

Paw-Print PRESS

Fall 2021

Meet Petra

and her five
adorable kittens.
Story continued inside.



Potter League
Enriching Lives

Lone Star Rescue

The S.O.S. heard around the country came at the end of June from El Paso, Texas. The county animal shelter had put out a plea asking animal welfare organizations across the nation for assistance by accepting hundreds of transported dogs and cats. They had reached critical capacity, with many dogs like Boyd sharing outdoor kennels in the sweltering Texas heat.

Thanks to supporters like you, the Potter League for Animals was able to answer that call ourselves and make connections to other New England shelters who could help. Just days later, we loaded up our transport van with crates and headed to New Jersey. There, we met the plane with 84 animals who, thanks to the Bissell Pet Foundation, had been flown more than 2,000 miles from Texas to find hope through partnering shelters on the East Coast. We off-loaded each crate one by one, offering a quiet promise to each animal — they were safe.

Boyd was among five dogs and four cats who would find safe refuge with the Potter League, and this lifesaving flight was just the beginning of his journey. Suffering from severe allergic dermatitis with secondary yeast and bacterial infections, half his fur was missing, but he was affectionate and accepting of our veterinary staff's careful examinations. Boyd would need months of medical treatment to recover, and our shelter medicine team got to work right away.

Shelters across the country are returning to pre-pandemic levels of intake. However, it feels potentially more overwhelming because there's also so many other challenges. Similar to other industries, recovering from the pandemic has created new challenges. Many are facing staffing, volunteer, and funding shortages. In some areas, adoptions have slowed, but support for the Potter League continues to be strong, and it is because of our caring community that we are able to reach out across the country to help animals like Boyd.

Today, Boyd and his fellow travelers are loved, safe, and comfortable because of your support, which allows the Potter League to help so many animals in Rhode Island and beyond.



Mod Squad Graduates:

Our Mod Squad is a team of specially trained staff and volunteers who work with the most serious behavior challenges facing the animals at the Potter League. After working with this specially trained Potter League for Animals Behavior Team, Eliza and Tofu were official Mod Squad graduates and found their loving homes!



Tofu

At just a year old, Tofu was born into a hoarding situation with nearly 100 other cats in the home. It quickly became evident that he missed important aspects of socialization with humans, and that people were quite scary. Our Mod Squad, with the help of our Kneady Cat volunteer team, worked with Tofu for months. They went slowly, never pushing him beyond where he was comfortable. And then it happened. The breakthrough. Tofu climbed up on his favorite volunteer's legs to solicit attention. He began playing with toys, and we quickly learned how much he loves to be brushed. Tofu went from a petrified cat to a curious, bright-eyed, beautiful, much-loved companion. Tofu was adopted in June 2021.

Petra and Her Babies

Most people refer to warm, sunny months — when the grass is green, flowers are in full bloom, and the days last longer — as summer. But at the Potter League for Animals, we know them by a different name: kitten season.

In recent years, due in large part to trap-neuter-return (TNR) and spay & neuter efforts, Rhode Island has seen a decline in homeless kittens. However, this year may be our busiest in a long time. Stray, orphaned, and abandoned kittens have flooded our Animal Care Center.

Of all the animals that come to the Potter League, kittens are among the most vulnerable. Newborn felines enter the world completely reliant on their mother for warmth, food, and protection. So when Petra arrived, newly trapped, pregnant, and ready to give birth at any moment, providing her with a safe and quiet environment was essential. Days later, Petra gave birth to

five adorable kittens and was moved to a loving Potter League foster home.

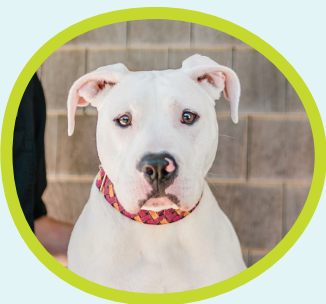
Mom and kittens visited the Animal Care Center regularly for vaccines and checkups with our veterinarian. Once they were old enough for sterilization surgery, the kittens and Petra returned and found new homes and families to call their very own.

Kitten season sounds cute, but there's nothing cute about a homeless kitten that's not receiving the care they need. Thanks to people like you, these delicate animals find support, care, and homes at the Potter League.



Heart & Sole Walk for Animals Moves to Ft. Adams State Park

For 32 years, the Heart & Sole Walk has evolved from a humble gathering to the Potter League's largest pet walk and most important peer-to-peer fundraiser of the year. On Sunday, October 24, hundreds of animal lovers from across the state will gather at a NEW location, beautiful Fort Adams State Park, to make second chances possible for animals in our community. It's a fabulous opportunity to become a sponsor, participate with or without your dog, or create a team as we join together in creating a more humane Rhode Island for people and pets alike. **To register online and for more information, visit heartandsolewalk.org.**



Eliza Doolittle

Every animal that comes to us has a story, and it is our responsibility and obligation to listen. When Eliza found herself in another shelter at just 6 months old, it was abundantly clear that she was exhibiting signs of fear, anxiety, and stress when she found herself in a strange, new environment. She seemed untrusting and afraid, barking at most sounds, sudden movements, and strangers, especially men. When the Potter League stepped in, we weren't sure if we were too late to be able to help Eliza overcome this nearly paralyzing fear. Our behavior team got to work quickly by building Eliza's confidence and reassuring her that she was safe. Other dogs seemed to be a source of comfort for this beautiful girl, so we found a helper dog who comforted Eliza every step of the way. After nine weeks working with our mod squad, she was finally ready to find a home. Eliza was adopted in June 2021, and her adopters and canine siblings absolutely adore her.

Become a Sustainer and Help Animals Year-Round

Animals need our help every day, not just a few times a year. Our Faithful Friends monthly giving program is the easiest and most convenient way to make a difference for animals in need.

When you become a Sustainer, you'll be joining a community of dedicated supporters who help ensure Rhode Island's most vulnerable animals receive the love and care they deserve.

Becoming a Sustainer takes less than five minutes and provides a dependable source of funding so the Potter League is always prepared to help every animal in need of a second chance.

Enroll today at www.potterleague.org or contact our development team at 401-846-0592.



Pet Food Donation Brings Relief to Pet Owners in Need

For more than four years, the Potter League has distributed pet food and hosted vaccine and wellness clinics for thousands of animal lovers and their pets in underserved communities.

Unfortunately, the pandemic made these outreach events much more difficult, but that didn't stop us from doing everything we could to support pet parents in need. We continued providing pet food throughout the pandemic, and found new ways to provide vaccines.

In late June, the Potter League worked with Chewy and the Humane Society of the United States to accept a donation of more than 30,000 pounds of pet food and pet supplies. In a time when the need was so great and we were struggling to keep food in stock to provide for the community we serve, we are so grateful that Chewy provided us with such a generous gift.

We held a "Community Pet Food & Supplies Distribution Day" to distribute what we believe to be Rhode Island's largest ever one-day pet food giveaway, with over 16,500 pounds of pet food going to members of our community.

Keeping families together is central to the Potter League's mission, and we recognize that we can't help pets without also helping the people who love them.

The Potter Pet Food Pantry is stocked by generous donations. Pet food donations can be made by dropping off pet food at any of our three locations. For anyone in need of pet food assistance, please email Community@potterleague.org.



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

50 Amaral Street
Riverside, RI 02915

401.270.3832 (p)
401.270.3487 (f)

www.PotterLeague.org

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