



## **President's Letter**

Dear Animal Lover,

I hope this letter finds you well. It is so encouraging for us to finally get back to some sense of normalcy since the pandemic first struck in early 2020. But now, we are facing a "pandemic" of a different sort. One that is alarming, and can be fatal for our beloved animals. Across the nation, we are experiencing staffing shortages in all types of business, including in the veterinary field. Emergency vet hospitals are stretched to the limit and wait times can be as long as 12 hours or more. Vet schools are not turning out new vets as fast as positions open while many older veterinarians have decided to retire. This has created a perfect storm.

Second Chance is no stranger to urgent and emergency situations. For years, we have conducted emergency rescues, worked in large and small scale natural and man-made disasters, all in the name of saving pets. All our facilities remained open throughout the pandemic. Our amazing team worked tirelessly, providing veterinary care at our three hospitals, providing refuge to homeless pets at our adoption center, and providing a variety of services to help pets in need.

Now we must meet this new challenge. Veterinary and emergency hospitals around us have reduced hours or services due to staffing shortages, have seen increased wait times, or have even closed. This means that emergency and urgent surgeries for foreign bodies (when a pet ingests something that gets stuck in their intestinal tract), pyometras (life-threatening infections of the uterus), injuries and other surgeries have long waits or cannot be done at all. We must help. Second Chance has made the difficult decision to reduce spay and neuter surgeries at our North Brookfield hospital. This will help make room for these daily emergency surgeries. This will allow us to provide more life-saving surgeries for pets. We will continue to provide spay and neuter services on our regular schedule at our Springfield and Worcester locations. While spay and neuter are important, delaying it for a little bit to save a life is critical. We always want to do what is best for pets and meet the most urgent needs.

This is a silent emergency. There are no news stories showing downed trees or destroyed homes. There are no pictures of hoarding cases with pets living in deplorable conditions. But there is a critical emergency and Second Chance will do what we need to do, and all we can, to continue to lead the way in saving pets. No one should lose a pet that could be saved. This includes those that are on fixed incomes and cannot afford the surgery. It is our time to step up and help during these new unprecedented times.

We thank you for your support. It is so important to Second Chance staff and volunteers to know that we have your support. They have worked tirelessly over the past year and a half. While many are getting back to a new normal, they are working to meet this new challenge. They have been and continue to be the unsung heroes for pets in need. We want to be sure all pets in critical need get a Second Chance and we will help as many as we can.

Sheryl Blancato

**President** 



## OPENING SOON: Second Chance Southbridge Community Veterinary Hospital

#### - An Update



Work continues in Southbridge on our fourth full-service Community Veterinary Hospital. Despite all the challenges that COVID-19 created – from Bay Path students losing valuable construction time to extensive shipping delays for critical components – the Southbridge Community Veterinary Hospital is expected to open this fall.

The hospital will bring year-round, fullservice veterinary care to a community that greatly needs access to care, offering subsidized rates for qualified households.

This location will also be home to the Bay Path Veterinary Education Center where students in the veterinary science program will gain real-world experience assisting our staff in caring for animals.





Finally, tucked behind the hospital is the new Second Chance Community Engagement Center where volunteers, community and staff can come together to learn and collaborate on a variety of projects.

Room sponsorships are still available – visit <u>www.secondchanceanimals.org/room-sponsorships/</u> or email development@secondchanceanimals.org.

#### Be a Pet Pal Champion – become a monthly donor and help pets all year long.

- 50¢ per day (\$15/month) will help provide lifesaving vaccines for pets.
- \$1 per day (\$30/month) will help provide spay/neuter surgeries for dogs and cats.
- \$2 per day (\$60/month) will help provide affordable emergency care so pets can remain with a beloved owner who is on a fixed income or facing financial challenges.
- 1000
- \$3 per day (\$90/month) will help rescue at-risk pets from overcrowded shelters across the country.

Enrolling is easy. Check off the paw print on the last page and include your credit card info and we'll take care of the rest OR visit www.secondchanceanimals.org/monthly-pet-pal-champion.



