

Potter League for Animals
Board Meeting Agenda
8-20-19

Welcome

Consent Agenda

Presentation (Brad)

Socially Conscious Sheltering

APP Committee

Potter League Position Papers

Governance Committee

New Executive Committee

New Board Members

Heart and Soul Walk

Annual Meeting

New Business



**POTTER LEAGUE FOR ANIMALS
MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
June 18, 2019**

Roll Call

Attending Members: Lani Brenner, Dick Brickley, Dick Cromwell, David Enstone, Carol Epstein, Mike Grandchamp, Marie Hertenstein, Jeannie Ingraham, Joan Johnson-Freese, Elena Kissel, Pat Leonard, Kara Malkovich, Ann Mencoff, Howie Naugle, Barbara Odegaard, Noelle Shiland, Terry Tinkham, and Executive Director, Brad Shear

Via Teleconference: N/A

Excused: Ellen Ford, Pat Heller, Charlene Karns, Betsy Leslie, and Sharon Wood Prince

Absent: N/A

Attending Staff: Amy Chamard, Erin O’Gara Dollard, Kara Montalbano, and Nancy Wrathall

Meeting called to order at 5:04 pm

PUBLIC SESSION

Consent Agenda: Joan Johnson-Freese

A motion to accept the Consent Agenda was made by Mike Grandchamp, seconded by David Enstone and passed.

Spay/Neuter Clinic Veterinarian Presentation:

Two vets were guests tonight from the Spay/Neuter clinic. They showed an informative PowerPoint presentation on how the clinic works.

Discussion followed.

2020 Budget Discussion/Approval: Mike Grandchamp

Mike gave a brief overview of the budget for FY 19-20.

Brief discussion followed.

A motion to approve the 2020 Budget was made by Dick Brickley, seconded by Carol Epstein and passed.

Board/Day Care Business Discussion – Fidelity Involvement: Brad Shear

Fidelity has offered to do an analysis for us on the best use of the available land.

Brad and David will meet with their team.

Solar Panel Proposal: Brad Shear

Brad met with a salesman of a local, well-respected company.

After a brief discussion, though it would be environmentally friendly, the majority do not think it would be a good investment.

Veterinary Staffing Update: Brad Shear

Dr. Levy will be here one day a week as she will now be full time at Portsmouth Vet Clinic.
We will rotate between two vets from the clinic.

Yappy Hour Planning & Invitations: Erin O’Gara Dollard

Please talk up this event with family and friends. Erin supplied blank invites and asked all members to address 5 each with folks they thought would respond.

New Business

N/A

Public Session adjourned 6:08pm

Minutes of the **PUBLIC SESSION** respectfully submitted by: Jill Homen, Administrative Assistant

Potter League Board meeting – August 2019
Development Activities Report
Submitted by Erin O’Gara Dollard

Grant & Foundation Update

Our Schutz Engel Trust application was submitted to trustee Oliver Buckley. This year our request included funding to support outside veterinary care & diagnostics in the amount of \$10,000, funding to support the purchase of an ultrasound machine in the amount of \$20,000 and funding to support the purchase of surgical instruments for the spay/neuter clinic in the amount of \$12,000.

We received \$10,000 from PetSmart Charities for our spring application for funding for our Pet Safe program. We have a second application to PetSmart Charities for our subsidized spay neuter operations for \$30,000.

We are currently researching additional trusts and foundations for FY20. Any information on foundations and trusts to consider, please contact Erin directly.

FY19 Direct Mail Results

Overall Summary	
YTD Projected Gross Revenue	\$220,795
YTD Projected Net Revenue	\$159,141
YTD Overall Gross Revenue	\$234,143
Package Costs	\$38,935
Postage Costs	\$14,403
eAppend Cost	\$875
Digital Cost	\$10,925
YTD Overall Net Revenue	\$169,005
YTD Total Donors Acquired & Reactivated	646

Yappy Hour

Yappy Hour 2019 was exceptional! We had 181 guests join us and raised the most money ever for any Potter League fundraising event. Both the fund-a-need and ticket sales/event donations surpassed budgeted goals of \$50k & \$50k respectively with the fund totals reaching \$79,600 in gifts and pledges and ticket sales and event donations totaling \$68,400. We are very pleased and grateful for all the help, support and involvement of the event committee, board members and loyal donors. Special thanks to Ann & Sam Menco for their underwriting the event and Carole Epstein for leading the way to our success. We never would have done this without each one of you.

