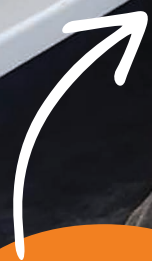


Paw-Print PRESS

Winter 2022



Meet Diamond and Her Babies

This new mom found a safe
place thanks to your support.
Story continued inside.



Potter League
Enriching Lives

Caring for Our Community's Companions



Fostering saves lives. It's a phrase you may have heard before, but how exactly? Foster families help animals adjust to domestic life when they may have come from difficult circumstances. Foster families often give pregnant moms a quiet place to give birth and

provide young kittens and puppies with lifesaving care. At the same time, foster families provide longer-term shelter residents with a break from the shelter while seeking a new home. For the health of animals, fostering is a vital part of what we do here at the Potter League.

It's not just for fun that Ashley and her husband, Rob, who live in Warren, RI, open their home to foster pets. They do it mainly to know they are giving their pregnant moms and puppies the best start in life.

In the couple's home, dog moms are provided a private, relaxing room where they can give birth and raise their puppies safely for eight weeks, plus they have time to socialize with other dogs and humans. For dogs like Diamond, who was found as a stray, fostering her through her pregnancy, birth, and raising the puppies, provided a second chance she might not have gotten elsewhere because of the time and attention she and her puppies needed.



Whether taking in temporary pets is your passion or your only option, fostering provides a safe and healthy environment for kittens to grow. With weaker immune systems, kittens are more prone to getting sick in shelter settings where they are exposed to various animals. Kittens under eight weeks old — who cannot survive on their own without continuous care — are especially vulnerable, which is why many of our kitten foster families, such as Merilee and her daughter Jenn, have fostered thousands of kittens. By providing this unconditional love and around-the-clock care, this mother-daughter duo knows that they are creating a bond with these vulnerable kittens like no other and are rewarded by simply seeing the happy and healthy kittens go home.

Thanks to your support, we can provide the love, care, and resources needed to animals like Diamond and her puppies; because of this, they are so grateful for you.

You can learn more about fostering and fostering opportunities at www.potterleague.org.

B-Mod Graduates:

Our Behavior Team supports our animals by ensuring that both our shelter animals and animals in our foster homes receive enrichment and behavior training. By supporting their mental well-being, and thanks to generous donors, dozens of dogs and cats "graduated" from the B-Mod program in 2022. Dogs and cats like Bumbles and Panda get the expert training they need to blossom and transform.



Bumbles

Little is known about Bumble's history before arriving at the Potter League. However, what became clear, was that the shelter environment was very stressful for him. Bumbles displayed some reactivity when he came, but we saw him becoming

increasingly reactive as the weeks passed. He would show signs of high arousal with anticipation while getting out of his kennel. Outside, Bumbles was playful and energetic, playing fetch and rolling around in the grass. Our behavior team put together a plan for Bumbles to work on his reactivity, such as giving him a treat every time someone walked by his kennel so that he would associate people walking by with a positive interaction. Soon, Bumbles began to show less reactivity, and after 13 weeks in our care, Bumbles found himself a loving family to call his own.



Panda

While most cats who come to the Potter League can adjust to shelter life, some find themselves needing extra help to prepare for life in a new home. Panda came to us terrified.

He would crouch in the back of his condo, hissing and low growling if anyone approached. Our Behavior Team provided extra privacy for Panda to give him space. Our team quickly learned that Panda was a huge fan of tasty cat treats, so through reward-based training and interactive play, Panda's fearful behavior reduced drastically. Upon seeing a friendly and familiar face, he began soliciting attention. He greatly benefited from being housed in larger spaces, with room to explore and plenty of stimulating toys for entertainment. And after six weeks in our care, Panda was adopted by a wonderful family.

Pet Loss Support

Navigating the waters after the loss of your beloved pet can be difficult. While friends and family can be pillars of support, they also might not realize how important your pet was and still is.

