



Potter League
Enriching Lives

Paw-Print PRESS

STORIES OF LIVES SAVED THROUGH **YOUR** HEARTFELT SUPPORT

Again and Again, You Helped Mend Pasha's Broken Heart

Pasha's story with us spans many years ... several homes ... and so much heartache.

But, thanks to compassionate friends like you, she always had a soft place to land here at the Potter League for Animals.

You see, we first met Pasha when her original guardian could no longer care for her.

After a short time with us, she found a loving home. We hoped she would go on to live a life of happiness with her adoptive mom.

Your kindness helped this shy beauty find the kind of love she'd been looking for.

Months of patience and love passed, but Pasha still seemed withdrawn and shy. She couldn't get comfortable in her new home. So, her mom made the difficult decision to return Pasha into our care, hoping the green-eyed cat would find a better fit.

With our team's care and encouragement, Pasha began to show glimpses of her affectionate side again — and soon, found another wonderful family. Finally, it seemed like she was home for good.

Then, tragedy struck. Her guardian passed away, and Pasha returned to us ... this time, with a broken heart.

But, just like every time before, we were there for her. That's what it means to be a Potter Pet. No matter how long it's been, or how life changes, our animals will always have a safe place to go.



We're here to give pets like Pasha the second — and third, and fourth — chances they deserve. Thank you for making her ongoing care possible.

It would take months to nudge her to come out of her shell again. But when she was ready, Pasha seemed glad she did. After all she'd been through, Pasha met someone new — a kind person who saw the beauty in her quiet nature. Now, in her fourth home, Pasha's allowing her heart to soften and her true personality to shine.

You gave Pasha something priceless: time, stability and unconditional care. Thank you for helping her find where she was always meant to be. 



**ALSO
INSIDE!**

563 Days: Thor waited so long to find a loving home. But he was never alone.

Purrs and Wags: See how you can change lives as a volunteer or foster family!

Once a Potter Pet, Always a Potter Pet

Dear Friends,

On behalf of all the pets who walk through our doors in need of care, safe shelter and a loving home, I thank you for your compassion and generosity.

Your gifts power our efforts and fuel daily care for vulnerable animals. Every comfortable bed, every nutritious meal and every healing touch is made possible because of people like you who give from the heart.

In this issue of the Paw-Print Press, you'll read about a green-eyed cat named Pasha who jumped from home to home on the way to finding her perfect match. You'll also meet some of our hardworking graduates of supportive emotional and behavioral work, and a grateful dog named Thor. They have you to thank for their second chances. Every animal we meet becomes a part of our story. And because of people like you, we can always keep our promise: Once a Potter Pet, always a Potter Pet.

But there are more animals in Rhode Island who still need our help. They'll come to us with nothing but hope in their hearts. Your generous donations ensure we're here for them, no matter their circumstance. Thank you for supporting the Potter League for Animals.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Brad Shear, CAWA
Chief Executive Officer

Behavior Success Stories

See How Training Transforms Lives

Sanders



Sanders' tail is always wagging! He's an excitable guy who needed extra help calming his anxious behaviors.

Sanders has the most playful spirit! But he came with challenges that made his path to adoption a long one. With all his high energy, this handsome dog needed help regulating his big feelings. Our Behavior Team built a plan to help him learn calmer ways to interact with people. Through consistent, one-on-one work, Sanders learned impulse control, leash manners and new ways to channel his excitement.

Progress took time ... but it happened. We made sure to celebrate every win along the way. And, with confident handling, enrichment and patience, Sanders

grew and developed into the polite gentleman he is today. After 232 long days in our care, filled with countless hours of enrichment and behavior work, Sanders graduated from the B-Mod program — and from our shelter! He now enjoys the kind of life he'd been training for: long hikes, steady structure and the companionship of someone who truly understands him. 

Winnie

Winnie's intake was among the most challenging our team has ever faced. In her short life, she knew only confinement instead of comfort — living with 21 other cats, dubbed the "Wall Cats," within the walls of an apartment, with little human contact. By the time she was surrendered into our care, poor Winnie was extremely fearful and undersocialized.



Your support helped turn Winnie's fear into trust.

