



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!!!

Cruise for Critters – September 23, 2023
Westview Farms Creamery – Monson

Cocktails for Tails – October 5, 2023
Twin Hills Country Club - Longmeadow

Mutts & Cat Chatters

www.secondchanceanimals.org

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

Second Chance Animal Services

SECOND CHANCE ANIMAL SERVICES



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Volume 20/Issue 2/Summer 2023

President's Letter

Dear Second Chance Supporters!

I hope that you and the pets you love are doing well despite the challenges we continue to face. Today, I write to you with a sense of urgency, but also with a heart filled with hope and determination. The demand for our services at Second Chance Animal Services has been growing steadily, and it is clear that we are needed now more than ever.

The current economic climate has presented numerous hardships for families across our community. Many find themselves faced with tough choices, one of which is struggling to meet the veterinary needs of their beloved pets. It is truly disheartening to witness the strain that these circumstances put on both the families and their furry companions. However, it is during these difficult times that our mission shines brightest. **We are truly unique in that our mission is to keep pets out of shelters in the first place.** Too many get surrendered simply because their families don't want them to suffer but struggle to keep up with their medical needs. This is where Second Chance comes in.

In the past year alone, we have seen a dramatic rise in the number of pet owners qualifying for subsidized veterinary rates at our organization. It is both a testament to the increasing need and a reflection of the dedication we have to provide assistance to those who require it the most. Approximately three out of every five pets we see are facing hardships, a number that serves as a poignant reminder of the challenges faced by so many.

Additionally, we have experienced a significant surge in calls from pet owners struggling to keep their beloved companions due to personal circumstances. These individuals have found themselves in unforeseen situations that threaten their ability to care for their pets. It is our call to action, as a compassionate and caring community, to extend our support and lend a helping hand to those who need it most. We don't want to see more pets end up in shelters that are already struggling to keep up if at all possible. However, if that does happen, our adoption center is here to meet that need as well.

While it is easy to feel overwhelmed by the growing demand, we must remember that every challenge is an opportunity to make a difference. Together, we can uplift each other and work towards a brighter future for both pets and their families. Our organization is committed to ensuring that no pet is left behind, regardless of the economic climate or personal circumstances.

It is through the dedication of our remarkable staff, volunteers, and supporters like you that we are able to provide a lifeline to those in need. **Your unwavering commitment to our cause is the driving force behind our ability to make a real impact in the lives of animals and their human companions.** As we face these challenging times, I ask you to please continue standing by our side.

We are eternally grateful for your generosity and belief in our mission. With your support, we can reach even more families in need, bring comfort to their pets, and provide the essential care that ensures their well-being. Together, we can create a community where no pet owner feels helpless or alone in the face of adversity.

I ask you to join us in spreading hope and compassion far and wide. Let us be the beacon of light that guides those struggling towards a better tomorrow. With your continued support, we can transform lives and make a lasting impact on the animals and families that depend on us, as well as comfort the homeless until a home can be found for them.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to our cause. Together, we will make a difference, one precious life at a time.



Sheryl Blancato



The Long Road Home, the Lessons Learned and the Love Left Behind... by Mike - long time SCAS volunteer

When I first met Nellie (the shelter staff and volunteers knew her as Socks, as that was her name when she was surrendered), I gave her a new name for her new start. I knew she was smart, probably the smartest dog I have met at the shelter, but she needed help dealing with her emotions. I think she understood her problems and was willing to work on them once I earned her trust. Little did I know that she would help me just as much dealing with my mine. In the nine months we worked and played and walked together we, at times, would need to comfort each other and build each other's confidence. And that we did. I was certain we had a lot to learn from each other but I was not prepared for all that she would become to me along the way. Student, teacher, friend,

my rock, my girl, my Nellie.

9 months in the shelter, countless Dog's Days Out, miles of trails, lots of hard work and just a few days before her 4th birthday, Nellie went home and I smiled through the tears. Oh, Nellie. I knew this one was going to be tough and it was. I knew I would have trouble letting her go and I did. I knew that my emotions would be all over the place when she finally went home. They were. I knew I was going to miss her terribly and I do. I love volunteering and I love this work and I love all these shelter dogs. But Nell is special. She will always hold a special place in my heart.

