has over an acre of land to run around. They walk two to five miles daily on the beach or the trails on the conservation lands near their home. He waits at the refrigerator for his nightly treat of doggie ice cream, licking Denise's hand to let her know he's ready. We think Cooper would have approved.

Winslow deserved love, and he found it through your support of the Potter League for Animals, and he found it in the loving embrace of his new adoptive mom.

SAVE THE DATE

Potter Pet University

Wednesday, April 10

What's in that Shot?: Pet Vaccines 101

Presented by Dr. Margee Roberts Levy, DVM,

Director of Veterinary Medicine, Potter League for Animals

Wednesday, May 15

Animal First Aid

Presented by Catherine Holly, CVT, President, RI Vet Tech Association

Yappy Hour

July 14, 2019

Heart & Sole Walk for the Animals

October 20, 2019

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

Welcome Home Hope

Oceans apart, healing and hope came in the shape of a simple text message that set everything in motion.

Denise D'Antico has been a dedicated Potter League volunteer of eight years, and decided to attend a special presentation by our friends from Nowzad with her husband. Nowzad is Afghanistan's first and only animal shelter and has become The Potter League's sister shelter. Pen Farthing, founder of the Nowzad charity, talked about their life-saving animal rescue work in war-torn, Kabul. Nowzad was founded with the mission to reunite soldiers with their battle buddies and provide vital animal welfare assistance to Afghanistan.

During the presentation Pen talked about multiple animals that Nowzad had cared for and were currently caring for, showing photos and videos of their stories. One dog caught Denise and her husband's attention immediately. Pen talked about a young female dog that had been hit by a car, sustained serious injuries and been left to die. Both of her back legs were broken, her pelvis and hips were displaced and broken and left untreated, they had healed in the wrong position. She was unable to straighten or move her back legs and would drag them along the ground, which eventually caused an infection from open wounds. But by sheer will and determination, she survived until help arrived. Nowzad veterinarians amputated both of her legs, giving this resilient girl a new lease on life. This sweet girl, able to hold her own body weight with just the use of her front legs, became known as 'Handstand'.

Handstand left a giant impression on Denise, but it was the next morning when Denise received a text message from her husband, who is much more inclined to rescue vintage cars than stray dogs, that completely shocked her. "I think we need to give the dog that Pen talked about last night, Handstand, a loving home" his text message read. Not taking him seriously, Denise, texted back, "Sure, ok." He responded a short time later that he submitted an adoption application. Denise was rendered speechless. The night after the special presentation, they both attended the "Pints for Pets" fundraiser for Nowzad at Cappy's, a local Newport pub that is known for giving back to the community. Denise and Rich spoke to Pen and his partner Hannah and learned that Handstand did in fact get along with cats (they have two) and that they were interested in adopting her.

After much back and forth with Nowzad, who helped fundraise to cover the cost of Handstand's transport, they finally received the email they had been waiting for. Handstand would be arriving in Boston on December 20th.

Handstand, now named Hope, found her home for Christmas. And Denise reports that Hope is adjusting to her new home and kitty siblings very well. She has adapted to her new name and just loves learning. She knows come, go to bed, down, watch me, and crate. Hope is being fitted for a set of wheels to support her back end so she won't have to rely on doing handstands any longer.

Hope is a miracle and has brought so much joy to her new family. We would like to extend our gratitude to our friends at Nowzad, Denise and Rich for giving themselves and indeed all involved, the gift of Hope. Welcome home Hope.



nowzad
Winning the War for Animals



Have you adopted from us? Be sure to join the **"Potter Pet Alumni"** group on Facebook today!

Find us on Facebook





Turning Passion into Action

Hundreds of animal lovers came together to donate, walk and celebrate the special bond they share with their pets at the Heart & Sole Walk for Animals at Glen Park in Portsmouth on October 14. One of those individuals was Colten Bert. No stranger to the Walk, he has participated in the event with his Potter Pet, Bubba, for years. This year, Colten's fundraising efforts placed him in first – raising the most money of any individual fundraiser to date! Did we mention that Colten is only 12 years old? He collected more than 100 donations, raising a record \$5,027, including a generous

match from his Dad, Dr. Bert, owner of Mt. Hope Animal Hospital.

When we asked Colten what motivated him to raise money for homeless animals, he shared with us that it all began at Mt. Hope Animal Hospital when he was very young: "I'd help my Dad take care of sick animals. There were always lots of dogs and kittens from the Potter League there for medical attention. Even though I'm a kid, I knew I could help the animals by raising money to support the shelter. It feels good to work toward something that makes the animals live better. When I talk to people about giving money to help, most people really want to be a part of making a difference. I hope to continue to help animals by maybe becoming a veterinarian, like my Dad. I love animals and I know my life is better because they're in it."

The Heart & Sole Walk raised \$90,000 thanks to the fundraising efforts of Colten and so many passionate animal lovers, enthusiastic fundraisers and teams and many generous donors. Be sure to save the Date to join us for the 30th Annual Heart & Sole Walk for Animals, October 20, 2019.

A Temporary Home *continued from pg 1*

Several people had a need to just leave animals with us during the day while they went to work and could take their pets with them overnight. We did everything we could to accommodate each person and animal's needs. Over the 10-day ordeal, we had the honor and privilege to be entrusted with the care of our communities' pets and could not be more proud of the love, attention and diligence our staff gave to each and every animal. They made every effort to make the Potter League a home away from home.

Our staff made calls to pet owners to ask about what creature comforts their pets liked, reported back on their behavior, provided treatments for those that needed it and comforted the owners as they came in distraught because they had to leave their pets. Some of the pets even found themselves in staff offices so they had company and were not lonely or sad.

Our admiration and gratefulness also extends to our volunteers who showed up by the dozens to help and to our community for the way we came together; something to be revered. Thank you to those who checked in on their neighbors, who took in friends and family, who opened their businesses and offered free meals and hot showers. We are humbled and grateful for the support of our amazing community. All of the services provided are only possible because of your support of the Potter League, it is only you who can make sure we are here when sudden needs arise.



Monthly Giving Program

Our Faithful Friend Monthly Giving Program is a vital part of saving animals at the Potter League. Comprised of generous people who make a donation every month to the League and the animals in our care. In our eyes, there is no better way to give homeless animals a second chance. You can join for as little as 63¢ a day – less than a cup of coffee. But that small amount can have a huge impact.

Will you consider becoming a Faithful Friend? Your monthly donation will help care for 2,000 animals this year. That's about 5 every single day! Signing up only takes a minute. Then, your credit card will be charged automatically each month. You can stop your gift any time if you need to, but you'll feel great all the time knowing that you're giving so many worthy animals the love they crave every day.

Please give more desperate cats and dogs the food, shelter, medical care and loving homes they deserve. Becoming a Faithful Friend monthly donor is an easy and convenient way to provide the reliable support our animals depend on all year long. As a Faithful Friend member, you will receive heartwarming stories about the animals whose lives you've saved. Each January, you receive a statement of your donations for the previous calendar year. Your gift is 100% tax deductible, and payment options include online, direct withdrawal, mail, and phone. Visit www.potterleague.org or call 401-846-0592 to learn more.