



# 2014 Annual Report

**The Potter League for Animals**

**Celebrating 85 Years  
of Enriching Lives and Making a Difference**



*15 Harrington Street, Newport - 1931*



*Hennessy Productions © 2009*

*87 Oliphant Lane - 2009*

**August 1, 2013 – July 31, 2014**

# Celebrating 85 Years: 1939-2014

Dear Friend of Animals,

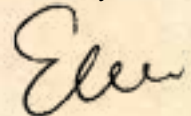
In 2014 the Robert Potter League for Animals celebrates the 85th anniversary of our founding. Throughout this year's annual report are examples of the ways in which the Potter League is continuing our rich legacy of providing help and hope to homeless or neglected and abused animals. This legacy of help and hope is one that is built upon the shoulders of a community that truly cares and who trust us to do the right thing for animals.

For 85 years the Potter League has had bold dreams and big victories. Our education programs and community outreach shape the future. Training and obedience programs support the special bond between pets and people and ensure long lasting relationships. The animals are cared for in a state-of-the-art LEED Gold facility with adoption and medical programs that continue to grow to meet the desire to save more lives. The board of directors and staff work side-by-side and constantly look for ways to accomplish our strategic goals effectively and thoughtfully. Collaboration with animal welfare organizations locally and nationally safeguards the future for all animals.

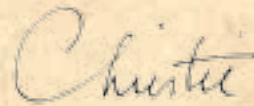
This annual report provides the highlights of the year's accomplishments. But most importantly it celebrates the hard work and dedication of staff and volunteers for over 85 years. Thank you for all that you do, and for the essential part that you play, in making our work possible.

The Potter League is more than just an animal shelter because of everyone's support. To all who make this possible - donors, staff, volunteers and board members - thank you working with us to continue our rich tradition of animal welfare. We invite you to be a part of our future. And we thank you for 85 wonderful years.

Sincerely,



Ellen Ford  
Board President



M. Christie Smith, CAWA  
Executive Director



Dog Days of Summer - 2014



2001



1978 - Reviewing plans for initial construction



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony - 2009

The Potter League is celebrating its 85th anniversary this year. Originally named The Newport County League for Animals, we were founded in 1929. The visionary women whose goal was "to take charge of any abandoned, sick, lame, overworked or cruelly treated animals" were Virginia Potter, Mary van Beuren, and Emma Norman.

To house homeless animals, the League in mid-summer 1931 purchased and converted a stable at 15 Harrington Street in downtown Newport. This purchase was largely possible by the generosity of Mrs. George Cerio and Mrs. E.V. Hartford. The League made an arrangement with Veterinarian Dr. H. F. Ferguson by which he would take care of stray animals and those animals whose owners could not afford to pay for medical care in exchange for rent for his office located in the shelter.

Prior to the founding of the League, strays and homeless pets were destroyed immediately after their capture by the dog constable. The League was able to obtain a written agreement with the city and the dog constable which stated that strays would be kept for five days as required by law. This cooperation had a significant effect on the humane treatment of animals in Newport. The growing number of abandoned animals, due to the severe depression, presented many problems which the League helped resolve.

In 1958, Mrs. Virginia Potter died and left a bequest to the League with the condition that the shelter be renamed in memory of her husband. In 1959 the name was changed, and we became the Robert Potter League for Animals. Despite being renovated and the unceasing hard work of the managers, the original stable-turned-shelter on Harrington Street continued to have problems ranging from the complaints of noise and odor to the need for constant repairs. In 1978 a new shelter was built at 87 Oliphant Lane, Middletown.

The incredible devotion of the founders and early shelter workers cannot be measured by ordinary standards. They approached their top priority - the welfare of homeless animals - with plenty of love, perseverance, personal sacrifice, and dedication.

Today, the Potter League has a reputation locally, regionally and nationally for innovation and a commitment to constant improvement and excellence. We have a new LEED Gold animal resource center that enables us to meet the needs of the animals while offering a variety of programs to support people and pets. Gone is the chain link fencing that makes shelters look sad and depressing; animals are housed now in rooms and condos with plenty of glass and natural light, radiant heated floors, state of the art ventilation. Our Behavior Helpline and private consultations for behavior advice both increased by over 100% in the past year. The Volunteer Department has undergone renovations and our application and scheduling process is now virtually paperless enabling animal lovers to be oriented and trained much faster and their talents put

to work quickly. Our finances are stable, and we are grateful for the many animal lovers who support and donate to us. This year we have begun to outfit our surgical suite so spaying and neutering of the shelter animals can be handled in the shelter with the most comfort for our homeless animals. Best of all, we save lives with a Live Release Rate of 93% and a guarantee that 100% of adoptable animals are placed.

For 85 years the Potter League has celebrated and protected those animal companions who enrich our lives, and, with you as our partner, we are proud to continue to do more for animals and people.