Forever Friends Society Reception

Our *Forever Friends Society Annual Appreciation & Recognition Reception* is next Thursday, August 22nd at Sweet Berry Farm in Middletown from 5 to 7 p.m. It is an appreciation event with no solicitation, just welcoming new members and providing updates on how the shelter benefits from their good intentions.

Heart & Sole Walk for Animals

The Walk is Sunday, October 20th at Glen Park. The budgeted fundraising goal is \$100k. Please visit <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/potterleaguwalk2019> We encourage all board members to register, create or join a team and design your own online fundraising page. You will find lots of tips in your fundraising toolbox, including the option to use text-to-give. Sponsorship packages are available. Businesses and

individuals are good prospects for the custom Mile Barker signs that are placed on the course for just \$250. Some people like to do the signs in honor or memory of a beloved pet. Please contact Susan or Erin for more information.

The inaugural TrailBlazer's Launch Party was held on 8/7 at Newport Craft & Distillery. There will be a number of small fundraising events around town in the weeks leading up to the Walk. Staff will share dates when confirmed. Our annual Cappy's Night will be in late September and bartenders are needed!

Save These Dates:

Forever Friends Society Annual Reception

Thursday August 22nd

Sweet Berry Farm, Middletown, 5 to 7 p.m.

Heart & Sole Walk for the Animals

Sunday, October 20th

Glen Park, Portsmouth, 12 noon

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, October 29th

The Atlantic Resort, Middletown, 6 to 8 p.m.

\$100+ DONORS / JULY 2019

NAME	ADDRESS		FUND	AMOUNT
Portsmouth Veterinary Clinic	944 East Main Rd	Portsmouth, RI	02871 (4590) Honor / Memorial	\$230.00
Providence Diamond Company	656 Hillside Rd	Cranston, RI	02920 (4676) Third Party Fundrais	\$426.45
Fidelity Brokerage Services, LLC	BNY Mellon Trust of Delaware	Newark, DE	(4600) General Gifts	\$1,000.00
Combined Federal Campaign Account	Action for Boston Community Development Inc.	Boston, MA	02111 (4570) Workplace - Other	\$871.13
R.B.Queern & Co.	200 Highpoint Ave, Ste B7	Portsmouth, RI	02871 (4560-01) Sustainer - Monthly	\$100.00
Benevity Community Impact Fund; The	1521 Georgetown Rd	Hudson, OH	44236 (4570) Workplace - Other	\$457.70
FNZ Foundation	160 Webster St.	Newport, RI	02840 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$1,000.00
Hamilton Family Foundation	200 Eagle Rd Ste 316	Wayne, PA	19087-311 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$5,000.00
Janet Russo Designs	72 Highland Rd	Bristol, RI	02809 (4676) Third Party Fundrais	\$1,131.75
Lucky Dog Resort, Inc.	599 E Main Rd	Middletown, RI	02842 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$100.00
United Way of Rhode Island	50 Valley St	Providence, RI	02909 (4570) Workplace - Other	\$3,507.50
Ms. Melanie N. Aska	PO Box 505	Albion, RI	02802 (4590) Honor / Memorial	\$100.00
Ms. Pembroke and Mr. Fritz Attaway	13 Decatur Ave	Jamestown, RI	02835 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$450.00
Mr. and Mrs. Allan Beitchman	15 Sunset View Dr	Tiverton, RI	02878 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$200.00
Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Bevan	67 Webster St	Newport, RI	02840 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$250.00
Ms. Jennifer Brett	26 Sessions St	Marietta, GA	30066 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$250.00
Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Breyer IV	129 Indian Ave	Portsmouth, RI	02871-515 (4590) Honor / Memorial	\$100.00
Ms. Christina Calabrese	40 Blacksmith Rd	Feeding Hills, MA	01030 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$500.00
Dana K. Clay	363 South Rd	Wakefield, RI	02879 (4590) Honor / Memorial	\$100.00
Ms. Rita Cooney-Brown	530 Florence St	Fall River, MA	02720 (4600) General Gifts	\$100.00
Mr. Richard Cromwell	19 Cherry St	Newport, RI	02840 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$500.00
Ms. Lisa L. Daly	33 Van Zandt Ave #3	Newport, RI	02840 (4589-03) Direct - SN	\$1,000.00
Mr. and Mrs. John P. DeAngelis	121 Anoka Ave	Barrington, RI	02806 (4590) Honor / Memorial	\$100.00
Mrs. John P. Dolan	125 Quaker Hill Ln #209	Portsmouth, RI	02871 (4600) General Gifts	\$4,000.00
Ms. Donna M. Dreyer	228 Southwick St	Feeding Hills, MA	01030 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$250.00
Mr. and Mrs. Art Dutton	PO Box 345	Jamestown, RI	02835 (4589-03) Direct - SN	\$100.00
Ms. JoAnne M. Emerson	19 Lepes Rd	Portsmouth, RI	02871-390 (4590) Honor / Memorial	\$250.00
Mrs. Carol J. Epstein	107 Greenbriar Ridge Ct	St. Louis, MO	63122 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$10,000.00
Ms. Joanne Fantini	12 Gould St	Newport, RI	02840 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$100.00
Ms. Jane E. Foss	2368 E Main Rd #D6	Portsmouth, RI	02871 (4600) General Gifts	\$500.00
Ms. Leslie L. Fox	PO Box 292	Little Compton, RI	02837 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$250.00
Mrs. Carolyn I. Frye	23 Indian Hill Cir	Middletown, RI	02842-538 (4560-01) Sustainer - Monthly	\$220.00
Ms. Joann Fuller	550 Stoneridge Dr D106	Lawrence, KS	60049 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$250.00
Ms. Anne W. Garnett	46 Cole St	Jamestown, RI	02835-132 (4600) General Gifts	\$500.00
Major Michael Gehrki	3 Sycamore St	Newport, RI	02840 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$100.00
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Gioffre	538 Les Jardins Dr	Palm Beach Gardens, FL	33410 (4590) Honor / Memorial	\$100.00
Tutcher Family Foundation Greater Houston Community Foundation	4550 Post Oak Pl, Suite 100	Houston, TX	77027 (4590) Honor / Memorial	\$250.00
Mr. Derek Grinkin	24 Evarts St	Newport, RI	02840 (4590) Honor / Memorial	\$100.00
Mr. and Mrs. S. Matthews V. Hamilton, Jr.	On The Rocks	Newport, RI	02840-420 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$5,000.00
Mr. and Mrs. Edward T. Harvey, Jr.	50 Walnut St	Jamestown, RI	02835 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$2,500.00
Ms. Sarah S. Henken and Ms. Darrah O'Connor	48 Bridge St	Medfield, MA	02052 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$5,000.00
Mr. Allan A. Hodges	2 Avery St #24B	Boston, MA	02111-101 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$500.00
Mr. William Hogg	50 Murray St #1213	New York, NY	10007 (4590) Honor / Memorial	\$150.00
Mr. Eugene Jeffers	2 School St	Albion, RI	02802 (4600) General Gifts	\$100.00