## Giving Pets a Second Chance

At just nine months, **Stanley** came to Second Chance due to the declining health of his owner who could no longer care for him. This poor pup suffers from a painful condition where his eyelids curl in, causing his eyelashes to scratch the surface of his eyes. Stanley needs entropion surgery to correct this condition and Dr. Jackie says with surgery, his prognosis is good.

Your support helps pets like Stanley, freeing them from pain and giving them a real 'second chance' at life with a new forever family



## Yogi is Finally HOME



Many will remember Yogi, who came to Second Chance overweight and with a torn cranial cruciate ligament (similar to an ACL injury in humans). While waiting for surgery it was discovered that he tore his other CCL as well. Yogi needed three surgeries to fix his injuries. He had a bit of a rocky road as he got an infection from his first surgery. But after many antibiotics, multiple hospital visits, many procedures and lots of rest, he has made a full recovery and can run like a normal dog with no discomfort. Yogi's foster has been amazing in getting this boy back to health and following each and every instruction provided after his procedures.

We are so happy that he has found his forever home with his then foster, now mom.

We are grateful to all the donors and Greater Good Foundation that made his care possible.

## 46-Kitten Transport – Saving the Lives of At-Risk Babies

It was all hands on deck when 46 kittens arrived at the Almost Home Transport Facility earlier this summer from an overcrowded shelter in Chattanooga, TN. Just like all our shelter pets, each kitten needed a check-up and testing, spay or neuter, vaccines, deworming, and flea treatment before they were ready to find their new home. When they arrived at the adoption center, the staff commissioned the mobile adoption unit to welcome additional visitors so the babies could find homes as quickly as possible.



Thanks to the support of generous donors like you, these at-risk babies are all now in loving homes.



## Thank you for remembering the animals with your memorial donations.

Henry Koziol from: Christine Koziol Kuchinski Kathy Bassford Veronica Bernadis from: Joan Eckert Jan Bauver & Amma Bauver Judith Hennessy Kathleen Harvey Robles Laura Parzialeff Mary Ann Clawson Barbara Morrell

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## Second Chance Responds to the Emergency Veterinary Crisis



The effects of the pandemic have created a perfect storm, this time on land. As COVID-19 took hold here in Massachusetts, residents took advantage of all the extra time at home to welcome a pet into their family. While many veterinary practices were forced to reduce services or temporarily close, other vet hospitals like Second Chance were determined to be there for pets. They embraced a new curbside procedure and quietly became the essential workers for pets across the state. They worked long hours to see all the pets that needed help immediately and had nowhere else to turn. They were there for the pets that needed them, but it's taken a toll on their spirit.

The country was already facing a veterinarian and vet tech shortage before the pandemic. Now we have more pets that need care and veterinary hospitals

and practices are seeing their staff numbers dwindle due to burnout. Current wait times at some local emergency hospitals are lengthy while some other emergency hospitals have decided to temporarily or permanently close.

Second Chance Animal Services, no strangers to saving pet lives, are meeting the crisis head on. Since the pandemic broke, we have been here for pets without a pause, caring for the urgent and critical needs of pets in our communities. Now the situation is dire. Our colleagues at emergency veterinary hospitals tell us they are doing their best to keep up with demand, but they are strained and operating beyond capacity. Wait times often exceed 12 hours at some facilities and others have made the decision to close for the remainder of the summer.

We have adjusted our surgical schedule to help pets with nowhere else to turn. Day after day, pet owners are bringing pets to us in critical need of emergency surgical care. Without our help, these pets would die, suffer needlessly, or be put to sleep because surgery cannot be scheduled in time to save the pet.

We are grateful for your support to help as many pets as possible. Thank you

## Dixie & Dakota's Story



Dixie was just four months old when she was adopted from Second Chance. Despite a positive meet and greet with her new 3-year-old sister Dakota, things got off to a rocky start. "There were several issues in the beginning with puppy curiousness and not knowing personal space." Their owners kept a close eye to make sure things didn't get out of hand.

"I'm told it was the puppy finding her place in the family...In the beginning I was so close to bringing Dixie back because I didn't think it was fair to her for us to be so focused or controlling of them playing...I loved her to pieces and didn't want to. I made the appointment to return her but arriving there, getting ready to hand over her leash, that look she gave me...I just couldn't.