*Fetching Friends Transport Program*

**Support and Revenue**

Contributions and grants .....	\$1,122,885
Events, net .....	179,057
Shelter services .....	296,600
Service contract fees .....	224,022
Investment return .....	129,425
Sales of pet supplies, net .....	10,499
Gain on sale of property and equipment .....	1,500
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>1,963,988</b>

**Expenses**

**Program Services:**

Shelter services .....	1,049,841
Education and training services .....	361,479
<b>Total Program Services .....</b>	<b>1,411,320</b>

**Support Services:**

General fundraising .....	283,856
Management and general .....	145,490
<b>Total Support Services .....</b>	<b>429,346</b>

**Total Expenses .....** 1,840,666

**Change in Total Net Assets .....** 123,322

**Net Assets, Beginning of Year .....** 10,611,281

**Net Assets, End of Year .....** 10,734,603

**Animals Received**

Dogs & Puppies .....	744
Cats & Kittens .....	788
Other Animals .....	137
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>1,669</b>

**Adoptions**

Dogs & Puppies .....	431
Cats & Kittens .....	595
Other Animals .....	120
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>1,146</b>

**Strays Returned to Owners**

Dogs & Puppies .....	263
Cats & Kittens .....	63
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>326</b>

**Transfer/Other Outcomes**

Dogs & Puppies .....	9
Cats & Kittens .....	29
Other Animals .....	9
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>47</b>

**Euthanized**

Dogs & Puppies .....	58
Cats & Kittens .....	81
Other Animals .....	3
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>142</b>

**Reasons for Euthanasia**

Behavior and/or Aggression ...	Dogs 60%	Cats 48%
Injury and Medical Problems ...	Dogs 14%	Cats 43%
Owner Requested .....	Dogs 26%	Cats 9%

**Other Animal Statistics**

Animals Spayed or Neutered .....	550
Number of Lost and Found Reports .....	266
Medical Examinations by Veterinarians ...	2,282
Animals Transported to Potter League ...	336
Potter Pet Tags Issued .....	826



2005



2008



*Heart & Sole Walk for the Animals*



*Kneady Cats Program*



*Soap Box Derby*



*Dog in the old shelter chain link kennel*

## Behavior and Training Activities

Behavior Assessments of Shelter Dogs & Cats . . .	714
Training Classes Taught . . . . .	109
Dogs Enrolled in Classes . . . . .	491
Dogs Attending Playgroups . . . . .	2,236
Dogs Attending Free Adopter Training Classes. . .	201
Calls to the Behavior HelpLine . . . . .	635

## Volunteer Support Received (Hours)

Animal Care . . . . .	16,370
Animal Assisted Activities . . . . .	315
Clerical . . . . .	4,042
Community Service & Restitution . . . . .	1,169
Humane Education . . . . .	560
Special Events . . . . .	1,934
Other . . . . .	2,231
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>26,621</b>

## Communications

Newspaper Columns Published . . . . .	92
Potter Pet University Attendees . . . . .	199
Featured in Pet of the Week . . . . .	82
Facebook Fans . . . . .	9,514
Website Visits . . . . .	215,044



## School Based and Youth Presentations

Program	Presentations	Students
Elementary School Multi-Lesson . . . . .	202	960
Middle School Multi-Lesson . . . . .	104	657
Single Lessons By Request . . . . .	48	1,108
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>2,725</b>

## Shelter Based Education Activities

Program	Sessions	Students
Shelter Tours . . . . .	12	143
Camp Happy Tails . . . . .	8	99
School Vacation Camps . . . . .	3	111
Birthday Parties . . . . .	14	174
Girl Scout Patch Program . . . . .	5	74
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>601</b>

## Other School Based Activities

Program	Hours	Students
Reading Fur Fun . . . . .	150.5	47
After School Program . . . . .	19	37
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>169.5</b>	<b>84</b>

# Potter League Donors

The Potter League is truly thankful to all of our donors – individuals, families, businesses, organizations, corporations and foundations – who have generously supported us. Every contribution has a lasting impact on the animals and helps foster better relationships between people and their animal companions. Thank you for your thoughtful investment in the work that we do. This list is comprised of gifts received between August 1, 2013 and July 31, 2014 and does not include tickets or goods and services purchased at our special events.

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 Sakonnet Animal Hospital

*We apologize for any inaccuracies in our listings of contributors. Please call our Development Department at 401-846-0592 with any corrections.*

The Potter League for Animals is a private, non-profit organization. We respect your privacy and do not share or sell our mailing list.

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P.O. Box 412  
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## Our Mission

The Potter League  
for Animals is  
dedicated to  
making a difference  
in the lives of  
animals.

We promote the  
humane treatment  
of all animals and  
provide shelter  
and care for lost  
or unwanted  
companion  
animals.

Through  
community  
education and  
the fostering of  
relationships  
between people  
and animals,  
we enhance the  
animals' future and  
enrich the human  
experience.