Nellie was there for me and helped me grieve the loss of both of my parents. She was a great comfort to my family on the day my father died. I stopped at the shelter on my way to my childhood home and picked up Nell as I knew she would be a good companion. She gave hugs to my mother and sister and rolled around on the floor with my brother as we all came to terms with the loss. She was a great comfort and beautiful distraction. My father would have loved her if he got to meet her. Three months later it was Nell that walked with me before my mother's wake as I tried to process all that had happened and it was her, I visited after the funeral just to spend time with my friend.

So, I met her potential adopters. I told them all I knew about her and everything they should know and of course they saw how special she is and decided to give Nellie her Second Chance. So, after both of Nellie and I had a bit of a meltdown, I walked her over to the car where she sat and waited for the door to open and it did and she jumped in. Everyone was saying good bye to her. When a dog like Nell is at the shelter that long I think everyone gets more attached than they realize. There were tears, there were smiles, and then there was whatever it was I was feeling. She poked her head out from the back seat, paws on the center console, like always, and that smile on her face. Finally, I lowered my head, ducked into the car, and grabbed her face, kissed her on the nose, told her I loved her and then; I watched them drive away.

This is what she worked so hard for. This is why we sat in my car in the dead of winter reading books and watching videos and taking courses. This is what I wanted for her since she walked into the shelter 9 months ago. This is what I promised her. This is her second chance. These are wonderful people that really seem to get her and are willing to continue her conditioning and take her on through this next chapter of her life. This is a good thing. I should be happy, and I am. But I really am going to miss my friend, my teacher, my rock, my girl, My Nellie. Happy Birthday Nellie!



Nellie is finally home! Her family tells us she is doing amazing. She's making lots of friends including the security guards that she visits every night. She needs to say hi to them and sit in their laps for a few minutes before bed.



Dogs Who Faced a Certain Death Get a Second Chance

Looking at one-year-old Liam, an adorable Labrador retriever mix, it's hard to imagine all he has endured in his short life. Liam would fix his eyes on every visitor in the dog room at the Adoption Center, barking to ensure he caught their attention. He was among the five dogs we brought back from a Maryland rehabilitation center earlier this year. These dogs were part of a group of

approximately 120 dogs rescued from the South Korean Meat Trade, all under the compassionate care of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

As an emergency placement partner of the HSUS, Second Chance has always been dedicated to assisting in cases like this. South Korea is currently contemplating a ban on dog meat, and the farm where Liam and his companions came from is transitioning to cultivating crops such as cabbage, thanks to the Humane Society International/South Korea's "Model for Change Program." We take pride in collaborating with the HSUS to provide these dogs with the best possible start to their new lives.

All five dogs are thriving. Initially timid, we were amazed to witness their courage as they explored our play yard and gradually broke out of their shells and learned to be dogs. As we write this, the last dog named Jackson is still looking for a family of his own. Jackson recently graduated from our Project Good Dog program which pairs behaviorally needy shelter dogs with inmates who provide them with 24/7 care and training.



10-month-old Jackson on graduation day from Project Good Dog.







Helping Ozzy

Ozzy came to us with a badly broken leg that needed urgent attention. X-rays showed that the broken part of the bone was at risk of poking through his skin. As a very active, 10-month-old kitten, the risk of the broken pieces not healing properly was great. To alleviate his pain and restore his mobility, Ozzy underwent surgery to amputate the injured leg. Thanks to your support, the procedure was a success. Ozzy made a full recovery and we are

happy to report that he quickly found a loving family who adores him. They named him Boba and they tell us he's ridiculously sweet and snuggly and purrs nonstop.



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.



*Scan to enroll online
or see page 7 to enroll
by mail.*



Introducing Project Keep Me – a Program to Help Domestic Violence Survivors and Their Pets

We are very excited to announce the launch of Project Keep Me, a groundbreaking pilot program aimed at addressing the critical need for companion pet shelter resources for survivors of domestic violence. This program will provide temporary housing for the beloved pets of domestic violence survivors, enabling pet owners

to seek safe housing arrangements while ensuring the well-being of their animal companions.

Upon successful transition to safe, permanent housing, survivors will be joyfully reunited with their pets. The emotional and psychological benefits of this reunion cannot be overstated, as the presence of a beloved animal companion has been proven to enhance healing and recovery for individuals who have experienced trauma.

We are offering the program on a limited basis at this time as we establish relationships with local domestic violence resource providers who ensure pet owners have the support they need. We are committed to removing the barriers that prevent individuals from seeking safety and support and firmly believe that everyone deserves a second chance, both survivors and their animal companions.