You are not alone. The Potter League's Pet Loss Support Group provides a safe, supportive, and non-judgmental environment where one can share their grief with others experiencing a similar loss. The group is facilitated by Lori Verderosa, MA, LCDP, a psychotherapist specializing in trauma and loss issues. Lori has decades of work experience in pet bereavement. Just like when we lose a two-legged loved one, it is important not to bottle up your grief. It is essential to talk about your feelings. "The group provides a compassionate place where attendees can share their thoughts, feelings, and experiences and meet others who understand what they're going through," says Lori.

Pet Loss Support Group meets monthly. Participants are welcome to attend on an as-needed basis, and there is no fee to attend. As Lori says, "It is in mourning that one heals. The tears and talking can clarify aspects of grief and enhance the healing."

For more information or dates, visit our website at www.potterleague.org.



Rescued Thanks to You!

At 16 years old, it is hard to imagine what life was like for Tortellini before arriving at the Potter League as a stray. While we don't know how long she had been wandering alone outside, it was clear to one neighbor that Tortellini was not a community cat but rather friendly and affectionate, and she deserved better.

This beautiful Tortoiseshell cat was microchipped by a shelter in a neighboring state, where we learned that her name was Tortellini, and she was 16 years old, but the number was no longer in service. When we posted her to social media as a found cat, an individual contacted us who had been feeding Tortellini for a handful of years, thrilled to know that we would find her a new loving home to spend the rest of her years loved. We may never know how this sweet kitty cat ended up as a community cat, but we were determined to make the rest of her days her best. We reassured Tortellini that she was safe and that we would be there for her.

Thanks to our community's generosity we were able to be there for Tortellini and give her the support and care she needed to have a second chance.



Miracle Makers' Spotlight

"The greatness of the community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members."
– Coretta Scott King



A community may simply be a group of individuals linked by common goals by definition, but what makes it truly powerful is the actions of its people. Through compassion, impact can be created that inspires positive change within communities and the world around us. The ripple effect is empowering when businesses use their resources and initiatives to give back to their community.

Bill's Sales has been a staple in the Aquidneck Island community in what started as a family business in 1975, selling and delivering firewood. Bill's Sales has grown over the years to building storage sheds, lawn furniture, gazebos, arbors, and other yard accessories at its present location on East Main Road. If you follow Bill's Sales on social media, you may have noticed that their posts have started featuring adoptable dogs from the Potter League. Allison Trujillo, Bill's Sales employee, and our long-time volunteer, has been bringing dogs to Bill's on field trips to get out of the shelter and promote adoption. Thanks to our partnership, our first call was to Bill's Sales when our very own outdoor shed was falling apart. They replaced ours at a discounted price. A heartfelt thanks to Allison and the entire Bill's Sales family.

Stop by Bill's Sales with your pup to say hello!



Deck the Paws Holiday Wishlist



Many homeless animals that come through the doors of the Potter League are scared, hurting, and alone. Your gift allows us to give them the best gift of all: hope. You help us care for them, love them, and heal them. When they leave us in the arms of their new families, they have the gift of love and a new life. Thank you for your generosity and continued financial support of the Potter League for Animals. And remember, all or part of your gift may be tax-deductible as a charitable contribution. Please check with your tax advisor.

Donate items from our Deck the Paws Holiday Wishlist that will enrich the shelter animals at the Potter League:

- 🐾 Dog Treats: Pupperoni, Bully Sticks, Tracheas
- 🐾 Dog Beds/Blankets
- 🐾 Cat Hidey Beds
- 🐾 Cat Treats/Churu
- 🐾 Non-Plush Dog Toys
- 🐾 Cat Toys
- 🐾 Hot Dogs
- 🐾 Clorox Wipes
- 🐾 Rabbit/Small Animal Toys & Treats
- 🐾 Laundry Detergent

Save the Dates



- 🐾 **Annual Meeting:** January 26, 2023
- 🐾 **P.S. I Love You Pet Photo Contest:** February 1 - March 2, 2023
- 🐾 **Potter Pet University:** December 14, 2022
January 11, 2023
February 8, 2023
- 🐾 **Yappy Hour:** July 16, 2023



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 Amaran Street
Riverside, RI 02915

401.270.3832 (p)
401.270.3487 (f)

www.PotterLeague.org

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