Ms. Patty Jeffrey	114 Deerfield Rd	Cranston, RI	02920 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$100.00
Dr. Joan Johnson-Freese	24 Walnut St	Newport, RI	02840 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$500.00
Mr. and Mrs. Antoine G. Karam	1420 Main Rd	Tiverton, RI	02878 (4560-13) Summer	\$300.00
Mr. and Mrs. Jerome R. Kirby III	20 Chartier Cir	Newport, RI	02840-374 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$1,000.00
Ms. Elena T. Kissel and Mr. Bev Corbin	211 Carroll Ave	Newport, RI	02840-437 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$500.00
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony G. Kutsaftis	152 Kay St	Newport, RI	02840-285 (4600) General Gifts	\$400.00
Dr. Natalie E. Leland	516 N Taylor Ave	Pittsburgh, PA	15212-452 (4600) General Gifts	\$100.00
Mr. Marc Lewinstein	The Waves	Newport, RI	02840 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$100.00
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Lopata	35 Marine Ave	Jamestown, RI	02835 (4590) Honor / Memorial	\$200.00
Mr. and Mrs. John T. Loughlin	93 Terrace Ave	Riverside, RI	02915 (4590) Honor / Memorial	\$250.00
Ms. Elizabeth F. McGrath	50 Pinecrest Dr	North Kingstown, RI	02852-590 (4589-03) Direct - SN	\$250.00
Ms. Patricia McGue	207 Carriage Dr	Portsmouth, RI	02871 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$500.00
Ms. Stephanie W. McLennan	Driftwood Cottage	Newport, RI	02840 (4590) Honor / Memorial	\$1,079.80
Mr. and Mrs. Francis X. Mendonca	610 Jepson Ln	Middletown, RI	02842 (4590) Honor / Memorial	\$100.00
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth J. Mendonca	20 Peleg Rd	Portsmouth, RI	02871 (4590) Honor / Memorial	\$100.00
Ms. Caterine Milinaire Cushing	The Ledges Gate House	Newport, RI	02840-651 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$500.00
Ms. Barbara Miller	30 Harbor Village Dr #2	Middletown, RI	02842-782 (4560-01) Sustainer - Monthly	\$325.00
Ms. Stacie E. Mills	19 Harrison Ave	Newport, RI	02840 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$250.00
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Moore	217 Indian Ave	Portsmouth, RI	02871 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$2,500.00
Dr. Holly M. Bannister and Mr. Douglas L. Newhouse	7 Old Redding Rd	Weston, CT	06883 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$1,000.00
Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan H. Pardee	540 Bellevue Ave	Newport, RI	02840-411 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$500.00
Ms. Linda L. Phillips	434 Bellevue Ave 1B	Newport, RI	02840 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$100.00
Mr. and Mrs. Randal S. Poirier	PO Box 198	Little Compton, RI	02837 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$1,000.00
Ms. Leni Preston	6306 Swords Wy	Bethesda, MD	20817 (4590) Honor / Memorial	\$100.00
Ms. Joanna M. Salvo	Simeon Potter House	Newport, RI	02840-000 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$300.00
Mrs. Jay R. Schochet	Ridgemere	Newport, RI	02840-410 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$10,000.00
Ms. Phyllis A. Seeba	111 Elm Dr.	North Kingstown, RI	02835 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$100.00
Dr. Karen Shea and Dr. Randy Pribbernow	7741 Jackpot Ave	Sparta, WI	54656 (4600) General Gifts	\$100.00
Ms. Noelle M. Shiland	174 Center Ave	Middletown, RI	02842 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$250.00
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Sigman	30 Kristen Ct	Warwick, RI	02888 (4600) General Gifts	\$100.00
Mr. and Mrs. Kent Stevens	1311 Doves Cove Rd	Towson, MD	21286 (4590) Honor / Memorial	\$100.00
Mr. F. Richard Svelta and Mr. Joseph P. Kelly	125 Van Zandt Ave #205	Newport, RI	02840 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$100.00
Mr. David Maloof and Ms. Jean Sweeney	2 Lighthouse Way	Darien, CT	06820 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$250.00
Mr. and Mrs. Michael V. Torio	237 Captain Cir	Tiverton, RI	02878 (4560-01) Sustainer - Monthly	\$125.00
Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Venusti	437 W Main Rd	Little Compton, RI	02837 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$250.00
Mr. and Mrs. William L. Wallace	708 Bellevue Ave	Newport, RI	02840 (4560-13) Summer	\$250.00
Ms. Renee Welchman	PO BOX 234	Little Compton, RI	02837 (4589-02) Animal Care Fund	\$250.00

