



— SUMMER 2026 —



Potter League
Enriching Lives

Paw-Print PRESS

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

Richard Finally Found Where He Was Meant to Be

There are many things to love about Richard: his big personality, floppy ears and handsome jowls that give him an extra-wide smile, just to name a few.

Richard was deeply loved by someone who wanted the very best for him. During a period of housing instability, Richard and his guardian were living in a car. It worked for a while, but over time, the cramped space began to take a toll. Richard needed room to move, and he started showing signs of distress.

Deep down, his guardian knew this wasn't the life their beloved dog deserved. Surrendering Richard was a heartbreaking decision. But because of you, he had a soft place to land at the Potter League.

Richard was deeply loved. But for his happiness, he needed to start anew.

We wanted Richard to feel as comfortable and supported as possible. We treated his medical needs, including a heart murmur, dental disease and skin masses — care made possible through your generosity. But we couldn't stop there.

What we wanted most was for Richard to find people who could embrace him for exactly who he is: wiggly, joyful, full of life and ready for a routine that helped him thrive.

Then he met a couple who looked into his droopy eyes and fell in love. They understood his needs and were ready to build a life around them.

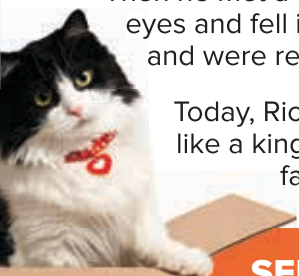
Today, Richard's adopters say he's living like a king. He settled in quickly, claimed his favorite spots on the couch and now



Richard needed your help finding a new home with enough room to roam.

.....
enjoys daily five-mile walks with his family. They can't imagine their lives without him.

To be loved is to be understood. And you helped Richard find a family who truly understands him. 🐾



**SEE
MORE
INSIDE!**

Scared Crow: Crow the cat was hurting and afraid. He needed you.

Bow Wow! Wait, our spay and neuter services have helped how many pets?



Your Support Ensures No Pet Gets Left Behind

Dear Friends,

Summer may bring vacations, beach days and a change of pace for many . . . but for animals in need, there's no season for pressing pause.

Every day, pets arrive at the Potter League needing safety, medical care, behavioral support and a fresh start. And because of compassionate supporters like you, we're able to say yes.

In this issue of *Paw-Print Press*, you'll read stories that reflect the impact of that generosity — from Richard, whose story is a moving reminder of what love can look like even in life's hardest moments, to behavior success stories that show what patience, trust and second chances can make possible.

You'll also meet Crow, a cat whose journey back to health was made possible through the kind of care your support helps provide every single day.

Thank you for standing with us, and with the animals and people who count on us. Your compassion makes this work possible, in every season.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Brad Shear, CAWA
Chief Executive Officer



Training Transforms Lives

Our Behavior Modification (BMOD) program helps animals like Ferguson, Kuro and Pearce overcome challenges, build confidence and have brighter futures.

Ferguson

Having arrived as a stray, Ferguson would let out a hefty bark when a new face approached . . . then retreat to the furthest corner.

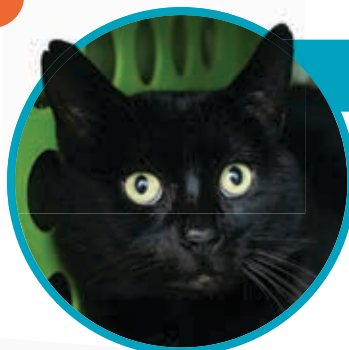
But outside of his kennel, we saw glimpses of a different dog: one who sought closeness and wanted connection. He just needed time and support to feel safe enough to show it.



Ferguson needed extra patience and time to find his confidence.

Our Behavior Team gave Ferguson the structure, patience and predictability he needed to build confidence. Through positive reinforcement, gradual desensitization and choice-based interactions, he began learning how to better navigate the situations that once felt overwhelming. Slowly, reactivity gave way to curiosity.

By the time Ferguson found his new family, he was no longer the frightened dog who first arrived — he was ready to embrace his next chapter. 🐾



Kuro & Pearce

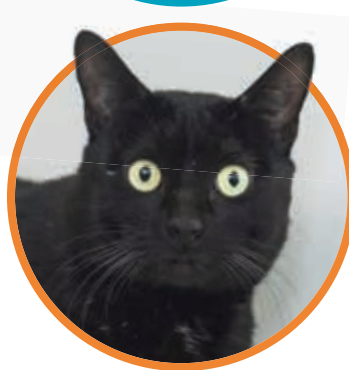
Kuro and Pearce experienced a tremendous loss when they came to us after their owner passed away.

