



SECOND CHANCE ANIMAL SERVICES



Volume 20/Issue 1/Winter 2023

President's Letter

Dear Animal Lover,

2022 was a record breaking year. That is both a celebration of the work at Second Chance but also a testament to the amount of need in the community for the work of Second Chance. In 2022, the amount of pets Second Chance helped hit a record-shattering number of 44,017. This is a nearly 8% increase, an astounding 4,000 more pets than in any year in our history.

The main reason for this is the downturn in the economy as more pet owners faced uncertain times. While we all can usually find a way to weather the basic needs, urgent situations such as an emergency situation can send us into a very uncertain situation. Economic euthanasia is a new phrase coined in this country to note when pet owners are faced with the choice of expensive medical care to help their pets or to euthanize to stop their pets suffering. Second Chance is a place that many turn during this time for lifesaving surgery to save the pet and to keep the pets with the families that love them.



But that is not all that went on in 2022. This was the first full year of our newest hospital in Southbridge as well as the first full year of the partnership with Bay Path Vocational to provide an educational opportunity for students to learn with hands-on experience, working towards a vet assistant certificate when they graduate.

Our adoption center helped over 1,500 pets in 2022. This was an increase over 2021 and meant that more homeless pets were able to get the care they needed and find new families to love them. We are excited about being able to transform so many lives in 2022.

We could not be here for all these pets without you. Each day brings a new challenge, a new emergency of a pet or pets in need, and a new obstacle to navigate in this ever-changing economy. We thank all of you that partner with us to meet these challenges. We never want to have to say no to a pet because we do not have the resources. We always want to find the pathway to yes. Thank you for helping us to help them!

Sheryl Blancato

President



As Hurricane Ian barreled toward Florida, we took in cats evacuated from a Florida shelter in the storm's path. The cat's journey moved them out of harm's way and freed up space and resources for Florida shelters to respond to local pets in the aftermath of the devastation. Your support ensures that we are prepared to respond to pets in crisis.

Thank you!



Southbridge Hospital Expands Programs to Help Community Pets



Kimmi was the very first dental patient at our Southbridge hospital. He was one of our shelter pets, just waiting for a dental cleaning so he could be adopted. With the addition of dental services, we're bring more smiles to Massachusetts pets.

Our newest Community Veterinary hospital in Southbridge continues to expand services to meet the great needs of pets in this underserved community. The addition of dental services and limited surgical procedures is helping more pets get the care they need. Local pets no longer must travel to one of our other locations; they can now get the care they need close to home. Every Second Chance hospital is accessible to all pet owners, regardless of their financial situation. Subsidized rates are available for those that qualify. Pet owners who don't qualify pay regular rates and are helping provide the programs that helped over 44,000 pets last year.

Our Southbridge hospital also became our first location to offer grooming. This new service isn't just helping pet owners to care for their pets, it's also an opportunity for veterinary science students at Bay Path Regional Vocational High School to learn about grooming alongside our staff.

To make an appointment for your pet at our Southbridge hospital, call 774-318-1101.

How Does Your Gift Help?





If you're receiving this newsletter, it means you've shown your support for animals, whether you made a donation, adopted one of our homeless pets, or subscribed to learn more about the work we do. No matter the reason, we thank you!

You may wonder what we do with your gift. 95.5 cents of every dollar donated directly helps pets. We are very proud of this number. Second Chance is committed to keeping administrative costs low because every dollar we save is a dollar we can use to help another pet.

95.5 cents of every dollar donated goes directly to help pets



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.



As a monthly supporter, you'll help pets like Houston who came to us with great medical needs from a crowded shelter in hopes of a 'second chance.'



