

Paw-print PRESS

FALL 2019



Potter League
Enriching Lives

Animal Care & Adoption Center

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Middletown, RI 02842

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Spay & Neuter Clinic

235 Elm Street
Warwick, RI 02888

401.369.7297 (p)
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www.PotterLeague.org

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Follow us!



meet BUDDY!

Buddy was able to find his happily-ever-after with a loving family all thanks to your continued support!

Learn more about his story inside.

adoption corner

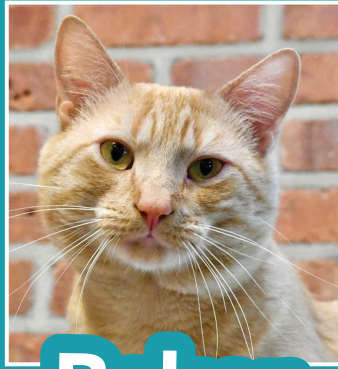


Buddy

Buddy's previous life before arriving at the Potter League was bleak and empty. He did not know the comforts of a loving hand or a warm bed. He was an outdoor dog, tethered to a tree with a makeshift dog house constructed with pallets, a tarp, and rope. For the first three years of his life, Buddy, a Great Pyrenees, paced the length of his tether, enduring extreme elements, destined to live outside, deprived of human companionship.

That all ended when animal control became aware of the situation. When Buddy arrived, he appeared void of emotion and rather aloof. Matted from years of never being groomed, staff shaved this gentle giant down and you could almost see his instant relief. **The first time he was brought out to run around in our outdoor play yard was such a sight to behold. He galloped around as if he was a puppy again, without worry, carefree, and happy.**

Finally feeling love, Buddy was able to find his happily-ever-after with a loving family all thanks to your continued support, making it possible for us to do whatever it takes to save lives and fight for each animal who comes into our care.



Baker

Found as a stray, sadly, no one ever came for this handsome orange cat. Appropriately named Baker, as he loves to "knead" his blankets, this guy came to us with a possible bite wound, which requires a state mandated six-month quarantine. We knew that six months in a shelter was not ideal for this outgoing and attention seeking kitty, so we looked for a foster home that would be willing to take on this seemingly daunting situation. As you can imagine, a six-month commitment to foster any animal may seem overwhelming to many, knowing that he would need to be separated from other animals and limited contact with people, however without hesitation, Baker's foster family readily agreed.

Baker deserved a chance to be loved, and he is a testament to the wonderful people willing to bring needy animals into their homes and care for them. Our foster families have our undying gratitude, deepest respect, and admiration.

Because of our animal loving community, Baker's loving adoptive family reports that he is active, playful and they are absolutely in love with him.



Because Every Animal Deserves Care

Most pet owners are clear about the immediate joys that come with sharing their lives with companion animals. We believe that all families should be able to experience the joy of sharing their lives with animals.

One common reason for relinquishment of animals to shelters is the cost of pet care. **One out of four pet owners' experiences barriers to obtaining veterinary care with the primary obstacle being financial.** These challenges may be faced by a wide variety of families, especially those already struggling financially.

The Potter League for Animals recognizes the challenges that pet owners face, the lifesaving importance of affordable and accessible veterinary care and that there is no correlation between income and the love families feel for their pets. Less income does not mean less love, which is why the Potter League Veterinary Wellness Clinics are vital to our community. We have aligned very important resources to provide care for these pets that are not served in the current veterinary system. And so, for many, our clinics are the first time an animal has ever been seen by a veterinarian.

To date, our Veterinary Wellness Clinics have seen 245 dogs and cats, provided 397 vaccines, 136 microchips, and established a relationship with these owners that we may have never been able to reach previously.

At each clinic, we offer support for continuing services of pet food, resources for financial assistance for pets that need additional medical care or treatment, leashes, collars, and more. All for free. Because all pets and all families deserve to stay together.

The clinics primarily take place at public housing facilities and we recently held our first clinic at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center in Newport where we supply pet food to their food pantry year-round.

All of these services are provided because of supporters like you.

a journey to jenna



There are moments, people, and things that change your life forever. For Kari and Mark, it was their dogs who they often referred to as their boys. A military family, their frequent deployments moved them around the world to different bases where they admittedly, found themselves humorously collecting and adopting a “muttley” crew of misfits. First it was Beckett, adopted on their first deployment in Virginia, then Dusty, a street dog from the Middle East, then Dillon, a high-energy Belgian Malinois that had an affinity for eating furniture, and last came Shane, the lifeguard of the bunch. The bond they all shared was something that simply cannot be put into words. They loved walks, hikes, going on adventures, and each other.

