



SECOND CHANCE ANIMAL SERVICES



Volume 19/Issue 1/Winter 2022

President's Letter

Dear Animal Lover,

As we begin a new year, we reflect upon all the past year brought us. Like everyone else, it was a roller coaster ride fueled by the pandemic, supply shortages, short staffing, delays, and a myriad of other challenges. Through it all, we persevered. The number of pets helped was over 40,000. It was not just the number of pets that was greater, but the challenges that brought them to our doors. With a national veterinary shortage and many vet hospitals closing or reducing services, we were flooded with calls for help. Our hospitals worked tirelessly to care for as many of these pets as we could - pets needing emergency medical care and urgent surgeries.

Our adoption center saw a much larger number of pets coming into the shelter with medical and behavioral challenges that had to be met before adoption. This included a large-scale surrender that totaled 88 cats with the births that followed. Helping these pets tested our creativity and innovation to meet their needs.

Through it all, we also opened our 4th veterinary hospital. This was not just another hospital, but a new frontier for Second Chance. A partnership with Bay Path Vocational High School will provide a vocational program to teach the next generation how to care for pets and the importance of access to care for all. This was not the easiest hospital to open. Delays due to Covid, supply shortages and increases, school closings and keeping everyone safe during the pandemic created the perfect storm. Overcoming all these challenges has humbled us, making us so very proud and grateful to those that stepped up to the challenge and made it happen. We sincerely appreciate the support we receive, especially during these challenging times.

As we welcome 2022, we are hopeful for a better year and a return to a normalcy we haven't seen in some time. I know that is a hope we all share. We look forward to bringing our newest hospital to full operation, increasing our ability to help even more pets this year. We are focused on doing more community vaccine clinics which were limited during the pandemic. And we plan to add and expand programs to help even more pets.

Our goal for 2022 is to help 45,000 pets or more. We know the need is great and we hope that you will join us in helping these pets. Thank you for being a part of the Second Chance family during these trying times. Without you, we could never do what we do. YOU are the reason that over 40,000 pets were able to come to the doors of Second Chance and get what they needed to live a better life.



Sheryl Blancato

President





SOUTHBRIDGE HOSPITAL NOW OPEN: Bringing Full-Service Veterinary Care to an Underserved Community

At long last, the doors are open at the new Southbridge Community Veterinary Hospital. We welcomed Beans and Moose, the very first patients at our new location on November 8, 2021. Like many, their owner was very excited to have a Second Chance vet hospital right in her community.

Bringing affordable veterinary care to Southbridge holds special meaning for founder Sheryl Blancato who grew up in Southbridge. For years, people from the Southbridge area have been asking for one of our hospitals to be located closer to them. Our hospitals in North Brookfield, Springfield and Worcester are not easy to get to from Southbridge for those facing transportation challenges. Now we can help pets right in their community, providing access to the highest quality veterinary care to all. Subsidized rates ensure all pets can get the care they need.



Sheryl welcomes Beans & Moose – November 8, 2021.







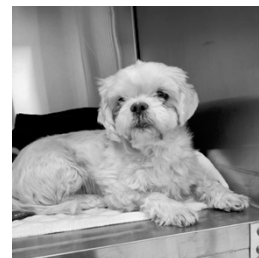
Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting - November 4, 2021.

The new facility faced extensive delays and cost increases due to Covid. It also features the Bay Path Veterinary Education Center at Second Chance where students in the veterinary science program will get real-life experience working alongside dedicated, trained staff, learning about working in the veterinary field. They will graduate with a certificate in veterinary assistance. Graduates can go directly into the workforce or pursue a veterinary technician or veterinarian degree.

We grateful to all the wonderful supporters like you who made this groundbreaking project possible, and to our major project funders – a very generous anonymous donor as well as PetSmart Charities and Arctic Fox.

You can help pets all year long as a **Monthly PetPal Champion**

-  50¢ per day (\$15/month) provides lifesaving vaccines for a shelter pet
-  \$1 per day (\$30/month) keeps a senior and their beloved pet together through Homebound to the Rescue
-  \$2 per day (\$60/month) provides affordable emergency care so pets can remain with a beloved owner on a fixed income or facing financial challenges
-  \$3 per day (\$90/month) gives hope to a medically needy shelter pet in an overcrowded southern shelter



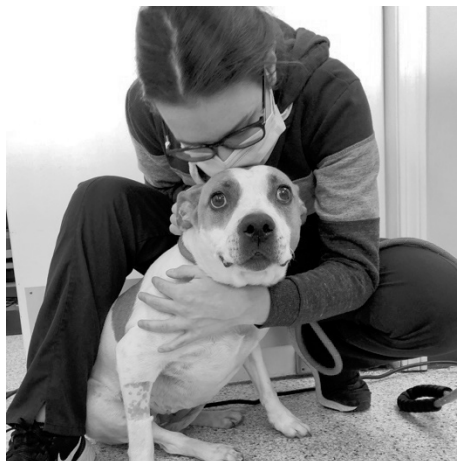
Enrolling is easy. Use this handy QR code or check off the paw print on the last page and include your credit card info and we'll take care of the rest.



