



www.secondchanceanimals.org

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



www.secondchanceanimals.org

We couldn't do what we do without you, they wouldn't get a Second Chance without us. It takes all of us to save all of them. Thank you for being a part of our Second Chance family!



Second Chance Animal Shelter, Inc.



ADOPTION CENTER:

111 Young Rd., P.O. Box 136
East Brookfield, MA 01515
Tel. (508) 867-5525 Fax. (508) 637-1417



WELLNESS AND EDUCATION CENTER:

372 North Main St.
North Brookfield, MA 01535
Tel. (508) 637-1333 Fax. (508) 637-1417

**ALMOST HOME
CARE FACILITY**
Same location



COMMUNITY

VETERINARY CLINIC

501 Belmont Ave.
Springfield, MA 01108
Tel. (413) 739-2343 Fax. (413) 372-4163

COMING SOON

COMMUNITY VETERINARY CLINIC

831 Main St.
Worcester, MA 01610
(Opening Spring – 2017)



Email: info@secondchanceanimals.org
Website: www.secondchanceanimals.org

AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Voted "Best of Central MA" by the readers of The Telegram & Gazette

Chosen 1 of 11 shelters in the country to be part of the "Humane Puerto Rico" mentorship program 2016

Chosen as 1 of only 35 for the Pets for Life mentorship for MA by the Humane Society of the United States 2015

Chosen by Purina as the MA shelter for "Building Better Lives" in 2012, 2013,

and 2014

HSUS Emergency Placement Partner as of 2010 and named a top 10 Partner in the Country in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014

Chosen as the only MA shelter for funding by the Mutt Nation Foundation 2014 (Miranda Lambert)

ASPCA Emergency Placement Partner since 2013

Gold level on Guidestar.org since 2013

1 of the top 73 animal welfare non-profits in the world 2012 by greatnonprofits.org

Voted top MA shelter in the animal rescue site challenge, June 2011 and have placed in top 3 in nearly every subsequent challenge

"Featured on the Fox Mike and Juliet Morning Show in 2008"

"Top 20 shelter in the national 2007 Zootoo.com contest and "Top MA shelter in the 2009 national Zootoo.com contest"

Named "Outstanding Shelter" by SPCA International 2008

ABOUT SECOND CHANCE

MISSION STATEMENT

TO provide temporary shelter to stray, abandoned, and surrendered animals for the purpose of finding permanent suitable new homes.

TO provide assistance and financial aid to prevent overpopulation through spaying and neutering programs.

TO support a healthy pet community and responsible animal husbandry by providing reasonably cost general veterinary services, as well as low/no cost general veterinary services to those unable to afford care for their pets.

TO provide low/no cost general veterinary services to animal control agencies, animal shelters and rescues.

TO establish cross-referral networks with local “for profit” veterinary doctors and clinics.

TO provide assistance and information to others whose purposes are consistent with the purpose of Second Chance Animal Shelter, Inc.

OUR VISION

Second Chance Animal Shelter will be a model shelter, addressing the issues of pet over-population, suffering and abuse and euthanasia of healthy adoptable animals locally, state wide, nationally and internationally, by providing services and programs that focus on the root causes of these issues. We will be the exemplary animal welfare organization, executing exceptional business practices and offering cutting edge services and programs that establish Second Chance as the model to revolutionize animal welfare.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President	Sheryl Blancato (founder)
Vice President	Joe Blancato Sr.
Secretary	Rebecca Austin
Treasurer	Curtis Schoen
Member	Robert White, Esq
Member	Sara Gasparrini
Member	Heather Logrippo

2016 IN REVIEW



Founded in 1999, Second Chance Animal Shelter (SCAS) is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. A seven (7) member Board of Directors governs SCAS. The shelter employs a staff of twenty nine (29) full time and ten (13) part-time. Six (6) of the staff are veterinarians working to help our shelter animals as well as provide veterinary care at our three Community Veterinary Clinics. The volunteer base is 275. SCAS is a no-kill shelter and **does not** euthanize pets to create space. There is no time limit on how long a pet is cared for until adoption.

