



FAQs (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 • 11:00AM-2:00PM • FORT ADAMS • NEWPORT, RI

THE DEETS

What is the Heart & Sole Walk for Animals?

The Heart & Sole Walk for Animals is our annual scenic $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile walk and signature community fundraising event. It's a celebratory day for you, your dog, your family, and friends to come together, enjoy fun activities, and raise critical funds to help animals in need.

When is the Heart & Sole Walk for Animals?

The 36th annual Heart & Sole Walk for Animals will be held on **Sunday, October 11, 2026**, at Fort Adams State Park in Newport, Rhode Island. Registration and festival activities begin at **11:00 am**, and the Walk kicks off at **12:30 pm**. This is a rain-or-shine event, so please plan accordingly.

THE PACK

Who can participate?

Everyone! Heart & Sole is open to individuals, families, teams, and friendly, leashed dogs. You don't need a dog to participate—just a love for animals. The $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile route is partially paved and accessible, and strollers and wagons are welcome.

Can kids participate?

Yes! Heart & Sole is a family-friendly event, and young animal lovers are encouraged to walk and fundraise right alongside the adults. Registration is available in two categories: Adult (18+) and Junior (17 & under). A parent or guardian should register first and can then register their Junior participant(s). Participants age 15 and under must be accompanied by an adult on event day.

Do I need a dog to attend?

Not at all. Many participants attend without dogs and still enjoy the festival atmosphere, vendors, and scenic walk.

Are strollers or wheelchairs allowed?

Yes. The $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile route is partially paved and accessible for strollers and wheelchairs. Please keep in mind that portions of the route and festival grounds may include grass or uneven terrain.

Can I bring my pets to the walk?

Friendly, leashed dogs who are comfortable in a busy environment with people and other dogs are welcome. Dogs must be up-to-date on vaccinations and under their handler's control at all times. Retractable leashes are not permitted. With lots of dogs, people, sounds, and activity throughout the day, we encourage comfortable, secure walking equipment that allows dogs to safely enjoy the event and ask that aversive training tools, including electronic, prong, choke, and chain collars, be left at home. For everyone's safety, please leave cats and other small animals at home.





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Can I bring more than one dog?

Yes, as long as each dog is friendly, leashed, and under your control at all times. Please be sure you can safely manage multiple dogs in a crowd.

Do I have to fundraise to participate?

There is no fundraising minimum required to participate, but Heart & Sole is one of the Potter League's most important fundraising events, and we encourage every walker to set a goal and give fundraising a try! Every dollar you raise helps animals and supports programs for pets and people throughout our community.

Can I participate if I can't attend the Walk?

Yes! You can register and fundraise even if you aren't able to join us at Fort Adams on Walk day. Your fundraising page works just the same, and you can still qualify for fundraising prizes based on the amount you raise.

THE SCOOP

How do I register for Heart & Sole Walk for Animals?

It's easy! Click Register on heartandsolewalk.org and choose whether you'd like to participate as an individual, start a team, or join an existing team. Select Adult (18+) or Junior (17 & under) and complete the registration form. Be sure to set a fundraising goal and select your T-shirt size! Once registered, you'll have the opportunity to personalize your fundraising page and share it with family and friends.

What does it mean to be a Team Captain?

Team Captains help recruit and organize a team of walkers. With our step-by-step guide to leading your team, being a Team Captain is fun, easy, and incredibly impactful.

Is there a registration fee?

No! There is no fee to participate in Heart & Sole. Instead, we encourage every participant to set a fundraising goal and help us reach our \$100,000 event goal. Every dollar raised helps make a difference for animals.

How do I start or join a team?

During registration, you'll have the option to start a team, join an existing team, or participate individually. If you create a team, invite friends, family, coworkers, or fellow animal lovers to join you and work together toward a team fundraising goal.

How do I set up my fundraising page?

Your fundraising page is automatically created when you register. After you log in, click My Fundraising Tools and choose Edit My Page or Fundraising Dashboard. From there you can update your story and details, add a profile photo, create a custom URL, import email contacts, and send fundraising emails. Remember to save your edits!

I'm done editing my page—what do I do next?

Start by making the first gift to your page if you haven't already. Then share your fundraising link with friends, family, coworkers, and your social networks. Tell people why you're walking and ask them to support your goal. Visit our Fundraising Tips & Tools page for sample posts, graphics, fundraising ideas, and more.





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How do I get interactive on social media?

Share your Heart & Sole journey on social media! Follow and tag @potterleague, share photos and videos, celebrate fundraising milestones, and tell your friends why you're walking. Use #HeartAndSoleWalk2026 so we can follow along and share the fun.

You can also download our Heart & Sole social graphics and other shareable resources from the Fundraising Tips & Tools page.

Can I also set up a Facebook fundraising page?

Yes! You can connect a Facebook fundraiser to your heartandsolewalk.org fundraising page so activity syncs in both places. Be sure to follow the sync instructions in your dashboard so donations track in real time on both sites.