NEW DONOR / NEW ADD JULY 2019

NAME	ADDRESS		
Ms. Niki Brazier	44 Rollingwood Dr	Johnston, RI	02919
Ms. Cindy Bushnell	4 Highland Pl	Newport, RI	02840
Judith and Kim Camara-Harvey	99 Coomer Ave	Warren, RI	02885
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony A. Carcieri	42 Bridgham Farm Rd	Rumford, RI	02916
Mrs. Jennifer L. Dutra-Gioffre	90 Remington Rd	Ridgefield, CT	06877
Ms. Janice Ouhrabka	4009 Duclair Dr	McKenney, TX	75070
Dr. Rapael Rico M.D.	1627 Brickell Ave #1401	Miami, FL	33129
Mr. and Mrs. James B. Souza	25 Vincent St	N Dartmouth, MA	02747



Advocacy Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes - Monday, June 24, 2019, 5:30pm – 6:30pm

Present: Brad Shear, Pat Leonard, Howie Naugle, Alma Davenport, Charlene Karns, Liz Cottrell, Anita Oliver, Marisa Desautel

Excused: Betsy Leslie, Kara Maltabano

Minutes submitted by: Howie Naugle

The focus of this session was limited to the review of updated “White Papers” addressing Working/Service Dogs, Coyote Management and Spay/Neuter. Updates will be provided for review prior to the next Committee Meeting (schedule TBD). Papers will be submitted to the Board for approval on piecemeal basis with goal to have Declawing and Spay /Neuter submitted prior to the August Board Meeting.