SCAS operates in six (6) locations. The Adoption Center, East Brookfield, MA, the Wellness and Education Center, North Brookfield, MA, the Almost Home facility in North Brookfield, MA, the Community Vet Clinic in Springfield, MA, the Framingham PetSmart adoption center for adult cats, our newest Community Vet Clinic in Worcester, MA which will be operational in spring of 2017. All of our Vet Clinics offer subsidized pricing to those who qualify. Our two mobile surgical/adoption vehicles provide additional clinics throughout Mass.on a monthly basis.

SCAS helped over 26,000 pets in 2016 through adoption, spay/neuter, vaccine clinics, veterinary care, including subsidized care to those in need, veterinary services to over 60 other rescues and shelters throughout the state, training, educational outreach in schools and youth groups, and a pet food pantry.

The Adoption Center is in its 18th year of operation providing shelter for surrendered, stray and abandoned animals from the public, Animal Control Officers as well as working with such organizations as HSUS (The Emergency Services Placement Partner Program) and MAC (The AniMatch Program), ASPCA, Best Friends, and others to re-home animals from Animal Control, disasters, large scale hoarding and animal cruelty cases. SCAS is a MA emergency shelter.

The Wellness & Education Center, located in North Brookfield, MA, provides low cost spay/neuter to approximately 5,000 pets each year, as well as our full service veterinary clinic which began operations in 2013. It is open to the general public as well as providing subsidized rates for care for those that qualify. The subsidized pricing is also available to other rescues/animal control/shelters. The same applies to our Community Vet Clinic in Springfield, MA and our newest Community Vet Clinic in Worcester, MA which will be operational by spring of 2017. It is our goal to provide medical care to every animal that needs help regardless of their owner's financial position.

Second Chance is a proud member of the Humane Alliance, a group of member teams that are trained in the most advanced and cutting edge surgical techniques for spay/neuter. The Wellness Center offers this high quality, low cost spay/neuter service as well as weekly vaccine clinics, a full array of veterinary services, and pet training. Grants from various organizations and donors allow us to provide these services at affordable prices. The goals of the Center is to perform 4-6,000 spay/neuter surgeries, as well as specialty surgeries and a multitude of other veterinary related services such as dentals, vaccines and diagnostics to keep pets in their homes and out of shelters each year. With a ratio of 5:1, birth to spay/neuter surgery, this represents a potential 30,000 animals per year that will not be put into the rescue systems whose resources are already strained. The addition of veterinary services gets to the root cause of animal suffering and surrender by helping countless pets from being surrendered or abandoned simply because their owners cannot afford medical

services, forcing them to give them up so they can get the care they need. This also saves shelters the significant financial costs of housing and providing the needed medical services to these pets. Second Chance is working to change the focus of animal welfare from the passive "sitting in our shelters waiting for the homeless animal to come to us" to the proactive approach of going into the community and finding those pets who most need our help and keeping them with their loving families. We are committed to surrender prevention.

SECOND CHANCE IS REVOLUTIONIZING ANIMAL WELFARE WITH THIS APPROACH.

The Wellness & Education Center provides the platform for our educational outreach programs. Training and education programs are a fundamental part of our efforts of surrender prevention. By utilizing our large communication room to provide in-house training we can educate new pet owners on how to keep their animals happy, healthy and safe. Our educational outreach program goes directly to community schools to bring awareness and training to our youth.

Our newly constructed "**Almost Home facility**" in North Brookfield also houses our "Pet Food Pantry" which provides assistance to more than 9 food pantries across Central MA helping residents in need to feed their pets and preventing surrender to shelters simply because they cannot afford the cost of food.

The organization believes that the path to ending animal suffering, abuse and overpopulation requires solving root causes and not just symptoms. We do not believe the mission can be achieved by adoption and spay/neuter alone, although these are certainly two (2) critical components of our strategy. We have pioneered the first "Subsidized Veterinary Clinics" run by an animal welfare group in our state of Massachusetts, focusing our effort on providing affordable medical care (including wellness exams, vaccine clinics, surgery, diagnostics, dental care and nutritional guidance) to the underserved populations of Massachusetts. Our first clinic in North Brookfield has grown exponentially since opening in Aug, 2013. Our second clinic, located in Springfield, MA and opened in April 2015, has already seen the same kind of

response from the community causing us to begin the search for larger quarters in order to serve the ever expanding needs of the extremely large underserved population of Springfield. Our third Clinic, located on Main South in Worcester, MA (opening in spring - 2017) is located in the heart of zip code 01610 where 59% of the population is living below the poverty level.