Years passed and they decided it was time to move back to Rhode Island; closer to family, a home they loved, with a huge fenced in yard for their beloved boys. An exciting time in their lives soon turned tragic. It was their first Thanksgiving home. Kari left the house for an hour to get groceries and came home to a house full of smoke and flames. Thinking of nothing other than her boys, Kari ran into her burning home and pulled them all out. Regrettably, it was too late. The one bright spot was that Shane was not home that day. He was at the veterinarian. Emotionally they were bereft. They lived for their dogs. But they turned their grief into making Shane’s life the very best and he in turn became their unwavering support.

As they continue to re-build their home and lives, Kari and Mark found themselves ready to open their hearts again and find a special furry someone for Shane. Lucky for us, they found themselves at the Potter League and face to face with a beautiful, shy, former street dog named Jenna. Kari swears she had a look on her face that was the combination of all their boys. She was beautiful and had a heart of gold. After visiting for a week with Shane, Jenna was still hesitant around Kari and Mark, but no stranger to street dogs she saw it in her face — just like Dusty, on that random street in the Middle East. He didn't have to trust them, but he did and they never looked back. Kari knows he never regretted it, and Jenna — the same.

Loss is a difficult journey. Love is a happy journey, and that is what Jenna is bringing back to their lives. She may not fully understand how important she is to them, but in most cases, they don’t know. They just do it, with pure hearts, and that’s why we love them so much.

If you or someone you know is struggling with the loss of a pet, contact us about our free pet loss support group. You are not alone and we are always here for you.

P.S. Mark and Kari have since adopted a third dog, Jenna’s brother, Eliot!



save the date!



HEART & SOLE WALK FOR THE ANIMALS

Sunday, Oct. 20th
Glen Park, Portsmouth
10 am to 1:30 pm

ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, Oct. 29th
The Atlantic Resort,
Middletown
6 to 8 pm

PET PHOTOS WITH SANTA

**Saturday, Nov. 23rd &
Saturday, Dec. 14th**
11 am to 4 pm

HOLIDAY ARTISAN FAIR

Saturday, Dec. 7th
10 am to 4 pm

POTTER PET U

**Wednesday, Oct. 9th
Wednesday, Nov. 13th**



Dottie the Therapy Dog

The simple act of petting an animal encourages relaxation that plays a part in elevating moods. Research shows that interaction with a therapy dog can reduce blood pressure, promote physical healing, reduce anxiety, fatigue and depression, and provide emotional support. What better place to put that to the test than at an airport. As we all know — travel can be stressful. Will I make my connection? Will my luggage arrive with me? Will my flight be without turbulence? Imagine in the midst of the mental chaos you are distracted by a soft black nose nuzzling your hand and a friendly furry face looking up at you — assuring you that things are okay.

We bet you would feel better right away and that is what Therapy Dog Team, Dottie and her mom Nicole, aim for when they are walking around the airport comforting travelers that Dottie notices need a little furry support. Adopted in December of 2018 from the Potter League, Dottie chose her mom by climbing into her lap, looking right up into her eyes, and heaving a great sigh of relief seeming to say "Oh, there you are. I have been waiting for you. Can we go home, now?"

Once home and settling in, Nicole reached out to a trainer in her area to enroll Dottie in classes.

It quickly became apparent that Dottie was a natural — she aced basic obedience and manner classes, even receiving her Canine Good Citizens certificate while still under one year old. She so impressed her trainer; Nicole was asked if she and Dottie would be interested in enrolling in a therapy dog program. Nicole thought it was a great opportunity and at the very least would strengthen Dottie's socialization skills. However, Dottie soon showed everyone during the 12-week course, that she was much more than just a beautiful furry face. Dottie had a natural ability to know how to approach people and offer herself for a gentle pet, energetic butt scratch or simply offering to lay by someone's feet for a bit to offer some comfort to a frazzled traveler. **We are so proud of what Dottie and her mom have accomplished and what the future holds for this amazing dog.** Be sure to keep an eye out for them next time you are traveling at the airport. Next time you visit an animal shelter — imagine the potential of the dogs sitting in the kennel just waiting for their turn to shine.

It is with your continued support that makes it possible for animals like Dottie to go on and do wonderful things. We can't thank you enough, and neither can Team Dottie!

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



Find us on Facebook