POTTER LEAGUE FOR ANIMALS POSITION ON COYOTE MANAGEMENT

The Potter League endorses actions and activities that promote the safe and peaceful co-existence with coyotes. As the lead organization for the Coyote Smarts initiative, the Potter League supports efforts to educate the community on how to synergistically co-exist with coyotes, raise awareness by creating a wider network for sharing information to protect pets and provide a better understanding of coyote behavior.

I. What Is It?

Coyote Management is the implementation of actions that contribute to humanely and effectively reducing threats and conflicts between coyotes, people and pets with the end goal of supporting respectful co-existence. Best Coyote Management practices result from an increased understanding of coyote behavior and how our relationships with these animals are directly affected by human behavior.

II. Why Do It/How to do it?

Coyote Management will help to ensure the future of coyotes as an integral part of the environment and urban/suburban ecosystems.

Implementation of co-existence practices can reduce conflicts and negative interactions with coyotes thereby helping to sustain their place in the ecosystem. The following are generally accepted Coyote Management best practices:

- *Do not feed coyotes, either intentionally or unintentionally – pick up trash, secure garbage, keep fallen fruit and birdseed off the ground, eliminate accessible water sources, feeds pets inside, and don't leave pets or food outside at night*
(Note: In Rhode Island, the feeding of coyotes is prohibited by regulation.)
- *Walk dogs on leashes – don't allow pets to roam and pick up your small dog if you see a coyote*
- *Avoid areas where there may be a potential den and/or pups*
- *If approached by a coyote, get big and loud, and don't run away*
- *Appreciate coyotes from a safe distance*

III. Pros

- *Coyotes help keep ecosystems healthy and clean by contributing to population control of rodents, rabbits, deer, and other species that may cause conflicts with people in urban areas. They are found also to benefit bird populations by preying on small mammals that feed on birds and their eggs*
- *Coyotes are nature's "clean-up service", removing carrion and thus contributing to the prevention of disease associated with carrion*
- *Many people enjoy seeing and/or hearing coyotes, widely considered the "song dogs"*

- *The implementation of humane best management practices with coyotes is a more effective means of population control than other more disruptive or lethal means (Trapping, relocation, and/or killing coyotes has been shown to result in increased birth and pup survival rates and encourages the movement of animals into vacant areas)*

IV. Cons

- *Bold and problematic behavior by coyotes is unusual but coyotes have been known to attack domestic pets and, in very rare cases, humans*
- *Coyotes may contract rabies, although documented cases are extremely rare. They can also be hosts and spread a wide variety of parasites, canine distemper, parvovirus and mange*

V. Conclusion

Coyotes are important to the ecosystem and help to keep the biological community healthy and vital. Both leading humane organizations and coyote research support best Coyote Management practices that advocate altering human behaviors to increase comfort and decrease conflicts among coyotes, people, and domestic pets, as they are the most effective way of co-existing with coyotes. Research also supports that more lethal means of population management are ineffective and encourage coyote population growth.

References:

1. *The Humane Society of the United States. (2019a). A Template Coyote Management And Coexistence Plan. Retrieved July 19, 2019 from <https://www.humanesociety.org/sites/default/files/docs/coyote-management-coexistence-plan.pdf>*
2. *The Humane Society of the United States. (2019b). Coyotes and People: What To Know If You See Or Encounter A Coyote. Retrieved July 19, 2019 from <https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/coyotes-people-encounters>*
3. *Urban Coyote Research Project (2019). Coyote Management Strategies – Indirect and Direct Approaches. Retrieved July 19, 2019 from <https://urbancoyoteresearch.com/coyote-info/coyote-management-strategies>*
4. *Coyote Smarts (2014a). About Us. Retrieved July 19, 2019 from <http://www.coyotesmarts.org/about/>*
5. *Coyote Smarts (2014b). Management Tools. Retrieved July 19, 2019 from <http://www.coyotesmarts.org/management-tools/>*
6. *Coyote Smarts (2014c). Q&A. Retrieved July 19, 2019 from <http://www.coyotesmarts.org/faq/>*
7. *Project Coyote (2019a?). About – Discover Project Coyote: Educators, Scientists, Ranchers, Citizen Leaders. Retrieved July 19, 2019 from <http://www.projectcoyote.org/about/>*

