

# Paw-Print PRESS

Summer 2022



## Meet Maggie Mae

A lucky little lady who got a  
second chance thanks to you.

*Story continued inside.*



Potter League  
*Enriching Lives*



# Maggie Mae's Flight to a Second Chance



At nine years old, Maggie Mae found herself back at San Antonio Animal Services (SAAS) where she had been adopted 6 years prior. With a yearly intake of over 30,000 animals, SAAS is often filled to the brim with animals. Maggie had come into SAAS in 2016 in poor condition but doing her best to care for the two puppies that had been found with her. Maggie was placed in a wonderful foster home and was soon

adopted by a gentleman named Paul. Paul and Maggie's foster parent kept in touch over the years, but when Paul found out that he had terminal cancer, having no family meant he had to make the decision to surrender her back to SAAS. Paul let Maggie's former foster parent know, and Maggie went back to the same foster home again. Maggie Mae returned a little older and slower, but the same wonderful dog she had always been. Paul's cancer was not survivable, so he asked Maggie's foster parent to find her a new home. She would find that home in Rhode Island.



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.



# New Community Connections

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.



Pictured: Stephanie Alger, Community Navigator & Buddy Hashbrown, previous Pet Safe dog.



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.**

## Ways to Support the Animals

Shop the Potter League  
Bloomingtails Online Merch Store:  
[potterleague.threadless.com](http://potterleague.threadless.com)



## Save the Date Events Calendar

**Yappy Hour**  
July 18

**Camp Happy Tails is back!**  
July 11 - August 26 (weekly)

**Heart & Sole Walk for Animals**  
October 16

For a full list of virtual and in-person events, visit  
[www.potterleague.org/get-involved/events-calendar](http://www.potterleague.org/get-involved/events-calendar)

## Freewill

As you take care of your spring cleaning, why not also do a little spring planning? Potter League for Animals has a free, online resource to help you write your will in 20 minutes or less. It's an easy way to get organized and take care of the people — and pets! — you love. Start your will today at [freewill.com/potterleague](http://freewill.com/potterleague)

## Make a Difference While You Shop on Amazon!

Select "Potter League for Animals, Inc." as your charity when you activate AmazonSmile in your Amazon App found under "Programs & Features" and they'll donate a portion of your eligible mobile app purchases to us!



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

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