Through the generosity and vision of **PetSmart Charities**, we operate two mobile surgical and adoption vehicles which traverse the state providing services to communities where pet owners without a means of transportation are not able to see a veterinarian for basic exams or vaccines. The mobile unit also brings our adoptable pets to various locations around the state, providing our “temporary residents” greater exposure to the public ensuring that they will be seen by as many potential loving adoption homes as possible. Our adoptable pets can be seen at multiple locations throughout the state.

By having the ability to provide consistent vaccine clinics directly in targeted neighborhoods we can begin to end the deadly outbreaks of Parvo and other life threatening diseases that plague many urban areas as well as bringing medical teams to the pets who cannot get to us. This gets us out of our shelters and takes us to the pets and families that need help the most. With an estimated 23 million pets living in poverty our help is so desperately needed.



Helping to spay over 50 feral cats in North Adams, MA!

Our Mobile Units **HARD AT WORK ON A MISSION**



ADOPTION CENTER

"Every Pet Deserves A Second Chance"



2016 Adoption Statistics:



ANIMALS ADOPTED IN 2016 – 1,083

2016 saw a 27% increase in adoptions over last year, and set another record year for the shelter. The adoption statistics represents pets that entered our Adoption Center and were rehomed. They do not include those that were able to stay in their homes due to SCAS intervention, which is one of the most important measures of success. The adoption

of 1,083 animals represents 4.2% of the 26,000 animals that were helped. The balance of 24,917 or 95.8% were helped by our medical programs and our community outreach. By addressing the root causes of surrender and abandonment we hope to





keep more and more animals in loving homes instead of having to endure the emotional upheaval of being separated from their loving family due to a lack of financial ability to get help with medical, behavioral or other solvable issues. The need to provide temporary sheltering for a companion animal will never go away, but we strive to minimize the trauma an animal faces when forced into surrender.

Additionally, whenever space allows, Second Chance also takes in pets from other shelters, rescues, and animal control to prevent unnecessary euthanasia. Every pet deserves a chance at a great life. Senior staff continues to be involved in expanding the reach of SCAS rescues by our involvement in national rescue missions and by extending a helping hand to other shelters, rescues and animal control where space is an issue. In 2016, we assisted the Humane Society of the United States by taking 5 of the dogs saved from the South Korean “Dog Meat Trade”, taking in transported animals from the California wild fires, saving 26 cats from a local hoarding case, assisted the state in North Adams by conducting a feral cat S/N mission due to reported outbreaks of disease in the colony and took in homeless animals from Hurricane Matthew that devastated the southern east coast. We continue to be ready to deploy anywhere we are needed to help with cases such as dog fighting, abuse, hoarding, puppy mills and natural disasters.

Our transport vehicles stand ready to bring impacted animals back to our shelter for needed medical care and rehoming



ADOPTION POLICIES

The goal of our Adoption Center is to prepare and place our animals in their forever homes. To do this we need to ensure that the animal and the potential adopting family are well matched. Our staff is trained to work with each potential adopter to assist them in making the correct decision on their new family member. There are many variables that go into making placement decisions. Our process starts with the on-line adoption survey and the in-person visit to the shelter. The face to face conversation allows the staff to match the correct animal with the new owners.



Please note, in addition to the pets housed at the East Brookfield Adoption Center, we also have a satellite center located in the Framingham MA PetSmart that houses many of our adult cats. Our extensive foster care system allows us to provide our animals with an environment where special care is needed such as bottle feeding or animals with medical conditions requiring special attention. Second Chance Animal Shelter’s adoption fees are some of the lowest in the state and may be seen in detail at our website. (www.secondchanceanimals.com)

SURRENDER POLICIES

Surrendering an animal can be a difficult and heartbreaking decision for owners. Accepting surrendered animals and working to place them in new, loving homes is an important part of our mission. We **do not** require a surrender fee to bring a pet to our shelter. We accept all breeds, ages and pets with treatable medical conditions. Our trained staff performs a behavioral evaluation for each pet prior to admission to our shelter to ensure that the pet is adoptable. We have a lifetime return policy on all of our adopted pets. Therefore, SCAS pets can be returned to the shelter at any time in their lifetime.