8. *Project Coyote (2019b?). Coexistence is an Active Community Effort – Coexisting with Coyotes. Retrieved July 19, 2019 from*
http://www.projectcoyote.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Coexisting_Brochure_oct2015.pdf
9. *Project Coyote (2019c?). Coexistence is an Active Community Effort – Be Coyote Aware: Educational Flyer. Retrieved July 19, 2019 from*
<http://www.projectcoyote.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/BeCoyoteAware.pdf>
10. *Project Coyote (2019d?). Coexistence is an Active Community Effort – Coexisting with Coyotes: Educational Tips Card. Retrieved July 19, 2019 from*
<http://www.projectcoyote.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/tipscard-BORDER.jpg>
11. *RIDEM/DFW (2019?) Eastern Coyote. Retrieved July 19, 2019 from*
<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/fishwild/pdf/coyote.pdf>

ONYCHECTOMY

Potter League For Animals Position on Onychectomy:

Our mission at the Potter League for Animals is to educate our community about the nature and extent of this surgery, its possible complications, and especially about the alternatives to curb the unwanted behavior. Our position is that onychectomy is never acceptable unless it is the only alternative to euthanasia after all other alternatives have been used and have proven unsuccessful.

I. What is it?

Onychectomy is the medical term for the procedure involved in declawing a cat. This surgery is almost always an elective procedure (not medically necessary) that requires the amputation of the last digital bone on each front toe in the cat's paw to which the claw is attached. This amputation is normally performed only on the front paws as injury to humans/other pets and damages due to scratching occur less commonly with the rear paws.

There are three common methods used to declaw a cat:

- Blade declawing is the most common and most radical method where an instrument with a sliding blade cuts a straight line through the joint between the entire claw growth and the rest of the cat's paw.
- Laser declawing uses a laser to remove the third bone of the cat's claw. This procedure is usually more expensive than blade declawing but results in less bleeding as well as less pain and a shorter recovery time.
- Cosmetic declawing involves a procedure where a tiny curved blade dissects out the claw and the tiny piece of bone to which the claw is affixed. The soft tissue and pad remain intact, resulting a shorter recovery time.

II. Why do it?

Cats have an instinctive need to scratch surfaces to remove excess claw material, and to keep nails clean and in good shape. Cats also scratch surfaces to mark their territory visually and with their scent, and to stretch their muscles. Cats are typically declawed for the benefit of the owner to alleviate damage to property, or injury to humans/other pets. Rarely, a cat may be declawed for medical reasons such as paronychia or neoplasia. Paronychia is a bacteria or fungal infection at the boundary between claws and skin. Neoplasia is defined as abnormal tissue growth around the claw.

In the USA, most animal welfare organizations estimate that between 20 and 25% of domestic cats are declawed.

III. Pros

- Minimizes risk of injury to immunocompromised individuals or pets in the household.
- Prevents excessive/inappropriate scratching of property that continues in spite of conscientious attention to behavior modification and other alternatives noted below.
- Numerous studies have shown that there is no correlation between declawing and undesirable behavior or personality changes.
- The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) policy on declawing cats states that scientific data indicates that cats that have destructive scratching behavior are more likely to be euthanized or relinquished, released or abandoned.
- The ASPCA is in agreement policy that this procedure should be available if it is the only alternative to euthanasia.

IV. Cons

- Regardless of the method used, veterinary professionals agree that the procedure causes a significant level of pain. Pain in cats is difficult to gauge because cats are stoic by nature and pain responses are subtle.
- Onychectomy is an elective surgical procedure subject to all of the usual surgical complications such as adverse reaction to anesthesia, bleeding and infection with no demonstrable benefit to the cat.
- Fewer than half of all veterinary schools in the USA include a mandatory lecture or laboratory to teach this surgery. This lack of formal training in onychectomy could lead to inferior surgical technique and increase the likelihood of complications.
- Declawing a cat removes its primary method of defending itself. Declawed cats must remain indoors.

V. Alternatives to onychectomy

- Provide suitable tools for normal scratching behaviors such as scratching posts/pads, cardboard boxes and lumber or logs. Cats prefer wood, sisal rope, carpet, cardboard and rough fabrics. Also, cover the object you do not want scratched with material that is aversive to the cat like foil, plastic or double sided tape.
- Regularly trim the cat's nails every one to two weeks.
- Consider use of temporary synthetic nail caps that are glued over nails to prevent injury to humans/other pets or household items. These caps

usually need to be replaced every 4-6 weeks as they fall off with growth. These caps are not recommended for outdoor cats.