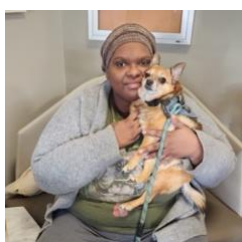
A Pup with Special Needs Get His Second Chance

Blue was just a young husky pup when he was surrendered to Second Chance by a local animal control officer. He was clearly uncomfortable and pawing at his red eyes. Upon closer examination, our vets found he had limited to no vision, possibly from birth. He needed to start daily eye medication right away and needed an experienced foster so he could begin treatment. Thankfully Second Chance works with many rescue groups. A contact that had worked with a husky rescue for years temporarily fostered this pup and helped find a long-term foster while Blue's medical needs were addressed.

Blue found a true champion when he met his foster. She had adopted rescue huskies for many years, most had been abused or neglected. She'd never had a blind dog before, but she was determined to help Blue and did some quick research. She ordered blind toys like meat scented fetching balls and squeaky toys, and a scent kit to put certain scents with certain things. The food and water bowls got one scent, dangerous areas like stairs got another scent.

"Mostly, it was just spending time with him and teaching him that when I say, 'wait,' he needs to stop until I say something else. I.E.- I say, 'wait' at the top of the stairs, and then I say, 'step' for each stair he needs to walk down. He figured out my house and yard very quickly based upon his own trial & error. The eye doctor said he's very adaptable because he's been blind for most of his life."

"He's smart and sweet. The real secret for Blue was the same as every husky, daily exercise. Our beach walk keeps him very satisfied for the rest of the day. My husband passed from cancer in March and my two 13-year-old huskies passed within the last year, so frankly Blue has done more for me than I for him." We are happy to report that this foster fell for Blue, and he was officially ADOPTED!



Homebound to the Rescue Keeps Pets and Seniors Together

There's almost nothing pet owners won't do for their pets. Homebound to the Rescue was founded when we learned many senior pet owners on fixed incomes were skipping meals or even medication so their pets could get the care they needed.

Homebound to the Rescue brings veterinary services to low-income senior communities at no cost to help keep pets and seniors together. The program works with community management to offer free exams, vaccines, and testing. In 2022, the program expanded to serve more communities to meet the great need of seniors across Massachusetts thanks to the generosity of donors and grantors including the Banfield Foundation.

Protecting Pets from Deadly but Preventable Diseases

The pandemic disrupted so much, including visits to the vet. We resumed in-hospital vaccine clinics early in the pandemic and prioritized resuming community vaccine clinics as soon as officials would allow, but the risk grew. Amidst last year's full schedule of local vaccine clinics, news broke of several parvo cases confirmed in one Springfield neighborhood. We responded immediately with an emergency clinic to examine and vaccinate dogs at risk on-site. Free vaccine clinics were set up in multiple Springfield locations to eradicate the threat. We also hosted a free vaccine clinic in Fitchburg this fall to help mitigate the risk of an outbreak in that community. Your support brought critical veterinary services to protect pets in the community.





Learning How to be a Dog

In August Second Chance traveled south to help one of our partners, the Humane Society of the United States, with the effort to rescue 4,000 beagles from a medical breeding facility. Inspectors found some of the dogs living in unsanitary conditions with insufficient food and inadequate veterinary care.

We brought back 20 beagles who had spent their entire lives in the facility, known only by a tattoo on their ear. It was precious to watch them wander and explore in the dog yard, their paws touching grass for the very

first time. Your support helped them begin new lives with names and families who love them by providing the veterinary care to prepare them for adoption.



Prancer and Asher

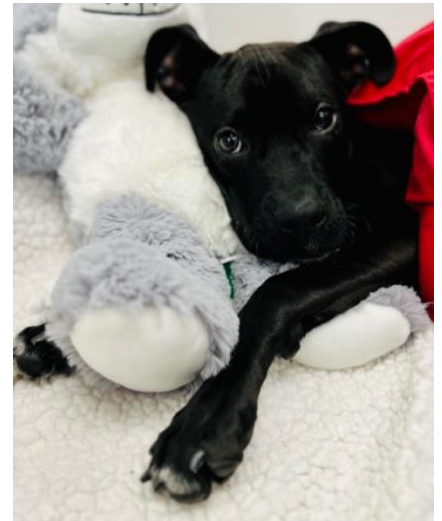


Babies can get themselves into all sorts of trouble and Prancer and Asher are no exception. These two pets were transferred to Second Chance from other facilities days apart after fracturing their legs.