Now 10 months later they are inseparable...Dixie follows her sister Dakota everywhere...They have fun playing & when Dakota has had enough she has this bed- we call it the 'I'm done, time to take a break bed' - she goes there, lays down & Dixie is right beside her, which is fine for both of them apparently. So we all ended up living happily ever after! I'm so glad I gave it more time...I couldn't imagine her not being part of the family."





## Thank you for remembering the animals with your memorial donations.

William Rynder from: Michael Higgins Judith Sundell Kristin Walters Danielle Luegar Kelly, Brian, Taylor & Boomer Kulaszewicz Krista Falcone Danielle Lueger David Goodman Ron & Stacy Roy Inge Trzoniec James T. Flynn Frances Polito Marilyn Polito Dave & Joanne O'Brien Mary & Walter Bird Kathleen Comer Gilbert & Gloria Anderson David & Pam Reponen Susan St. Martin Jon & Denise Parlier Steven Shaw Paul & Irene Bleau D.J. Ecklebarger

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Jeanne LeBeau from Ed Ostrout Marilyn Fave Wassmen from OFS of Sturbridge Marguerite Bond from Paula & John Klys Philip "Chipper" Balicki from Automotive Recyclers of Mass.

My parents from Judith Pearson Mary Carter from Robert Carter Linda Blair from Jeanne Williams Ann Sylwanovicz from Joanna Gallant Francis Lareau "A wonderful Mother-in-law" from Michelle Phenix

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Asher "Little Prince" Koczur from Carolyn Majka





# Running Out Of Summer 5K

presented by



#### August 29, 2021 | 10am | Brimfield Winery & Cidery

35 Main Street, Brimfield, MA

- Prizes for top male and female finishers
   Prizes for age group top male and female finishers
   Live music | Giveauays | Raffles | Food
  - Live music | Giveaways | Raffles | Food •

Registration includes gender specific tech shirt, bottle opener medal, and a token for a beer/wine!

Running Out Of Summer Ale, a limited edition specially brewed for this event, will be available on race day.

Taking place on the last weekend before Labor Day, this race is sure to be a fun, festive event. *This event is kid and dog-friendly!* 

## To register: www.ROOS2021.racewire.com







Please contact wormtownmilersrun@gmail.com with questions.

## Help Pets & Help Your Favorite Restaurant!

For over twenty years, local restaurants have been our partners, helping pets in need by donating gift certificates to our fundraising events. Times continue to be tough for our restaurant friends right now, so we're encouraging our supporters to consider purchasing a gift certificate to a local restaurant for donation to Second Chance for upcoming fundraisers.



Your gift certificate can change the life of a pet and help struggling restaurants.



## Thank you for remembering the animals with your memorial donations.

Rusty from The Centered Place Kismet from Lynn Norris Gigi & Cassie two special little dogs from Lynnda Leboeuf Blackjack from Patricia Hobbs Mimi Davila from Sam Rivera Button from Peggy Monteiro Noah from Judith McDonnell Buster from Richard & Jackie Wood Tasha from Wilma Rivera Humphry from Michelle Stolwyk Max & Bella from Suellen & Tom Stott Sadie from Gina Raschilla Tux from Nancy & Margaret Lamb Murphy from Roseanne Linkhart Hurley from Nancy Donohue-Berthiaume Tara from Mona Castonguay King from Sara Garry Kita from Betty Rock Blackie from KaleeKat & Frankie Gunnar from Peter & Marianne Olynyk Abby from Joan Bevers Franklin, Thomas & Sally from Vincent Kordack Bentley from Michael & Diane Daniels Lucy from Ann & Ed Keefe Cally from Leon & Paula Harrison Leo the best cat ever from Mary Caforio Marshall from Barbara Werblin Cutie, Jessie, He Freckles & She Freckles from Donna Smeltzer Rusty & Sadie from Judith Leveille

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Daphne, Chloe & Zoe from Doug & Susan Powers

Bailey from Melinda Bechan

Peanut from Valerie Fisk

## Thank you for remembering the animals with your honorary donations.

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Georgie from Bryant Chisholm

