

A person with dark hair, wearing a maroon and grey hoodie, black-rimmed glasses, and a light blue surgical mask, is crouching down. They are gently holding a small, brown and white dog with both hands. The dog is looking directly at the camera with large, dark eyes. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Annual Report

2021

An
Extraordinary
Year of Saving
Lives

Second Chance
Animal Services

Our Vision

Second Chance Animal Services will be a model animal welfare organization, addressing the issues of pet over-population, suffering and abuse and the euthanizing 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.



Our Mission

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 Services, Inc.

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Like everyone else, 2021 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.

We are hopeful that 2022 is a better year - 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 Blaricato
President



Second Chance Animal Services, Inc.

40,083 Pets Helped in 2021

290,000 Pets Helped Since 1999

Second Chance now helps over 40,000 pets a year through our four full-service Community Veterinary Hospitals, complete animal relocation and adoption services, and programs like our pet food pantry program.



Over 200,000 pets have been helped through our veterinary hospitals, pet food pantry, and all the programs that help keep pets in their homes with the families that love them.



Over 17,500 pets have found forever homes.



Almost 65,000 pets have received spay/neuter surgeries.

Board of Directors

Joe Blancato, Sr. - Chairman of the Board

Sheryl Blancato - President

Rob White, Esq. - Vice President

Rebecca Austin - Secretary

Sara Gasparini - Member

Heather Gablaski - Member



Our Core Values

Teamwork ~ Compassion & Understanding ~ Efficiency ~ Innovation

Second Chance Comes to Southbridge

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 the very first patients at our fourth hospital on November 8, 2021. Like many, their owner was very excited to have a Second Chance vet hospital right in her community.


For years, Southbridge residents facing transportation challenges have asked for one of our hospitals to be located closer to them. 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.

The new facility, which faced extensive delays and cost increases due to Covid, 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 our 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 are 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.



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40,083 pets helped

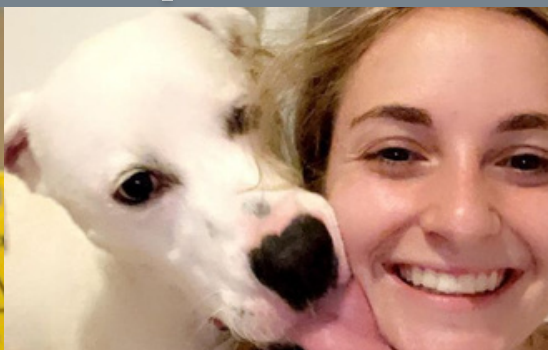


Second Chance received more
emergency calls for help
than in any other year.

25,725 pets treated at our
Community Vet Hospitals



5,180 low-cost
spay & neuters



1,499 pets found
a new home



6,682 pets fed
Pet Food Panty Program



1,000 pets helped
through community outreach





ADOPTION
CENTER
1,499 Animals
Adopted in 2021

Our adoption statistics represent pets that entered our adoption program and were re-homed. While our goal is to keep pets in their home with the people who love them, sometimes this just isn't possible. Our adoption program remains a very important program to help pets with nowhere else to turn.

The 1,499 pets adopted came from local surrenders including one large-scale rescue totaling 88 cats and transports from overcrowded shelters. As space allows, Second Chance takes in at-risk pets from other shelters, rescues and animal control to prevent euthanasia. With four hospitals, we are uniquely qualified to help pets that other organizations cannot.

Second Chance is also an emergency placement partner. In December of 2021, we were called upon to assist with recovery efforts in tornado-ravaged Kentucky, taking in homeless pets that were already in shelters to make room for displaced pets.



COMMUNITY VETERINARY HOSPITALS

**North Brookfield
Southbridge
Springfield
Worcester**

Helping to keep pets in their homes with the people who love them.

Our hospitals are open to all, providing access to the highest-quality veterinary care to underserved communities with subsidized rates for qualified pet owners.

Second Chance employs a staff of 35 dedicated veterinary professionals to provide the highest level of quality care using the most-advanced equipment available. Our hospitals are equipped to provide complete veterinary care from routine wellness to chronic and emergency care with full in-house blood analysis, digital diagnostic & dental x-ray, ultrasound, urine analysis and state of the art hospital management software providing access to patient records across all locations.

We offer a full array of elective surgeries beyond spay/neuter including mass removal, orthopedic procedures, dental surgery and more to provide patients a full range of veterinary care. An advance care unit at our North Brookfield hospital can care for critically ill pets. Hospital pricing is competitive with private veterinary clinics. Subsidized qualifications require pet owners to provide proof of total household income at or below 150% of the federal poverty level.

PROGRAMS

SPAY/NEUTER SERVICES

A total of 5,180 pets received spay/neuter services at our Community Veterinary Hospitals in 2021. This represents a slight increase over 4,726 pets in 2020. Our North Brookfield hospital offered a reduced number of spay & neuter in 2021 to accommodate emergency surgeries for pets with nowhere else to turn during what the press coined the emergency veterinary care crisis.