An Extraordinary Year of Lifesaving

From large-scale rescues to emergency surgeries, 2021 was an extraordinary year of saving lives for Second Chance Animal Services. With your support, we responded to more emergency cases this year than ever before, saving pets with nowhere else to turn. By year's end, Second Chance helped over 40,000 pets. The total is very similar to 2019 and 2020, but this year so many of the pets we helped were in crisis.

Day after day, our hospitals are squeezing in another surgery to save a dog suffering from a life-threatening uterine infection or a cat who has eaten something he shouldn't have. They arrive in a critical state. We adjusted our schedules to accommodate as many emergency surgeries as possible because we may be their last chance.



Some may be diagnosed at an emergency facility that isn't able to perform surgery in time to save the pet due to the ongoing emergency veterinary care crisis. Others are referred to us when emergency surgical costs are out of reach for those with limited budgets. Second Chance is one of the only hospitals in Massachusetts that offers subsidized rates for emergency care.

Our Almost Home transport facility has also been busier than ever, welcoming rescues from southern shelters that are near capacity.



We also took in 73 cats from a local large-scale rescue this fall that included six pregnant moms. A total of 15 kittens were born, bringing the total to 88 for that one case alone.

Each pet that comes through Almost Home has all their medical needs met including a full veterinary exam and tests, vaccines, and spay or neuter surgery if necessary before they can go to the Adoption Center in East Brookfield to begin their search for a new home. The Adoption Center also takes in local surrenders and ensures their veterinary needs are met as well.



The incredible demand for help has put a strain, not only on the Second Chance staff, but on a limited budget as well. Supply costs continue to increase, and the tight labor market continues to drive labor cost upward. Despite rising costs, Second Chance is committed to expanding capacity in 2022.

We know there are many more pets who need help and we've set a goal to help 45,000 pets in the new year. We can't let these pets down, but we can't do it alone. Can we count on your support?



Charlie is His Dad's Whole World

When his wife died seven years ago, this gentleman's granddaughter got him a puppy (Charlie) to keep him company. Charlie developed a large mass on his thigh that couldn't easily be removed, and testing suggested it was malignant.

A beloved pet's serious illness or injury can wreak havoc on a senior budget, but Second Chance is committed to keeping pets and the people they love together whenever possible.

Dad opted to amputate his limb to give him the best chance of survival.

When he picked Charlie up from surgery, he said he was going to bring him home and they were going to watch Charlie's favorite show tonight. It has dogs and cats on it that he likes to bark at. Charlie's owner tells us he is doing wonderfully and already walking around on his own! We are grateful to Pets for the Elderly and to generous supporters like you who help keep pets and people together.



We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals. ~ Immanuel Kant

We are humbled by the outpouring of generous tribute donations we receive in honor of the special people and pets in your life. Since our newsletter only comes out twice a year, we created a more prominent and timely home for all tributes on our website. You can now visit www.secondchanceanimals.org/tributes to view and share your tribute.

A Life Remembered

When a loved one passes away, many families choose to honor their memory by requesting a donation to a charity in lieu of flowers. When Roland Houle passed away last fall, his family sat down to discuss where they could direct memorial donations and decided upon Second Chance. One of his daughters and her own daughters volunteer at our shelter every Sunday, caring for the cats waiting to find homes. She tells us her dad grew up on a farm and loved animals his whole life.

"...he instilled in us a love of animals. In fact, he came with me to Second Chance in 2006 when I was interested in adopting a cat, and helped me choose Sherbert and Cookie, the latter who is still with us and is already 15 years old!" Roland was a Sergeant in the US Army, serving a Scout Dog Handler in the Vietnam War. Along with his German Shepherd dog Krieger, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for ground operations against hostile forces, saving the lives of his platoon. His other daughter told us that he adopted several cats from a local shelter and gave them a good, loving home. "I hope you can use this donation in my father's name to help as many animals as possible. And thank you for all that you do."



