Meet Maggie Mae
A lucky little lady who got a second chance thanks to you.
Story continued inside.
At eight months old, Nugget arrived at the Potter League extremely fearful of new people and situations. It quickly became evident that he missed important aspects of socialization with humans and found people scary. Our behavior team worked with Nugget for weeks, slowly, never pushing him beyond where he was comfortable. Our team decided to try and introduce Nugget to a confident “helper” cat in the hopes that they would help Nugget be less fearful. And then it happened. As soon as we introduced Nugget to China, Nugget instantly began to rub up against China. The two played all day the first day they met. We left them in their room together overnight and the next morning, they were both lying in the bed together. Nugget went from a petrified cat to a curious, bright-eyed, beautiful, loved companion. Nugget was adopted in March 2022.

These are the types of stories that come with many of the animals who find themselves being loaded onto a lifesaving flight headed to Rhode Island. The Potter League for Animals is fortunate to be in a community where the love and compassion for animals are paramount, and we are able to provide assistance to animals from overwhelmed communities. As part of our ongoing efforts and partnership with Bissell Pet Foundation, and thanks to generous friends like you, we continue to welcome animals from areas of the country where communities struggle with the volume of animals in their shelter system and exceed the number of homes available.

Maggie Mae deserves the most comfortable and loving home, and your support enables us to ensure she gets exactly what she needs.

B-Mod Graduates:

Our Behavior Department 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 the Potter League for Animals Behavior Team, Jack and Nugget were official B-Mod graduates and ready for loving homes. Thanks to generous donors, dozens of dogs and cats have “graduated” from the B-Mod program in 2022. Dogs and cats like Jack and Nugget get the expert training they need to blossom and transform.

**Jack**

When Jack first arrived, he would retreat to the far back of his kennel trembling and shaking with fear whenever someone approached. We offered him treats but he was uninterested. When we opened the door, his body tensed and would offer a low growl indicating that he was very scared, and he would like us to leave. Our behavior team got to work quickly by building Jack’s confidence and reassuring him that he was safe. With time and patience, going at Jack’s pace, we soon began to see him relax and blossom. Before long he was in front of the kennel as we approached, tail wagging and barking for attention. Jack spent 21 weeks with our behavior team and was finally ready to find a home. Jack was adopted in March 2022, and his adopters absolutely adore this quirky little dog.

**Nugget**

At just eight months old, Nugget arrived at the Potter League extremely fearful of new people and situations. It quickly became evident that he missed important aspects of socialization with humans and found people scary. Our behavior team worked with Nugget for weeks, slowly, never pushing him beyond where he was comfortable. Our team decided to try and introduce Nugget to a confident “helper” cat in the hopes that they would help Nugget be less fearful. And then it happened. As soon as we introduced Nugget to China, Nugget instantly began to rub up against China. The two played all day the first day they met. We left them in their room together overnight and the next morning, they were both lying in the bed together. Nugget went from a petrified cat to a curious, bright-eyed, beautiful, loved companion. Nugget was adopted in March 2022.
In our education programs, we teach about animals, but the real lesson is about the importance of the connection between people and animals. Those are not only lessons we teach to children, we incorporate those traits into all the work we do. By taking a holistic and compassionate approach to the needs of human-animal families, we can keep families healthy and whole.

In recent years, we have shifted our approach to helping animals in our community to a much more comprehensive model based on the wants and needs of our people and animals. We know that most surrendered pets are loved and considered part of the family, and we know that keeping those families together is better for everyone. Access to affordable veterinary care, low-cost spay/neuter services, pet supplies, pet food, and pet-safe temporary housing are all programs that keep animals healthy and families together. These programs have a greater impact on the immediate challenges people and their pets are experiencing because they address underlying problems instead of reacting to a crisis.

Our transformation to a proactive approach to problem-solving is accelerating with the hiring of our first Community Navigator, Stephanie Alger. Stephanie brings her accomplished resume as a social worker to the Potter League, and we are elated to see what she will do for our community. Stephanie will build on our partnerships with local human service organizations and will be the go-to person for people who need assistance with their pets. She is introducing a case management approach to our work with the community, so people and their pets won’t fall through the cracks. In the past, people and animals may have gone without their essential needs being met because they were unaware of the services we provide or didn’t know how to access them. Stephanie will build relationships by attending community meetings and events. She will be a presence outside the walls of our Animal Care Center, all to connect pet owners with resources to improve the quality of life of pets and people.

With the addition of our Community Navigator, we stand firm in our belief that the deep connection with pets transcends socioeconomic, racial, and geographic boundaries, and that no one should be denied the opportunity to experience the benefits and joy that come from the human-animal bond. Thank you to all of you for supporting the Potter League’s programs and to a small group of special supporters who made the Community Navigator position possible.
Community Veterinarians Help Keep Pets in Homes

Whiskers’ family was distraught. He wouldn’t stop vomiting. They knew he needed medical attention and began calling local veterinary offices to have him seen.

Due to cost concerns and lack of appointment availability, Whiskers’ family struggled to find somewhere to take him, but when they called the Potter League Pets In Need Clinic (PIN), they knew Whiskers would be safe because of our affordable sick pet visits. Whiskers was quickly scheduled to be seen.

After completing a blood profile and echocardiogram to evaluate his heart murmur, Whiskers was diagnosed with diabetes mellitus. Whiskers’ family’s only income is from Social Security. Because of their financial limitations, they thought their only choices would be euthanasia or surrendering him to a shelter, knowing that insulin could be extremely costly.

Fortunately, with the support of the Potter League and the Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association, legislation passed in 2021 created a process for veterinary clinics to donate unused or recently expired medications to nonprofit animal care facilities in Rhode Island. The PIN Clinic had been the recent recipient of a donated supply of the exact type of insulin that Whiskers needed from Ocean State Veterinary Specialists.

PIN also provided Whiskers and his family with additional donated medications, including anti-nausea pills, appetite stimulants, and boxes of the needles and syringes needed to administer the insulin.

Without these donations from generous Rhode Island veterinarians, Whiskers would not be treated for his disease, and his family may have had to face saying goodbye to him months ago. Instead, Whiskers is receiving twice daily insulin injections and is happy, healthy, and loved at home with his family where he belongs.

This medical donation program has been remarkably beneficial and in some cases life-saving, for pet families and their furry friends. Thanks to State Representative Pat Serpa and State Senators Coyne, Sosnowski, Archambault, and Lombardo for sponsoring the legislation that made it possible. Thank you for supporting the work of the Potter League so animals like Whiskers can stay with their families. You make all the difference to pets in need.