



## SECOND CHANCE ANIMAL SERVICES



**Volume 21/Issue 1/Winter 2024**

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

Dear Animal Lover,

I want to start by celebrating the remarkable success in transforming lives in 2023. As we reflect on the incredible journey of compassion and dedication that defines our shared commitment to animal welfare, I am delighted to share exciting news of the profound impact your generosity has had. 2023 was an incredibly tough year but through it all we can celebrate some wonderful success in helping pets!

In the past year, with your unwavering support, we have achieved remarkable milestones in our mission to provide a second chance for pets in need. I am thrilled to announce that we touched the lives of an astounding 49,000 pets in 2023 through our programs of adoption, access to veterinary care, spay/neuter services, a pet food pantry and more. This includes a record-breaking 7,800 spay and neuter surgeries—an achievement that goes beyond numbers and signifies a tangible step towards preventing overpopulation and ensuring the well-being of animals.

We are particularly proud of our growing efforts to keep pets in their homes whenever possible. Through innovative programs and strategic partnerships, we are actively working to address the root causes of pet surrender and homelessness. Your support has empowered us to implement initiatives that provide vital resources such as access to quality veterinary services for everyone, support to pet owners struggling to put food in their pet's bowls during hard times, and fostering a stronger bond between families and their beloved animal companions. We continue to reach out into the community and beyond our doors to provide lifesaving vaccines at community clinics, as well as at our hospitals, to keep pets and the community healthy, and to provide sheltering to those in need.

As we celebrate these accomplishments, we acknowledge that our journey is far from over. There are still countless animals in need of our help, and with your continued support, we are committed to expanding our efforts and making an even greater impact. Your generosity is the driving force behind our mission, and we are immensely grateful for the trust you have placed in us.

On behalf of Second Chance Animal Services and the pets whose lives have been transformed, I extend my heartfelt gratitude. It was not an easy year but it was a meaningful year to so many. Your compassion is the catalyst for change, and together, we are building a brighter future for animals in Massachusetts and beyond. Thank you for being a part of our community and a beacon of hope for those who cannot speak for themselves.



***Sheryl Blancato***

**President**

*Bella came to us on the day after Christmas in excruciating pain. Her one hind leg was severely injured, and x-rays revealed the other hind leg was also fractured. We rushed her into surgery. Her leg was so badly broken that amputation was the only way to free her from pain. Our vets are optimistic that the other leg will fully mend. She's stolen the hearts of her foster family who plan to adopt her when she fully heals.*



## Helping Amelia Soar to a Second Chance

Amelia was discovered wandering the grounds of Southbridge Airport, frightened and alone. After numerous sightings, the local animal control officer was able to bring this scared little dog to safety. She was named Amelia after Amelia Earhart, the legendary pilot. The seven-year-old had no microchip and needed much care after life on her own. She was brought to our Southbridge Community Vet Hospital where our skilled groomer gave her a makeover. Amelia's transformation not only unveiled her true beauty but also gave her a newfound confidence.

No owner could be found, and Amelia was turned over to Second Chance. Vets discovered that Amelia was battling Lyme disease and would also need dental surgery to address her health issues.

Amelia was taken in by one of our dedicated fosters where she remains while she undergoes treatment. She is surrounded by warmth and love, helping her on the path to recovery.

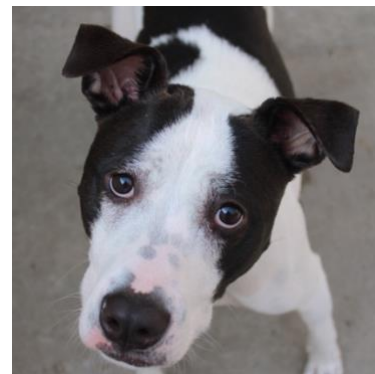
We believe every animal deserves a second chance, and Amelia is a shining example of the resilience and strength that can be found in even the smallest of beings. Amelia's story is a reminder that love, and compassion can heal even the most wounded souls.

We want to express our deepest gratitude to supporters like you who make second chances for homeless pets like Amelia possible. Thank you for being a part of our mission to make a difference in the lives of animals.

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## Hope in Hard Times: How Second Chance's Pet Food Pantry Program Fed an Estimated 12,500 Pets in a Financially Challenging Year

Amidst the challenges of rising prices and financial strain that defined 2023 for many, Second Chance's Pet Food Pantry Program was a beacon of hope. In the face of economic hardships, this initiative managed to feed an estimated 12,500 pets in need. The distribution of donated pet food to local human food pantry partners became a lifeline for pet owners facing tough choices. Volunteer groups worked tirelessly to package food for distribution at our at the Community Engagement Center in Southbridge to meet the growing demand.