We are grateful to the Houle Family and to all who choose to honor a loved one with a tribute gift, creating a legacy of love that endures.

🐾🐾 *Future Paws Legacy Program* 🐾🐾

Interested in learning more about including Second Chance in your estate planning? Email Lindsay Doray at development@secondchanceanimals.org or visit <https://www.secondchanceanimals.org/planned-giving/>



Second Chance Animal Services
23rd Annual



Dinner Auction

Southbridge Hotel
& Conference Center
14 Mechanic Street
Southbridge, MA

DONATION:
\$48.00 per person
\$450 for a table of 10

Join us for our 23rd Annual Dinner Auction to benefit veterinary care for homeless shelter pets at Second Chance. We need your support to help 40,000 pets each year through our no-kill shelter and transport program, four full-service community veterinary hospitals offering subsidized rates for qualified households, low-cost spay/neuter and vaccine clinics, educational outreach, and a pet food pantry program.

Saturday, March 26, 2022

**AUCTION AND
RAFFLES!**

Cocktails: 4-6 PM
Dinner & Auction: 6-9 PM



Scan this code
for tickets and
more information!

Second Chance
Animal Services, Inc.
is a non-profit, tax-exempt
organization.



For tickets visit: www.secondchanceanimals.org or call 774-318-1101 x-113

Is your business interested in donating an auction item?

Visit: www.secondchanceanimals.org or Email: development@secondchanceanimals.org



SECOND CHANCE ANIMAL SERVICES TENTH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, July 18th, 2022
Cold Spring Country Club

Scan here
for the most
up-to-date
info!



Join us for the **10th Annual Golf Tournament** to benefit programs that assist the underserved at Second Chance Community Veterinary Hospitals. Second Chance has four hospitals in North Brookfield, Southbridge, Springfield and Worcester providing full-service veterinary care with subsidized pricing for those that qualify, plus low-cost spay & neuter and vaccine clinics.

9am Check-In / 10am Shotgun
Cold Spring Country Club
330 Chauncey Walker Street, Belchertown

\$135 per person
Lunch & Dinner Provided
and Commemorative Gift



**COURSE FEATURES
& GAMES**
**TEAM AWARDS &
CHALLENGE PRIZES**
**RAFFLES &
SILENT AUCTION**



**Visit www.secondchanceanimals.org/events/golf/
or call 774-318-1101 x-113 for tickets**

Questions? Email: development@secondchanceanimals.org



Not All Heroes Wear Capes

This girl's owners called 40 places trying to find surgery for her dog. The pup was very sick. She had eaten a knee-high sock that was stuck in her intestines. Her owners were contemplating euthanasia that night if they couldn't find a place to perform her surgery.

The emergency veterinary crisis continues to limit emergency care for pets across the country. Second Chance prioritizes critical and emergency cases to help as many pets as we possibly can.

Her owners were extremely grateful and when she was discharged, they told us "Not all heroes wear capes."

With your generous support, you are their hero. Thank you.



Yes, I want to help keep pets and people together with my gift of:

☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other Amount: \$ _____

☐ My check made payable to Second Chance Animal Services is enclosed

Donor's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____



☐ New address

☐ Please email receipt
To help us save on postage

☐ Please charge my debit/credit card

Name on Card: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiration: _____ CCV: _____

☐ I want to help pets all year long – please make this a monthly donation

My gift is in ☐ memory/☐ honor of: _____

☐ Please notify: _____

Tributes are recognized on our website – if you would like to make your tribute private, check here: ☐

Save resources – ☐ Please switch me to email newsletters to save on printing and postage.

Donate securely online at www.secondchanceanimals.org/donate

Return to: Second Chance Animal Services, 111 Young Road, PO Box 136, East Brookfield, MA 01515





Second Chance Animal Services
PO Box 136
East Brookfield, MA 01515
"More Than Just a Shelter"

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
WORCESTER MA
PERMIT NO. 143

OPEN FOR GREAT STORIES AND INFORMATION!

Save the dates!!!

23rd Annual Dinner Auction – March 26, 2022
Southbridge Hotel & Conference Center
10th Annual Golf Tournament – July 18, 2022
Cold Springs Country Club

Running Out of Summer 5K – August 2022
Cruise for Critters – September 2022
Westview Farms Creamery
Cocktails for Tails – November 2022

Tentatively Planned

SECOND CHANCE ANIMAL SERVICES

mutt matters
& cat chatters

www.secondchanceanimals.org

111 Young Road, P.O. Box 136, East Brookfield, MA 01515