- Consider using synthetic facial pheromone sprays and/or diffusers such as Feliway (Ceva) to help relieve anxiety or stress that may be related to scratching behavior.

VI. Conclusion.

Onychectomy is an ethically controversial procedure. It is currently prohibited in the European Union, including the United Kingdom, and Australia, Brazil, Israel and some other countries. Eight cities in California, including Los Angeles, San Francisco and Beverly Hills, have also banned the procedure. However, legally banning the procedure may present problems where onychectomy is the only alternative to euthanasia. Crafting legislation with this exception to the ban is very difficult to enforce. Both the ASPCA and the AVMA strongly discourage the practice in their most recent policy statements and opine that it should only be used as an alternative to euthanasia.

References:

1. American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) Policy and Position Statements, Position Statement on Declawing Cats, April 1, 2003
2. American Veterinary Medicine Association (AVMA) Policy Statement on Declawing of Domestic Cats, May 6, 2016, July 31, 2018
3. The American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) Position Statement on Declawing Cats, September 6, 2019

Potter League for Animals Position on Spay and Neuter of Dogs and Cats

The Potter League only offers dogs and cats for adoption that have been spayed or neutered (Altered), and advocates, recommends and encourages the Altering of all dogs and cats except those that have overriding issue(s) resulting in veterinary recommendations to the contrary.

I. What is it?

Altering refers to the removal of the reproductive organs of female dogs and cats and the removal of the testicles of male dogs and cats.

II. Why do it?

*There are homeless dogs and cats in **every** community. In the U.S. alone there are millions entering animal shelters every year. These numbers do not include “street animals” that do not get the opportunity to find a forever home and consequently, through no fault of their own, are faced a very difficult existence.*

III. Pros

- *Altering is important for reducing pet overpopulation, as it is the only 100% effective means of birth control.*
- *In general, Altered pets have a longer life span compared to their Unaltered counterparts and veterinary care costs are reduced. Some of the specific benefits to Altering pets include:*
 - *Less likely for these animals to roam and thus be exposed to life threatening encounters with cars, other animals and mishaps*
 - *Medical evidence indicates a reduced risk of certain types illnesses, including pyometra (potentially fatal uterine infection), uterine cancer, mammary cancer and other cancers of the reproductive system in female dogs, and testicular and non-cancerous prostate disorders in male dogs*
 - *Tends to reduce assertive/aggressive behavior, including mounting, fighting, and biting. May reduce, and in some cases eliminate, urine marking in male dogs*
 - *Barring other behavior issues in male cats, resolves ~90% of spraying/marketing issues and can reduce howling and the urge to roam/fight with other male cats. In many cases, Altered male cats are reported to be calmer and mellower*

IV. Cons

- *Cost associated with Altering*

- *Some medical studies suggest that Altering:*
 - *Increases the risk of osteosarcoma (bone cancer) in some breeds of dogs if performed before one year of age*
 - *Increases the risk of cardiac hemangiosarcoma, hypothyroidism, progressive geriatric cognitive impairment, obesity, orthopedic disorders and adverse reactions to vaccinations in dogs*
 - *Increases the occurrence of “spay incontinence”, the risk of persistent urinary tract infections and, if done before puberty, the occurrence of recessed vulva, vaginal dermatitis, and vaginitis in female dogs*
- *Altering pets precludes the option of breeding*

V. Conclusions

Although there is disagreement relative to some of the medical pros and cons on Altering, the behavioral advantages are generally accepted. What we do know for certain is that everyone in the animal community wants what is best for the animals. On the whole the risk to animals lives due to an increase in animal populations is greater than any health risks associated with spay or neuter surgery. In the absence of other ways to prevent animals from repopulating shelters with their offspring, shelters should continue to only offer animals for adoption that have been Altered.

The cost of Altering can pose a challenging financial burden to some families and can be a significant factor in making this decision. The Potter League recognizes this and has been proactive in promoting and supporting low cost Altering options for all families. The Potter League Spay Neuter Clinic provides a low-cost resource for these procedures.