WELLNESS CENTER

"Forever Together - Keeping Pets and Their Families Together"



A total of 4,755 pets were spayed/neutered at our Wellness Center in 2016. This was our 12th full year of offering this service. In June of this year we

completed our **35,000th surgery**. With a birth to surgery ratio of 5:1, we have kept 175,000 animals from entering an already overwhelmed shelter system that would see many of them euthanized for lack of space. 2016 marks the fourth (4rd) year of our full service veterinary clinics which provide subsidized rates for care of pets whose owners need financial assistance. The response to our clinic is exemplified in the **242% growth** we have seen since opening. SCAS continues to position itself as a model and leader in moving toward the solution of pet overpopulation and suffering. Our approach of focusing on **surrender prevention** helped over 26,000 pets this year. Many of these animals being allowed to remain in their homes instead of being surrendered to shelters.



Helping Hands Outreach Program For Other Groups

The "Helping Hands" program provides low cost spay/neuter and veterinary care to rescues, shelters, and municipal facilities assisting about 60 such groups..

Wellness Center Transportation Services

Second Chance's transport services provide a means for pets from other shelters, rescues, animal control officers to get to our Wellness and Education for spay/neuter when they cannot provide it. These

vehicles have made trips to other parts of the country such as Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, Vermont, New York, New Jersey and others to bring animals in jeopardy back to our shelter for adoption.

Feral Cat Spay/Neuter – FAST (Feline Alliance Sterilization Team)

Second Chance provides trap/neuter/release (TNR) weekly through our clinics at the Wellness & Education Center. We offer the loan of humane traps to assist caregivers and groups in trapping feral cats in order to transport them to the clinic. This program is for feral (wild cats, not house pets) and barn cats. It's important to understand when a cat is spayed/neutered, they are less likely to fight, spray urine, and will not breed - but they will still control rodents!

Pet Wellness Clinics

2016 was the ninth year of pet wellness vaccine clinics offered at each of our Clinics throughout the state. The weekly clinics provide routine vaccines, testing, and microchipping at low prices. These clinics are not meant to replace regular veterinary care but to assist owners that simply cannot afford even this basic routine care.

Educational Outreach Program

Second Chance provides tours of our facilities to local school and youth groups. We also provide guest speakers at local schools to promote responsible pet ownership. The schools use this program to assist them with their own community service programs. Schools also hold fundraisers or do other similar projects to benefit the shelter pets. Second Chance utilizes therapy dogs to assist with this program allowing for hands-on education with dogs such as Harley and other former Second Chance dogs.

Home Bound to the Rescue

Begun in 2010, this program was initiated as an adjunct to our "Food for Pets Pantry" which provides pet food to twelve (12) local human

food pantries. In addition to the need for pet food, the elderly need assistance with basic pet care. Many of them cannot afford to provide basic medical care for their pets and/or don't have transportation available to get them to a veterinarian. Home Bound to the Rescue assists pet owners by bringing the services right to their doorstep at no cost. By going to elderly and low income housing complexes, we can help to keep their pets healthy and up to date on vaccines. This prevents our seniors from having to choose between their pets needs and putting food on their table. Thanks to a grant from the Banfield Foundation the program continued to provide care in 2016.

Party for Pets Children's Program



Begun in 2008, the "Party for Pets" program has become an integral part of our educational outreach. The program is an extension of the school programs that promote the involvement of children with the plight of homeless pets, but adds an individual theme. Children can

now be part of helping homeless pets by thinking of them on their own birthdays. The children host parties and request gifts for the animals instead of themselves. The program evolved from the large number of children who voluntarily donated their birthday gifts to the shelters animals. In return the shelter provides the children with a gift of a t-shirt and lapel pin and animal related party favors for their guests. Designed to increase youth awareness to the plight of shelter pets and instill a profound respect for all animals, it will lead to a generation that abhors animal abuse and neglect and has a profound love of animals.

Pet Food Pantry

The Pet Food Pantry, established in 2009, continued in 2015 providing cat and dog food to area human food pantries. The program continues to grow

and expand, now providing assistance to 9 food pantries throughout the state, allowing pet owners to keep their pets with them during difficult financial times when they cannot afford the cost of food on their own. It is an integral part of our "Surrender Prevention" focus.