This strategic program that was founded to focus on surrender prevention and ensure that no pets went hungry fed more pets than in any other year. Second Chance Animal Services not only nourished the lives of thousands of pets but also made a profound impact of compassion and community support during challenging times thanks to our generous supporters. The demand for this program continues to rise, and we are struggling to keep up. Your help is needed to ensure that no pet goes hungry during these challenging times.



## Saving Lives and Keeping Pets Out of Shelters

Your support enables our community veterinary hospitals to save pets like Onyx, a beautiful black long-haired cat who faced a health crisis after getting into Christmas decorations. Her owner couldn't afford the surgery cost at a local emergency hospital. Her family was grateful to learn that Second Chance veterinarians could perform the surgery at a reduced rate, allowing them to save their beloved pet. Onyx showed signs of feeling better as soon as the surgery was completed and went home to celebrate the holidays with her loving family.

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## Big Feelings, Big Hearts, and the Transformative Power of Kindness

by Mike – long time SCAS volunteer

She poked her head out from the back seat and proceeded to lick my face from chin to ear over and over. I laugh and say thank you and grab her by the head and pull her close. Her snout against my face, I say thank you, again. This girl with the big feelings and the big snout is Roxie. I don't think it's unknown by anyone that has been around Second Chance that we weren't sure what Roxie's future was going to look like. Staff and volunteers alike weren't sure what to make of her as her fear and anxiety dominated most interactions. She only trusted one staff member at first and it would take quite a while before she even thought about trusting anyone else.

Like I said before Roxie has big feelings and she lacked the ability to communicate them properly. She presented us with a big set of challenges. So, the first step was to identify things she liked and valued. We needed to build her trust slowly and carefully and let her know she was in good hands, and we were going to take care of her. Enter all the yummy snacks and the stuffies and squeaky toys, so many of them. If you visit the shelter and take a peek in her living space, you will see that she has all the toys. Little by little she started to show us the joyfulness we all knew she had in her.

Once I gained her trust it was time to take her out for a dog's day out. She was reluctant to get in the car. I waited. She was reluctant to walk too far away from the car. I waited. I sat on the ground with her and waited. I gave her comfort, I gave her pep talks, I just sat with her as she processed. I waited, I learned her language and spoke to her on her terms. I didn't need her to be obedient, I was not going to force her into uncomfortable situations. No scolding, no pulling, no force. I let her speak to me and I listened. I waited. I was patient.

And then one day she said "Mike, I'm ready to give this a shot." I could see it in her eyes. I said, "let's do this!" We walked almost 8 miles that day. I was so happy just to watch her. I just let her go...sniff and explore and dig and roll in stinky scents. I will never forget that day. It was like watching a butterfly break out of a cocoon. She was spreading her wings.

Roxie will always have big feelings, anxiety, fears, those won't just disappear (she has learned to communicate them better) but now we also see these big feelings also include big love and big joy. If you come to the shelter and see her in the yard with her squeaky toys, you will see that big joy in action. But these big feelings don't need obedience or discipline or punishments. These feelings require patience, understanding, a willingness to listen to her concerns and the willingness to speak her language. These big feelings need big hearts like the big hearts of the staff and volunteers at Second chance. Because of that community Roxie is reborn and rejuvenated.

So as Roxie and I sit in my car this Sunday after a long hike in the woods and just a few days away from Thanksgiving I can sense that she feels gratitude and I feel it as well. I am thankful that I got to know her like I do. I am thankful that Second Chance doesn't give up on dogs like her, I am thankful they trust me and give me the opportunity to work and play with all these amazing shelter dogs. I'm thankful for the donors that make all of these amazing success stories possible. And I'm thankful that Roxie takes me on these long hikes with her and I'm thankful that she's got her second chance coming.

One day hopefully soon Roxie will go home. It's going to break my heart to see her go...and I am thankful for that.



*Roxie was still waiting to find her home at the time of publication.*





## Caring for Pets in the Community



People love their pets and most would do anything for them. 2023 was a very busy year for two special programs aimed at keeping pets healthy and in their homes with the people they love whenever possible.

**Homebound to the Rescue** was on the road helping to help keep seniors and their beloved pets together. Funded entirely by generous donors like you and by grants, this program brings veterinary services to low-income senior housing areas at no cost to keep pets healthy and up to date on vaccinations. The need was great and Homebound to the Rescue worked with communities to set up visits throughout Central and Western Massachusetts to prevent seniors from having to choose between their pet and putting food on the table.

Our **Low-Cost Community Vaccine Clinics** visited more communities than in recent years (in addition to the weekly vaccine clinics held at each of our hospitals,) offering rabies and distemper vaccines to help keep all pets in the community healthy. These vaccines play a vital role in preventing the spread of infectious diseases and ensuring the overall health of pets.



## Top 5 Reasons to Become a **Monthly PetPal Champion**

A monthly gift is the best way to help pets all year long and end animal suffering, ensuring pets can get the care they need.