Ariella from Paul & Lucy Convery

Olive Skowyra from Thomas Skowyra
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Fran, Ashley & Jessica
The Keddy Family from Roxann Banks
Audra & Brittany from Darlene Perez
The Blundell Family from Roxanne Banks
Abraham's birthday from Toni, Jason & Abraham
Brown
Melanie Bateman, Jennifer Bujnevicie, Scott
Emerson, Kaitlyn Faucher, Sarah Yurkunas & Anna
Lewsader from Country Bank
Michele & Chris Ingel from Phil & Karen Stefanini
Ellen Bonnevie from Sandra San Clemente
Christopher from Maureen Macdonald
Sherri Sweeney from The Mathworks Inc.
Kry Jefferson from Helena McCarthy

Duncan LaCroix from Mark LaCroix

Punkin from Jennifer Plante Spooky from Joseph & Susan Foley

Jeffrey Rappaport for winning the National Grid 2020 "Ethics Liaison of the Year" "My children & grandkids" from Patricia Trotter

The team at OFS in Sturbridge
Avery Lamb's birthday from Emily Lamb

Carol Michaels from Linda Hemmerly Ed's Birthday from Harvey & Cecile Smith Amy Mullen Thornton from Wendy Johnson Kelli and Paula Lettic from Thomas and Paula

Lettic Neil & Irene White from Fred Shuster Behalf of Brenda Jonassen from Holly Perepchuk Behalf of Leroy Jenkins from Kirsten Poler

Olivia Hopfe from Karen Nadolski Ralph Guidera Gottschang from Karen & Tom Gottschang

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Callie from Carol Reichardt
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Loki & Oliver from Melissa Daivs
Daisy from Frank & Donna Genatossio
All the animals from Norma Kennedy
Iris from Olivera Bogunovic
Charlie from Raymond & Jeannette Trudeau
Barney from Frank Latwis
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Bunny from Quigley Insurance
Rex from Paul Scannell
Mia & Minnie from Patricia Sweet

My cat Meanie from Bernadette White Shadow Binx from Christa Mansur Harlee from Dana Searah Daisy from Debra Annis Lewis from Heather Marie Hook Major from George & Joan Berry Rocky aka Quiver from Douglas & Charlene Dumais Petey from Daniel Pellegrini Sr. Noble & Magic from Gary & Elizabeth Brown Lola from Mary Ellen Derrick Sadie from A. Brownlee Ohnie from Eric Jones Major & Champ Biden's Indoguration from Karen Dewey from Phil Schwarz Gracie from Phyllis & Allen Hope Rex from Paul & Maureen Scannell Holly from Catherine Peterson Abby & Chance from Sally & Charlie Hollister Mingo Maw, Smokey and the Bandit- 3 great cats! From Joyce Gamache Buddy from Roberta White Poco Suter-Thoma from Casey Thoma Daisy from the Helfrich Family Sammy from John & Sandy Wilson Ivan from Linda Leblanc Stitch my Ragdoll from Lynda Camarra Baby Jaguar and Snuggles from Christine Maloney Stanley from Kenneth Kurowski Tigger from Selina Remmer Crick and Bunny from Martin Allen Ruff & Reddie from Laura Zoldak Maddie Puza from Theresa & Donald Puza Mookie & William from Barbara Cunningham Cookie, Max, Cooper, Allie& Tottie from Marilyn Woodworth

Daisy, Gretchen, Jake, Stanley, Bailey, Billy, Abby, Reese, Gizmo from Albert & June Drexler Skip, Leroy & September from Tom & Linda Barnes Cooper from Timothy Hoffman Shorty & Scooter from Dennis Healey Pretty Kitty from Betty Rock Lucky from Lydia & Mike Lamonica Kobi from Rita De Nitti Coco & Cota from Laura Goulet-Perez Toni from Jean Sullivan Pepper & Bo from Bob & Marilyn Griffen Buddy from Janet Mercak Aleke, Mami, Socrates, Lucky, Spirit & Mable from John & Ute Gannett On behalf of all the fur babies from Tom & Marcia MaedlerOn behalf of Elute from Sara & Robert Hunt Rawlings from Sherman Oil Co., Inc. Caeser the wonder dog from Charles Feula Mr. P from Diana Seacord Stanley from Kenneth Kurowski Scrappy from Tracy & Jeremy Smith Brady from Robert & Norma Beaudry Hannah from Dee Esteves Marly & Carly from Joel Meginsky Sammy from Paul & Joy Arent Mirabelle from William & Lynne Doyle Johnny & Kitty from Nadia Folger Girl Cat, Noah, Alley, Hannah & Wrangler from Walt & Cassie Ohop All the pets in the world from Jose & Kelly Torres Max & Daisy from John Ford Maddie from Donald & Theresa Puza Lucky from Jane Donahue Mr. Jingles from Gail Lacaire Buddy from Roberta White Chloe & Echo from Karen Baril