She hid deep in cubbies and would flee at the faintest noise. Our Behavior Team had a lot of work to do to help Winnie feel comfortable navigating a world beyond the walls she knew. Our staff worked diligently with this frightened cat, slowly introducing a predictable routine and a safe space where she could explore. As the months passed, she reached several exciting milestones — like accepting treats and batting at toys — but she truly blossomed when we paired her with a cat named Topaz. Suddenly, something shifted in Winnie. She became openly affectionate, following Topaz's confident lead. Now, they're inseparable, and adjusting beautifully to life in their new, loving home! 

Sit. Stay. Play!

Behind the Scenes With Our Behavior Team

At the Potter League, behavior work is so much more than teaching basic commands like "sit" and "stay." Really, it's about rebuilding trust, easing fears and helping our animals discover confidence in themselves — and finding connection with others. Because we believe behavioral support is critical to each pet's overall well-being.

Alisha Brzozowy, our Behavioral Services Lead, and Shyreal Evans, our Behavior and Training Assistant, couldn't agree more. They're the dynamic duo keeping all our behavioral operations running smoothly.

They lead the charge at our Dog Behavior & Training Center, where every treatment plan is tailored to the unique needs of each animal. They also conduct behavioral evaluations, train our enrichment volunteer team, manage our Behavior Helpline and follow up with adopters to ensure long-term success.

This work requires patience and heart — and with your support, we're able to make it happen every day. Thank you for giving our animals the second chances they deserve. 🐾



Thanks to animal lovers like Alisha, Shyreal and YOU, every pet has the tools they need to succeed — and find a happy home!

You Made Sure Thor's Looong Wait Paid Off!



You helped Thor feel right at home during his extra-long stay with us.

Thor wished to find a loving family of his own. But for 18 months, a lengthy legal process put his dream on hold. Until the case resolved, Thor couldn't be adopted or placed in foster care. All we could do was make him as comfortable as possible here at the Potter League.

Things were going well for the first few months. We provided him with steady care, a safe space to decompress and enrichment to keep his days busy. But as the months stretched on, the reality of waiting without a home of his own began to show. The stress took a toll on Thor, and he started showing clear signs of emotional and physical strain, withdrawing more and more.

Caring for Thor became an all-hands effort. Between our volunteers, veterinary care staff and Behavior teams, every department within our facility played a role in keeping Thor healthy, stable and loved during his 563-day stay with us.

Then, it happened! After more than 18 months of waiting, the court case finally resolved, and Thor found what he always wanted — a loving family.

His journey may have been long, but he was never alone ... because of you. Thank you for giving and for making Thor's dream come true! 🐾



We Value Your Trust.
Industry Leaders Verify
Our Stewardship of Your Gifts.





There are plenty of ways to get involved at the Potter League for Animals! You'll be making a difference in the lives of so many pets — like the cuties in these photos!

Be the Reason a Tail Wags, a Cat Purrs and a Life Changes

At the Potter League for Animals, it takes more than love to change an animal's life. It takes a network of support. People who choose to show up, roll up their sleeves and give their time, homes and hearts.

Like our dedicated volunteers and foster families. They're at the very heart of our mission, turning ordinary days into hope and second chances. From helping a shy cat learn how to trust to walking a lonely dog who's never known affection, and even opening

their homes to animals who need a quiet place to heal, we depend on the generosity of our volunteers and fosters to keep our organization thriving!

If you've ever wanted to make a difference, we've got a special place for you here.

Every act of compassion adds up to something extraordinary. And having your support means more happy animals across Rhode Island! 🐾



BREAKING

MEWS

There's a new tax benefit you'll want to know about! Starting with your 2026 taxes, you can get a new tax break for your charitable gifts, even if you don't itemize your deductions.

- Single filers can deduct up to **\$1,000** in donations.
- Married joint filers can deduct up to **\$2,000**.

That means your generosity can help animals and reduce your taxable income. Next year at tax time, you'll be glad you gave!

Explore volunteer and foster opportunities at **potterleague.org/get-involved** and join us in making a positive impact on the lives of those we serve.

Save the Date



P.S. I Love You Pet Photo Fundraiser Contest
February 1–March 2



The Bark & Boogie
April 11



Camp Happy Tails Vacation Camp
April 20–24

Summer Camp Happy Tails
July 6–August 14 (weekly)