

# Paw-print PRESS

WINTER 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)

**Pets In Need Veterinary Clinic**

40 Amaral Street  
Riverside, RI 02915

401.270.3832 (p)

401.270.3487 (f)

[www.PotterLeague.org](http://www.PotterLeague.org)

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## meet LITTLE FOOT

A quirky dog finds a loving family.

*Story continued inside.*

Walking to  
save lives

## Heart & Sole Virtual Walk/Run for Animals



The Potter League's 31st Heart & Sole Walk for Animals looked and felt a little different this year. With restrictions placed on large group events due to the COVID-19 health crisis, the Potter League for Animals shifted its largest community event and fundraiser of the year from a gathering at scenic Glen Park to a virtual experience.

Pet enthusiasts far and wide joined the Potter League's walk to save lives on Sunday, October 18th from their neighborhoods, parks, and trails for the virtual Heart & Sole Walk/Run for Animals from a live broadcast on the Potter League website and Facebook page.

We are overwhelmed by the devoted fundraisers and the community's participation and support to help save more lives. Participants joined in a variety of online contests and posted photos and videos online of themselves walking with furry friends in neighborhoods locally and as far away as California! As an added surprise, we saw many new faces participating this year including our feline friends with their owners.

**Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, team and individual fundraisers, donors, vendors, and registrants, we raised \$68,000 to provide direct care for the animals.**

Watch the live stream at [heartandsolewalk.org](http://heartandsolewalk.org). Special thanks to our Presenting Sponsor Hill's Pet Nutrition for their generous support.

## adoption corner



**Marley**

When we took Marley in, she quickly received her full veterinary exam which revealed a serious condition: she was emaciated, lethargic, dehydrated, and hyperglycemic. These symptoms pointed to her tiny and frail body producing too little insulin. She was most likely diabetic.

Marley needed additional testing and evaluation so our Shelter Medicine Team could

create a treatment plan with antibiotics, pain medications, IV fluids, and insulin. Day by day, Marley became stronger. She started to stand and walk on her own, however Marley's struggle was far from over. She faced multiple setbacks while in our care which required our team to adjust her insulin as needed in order to control her diabetes.

We were there for Marley, and she knew it. She felt safe in our care and was able to receive love and comfort to get her through difficult times. It wasn't long before Marley received something she deserved more than anything else – a loving family. Marley and her new mom recently celebrated her adoption day together.

There aren't many animal shelters that have the capability to diagnose, treat, and find a home for animals with chronic conditions like diabetes. It is only because of your support that the Potter League is able to support animals like Marley and make sure she gets to the home she deserves.



**Little Foot**

Little Foot was found wandering the street, but one look at this adorable dog would make you instantly fall in love. His head is oddly shaped and large for his little body, which led to him being named after the cartoon dinosaur from "The Land Before Time."

We were concerned he had a neurological issue as he had difficulty with stairs, getting on and off elevated surfaces, and would walk into things. He would also howl while in his kennel. Turns out he was just a sweet and odd little dog that loves to howl and whose face will just melt your heart.

With his quirky behavior came concerns about his transition to a home. It seemed as though he had never lived in a typical home before and wasn't familiar with common things. Our Behavior Team worked with Little Foot for weeks on acclimating and exposing him to things he found strange, but are common in most homes, so he would be ready to transition into a home. Perhaps for the first time in his life, Little Foot experienced what it felt like to be loved.

Your support provided Little Foot loving care here at the Potter League for Animals, and your support placed him in a loving forever home in Rhode Island.



# Potter League Acquires Pets In Need Veterinary Clinic

Lack of access to veterinary care is a national family crisis, with more than one out of four families with pets reporting they have experienced a barrier to obtaining veterinary care, most often for financial reasons.

As the heart of a caring and compassionate community, the Potter League believes deeply in our mission to help animals and people alike, which was why in 2018, the Potter League set a long-term goal of expanding our low-cost veterinary care subsidies and services. Last year that commitment led to our acquisition of our Spay and Neuter Clinic in Warwick. When the board of the Pets In Need Veterinary Clinic approached us about consolidation we knew right away this new partnership would catapult us forward toward our goal to break down barriers that prevent pets from getting the care they so desperately need.

**Founded in 2016, the PIN Veterinary Clinic provides low-cost, high-quality veterinary care to the pets of Rhode Islanders receiving public assistance and has provided care to well over 7,000 animals since opening its doors.**

While many may think the mere thought of acquiring another organization in the middle of a pandemic is risky, we know right now so many of us are facing the most challenging economic times in a generation. We felt compelled to make sure everyone has access to veterinary care, and will make it possible for at-risk animals to remain in homes where they belong. We all deserve the love of a pet and keeping pets happy, healthy, and at home with the people who love them is an important part of our work.