At five weeks old, a young kitten named Prancer fell through a grate onto a cement pad one story below. He fractured his femur. A caring person brought the young kitten to Second Chance so he could get the care he greatly needed. It was a clean break and one of our vets surgically pinned the limb to aid in

healing. He stole the heart of the foster who is caring for him as he recovers and soon will be adopted.

Days later, a five-month-old puppy named Asher was also transferred from another facility for surgery to repair a badly fractured leg. Staff kept him comfortable with pain medication overnight and he underwent surgery the next day to repair his leg. He is doing great at his foster home. He seems comfortable, happy, and wants to be a puppy! Now the challenge is to keep Asher calm and limit his activity so he can heal and go to the adoption center to find his forever family.



Low-Cost Spay & Neuter Clinic Performs 70,000th Surgery

In December Second Chance performed a milestone 70,000th spay/neuter surgery. Spaying and neutering pets not only helps to control the population of stray and unwanted animals, but it also has numerous health benefits for the pets themselves. These procedures can prevent certain cancers and other serious health issues and can also improve pets' behavior by reducing aggression and roaming.

We are so proud of this accomplishment, but there is more work to be done. Our goal is to continue expanding our efforts to help as many pets as possible.





Second Chance Animal Services
24th Annual
Dinner Auction

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

Saturday, March 25, 2023

Southbridge Hotel
& Conference Center
14 Mechanic Street
Southbridge, MA

DONATION:
\$55 per person
\$550 for a reserved
table for 10

**Silent
Auction and
Raffles!**



**Join us for our Annual Dinner Auction
to benefit veterinary care for homeless
shelter pets at Second Chance.**

**Come lend your support! Second Chance
helped over 44,000 pets to live better lives
last year through our adoption center,
four full-service veterinary hospitals
and a pet food pantry program. We can't
do it without you!**



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 a sponsorship or donating an auction item?
Visit: www.secondchanceanimals.org or Email: development@secondchanceanimals.org



Second Chance Animal Services 11th Annual

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, July 24th, 2023
Cold Spring Country Club

Join us for the **11th 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

Tournament fees include all this and more:

- Cart & Greens Fees on a World-Class Course
- Bucket of Balls for Range
- Boxed Lunch
- Banquet Dinner
- Commemorative Gift
- Challenges with Prizes for Closest to the Pin, Longest Drive & Closest to the Line
- Prizes will also be awarded for Top Teams and the Yellow Ball Contest

**Silent
Auction and
Raffles!**

Scan here
for tickets and
sponsorship info!



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

Questions? Email: development@secondchanceanimals.org



Together We Helped 44,000 Pets Live Better Lives...

...But There Are So Many More Who Still Need Help!

Financial uncertainty is bringing more and more pets to our doors. We know the need will be great and we must be ready. If you are able, please consider a gift to help keep pets in their homes and help homeless pets find a home. Any amount will make a huge difference.

We can't let these pets down, but we can't do it alone. Your support is greatly needed so that every pet can get the 'second chance' they deserve.

Yes, I want to help keep pets in their homes and help homeless pets find homes 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"

OPEN FOR GREAT STORIES AND INFORMATION!

Save the dates!!!

24th Annual Dinner Auction – March 25, 2023

Southbridge Hotel & Conference Center

10th Annual Golf Tournament – July 24, 2023

Cold Spring Country Club-Belchertown, MA

Running Out of Summer 5K – August 27, 2023

Cruise for Critters – September 23, 2023

2nd Annual Cocktails for Tails – Fall 2023

SECOND CHANCE ANIMAL SERVICES

mutt matters
& cat chatters

www.secondchanceanimals.org

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

