



## SECOND CHANCE ANIMAL SERVICES



**Volume 19/Issue 2/Summer 2022**

### ***President's Letter***

Dear Animal Lover,

What does \$1.00, \$5.00, or even \$10.00 buy these days? Certainly not as much as before. Yet for pets in need, EVERY dollar can mean a chance for a better life. The past two years have been tough for pets. First Covid had a devastating effect on veterinary care, resulting in long waits, closed clinics, and delays in treatment. Then, just as Covid began to fall to the back of our minds, gas prices, supply chain issues, and the world in general created more issues for pets. Pet owners are now forced to make tough decisions. That may mean giving up their pet or, if they can keep their pet, worrying about how they will care for their pet.

Second Chance has a long history of facing challenges head on. "No" is not in our vocabulary. We NEVER closed when COVID struck. We couldn't have done it without you. Some programs were altered so we could provide more emergency surgeries. Your support helped more food pantries provide pet food for pets in need and keep our doors open to pets that needed a safe place and a chance to find a new home. We are so grateful to you for making all these things possible.

Now we are facing new challenges to help the pets who need us most. Once again, we need your help. We want to always be able to say "yes" to every plea for help, meet every need of the pets at our shelter, and continue to provide veterinary care in our hospitals to every pet that needs us.

It is no easy task to meet all these needs. Every dollar is always stretched to the limit. We know how important it is to keep our costs low so we can help as many pets as possible. Over 40,000 pets benefited from this mindset. We rely solely on donors to help us to meet these challenges. Our dedicated team of vets, staff, and volunteers work tirelessly. We thank all of YOU that join us in this work. As the needs of pets change, we will continue to revolutionize the field of animal welfare to meet those needs. That's our promise to you and to all pets.

We hope that you will support us with any help that you can provide. And know that we will make sure that every dollar that is donated will be used to help as many pets as possible. Thank you for being a part of the Second Chance family. So many pets rely on the services you help provide. We can never say THANK YOU enough.

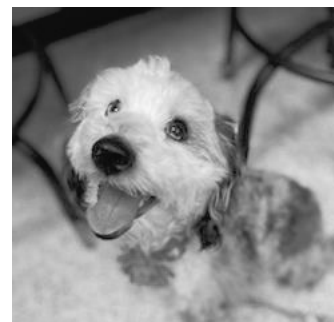
***Sheryl Blancato***

**President**

*Thanks to the support of generous donors, pets like Perla can get the care they need. Perla got her surgery and while she was recovering, she stole the hearts of her foster family. Perla and her new family are so very happy. We couldn't do it without you, thank you!*



*Perla was surrendered to us by a local animal control officer. She had a badly fractured leg and needed help immediately*





## Southbridge Hospital Expands Hours and Services to Help More Pets



Our newest Community Veterinary Hospital in Southbridge is now open full time, with early morning appointments and has begun offering surgical and dental procedures to help more pets. Every Second Chance hospital is open to all pet owners and offers subsidized rates for those that qualify. Pet owners who do not qualify pay the regular rates and are helping provide the many programs that help over 40,000 pets a year.

**You may know that Second Chance pioneered access to care in Massachusetts to help keep people and pets together, but did you ever think about how that works?** Access to veterinary care can make a huge impact on a pet's life. Pets instinctively hide their discomfort, but veterinarians are trained to notice things a pet owner may miss. Catching and treating issues early, before they become a serious and costly emergency, can add comfort and longevity to a pet's life – helping to keep them with their family. A recent study found that 69% of pets in underserved communities have never seen a vet at all. For pet owners living on a fixed income, even a minor veterinary emergency can be catastrophic. Your support is helping to keep pets with the people they love.

### How Subsidized Rates Save Lives:

If a pet owner's household income falls within 150% of the poverty level, a standard adjusted by the government each year, they can qualify to receive veterinary care at a significantly reduced rate. This helps give all pet owners access to full-service veterinary care for their pet, care they might otherwise have to go without.





### Who Can Bring their Pet to Second Chance Community Veterinary Hospitals?

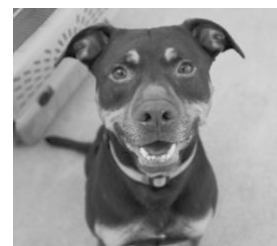
Our hospitals are open to everyone to help you care for your pet – even if they don't qualify for subsidized rates. Welcoming both subsidized and non-subsidized patients makes our hospitals sustainable so we can be here for all the pets who need us. Those pet owners who don't qualify aren't just helping their pet, they are also helping others.