References:

1. *Long-Term Health Risks and Benefits Associated with Spay Neuter in Dogs*
<https://www.dogsnaturallymagazine.com/long-term-health-risks-benefits-spay-neuter-dogs/>
2. *JVMA News: Study Shines Spotlight on Neutering*
<https://www.avma.org/News/JAVMANews/Pages/131101a.aspx>
3. *AVMA Collections: Spay/Neuter*
<https://www.avma.org/news/journals/collections/pages/avma-collections-spayneuter.aspx#2>

Dogs

Cats

	Jul-19	Jul-18	# chang	% change	YTD FY19	YTD FY 18	# change	% change	Jul-19	Jul-18	# change	% change	YTD FY 19	YTD FY 18	# change	% change
Beginning Animal Count	31	27	4	15%	41	35	6	17%	86	69	17	25%	116	128	-12	-9%
Animal Intake																
Strays	19	25	-6	-24%	170	188	-18	-10%	18	14	4	29%	130	143	-13	-9%
Owner Surrender	19	14	5	36%	179	172	7	4%	35	47	-12	-26%	256	323	-67	-21%
Owner Intended Euthanasia	0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0	
Transferred In	35	40	-5	-13%	470	498	-28	-6%	58	47	11	23%	355	359	-4	-1%
Other Intakes	7	2	5	250%	36	62	-26	-42%	0	20	-20	-100%	27	78	-51	-65%
Total Live Intakes	80	81	-1	-1%	855	920	-65	-7%	111	128	-17	-13%	768	903	-135	-15%
Live Animal Outcomes																
Adoption	44	34	10	29%	633	643	-10	-2%	78	61	17	28%	630	769	-139	-18%
Returned to Owner	26	29	-3	-10%	202	210	-8	-4%	8	3	5	167%	85	56	29	52%
Transferred Out	2	0	2		8	8	0	0%	16	7	9	129%	45	24	21	88%
Returned to Field	0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0	
Other Live Outcomes	1	0	1		4	5	-1	-20%	0	0	0		0	0	0	
Sub Total Live Outcomes	73	63	10	16%	847	866	-19	-2%	102	71	31	44%	760	902	-142	-16%
Other Outcomes																
Died in Care	0	0	0		0	1	-1	-100%	2	2	0	0%	21	12	9	75%
Lost in Care	0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0		1	3	-2	-67%
Shelter Euthanasia	0	4	-4	-100%	23	29	-6	-21%	1	8	-7	-88%	30	38	-8	-21%
Owner Intended Euthanasia	0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0	
Sub Total Other Outcomes	0	4	-4	-100%	23	31	-8	-26%	3	10	-7	-70%	52	53	-1	-2%
Total Outcomes	73	67	6	9%	870	897	-27	-3%	105	81	24	30%	812	902	-90	-10%
Ending Animal Counts	38	41	-3	-7%	26	27	-1	-4%	92	116	-24	-21%	72	68	4	6%

	Jul-19	Jul-18	FY 19
Length of Stay			
<i>Dogs</i>	15	10	15

<i>Cats</i>	32	32	30
Foster Activity			
<i># animals</i>	69	47	358
Pet Safe Animals			
<i>new animals entering</i>	5	3	140

Other Animals

	Jul-19	Jul-18	# change	% change	YTD FY 19	YTD FY 18	# change	% change
Animal Intake								
Strays	4	2	2	100%	18	9	9	100%
Owner Surrender	12	3	9	300%	145	107	38	36%
Owner Intended Euthanasia	0	0	0		1	0	1	
Transferred In	8	13	-5	-38%	37	28	9	32%
Other Intakes	0	0	0		1	24	-23	-96%
Total Live Intakes	24	18	6	33%	202	168	34	20%
Live Animal Outcomes								
Adoption	15	17	-2	-12%	186	145	41	28%
Returned to Owner	0	0	0		3	6	-3	-50%
Transferred Out	0	0	0		3	0	3	
Returned to Field	0	0	0		0	0	0	
Other Live Outcomes	0	0	0		0	7	-7	-100%
Sub Total Live Outcomes	15	17	-2	-12%	192	158	34	22%
Other Outcomes								
Died in Care	2	0	2		4	0	4	
Lost in Care	0	0	0		0	0	0	
Shelter Euthanasia	0	0	0		3	3	0	0%
Owner Intended Euthanasia	0	0	0		1	0	1	
Sub Total Other Outcomes	2	0	2		9	3	6	200%
Total Outcomes	17	17	0	0%	183	161	22	14%