### #1 Your Gift Will Make an Impact

From providing lifesaving medical care to offering a warm refuge for homeless pets, our efforts touch the lives of animals in need. By choosing to contribute just \$18 a month—less than 60 cents a day—you directly support sustaining and expanding these impactful initiatives.



### #2 Maximize Your Contribution

We understand the importance of your hard-earned money, and that's why we take pride in our commitment to financial transparency. **95 cents of every dollar donated goes directly to helping pets in need.** By keeping administrative costs low, we ensure that your monthly contribution maximizes its impact on the well-being of animals under our care.

### #3 You'll Help Keep Pets Out of Shelters

Your support goes beyond the walls of our shelter. By joining us as a monthly donor, you actively contribute to programs designed to keep pets out of shelters. Ensuring all pets have access to affordable veterinary care and nourishment not only addresses the immediate needs of pets, but also helps keep families and their beloved animals together.

### #4 You'll Give Hope

Many pets face overcrowded conditions and limited resources in southern shelters. Your generosity will help pets transported from crowded shelters to the safety of Second Chance. By becoming a monthly donor you become a lifeline for pets who, with your support, embark on a journey from uncertainty to a brighter future.



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

### #5 You'll Save Lives, One Donation at a Time

The heart of Second Chance Animal Services beats with the collective compassion of our donors. When you choose to contribute **just \$18 a month—less than 60 cents a day—you become a hero for pets in need.** Your support saves lives, ensuring all pets can get a second chance at a life filled with love and care.

Join us today, and together, let's create a world where every animal gets the second chance they deserve.



Second Chance Animal Services  
25th Annual  
**Dinner Auction**

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

**Saturday, March 23, 2024**

La Salle Reception Hall  
444 Main Street  
Southbridge, MA

**DONATION:**  
\$55 per person  
\$495 for a reserved  
table for 9

**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 49,000 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.

Is your business interested in a sponsorship or donating an auction item?  
Visit: [www.secondchanceanimals.org](http://www.secondchanceanimals.org) or Email: [development@secondchanceanimals.org](mailto:development@secondchanceanimals.org)

**For tickets visit: [www.secondchanceanimals.org](http://www.secondchanceanimals.org) or call 774-318-1101 x-113**





## Celebrating 25 Years of Helping Pets to Live Better Lives

It all began 25 years ago, with \$400 and an idea. Today, 49,000 pet rely on Second Chance for shelter, access to full-service veterinary care and programs to help them stay in their homes with the people they love. You can show your support and join us at events throughout the year. Scan the QR codes for the latest info on each event.



### 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Auction

March 23, 2024  
La Salle Reception  
Center  
Southbridge



### 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Block Party

June 22, 2024  
Klem's/Timberyard  
Block  
Spencer/East Brookfield



### Annual Golf Tournament



### 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament

July 15, 2024  
Cold Spring Country  
Club  
Belchertown



### 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Cruise for Critters

September 21, 2024  
Westview Farms  
Creamery  
Monson



### 3rd Annual Cocktails for Tails

Fall 2024  
Location & Date  
TBA



Visit our website for  
details and more fun  
events.



SCAN ME



Join our event committee and help create unforgettable experiences to help pets!

As a member, you'll play an important role in organizing fun events that bring animal lovers together.

From coordinating logistics to spreading joy, your contribution will make a real difference. Let's team up, have a blast, and make magic happen! To join the fun, email [development@secondchanceanimals.org](mailto:development@secondchanceanimals.org) today!



As we all hope for a brighter new year, 2024 dawned bringing more pets to our doors, silent victims of economic challenges. Each pet brings a story of resilience, a plea for a lifeline, and a longing for a second chance. The challenges remain, but we stand poised to make a difference with your unwavering support.

Imagine a world where every animal can find compassion in a refuge for those without a voice. The great need remains significant, and we implore you to stand with us.

We urgently seek your support. If you are able, contribute to our mission and provide a lifeline for those unable to speak for themselves. Your

assistance, no matter the size, holds the power to transform despair into hope and uncertainty into the promise of a brighter tomorrow.

These pets, with trusting eyes, depend on you. With your support, together we can make sure that every pet receives the 'second chance' they deserve. Your compassion resonates in every healed wound and filled bowl. Be the steady anchor for these deserving souls. Thank you for being the unwavering support they need.

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**

☐ 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](mailto:development@secondchanceanimals.org) or call Lindsay at 774-318-1101 x-113

Donate securely online at [www.secondchanceanimals.org/donate](http://www.secondchanceanimals.org/donate)



Donate Online



**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!!!**

**25<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Auction – March 23, 2024**

Lasalle Reception Center, Southbridge

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Block Party – June 22, 2024**

Klem's & Timberyard Brewing Company

**12<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament – July 15, 2024**

Cold Spring Country Club-Belchertown, MA

**Cruise for Critters – September 21, 2024**

Westview Farms Creamery, Monson

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cocktails for Tails – Fall 2024**

*Watch for more details*

**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