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## Pets need your help all year long - become a **Monthly PetPal Champion** today

-  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.



## A Shelter Dog who had Amputation Surgery for a Birth Defect Finds a Forever Home with a Boy who can Relate

11-week-old Baby Yoda arrived at Second Chance on transport from a crowded Missouri shelter with a congenital defect. He was born without a radius in one leg. His leg was abnormally shaped and shortened. He could not bend it or place weight on it and when he tried to use the leg, it

caused him to contort his body which put him at risk of arthritis and injury to his body.

Baby Yoda needed to amputate his leg. The surgery was a success and in no time, he was hopping around like a champ, ready for his 'second chance.' That chance came when a family saw him on our website and rushed to meet him. It turns out their eight-year-old son had something in common with Baby Yoda. Their son had an above the knee amputation after he was born with a congenital defect of his leg. They knew Baby Yoda would make a perfect addition to their family.



We are grateful to everyone who contributed to the fundraiser to make Baby Yoda's surgery possible, and we are thrilled that Baby Yoda has found such a perfect forever home.

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## The Next Chapter of their Lives – How 88 Cats Rescued from a Single Home Found Love and their Second Chances



When Second Chance rescued what turned out to be 88 cats last fall, the idea of finding homes for all of them seemed daunting. We knew some would find homes quickly, and others would need care including five pregnant mamas who were cared for by some of our amazing fosters while our veterinary team concentrated on the cats who needed care for upper respiratory, eye and dental issues and performed many spays and neuters. But then there were the shy and scared cats. This group would need a lot of patience before they were ready to find forever homes. The staff at the Almost Home transport facility where they were all initially housed, and the Adoption Center staff and volunteers helped so many of these cats to come out of their shells – it was amazing to see their progress. We knew some of the cats were quite bonded and would do better if they went home with a

friend, so these pets were adopted out together.

In May, the last cats left the shelter. Amelia, the last cat to be adopted, is brave and sassy despite weighing only 7 pounds with very few teeth. She loved every cat she was ever around and went to a home with other cats to help her learn. We are so grateful to everyone who supported the cats on this journey from our staff and volunteers to their adopters and to generous donors who made this rescue of 88 cats possible.





Twice the fun in one great event – helping pets in need!

Al Widlan's Service Connection Presents the 10th Annual



To benefit animals in need at Second Chance Animal Services

**Saturday, September 24, 2022**

**10 am to 3 pm**

**(rain date: Saturday, October 1)**

**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**



"More Than Just a Shelter"



**Halloween  
Barktacular**

**Kids Games**

**PLUS**

- Homemade ice cream & food
- Vendor Fair
- Live Raffles
- Corn Maze
- Pumpkin Picking

**Bring The Pups!**

All dogs must be leashed  
Please - no retractable leads



**Live music by SPARE PARTS**

**facebook.com/cruiseforcritters**

Questions? Call Alan at 413-267-9028

Interested in being a vendor?

Visit [secondchanceanimals.org](http://secondchanceanimals.org) for vendor registration





## A Severely Malnourished Dog Finds Shelter and So Much More



*Finian was so malnourished when he first arrived.*

Finian was living in extremely harsh conditions in a nearby town when he was seized by local law enforcement and signed over to Second Chance. Severely dehydrated, anemic, and emaciated – he weighed only 25 pounds when a dog his size should be 45 pounds. He had been eating anything he could find, just to survive.

His story is an important reminder that there are pets in crisis every day right here in Massachusetts. We founded our nonprofit veterinary hospitals so every pet has access to high-quality vet care and a pet food pantry program so no pet would go hungry, but there are other barriers beyond our control. We are so very grateful that these pets got to us before it was too late.

Finian's road to adoption has been longer. He needed treatment for heartworm, Lyme disease and anaplasmosis – all tick-borne diseases. But first we had to focus on getting his weight up slowly, so we didn't make him sicker after not eating a good diet for so long. Once he was no longer anemic and his weight had come up, he was able to begin all the treatment he needed.

We are inspired every day by this survivor who seems very grateful to have been rescued. He's been so loving, giving kisses and snuggles. As we write this, he is waiting to find a special home with people who can be patient and truly understand dogs. He'll need some time to warm up to his new people, but he's a sweet boy looking for a forever home with all the love and attention he needs after a not-so-great past. If you have room in your heart and home for a special boy like Finian you can learn more about him on our website or come meet him in person.



