

paw-print PRESS

FALL 2020



Potter League
Enriching Lives

Animal Care & Adoption Center

87 Oliphant Lane
Middletown, RI 02842

401.846.8276 (p)
401.846.0681 (f)

Spay & Neuter Clinic

235 Elm Street
Warwick, RI 02888

401.369.7297 (p)
401.369.7295 (f)

www.PotterLeague.org

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meet ASTRID

A new life for a hoarding survivor.

Story continued inside.



A New Life for Hoarding Survivor

Astrid was found living with 95 cats in deplorable conditions when Animal Control responded to a complaint about a possible cat hoarding situation. Many of the terrified cats were gathered and brought to safety. However, Astrid was one of the most traumatized and under-socialized. For so long, her only source of comfort and love was the other cats she lived with.

For months, our staff went slow with Astrid. First just sitting with her, giving her yummy treats, letting her know she was safe. We moved her and another cat from the same house into a quiet room. To Astrid, everything from even the most common of noises to cat toys was very scary.

Our first goal was to help these traumatized cats develop a new association with us approaching them. Several times a day we would simply open their door, present ourselves, and deliver a yummy dollop of tuna. As weeks went on, we started seeing a difference. We celebrated little victories. Astrid started to move! She was no longer frozen in fear or hiding; she began to blink her eyes at us, a feline signal for "I mean no harm," and take treats from our hands.

Eleven weeks after Astrid was removed from the inhumane conditions, she was made available for adoption. After just a few short weeks, Astrid began her new life in a loving and patient home where she is receiving the care and individual attention she always deserved.

adoption corner



Raven

The Potter Family founded the Potter League for Animals 91 years ago. Cousins of one the founding members, Virginia Potter, and her husband Robert F. Potter,

decided to dedicate a cat room at the Potter League in honor of their daughter whom they had lost suddenly.

When the Potter Family came in for the room dedication, their family had been discussing adding a kitten to keep their cat Sam company. Sam had been their daughter's cat, and when the family mentioned they were in search of a companion for him, we introduced them to a litter of beautiful, black kittens. One kitten in particular, surprisingly the shyest of the bunch, drew them in instantly. Raven. Almost instinctively, Raven curled up in their laps letting them know she was the one. They particularly loved that Raven was a great mix of cuddly and tough; she could hold her own against her new big brother.

We'd like to think the founding members would be proud their family remains deeply committed to our mission, and the welfare of the thousands of animals we take in every year. Thanks to supporters like the Potter family, we remain able to give thousands of animals like Raven and her littermates the care they need.



Mercy

At seven years old, Mercy had never been to a veterinarian. When she arrived at one of our partner vet hospitals, they took ownership of Mercy, and into emergency surgery she went. She had pyometra — a life threatening uterine infection. The

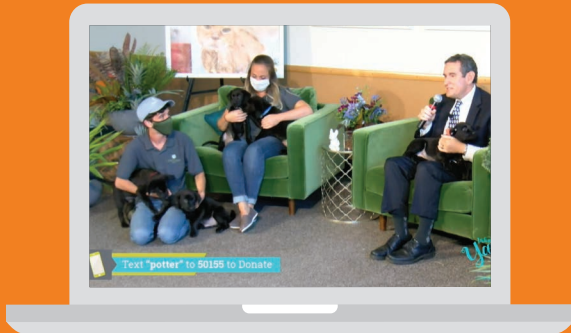
doctors surgically removed Mercy's infected uterus and closely monitored her over the next few days.

Unfortunately, that was just the beginning of Mercy's medical journey. She needed to have multiple masses removed, extensive dental work, and had ear infections in both ears. Although Mercy seemed easy going, a large veterinary hospital often has too much stimuli. When she arrived at the Potter League wearing her ducky pj's, we could tell Mercy was overwhelmed, and needed some time to decompress.

Once in our care, we removed a few more lumps and confirmed it was in fact mast cell cancer. Fortunately, they were low grade and completely excised. Thanks to your support, we were able to diagnose her condition before it caused her further issues. Soon we were able to find her a home where she now spends her days spoiled and loved.

Virtual Yappy Hour

TO BENEFIT HOMELESS ANIMALS



LOVEBASH FOR ANIMALS AND YAPPY HOUR GO VIRTUAL IN SUPPORT OF THE ANIMALS

On July 12, we held our first-ever virtual event featuring the lifesaving work the Potter League does every day. Hosted by Executive Director, Brad Shear, and his many adoptable and adorable co-hosts, attendees were treated to mission-focused stories, inspiring impact videos, and fun entertainment pieces including the naming of a litter of puppies. More than 600 people registered to participate, and the event was live-streamed on the Potter League's website, as well as Facebook (over 6,000 views!), during the hour-long production.