The transition was very difficult. When separated, both cats seemed deeply unhappy and shut down completely.

But when reunited, they found the comfort and confidence to reconnect with the world around them again. Our team decided to keep them together.

In just over a month, they were a far cry from the cats we first met. Soon, Kuro and Pearce were gently head-butting staff members for attention and graciously accepting pets.

Best of all? They found a home together . . . where they'll bring double the love to their new family. 🐾



Kuro (top) and Pearce (bottom) are simply better together!

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



Crow, the Caw-tious Cat, Needed Your Help

Crow wasn't feeling his best — and it showed.

When Crow came to us, he needed significant medical support, including care for insulin-dependent diabetes, severe dental disease, significant matting and challenges with weight management.

But Crow was battling more than physical health issues.

Since kittenhood, he'd only known the comfort of home. The shelter environment felt overwhelming, and his fear quickly took hold.

Thankfully, because of compassionate supporters like you, our team could step in right

away, addressing not only Crow's medical needs, but to give him the patience, care and understanding he needed to begin feeling safe again.

Crow received the comprehensive treatment he needed to heal. With consistent medication and close monitoring, his diabetes even went into remission. (Way to go, Crow!)

In just a matter of weeks, Crow transformed from frightened and unwell to ready for a fresh start.

Because of you, Crow didn't just get medical care — he got his quality of life back. 🐾

Crow was scared. He needed someone he could count on (like you!).

16 years. Thousands of animals. Lives changed.



Michelle got a special tattoo to celebrate 16 years of saving lives.

This year, we're celebrating one of our dearest humans, Michelle Sousa, as she marks 16 years of saving lives with the Potter League for Animals.

She began her journey with us simply wanting to make a difference. Sixteen years later, we think it's safe to say she's done that — and so much more.

Over the years, she has been part of countless moments, helping animals heal, supporting them through recovery and preparing them for their next chapter.

To commemorate this milestone, Michelle chose to get a tattoo

of the Potter League logo, a permanent reflection of her deep commitment to this work, the animals and the mission that has meant so much to her over the years.

You could say she wears her heart on her sleeve — literally. And as she celebrates this milestone, she remains just as dedicated to the animals and people she serves every day.

Michelle's story is a powerful reminder of what's possible when compassion shows up day after day . . . and when friends like you make that work possible. 🐾

Here's Good
NEWS!

New Tax Benefit For You

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!

BOW WOW!

We've Got 100,000 Reasons to Celebrate

When you give to the Potter League for Animals, you make humane and proactive solutions possible for every single animal in our community.

Like our Spay & Neuter Clinic.

In 2019, we acquired the Rhode Island Community Spay & Neuter Clinic to address a growing need for affordable, high-quality surgical care. Since then, we've expanded our operations and become a vital resource for pet owners throughout Rhode Island.

Today, we perform thousands of surgeries each year, helping to prevent unwanted litters, improve animal health and remove barriers to veterinary care.

But this year, we reached our most exciting milestone yet: 100,000 spay and neuter surgeries performed.



Thank you for building a better, more humane region for animals and neighbors.



We're so proud of our veterinary team, clinic staff, community partners and caring supporters like you who made this possible.

And while 100,000 is certainly worth celebrating, this work is far from over.

Animals and families still need access to affordable care. With your support, we'll continue saying "yes." Thank you for being part of this lifesaving work. 🐾



Save the Date

Learn more about all our upcoming events and volunteer opportunities at potterleague.org/get-involved and please join us in making a positive impact on the lives of those we serve.



Yappy Hour
July 19



Heart & Sole Walk for Animals
October 11



Thank You, Faithful Friends

We are deeply grateful for every Faithful Friend who stands by our side each month. You are the heart of our work and the reason we can keep enriching lives and build a more humane community every single day.

Not a Faithful Friend yet?

Monthly giving is one of the easiest and most impactful ways to help animals in need. Join this dedicated community of supporters and help create a future where every animal has the care, comfort and compassion they deserve. Use the enclosed form or join online now at potterleague.org/donate.

Please Give Today!

Rhode Island animals still need your help.

Scan this QR code or visit potterleague.org/newsletter26 to make a lifesaving gift today.

