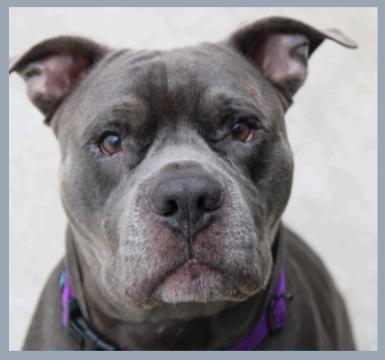
# Annual Report 2023

## 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

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



## Second Chance Animal Services, Inc. 49,036 Pets Helped in 2023

Over 386,000 Pets Helped Since 1999

Second Chance now helps over 49,000 pets a year live better lives through our four full-service Community Veterinary Hospitals, complete animal relocation and adoption services, and other programs including a pet food pantry program.



Over 288,000 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 who love them.



Over 20,370 pets have found forever homes.



Over 78,000 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 Gasparrini - Treasurer Heather Gablaski - Member Jim Herlihy - Member



## **Our Core Values**

Teamwork ~ Compassion & Understanding ~ Efficiency ~ Innovation



#### Helping pets in crisis...

**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.

We had to make the difficult decision to amputate Natty's leg to provide him with the comfort and quality of life he deserved.

Natty emerged from the procedure with the resilience and strength that defines his spirit. Learning to walk without his leg proved to be no obstacle for this remarkable pup.

After all he had been through, Natty found his forever home—a place where he is cherished and adored. His new family, including his three-legged dog sister Lucy, love him unconditionally. You may even know him by his new name, Nugget the Timberyard BrewDog. His journey reminds us of the incredible impact we can make when we come together to support animals in need.



#### Rising to the challenge...

In the fall, Second Chance took in 16 cats rescued from a challenging living situation in a nearby town.

Despite their difficult past, the majority of the cats were incredibly friendly. Most of the cats needed attention for medical conditions including upper respiratory infections, skin conditions, or eye and ear problems. There were also 3 pregnant mothers who would be cared for by fosters until their kittens were weaned and ready for adoption.

All the cats got the care they needed so they could find loving homes.



2023 A Record-Breaking Year of Helping Pets toLive Better Lives

## 49,036 pets helped

26,946 pets treated at our Community Vet Hospitals



7,803 low-cost spay & neuters 1,322 pets found a new home

12,565 pets fed Pet Food Pantry Program 500 pets helped



#### Providing Access to Full-Service Veterinary Care So All Pets Can Get the Care They Need

Amidst the challenges of rising prices and financial strain that defined 2023 for many, providing affordable veterinary care for all pet owners became more important than ever. Our four Community Veterinary 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 12 veterinarians (as of 2023) and a staff of dedicated veterinary professionals including vet techs, vet assistants, and receptionists to provide the highest level of quality care using the mostadvanced 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.

ADOPTION CENTER 1,322 Animals Adopted in 2023

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 1,322 pets adopted came from local surrenders 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 2023, we were once again called upon to assist pets rescued from the South Korean meat trade. **Liam** was shy and had been through so much before he came to us to begin his new life.



## PROGRAMS

#### SPAY/NEUTER SERVICES

Our hospitals collectively performed an unprecedented 7,803 spay and neuter procedures in 2023, marking a significant increase from the previous year's count of 5,249 and surpassing the previous record of 6,198 set in 2019. This milestone reflects a steadfast commitment to addressing the critical issues surrounding pet welfare.

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 and 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.

Second Chance also provides spay/neuter and vaccine services for feral cats to help safeguard the health of our feline community. This program is for feral cats (wild cats, not house pets). Surgery for ferals is offered weekly at all hospitals. Traps are available for loan, to assist trappers and caregivers in transport to Second Chance.

#### VACCINE CLINICS

In addition to the low-cost vaccine clinics offered weekly at each of our hospital locations, Second Chance hosted community vaccine clinics in towns across Central and Western Massachusetts. These clinics are part of our ongoing commitment to protecting the health and well-being of pets within the local community by bringing life saving vaccines directly to pet owners in convenient and accessible locations.

#### HELPING HANDS OUTREACH

The Helping Hands program assisted 44 rescues, shelters and municipal facilities in 2023. 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.

#### PROGRAMS

#### HOMEBOUND TO THE RESCUE



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 other community resources to offer free exams, vaccines, and testing. In 2023, 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 Greater Worcester Community Foundation (Leicester Savings Bank Fund,) Michele & Agnese Cestone Foundation, Pets for the Elderly, and Robert J. Mullen Charitable Trust.



In 2023. Second Chance launched Project Кеер Me, а groundbreaking pilot program aimed at addressing the critical need for companion pet shelter resources for survivors of domestic violence. Through this program, Second Chance provides 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. In its premiere year, Project Keep Me was able to assist 5 pets and their owners.



SO NO PET GOES HUNGRY

Our pet food pantry, which was established in 2009, distributes pet food to human food pantries. Volunteers help prepare and distribute food from our Southbridge Community Engagement Center. In 2023, the program served an estimated 12,565 pets, distributing dog and cat food to 19 local human food pantries. 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.

## PROGRAMS

#### MOBILE ADOPTION

Our 26-foot mobile units promote awareness of all our programs that help pets in need while showcasing pets in search of homes in locations throughout Massachusetts.



#### 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.

#### 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.

### **EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS**

Second Chance hosted a variety of events to raise much-needed funds for all our programs.

The **24th Annual Dinner Auction** on March 25th at the Southbridge Hotel & Conference Center.

The **11th Annual Golf Tournament** was held in July at Cold Spring Country Club in Belchertown.

In September, Second Chance volunteers brought the popular Halloween Barktacular kids' games to the **11th Annual Cruise for Critters** at Westview Farms Creamery in Monson.

The **Second Annual Cocktails for Tails** took place in October at Twin Hill Country Club in Longmeadow.

## 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









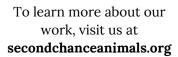




## **Connect With Second Chance**











Want to help? Scan the QR code for all the ways you can help