How do I add cash and checks to my online total?

Sign in to your Fundraising Dashboard, click Donations in the left sidebar, then select Enter donations of cash and checks. Enter the donor information and gift amount, and the donation will be added to your fundraising total. Cash and checks must still be turned in to the Potter League in advance or brought with you on Walk day to receive credit toward fundraising prizes.

I am registered but not fundraising online—what do I do with cash and checks that I collect?

Download the offline donation form from the website and bring it with your donations to the Walk or to the shelter in advance. If you receive cash or checks after the Walk, please bring them to the shelter or mail checks to: Potter League, Attn: Walk for Animals, 87 Oliphant Lane, Middletown, RI 02842. (We do not recommend mailing cash.)

Is there a fundraising deadline?

To qualify for fundraising prizes, donations must be received by Sunday, October 11, 2026. Online fundraising will remain open through October 31, so you can continue raising funds and collecting donations after the Walk to support the Potter League.

What if I need help with my fundraising page?

For technical help or ideas, email walkforanimals@potterleague.org or call 401-846-0592—we're happy to assist.

THE BIG DAY

Can I register the morning of the Walk?

Yes! You can register on event day beginning at 11:00 am. There is no registration fee, but we encourage every participant to make a donation or fundraise in support of the Potter League. Visit the Registration Tent when you arrive and our team will help get you started.

What's the schedule?

The fun begins at 11:00 am with registration and festival activities including music, vendors, food trucks, photo opportunities, games, and more. At 12:30 pm, everyone will gather for the scenic $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile walk along the waterfront. Festivities continue after the walk and wrap up at approximately 2:00 pm.



Potter League
Enriching Lives

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What happens if it rains?

The Heart & Sole Walk is rain or shine. Please dress for the weather and bring any gear your dog may need.

Will there be food or drinks available?

Yes! Food trucks and beverage vendors will be on site with items available for purchase. Additional giveaways are provided by our in-kind vendors and sponsors.

Are bathrooms available?

Yes. On-site restroom facilities are available inside Fort Adams State Park for all participants and guests.

Is there a lost-and-found?

Yes. Lost or found items can be turned in or retrieved at the Information Tent during the event.

Need help on event day?

Stop by the Information Tent or look for volunteers in Potter League shirts for assistance with donations, directions, or general questions.

THE SPOT

Where is the event held?

Fort Adams State Park

80 Fort Adams Drive, Newport, RI

Once inside the park, follow signs to the Heart & Sole Walk festival area and Registration Tent.

Where should I park?

Free parking is available on site at Fort Adams State Park. Follow event signage to the designated Heart & Sole Walk parking area.

THE CAUSE

Where does the money go?

Funds raised through the Heart & Sole Walk for Animals help the Potter League provide compassionate care for animals and essential resources for pets and the people who love them throughout Rhode Island and beyond. Your support helps make possible shelter and adoption services, veterinary care, spay and neuter services, behavior support and training, pet food assistance, wellness clinics, humane education, and more. Every dollar raised helps us be there for animals and our community when they need us.

How else can I support if I can't attend?

You can still make a difference even if you can't join us at Fort Adams! Register as an Adult or Junior participant and fundraise from wherever you are, support an individual or team with a donation, or make a general gift to Heart & Sole. Online fundraising will remain open through the end of October, so there are plenty of ways to support the Walk even if you can't attend in person.



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THE PRIZES

How are prizes awarded to individuals and team members?

Prizes are earned solely by individual fundraisers based on the amount each person raises. If you join a team, your personal fundraising total will count toward your own prize eligibility and will also be added to the team's overall fundraising total for bragging rights. However, teams themselves do not receive team prizes—only individual fundraisers qualify for the prize levels. This means each participant's page must reflect their own donations in order to receive credit and redeem prizes.

What prizes can I earn?

Every individual who raises \$50 as an Adult participant or \$25 as a Junior participant (17 & under) will receive the official 2026 Heart & Sole Walk T-shirt. Additional prize levels are available for higher fundraising totals—see the Prize Chart for the most current levels and rewards. Remember, the more you raise, the more animals you help and the more prizes you can unlock.

How do I collect the prizes I've earned?

Fundraising prizes will be available for pickup at the Prize Tent on Walk day. When you check in and turn in any remaining donations, you'll receive information confirming the prize level you've earned. Bring that to the Prize Tent to select and pick up your prize.

Prize levels are based on your individual fundraising total as of October 11, 2026. Participants who qualify for Levels 2–7 will also receive the Level 1 Heart & Sole T-shirt.

THE EXTRAS

How do I print out my gift history list?

Go to your Fundraising Dashboard and click Reports on the top toolbar to review and print all your donor history.

This is my first time fundraising—do you have tips?

Absolutely! Visit our Fundraising Tips & Tools page for fundraising ideas, sample social posts, shareable graphics, and other resources to help you reach your goal.

Who should I contact if I have more questions?

Please contact our Development Team by email at walkforanimals@potterleague.org or by phone at 401-846-0592.