*Finian ready to find his forever home.*

## Two fun events helping pets in need.

Join Rapscllion Brewery of a fun, fast 5K  
to benefit Second Chance



### Running Out Of Summer 5K

August 28, 2022

10am

Brimfield Winery & Cidery

Prizes for top finishers all age groups  
Live Music - Giveaways - Raffles - Food

#### Registration includes:

- gender specific tech shirt
- bottle opener medal
- token for a beer or wine

[www.ROOS2022.racewire.com](http://www.ROOS2022.racewire.com)



### Cocktails for Tails



Thursday, November 3, 2022

5:30PM - 9:30PM

Springfield Country Club

Cocktails ~ Hors d'oeuvres  
Food Stations ~ Raffles

Now welcoming sponsors

[secondchanceanimals.org/events/cocktails-for-tails](http://secondchanceanimals.org/events/cocktails-for-tails)





## Low-Cost Spay & Neuter Clinic Performs 65,000<sup>th</sup> Surgery

Second Chance hit a milestone this March, performing our 65,000th spay/neuter surgery. The patient was an 11-month-old bubbly cavapoo named Jax who was brought in by a local animal control officer through the nonprofit's Helping Hand Program. This program lends a helping hand to other animal welfare organizations, providing veterinary care at a significantly reduced cost.

The low-cost spay/neuter program began in 2005 at the East Brookfield shelter to help stem pet homelessness in the surrounding community. Today, hundreds of pets come to Second Chance hospitals each month for spay/neuter surgery in state-of-the-art surgical suites made possible by grants and generous donors.



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## A Second Chance for Candy

We celebrated the day Candy was ready for adoption!

This beautiful 3.5mo old kitten came to Second Chance and was very sick from what turned out to be aspiration pneumonia. She was so cold and lethargic. Under the watchful eyes of our North Brookfield hospital staff, she stayed laying on her side most of the day.

We warmed her up and started her on antibiotics. We gave her lots of extra TLC. But we were worried. That night, a Second Chance vet took her home fearing she was not going to make it.



*"I didn't want her to be alone or suffering. That night she laid on the couch with me for 4 hours, not moving at all. She slept in a makeshift area next to my bed so I could check on her breathing every 30-45 minutes throughout the night. I woke up at 4am to a little mew and her little paws on the side of my bed. Her harsh breathing had subsided, and she was purring when I held her."*

Within 24 hours, she was back to being a crazy kitten. She fully recuperated, ready to start her new life here in New England.



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## Community Vaccine Clinics Help Save Lives

Covid made it difficult for pets to get veterinary services and now many pets have fallen behind on lifesaving vaccines. We offer weekly low-cost vaccine clinics at each of our hospitals, but we know it can be difficult for some pet owners to get to one of our hospitals.

To stop the spread of deadly diseases like rabies and parvo, Second Chance also brings vaccine clinics out into the community to help pets get caught up. Many of these special community pet vaccine clinics are held on Saturdays to help pet owners who are unable to take a day off during the week.





## Homebound to the Rescue – Keeping Pets and Seniors Together



Homebound to the Rescue, which provides veterinary services to low-income senior housing communities at no cost, is back for a 10th year of helping to keep seniors and pets together. The program is made possible entirely by grants and donations - including the many tribute gifts made in honor of the late Betty White. The program visits 12 to 15 communities every year, offering free exams, vaccines, and testing. A grant from the Banfield Foundation pays for all the supplies needed to run the program, but there are associated costs including providing vet exams and gasoline for the 26-foot mobile veterinary unit.

We are so grateful to everyone who made a gift through the #BettyWhiteChallenge and welcome the many donors who made their first gift in her honor. Thanks to these gifts, we will be able to visit additional communities to help more pets and the seniors who love them.

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](http://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

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**OPEN FOR GREAT STORIES AND INFORMATION!**

**Save the dates!!!**

**Running Out of Summer 5K – August 28, 2022**  
Brimfield Winery & Cider-Brimfield, MA

**NEW! Cocktails for Tails – November 3, 2022**  
Springfield Country Club-W Springfield, MA

**Cruise for Critters – September 24, 2022**  
Westview Farms Creamery-Monson, MA  
*featuring Halloween Barktacular Kid's Games*

**SECOND CHANCE ANIMAL SERVICES**

**mutt matters**  
**& cat chatters**

[www.secondchanceanimals.org](http://www.secondchanceanimals.org)

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