Thank you for the outpouring of tribute donations. We are humbled by your generosity in tribute to the very special people and pets in your life. We know how important it is to honor your loved ones. We have decided to give tributes a more-prominent home by moving them to our website. Our newsletter only comes out twice a year and we want to make these tributes timelier. You'll be able to see and share future tribute at secondchanceanimals.org/donate.

## Help Keep Pets Out of Shelters...and With the People They Love

Rex from Paul & Maureen Scannell

Did you know your support helps keep pets out of shelters in the first place?



One of saddest things is watching a pet owner walk out a shelter door in tears, leaving behind a bewildered and often scared pet they love, but could not afford to keep. Since the shelter was founded 22 years ago, time and again owners who came to our shelter door to say goodbye to a beloved pet told us they could not afford to keep their pet. Some could not afford veterinary bills because their pet was ill, others had lost a job or a spouse and could no longer provide basic care and food. We had to find ways to help.

Now Second Chance is more than just a shelter. Your support provides access to affordable veterinary care at Second Chance vet hospitals. Your support provides food to hungry pets through the Second Chance pet food pantry program.

You can help keep people and pets together.



#### Al Widlan's Service Connection Presents the 8th Annual







for Critters

To benefit animals in need at Second Chance Animal Services

Saturday, September 18, 2021

\*

10 am to 3 pm (rain date: Saturday, September 25) Westview Farms Creamery 109 East Hill Rd, Monson, MA



\$20 Show Car Entry Fee 100% of entry fee supports pets in need

**Free for Spectators** 

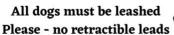


New Addition Halloween Barktacular Kids Games

"More Than Just a Shelter"

- Homemade ice cream & food
- Vendor Fair
- Live Raffles
- Dog Costume Boutique
- K9 Demo
- Corn Maze
- Pumpkin Picking
- Music by Steel-N-Eazy





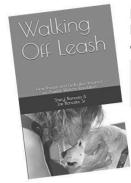


## facebook.com/cruiseforcritters

Questions? Call Alan at 413-267-9028
Interested in being a vendor?
Visit secondchanceanimals.org for vendor registration

Flyers donated by Roberts & Sons Printing, Inc.





#### Read the story behind the evolution of Second Chance

Walking Off Leash by Sheryl Blancato & Joe Blancato, Sr.

> 100% of sale proceeds donated to help pets in need through Second



## Walking Off Leash Book Signing Saturday, September 4<sup>th</sup> – 10am to 12 Noon at the Spencer Fair

Sheryl Blancato & Joe Blancato will be at the Second Chance booth, signing copies of *Walking Off Leash*.

Copies of *Walking Off Leash* and other great Second Chance merchandise will be available for purchase all weekend to benefit pets in need.

Available in paperback or eBook on Amazon. Or scan this code to order your personally signed copy shipped directly to your home.





# Pets are counting on you!

Donate online at www.secondchanceanimals.org



I wan	OR return this form with your donation today! want to help save lives with a one-time gift of:				
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City/State/Zip:				your tribute list check here: •	



## OPEN FOR GREAT STORIES AND INFORMATION!

Save the dates!!!

Brimfield Winery & Cidery Running Out of Summer 5K - August 29th

Westview Farms Creamery Cruise for Critters – September 18, 2021

# MAILING TEMPLATE NO PRINTING

"More Than Just a Shelter"

NON-PROFIT

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