Our surgery staff is trained in cutting edge Humane Alliance techniques. The protocol reduces the time pets are under anesthesia, reducing the risk of complications. State of the art surgical suites are equipped with heated surgical tables, pulse/ox monitors, Cardell units to monitor, record and alert staff to changes in patient's physiological parameters. Incisions are extremely small, leading to faster healing and reducing the risk of infection.

VACCINE CLINICS

Weekly vaccine clinics were offered in our North Brookfield, Springfield and Worcester hospitals using an online registration process developed in 2020 to respond to Covid concerns which eliminated lines and waiting.

A limited number of community vaccine clinics were held in 2021 using this online registration process. This important program brings lifesaving vaccines directly to the communities where pet owners don't have the ability to reach our physical hospitals.

HOMEBOUND TO THE RESCUE

Homebound to the Rescue, a program that brings veterinary services to the doorsteps of pet owners utilizing our 26 foot mobile units, received grants from the Banfield Foundation and the Greater Worcester Community Foundation (Jepson Memorial Fund for Brookfield and Leicester Savings Bank Fund.) The program, which goes right into elderly and low-income housing complexes to help keep pets healthy and up-to-date on vaccines, was put on hold in 2020 due to COVID and resumed in 2021.

PROGRAMS

HELPING HANDS OUTREACH

The Helping Hands program assisted 71 rescues, shelters and municipal facilities in 2021. Second Chance provides low-cost spay/neuter and veterinary care to these groups, in addition to working collaboratively by taking in homeless pets from other shelters, rescues and animal control facilities.

F.A.S.T. PROGRAM FOR FERAL & BARN CATS

F.A.S.T. (Feline Alliance Sterilization Team) program provides spay/neuter and vaccine services for feral and barn cats to help safeguard the health of our feline community. Spay Worcester, focused on the feral cats in the City of Worcester, is now part of our feral cats services. This program is for feral (wild cats, not house pets) and barn cats. Surgery for ferals is offered weekly at all hospitals. Traps are available for loan, to assist trappers and caregivers in transport to Second Chance.

PROJECT GOOD DOG

This nationally-acclaimed program has been matching behaviorally-needy dogs with inmates in pre-release programs at local correctional institutions since 2015, providing 24/7 care and training for dogs to help them become more adoptable while giving handlers the opportunity to learn patience, compassion and responsibility. The number of dogs in this program were limited in 2021 due to covid policies of the correctional facilities that we work with. We hope to be back to full operations in 2022.



MOBILE ADOPTION & EDUCATION EVENTS

Our 26 foot mobile units promote awareness of all our programs helping pets in need while showcasing pets in search of a home in locations throughout Massachusetts.

PROGRAMS

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Our Educational Outreach Program sends guest speakers into schools to promote responsible pet ownership and offers tours of our facilities to local youth groups. In 2021, our program volunteers resumed offering in person educational programs in addition to remote programs for area schools, scouts and youth groups.

PARTY FOR PETS - CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Party for Pets is an important part of our Educational Outreach Program created in 2008 to promote the involvement of children in the plight of homeless pets. Children collect gifts for pets in need instead of themselves and deliver them to the Adoption Center and meet some of the pets they're helping. Designed to increase youth awareness for the plight of shelter pets and foster a profound respect for all animals, it continues to inspire a new generation that abhors animal abuse and neglect and has a profound love for animals.



SO NO PET GOES HUNGRY

Our pet food pantry, established in 2009 at our East Brookfield Adoption Center, moved to the new Southbridge Community Engagement Center in 2021 where volunteers helped prepare and distribute food. The program served 6,682 pets, distributing dog and cat food to 22 local human food pantries, with the addition of 6 new locations to keep up with the great need of pet owners facing financial struggles and turning to food pantries for help. An integral part of our surrender prevention, this program allows pet owners to keep their pets with them when they cannot afford the cost of food.

EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS

Second Chance held its **22nd Annual Dinner Auction** as hybrid event entitled **Fetch-Sit-Stay** in June due to ongoing Covid concerns. Supporters picked up meals to enjoy from the safety of home while CEO Sheryl Blancato kicked off the auction online. The event helped raise much-needed funds for all our programs.

The **9th Annual Golf Tournament** was held at Heritage Golf Course in Charlton in July and in September, Second Chance volunteers brought the popular Halloween Barktacular kids games to the **9th Annual Cruise for Critters** at Westview Farms Creamery in Monson.

Second Chance Animal Services, Inc.

Adoption Center
111 Young Road, PO Box 136
East Brookfield, MA 01515
508-867-5525



N Brookfield Community Veterinary Hospital
372 N Main Street
N Brookfield, MA 01535
508-637-1333



Southbridge Community Veterinary Hospital
700 Worcester Street
Southbridge, MA 01550
774-318-1101



Springfield Community Veterinary Hospital
67 Mulberry Street
Springfield, MA 01105
413-739-2343



Worcester Community Veterinary Hospital
831 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01610
774-243-1234



Almost Home Facility
N Brookfield, MA



Connect With Second Chance



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To learn more about our
work, visit us at
secondchanceanimals.org



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