Second Chance Dog Park

In its 5th year of existence our Dog Park, located at the Wellness and Education Center, continues to give dog owners the use of a large fenced in area that provides a safe area for off-leash exercise for their companions. The park has become a well-used part of the community. It is so encouraging to see the animals and their owners taking advantage of the opportunity to bond with their animals in a safe and comfortable dog friendly area that allows dogs to romp freely.



Foster Care Program

Foster homes are an important part of SCAS. The number of foster homes varies from day to day. Fosters are used to care for pets that would not do well in the shelter environment for any number of reasons like pregnant and nursing moms, medically needy pets, and those that show signs of kennel stress. Fosters prepare our temporary residents for the day they are placed into their forever home.



PETS FOR LIFE

In addition to the continuation of all our current outreach programs, we completed our 1st full year of assisting the underserved residents of Worcester's zip codes 01608 and 01610. We provided 500 free spay and neuter surgeries to animals in this community as well as offering free services for other medical issues, all thanks to the funding of PetSmart Charities and the mentorship of The Humane Society of the United States. We are honored to be the only organization in Massachusetts to offer the "Pets of Life" mentorship program in the state of Massachusetts.

WHAT IS PETS FOR LIFE?



Pets for life is a groundbreaking community outreach initiative designed to extend animal welfare resources for pet owners who have never received services or have received services without long lasting impact. This approach is effective because it embraces the human component of the companion animal equation, we meet people where they live,

establishing trust and creating a ripple effect in the community which translates into a long term impact.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

The program puts us on the ground and into the neighborhoods meeting the pet owners at their homes and helping them with the unmet needs of their pets. The program provides free spay/neuter, vaccinations, and related services giving the owners an opportunity to provide care for their loved animals which due to financial issues they were not able to obtain from private sources.



By improving the relationship between a person/family and their pets, we can improve the quality of life for both, thus increasing the chances of the pet staying in their homes permanently. This is an amazing and cutting edge approach to animal welfare and we are so honored to be able to present it to the city of Worcester. Families in this zip code can contact our dedicated PFL phone line, 774-633-1951. This telephone number is ONLY for Pets for Life information and contact.

Volunteering Program

Our network of 275 volunteers perform various tasks at the each of our facilities. These include (but are not limited to):

Dog Kennel and Cat Cage maintenance/cleaning

Dog Walkers

Play and socialize with the animals

Bring their building skills to assist us with interior improvements.

Events planning and attendance

Transportation: To transport supplies and donations or to take animals to and from the vets or other facilities.

Various clerical and other office work.

Junior Volunteers: Youths under the age of 16 are welcomed into the volunteer program, however they must be accompanied by a parent at all times while at the shelter. Youths 16-18 years old can perform volunteer functions when another volunteer or adult is present.

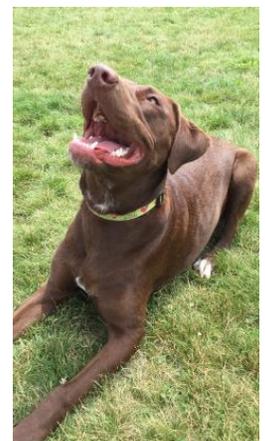


Website Based Programs

RESOURCE DIRECTORY

Second Chance maintains a resource directory on our website that contains information on breed

specific rescues, other shelters and other pet-related links.





Project Good Dog

We have partnered up with the Worcester County sheriff's office, the Northeast Correctional facility and the Gardner Correctional facility to create a program that helps pets in need of training and/or additional assistance prior to adoption! The program, launched in April of 2015, pairs behaviorally needy shelter dogs with inmates who provide 24/7 care and training. The low security inmates work with the dogs on

socialization, basic obedience, housebreaking, and sometimes even a trick or two. Not only does it provide benefits to the dogs but it also has enriched the lives of the inmates by bringing about positive results for the handlers who learn patience, compassion and responsibility. Many of the inmates have said that it also gives them a focus while they transition back into the community. The training the dogs receive while in the program helps them to be more adoptable increasing their chances for new loving homes.



We asked the handlers how they felt about the program and the responses were all positive. One said *"while I feel like I was able to help my assigned dog get better, it was him that helped me get better. All those hours spent with him have softened that part of me that had become calloused after so many years in prison, and reminded me that caring about and helping others is an important part of being a member of humanity."*



If you would like to help sponsor "Project Good Dog" please email Lindsay at Development@secondchanceanimals.org.

EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING

17th ANNUAL DINNER/AUCTION



One of our 4 major fundraisers, this event, held in March at The Leicester Country Club, is our largest annual event attracting 300 attendees who enjoy a night of fun together with other animal lovers who support Second Chance.



4th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



An 18 hole, scramble format tournament held at Leicester Country Club in July, provides golfers of all skill levels to compete for great prizes while enjoying a great day on the links. A luncheon is provided at the end of the tournament where scorecards can be compared and shot by shot stories can be shared.

16th ANNUAL RUN WALK WAG AND (NEW) CRAFT FAIR



This Sept event, held at The Wellness & Education Center is a day of fun for pet lovers and supporters of the shelter. The "Run, Walk, Wag" provided a 5k and 10k professionally timed road race and a 2 mile family dog walk. This year also included a very popular craft fair.

ON GOING FUNDRAISING PROGRAMS/EVENTS

Sustainability is keys to being able to provide our programs to the community. We are always developing new ways to provide funding, such as our kennel gate sponsorship, Paws for the Cause memorial plaques, and other recognition programs. This provides businesses an opportunity to help the animals and advertise their business with a sponsored kennel gate or cat cage. These can also be sponsored in memory of a loved one. The sponsored gates display a plaque designating the sponsor.

We participate in a number of other events at a variety of different venues throughout the year such as yard sales and a myriad of others.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Second Chance organization is committed to full transparency of all financial data. A complete breakdown of our financial statements can be viewed at Guidestar.org or at the Attorney Generals website.

PROJECTIONS FOR 2017

- Adoptions will increase to their goal of 1,500. We will be increasing our mobile adoption vehicle presence that provides a showcase for our pets at numerous locations throughout the state.



- The continuing need for our subsidized medical care drives us to add capabilities to our Clinics. In 2016 we added ultrasound and expanded our surgical abilities to include orthopedic surgery. The Springfield clinic was upgraded with the capability of digital x-ray. In the upcoming year we will expand the Wellness Center to include a full **Intensive Care Unit** to provide lifesaving care to critically ill animals. We are proud to be able to provide this new option giving us the ability to save more animals.



- Opening of our Worcester location.



- Begin the search for a larger building in Springfield to house the rapidly growing community veterinary clinic.



- Expanding Operation H.O.P.E. so that we can help reduce the overwhelming 95% euthanasia rate in Puerto Rico by mentorship, transport, and training to assist this dedicated group in reaching their goal.



THE PRESIDENTS LETTER



2016 has been an extraordinary year bringing help to over 26,000 pets. Our vision for “Revolutionizing Animal Welfare” drives us and focuses on bringing our programs to ALL, regardless of financial ability. We are relentless in maintaining staff levels at optimum effectiveness and efficiency, exercising tight control of overhead, fixed and discretionary expenses and adhering to our unwavering philosophy of “stretching every donated dollar to its maximum”. Our strategy of multiple, right sized, highly efficient, low fixed cost facilities serving targeted populations is far more efficient and effective than one large, high overhead, anchored facility that serves but one geographical area and incurs huge expenses of operation and upkeep, diverting funds away from the animals.

We are laser focused on using donor monies in the most effective manner possible. Without grants, donations from loyal supporters, a dedicated staff and a large group of hard working, extraordinarily passionate volunteers, none of this is possible. As one of the fastest growing shelters in Massachusetts, we ensure our sustainability and continue to reach further in achieving our mission of ending animal suffering and abuse. We are intent on providing affordable care to the underserved who love their companion animals dearly and want the best for them.

On behalf of all of us at Second Chance Animal Shelter, I wish to personally thank everyone that has helped to make the SCAS what it is today. Without a community of supporters, we could not do what we do. **Every** life that comes to us is important, every pet we can keep out of a shelter and in a loving home is heartwarming, every pet we keep from needlessly suffering from curable medical issues is worth all of our efforts and every pet we can give a second chance for a happy, loving life through our adoption program is precious to us. Thank you to everyone that is, and continues to be a part of this passion that is Second Chance Animal Shelter. **“Second Chance – Revolutionizing Animal Welfare”**

Sincerely,
Sherys Blancato
President