And so, in October of this year, the Potter League for Animals acquired the Pets In Need Clinic, now named Potter League Pets In Need Veterinary Clinic, where we will continue to help ensure our community's pets have access to quality veterinary care, and to keep pets with their loving families despite financial difficulty. Thank you, it is because of your support the Potter League is able to make sure pets can stay in homes where they belong.



## Quite the Pair: *bill and bear*

**The special bond between dog and human — it's transformative.**

Animals provide companionship, they make us feel safe, happy, and loved. It seems fate sometimes brings together a pairing of pet and person that perfectly demonstrates the importance of the human-animal bond. The story of how Bear found his new dad, Bill, did just that. One day the stars aligned and what was meant to be, was. There really is no other way to explain the absolute phenomenon of how these two came together.

Bill, a Vietnam Veteran, served as a K9 Handler for the United States Air Force, and was among the first group of soldiers to be sent to Vietnam with a dog. He was paired with a beautiful German Shepherd named Shadow. Bill credits Shadow with saving his life on numerous occasions, and like the other 4,000 dogs deployed in Vietnam, when the United States forces pulled out, Shadow was left behind. This is one of the darkest episodes of war dog history and it haunts Bill to this very day.

**Over the years, there had been other dogs, but none quite like Shadow.**

Sadly, Bill suffered another devastating loss recently, when his wife, his lifelong companion of 53 years, passed away this past summer. Bill was completely lost without her. The home they shared all those years was too quiet and he just couldn't stand being alone in his home.

Bill found comfort and support through the VA Hospital in Providence and conversation about wartime camaraderie ignited his spark to fill the void with a new sidekick, adamant that he wanted to honor his Service K9 by adopting an older German Shepherd in need of a loving home.

**After searching other Rhode Island shelters, Bill called the Potter League looking to see if we had any older German Shepherds looking for a home.**

The stars seemed to align for Bill. We had taken in a six-year-old German Shepherd a few months back and up until recently he had been under the care of our Medical Team for severe ear and skin issues. In fact, when Bear first arrived at the Potter League his whole face and most of his body were

*Story continued on back*



You can make a profound difference in the life of animals in our community by including Potter League in your will, retirement plan or living trust, or other creative ways to help animals. The lifesaving work of the Potter League is only possible because of donors like you.

### MAKE A QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION

Are you age 70½ and have a tax-deferred retirement account? Consider using your required minimum distribution (RMD) to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). QCDs are tax-free and can reduce the financial impact of RMD income while helping animals in need.

### DONATE STOCK

Giving a gift of publicly-traded securities to the Potter League for Animals will not only save lives but potentially save income tax and capital gains tax too. If you own publicly-traded securities that have increased in value since you bought them and your securities provide you with little or no income, this kind of gift may be right for you.

### CONTRIBUTE THROUGH YOUR DONOR-ADVISED FUND (DAF)

DAFs allow donors to donate cash, stock, and other assets to receive an immediate tax deduction and then give grants from the fund to charities of their choice over time. Give a gift through your DAF and help Potter League address the most pressing needs for pets in our community.

### CONSIDER A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

If you're 60 or older and want to help animals while enjoying the security of fixed, dependable payments for life, a Charitable Gift Annuity may be right for you. Gift annuities are easy to set up and the payments you receive are backed by the general resources of the Potter League for Animals.

**Contact Erin O'Gara Dollard at (401) 846.0592 ext. 116 for more information.**



### Story continued from inside

completely bald due to the condition of his skin. It was just recently, having overcome his health issues, that Bear was cleared for adoption and ready to find his home.

**No one who was there could ever forget Bill's face the moment he saw Bear walk around the corner and their eyes met for the first time. Bill began to cry. Bear looked exactly like Shadow, and Bill just knew his wife had sent Bear to him.**

We told Bill about our partnership with Pets for Patriots, an organization that supports pet ownership for veterans, and he applied immediately, which will provide him with various benefits throughout Bear's lifetime, including contributions of pet food and other essentials, access to high-quality, discounted veterinary care, and discounts on a range of pet-related goods and services.

Bear has been home with Bill for a few months now and he reports Bear has been a constant source of comfort and love. Bill can't imagine his life without Bear and no longer feels lonely in his home.

**Because you stand up for the animals in our community, our incredible Shelter Medicine Team was able to go straight to work assessing and treating Bear's many ailments. We knew it would be a long road for Bear, but we never stopped fighting for him.**

Thank you for making it possible for Bill and Bear to find each other and for all the other perfect matches you make possible with your support.

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

**f Find us on Facebook**