Thanks to the support of our community businesses, an online silent auction kicked off July 1 featuring over 100 fabulous auction items. Hundreds of people joined in the fun and many donated in support of the Pet Protection Fund.

We are most grateful to all of our sponsors, donors, businesses, and event supporters who contributed to help the Potter League raise \$97,000 for the animals in our care. You have made it possible to propel our mission forward. If you missed the virtual event, the recording can be viewed on PotterLeague.org.

camp happy tails

The Potter League's Camp Happy Tails is a fun way for children to make friends, learn about animals, how to care for them, and spend time outdoors. After most schools closed during spring because of COVID-19, we knew parents were looking for ways to help their kids begin to reconnect with other children outside the home. With health and safety still a serious concern, we weren't sure what summer camp was going to look like this year, or if it was even going to happen.

With much thought and considerations, we re-imagined our summer camp to make it work, knowing what an invaluable experience the campers received every year interacting with the animals and learning about empathy, compassion, and how to care for the many different species they would meet.

We started by carefully examining the guidelines and regulations issued by Rhode Island Department of Health. Starting with that framework, we scaled our groups back to 10 campers, with two adult supervisors and two to three junior counselors per session. We moved out of the Education Center, and into the larger training center to allow for more social distancing. We changed our drop-off and pick-up procedures to outside only, added more tent space outside in the big field, and incorporated additional cleaning procedures. With a modified camp plan in place, we wondered if parents would still sign their children up. And did they! We filled up all six weeks almost right away.

For all six weeks, we received wonderful feedback from all the campers and their parents with how appreciative they were for the safety measures we put in place, and for getting kids out of the house, away from the screens to have a wonderful experience that gave the kids some sense of normal life. **Three cheers for our humane education staff for all their hard work, and thank you to the Frederick Henry Prince Memorial Fund for providing camp scholarships!**



staff corner



Kendall

Please join us in welcoming our new shelter Veterinarian, Dr. Kendall Polansky. Dr. Polansky grew up in Little Rock, AR. After graduating from the University of Arkansas with a degree in Biology, she spent time in Atlanta, GA working as a Veterinary Assistant and Primate Intern at Zoo Atlanta. She earned her DVM degree at The Ohio State University where she developed a passion for shelter medicine and population health. She completed externships in Shelter Medicine & Surgery at the Humane Society of Boulder Valley in Colorado and Columbus Humane in Ohio.

She went on to pursue her Master of Public Health degree at Brown University, while providing relief work and working part-time in small animal practice here in Rhode Island. Her interests in shelter medicine, population health, and zoonotic diseases have led her to the Potter League, where she is excited to work with our team to improve the health of animals and pet owners in our community. Dr. Kendall currently lives in Providence with her wife, and their adopted shelter pups, Ollie and Banjo, and cat, Salem.



Madison

Welcome our new Volunteer Manager, Madison Lane. Madison grew up in Westchester, NY. Growing up she always had a passion for dogs, cooking, baking, and sports. She spent most of her time either on the soccer field or in the kitchen with her dad learning new skills and recipes. From kindergarten through senior year of high school she was a member of Girl Scouts and earned her bronze and gold award volunteering at the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital in White Plains, NY.

While attending Johnson & Wales University, she interned at WaterFire Providence in the volunteer department. There is where she learned the ins and outs of volunteerism and volunteer management. During college, she would volunteer at different events around Rhode Island, her two favorites being Gloria Gemma's Flames of Hope in Providence, and the Walk to End Alzheimer's in Newport. Madison currently lives in Massachusetts with her Potter Pet, Zoey!



Monthly gifts. Permanent gratitude.

Becoming a Faithful Friend monthly donor is an easy and convenient way to provide the care our animals need every day of the year.

When you become a Faithful Friend, you join a passionate group of people dedicated to making a monthly impact on the animals in our care. The ones that truly need you. The ongoing support of our Faithful Friends truly give these helpless animals a second chance at life.

Your gift is 100% tax deductible and payment options include on-line, direct withdrawal, mail, and phone.

Save the date!



**VIRTUAL HEART & SOLE
WALK FOR ANIMALS**

Sunday, October 18, 2020

VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

October 28, 2020 at 6pm

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

 **Find us on Facebook**