For more information about Project Keep Me and how you can help, please visit:

[www.secondchanceanimals.org/project-keep-me.](http://www.secondchanceanimals.org/project-keep-me)

Natty's Tale of Triumph

Natty came to us in excruciating pain, suffering from a severe degloving injury to his leg. The skin and tissue had been torn away, leaving his limb vulnerable and exposed. Our dedicated team of veterinarians and staff immediately sprang into action, attempting to save his leg. Pain medication and constant monitoring were provided, but Natty's distress was so overwhelming that he resorted to chewing on his own leg.

We had to make the difficult decision to amputate Natty's leg to provide him with the comfort and quality of life he deserved. With your support, we were able to provide Natty with the surgery he desperately needed, and he emerged from the procedure with the resilience and strength that defines his spirit.



A staff member treated Natty to a weekend getaway to Maine while he was recovering from surgery.

Learning to walk without his leg proved to be no obstacle for this remarkable pup. We were in awe of his determination. Natty was showered with attention, ensuring his every need was met. His journey even took him on a weekend getaway to Maine with a staff member, where he discovered the joys of companionship, adventure, and the beauty of a sunset.

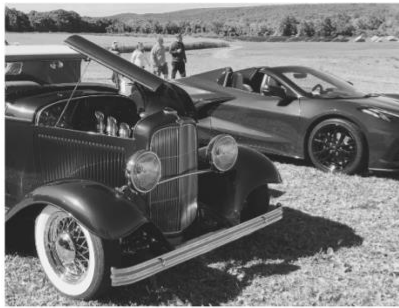
We are overjoyed to share the final chapter of Natty's story. After all he has been through, Natty has found his forever home—a place where he will be cherished and adored. His new family including his three-legged dog sister Lucy love him unconditionally. Natty's journey reminds us of the incredible impact we can make when we come together to support animals in need.

Your generosity and compassion have transformed his life, and for that, we are eternally grateful.





Al Widlan's Service Connection Presents the 11th Annual



CRUISE for Critters



To benefit animals in need at Second Chance Animal Services

Saturday, September 23, 2023

10 am to 3 pm

(rain date: Saturday, September 30)

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



featuring
**Halloween
Barktacular**

Kids Games

PLUS

Bring The Pups!

All dogs must be leashed
Please - no retractible leads



Live music by SPARE PARTS

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

facebook.com/cruiseforcritters

Questions? Call Alan at 413-267-9028

Interested in being a vendor?

Visit secondchanceanimals.org for vendor registration





Second Chance
Animal Services™
PRESENTS

Cocktails for Tails



October 5, 2023

An intimate gathering of animal lovers.

5:30-8:30pm
TWIN HILLS COUNTRY CLUB
700 Wolf Swamp Road
Longmeadow, MA
Tickets are \$65pp

- Music
- Hors d'oeuvres
- Food Stations
- Raffle
- Silent Auction

All proceeds benefit our Springfield Community Veterinary Hospital and their mission to provide access to veterinary care.

**FOR TICKETS SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO:
secondchanceanimals.org/events/cocktails-for-tails**

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



Your support is helping pets live better lives...

In a world where the love for our furry companions knows no bounds, Second Chance stands as a beacon of hope, offering affordable veterinary care to ensure that every pet can live a happy, healthy life.

On a recent day at our Southbridge veterinary hospital, Onyx's family felt they had no other options for their sweet 18-year-old cat. Onyx had been showing signs of declining health.

One of the compassionate and skilled veterinarians at Second Chance ran some tests and discovered that Onyx was suffering from hyperthyroidism. With proper medication, Onyx's thyroid levels could be managed, allowing her to comfortably live out her remaining years.

Onyx and her mom were ecstatic to leave together. Their story is not unique. Second Chance has touched the lives of countless families who felt they had no other options for their beloved pets. With your support, we can provide affordable veterinary care, ensuring that no pet is left behind due to financial limitations.

Your support will make a difference. 88% of donations we receive are \$100 or less and **95.2 cents of every dollar donated directly helps pets** thanks to our commitment to keeping administrative costs as low as possible.

If you are able, please consider a donation to help pets get the care they need. Together, let us continue to create a world where every pet can experience the love and care 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: _____

Monthly PetPal Champion 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:

I want to read the latest news!

- Please sign me up for the Second Chance email list.
- Please switch me to email newsletters to save on printing and postage.
- I have included Second Chance in my estate planning. (For more information, email development@secondchanceanimals.org or call Lindsay at 774-318-1101 x-113



Donate Online

Donate securely online at www.secondchanceanimals.org/donate

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