



SECOND CHANCE ANIMAL SERVICES



Volume 22/Issue 1/Winter 2025

President's Letter

Dear Animal Lover,

As we reflect on 2024, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the incredible support of our community. Together, we have achieved a significant milestone—an astounding 56,828 pets helped this year, up from just over 49,000 in 2023. This remarkable growth would not have been possible without your unwavering belief in our mission.

Every number has a story, and this year, Ribbet's story captured the hearts of so many and is one of resilience. This tiny puppy faced significant challenges from a devastating attack by another dog that left him with a fractured skull and blind. Through the dedication of our team and the support of donors like you, he overcame the odds and is now thriving in his loving home. Ribbet's journey is a testament to the power of compassion and the life-changing impact of adoption and your support.

Keeping pets in their loving homes in the first place through our Access to Care veterinary hospital program remains at the heart of our work. Our Access to Care hospitals have been pivotal in addressing the root causes of pet surrender and suffering. By providing affordable veterinary care, we ensure that pets stay healthy and with the families who love them. These hospitals have been a driving force behind the large increase in the number of pets helped this year, reaching communities in need and making a tangible difference in the lives of pets and their people. We expanded programs, such as Project Keep Me that helps pets in domestic violence situations and expanded to help veterans seeking in patients. Both of these help them with their pets so they can get the help they need while being able to keep their pets too.

None of this would be possible without you—our donors, volunteers, and advocates. Your generosity fuels our programs, from adoption services to vaccine clinics and our pet food pantry, which experienced a large demand this year as families turned to us for support to keep their pets fed and healthy. It is your belief in our innovative approach that allows us to expand our reach and transform lives.

As we look ahead, I am inspired by the possibilities that lie before us. This year, we added 14 additional veterinarians along with support staff to expand our capacity and increase our community impact in 2025. With your continued support, we can build on this momentum and help even more pets and their families in 2025. Together, we are not just changing lives—we are creating a brighter future for all.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for being a part of the Second Chance family.

Sheryl Blancato

President



Meet Ribbet: A Young Puppy's Journey of Resilience and Love – Read His Story Inside!



Healing Meadow

Keeping Pets and Their People Together

Eight-year-old Meadow is more than just a dog; she's her dad's constant companion. So, when a painful, infected growth began affecting Meadow's quality of life, her dad was devastated. Living on a fixed income, he feared he wouldn't be able to afford the care she so desperately needed.

Because of your support, Second Chance could help. Thanks to the subsidized rates offered at all our hospitals, Meadow was able to receive the surgery and medication necessary to remove the growth and heal the infection. Today, Meadow is back to her happy, tail-wagging self, bringing joy and comfort to her dad every single day.



This is the power of access to care: keeping pets and people together – and out of shelters. Stories like Meadow's remind us why Second Chance's mission is so important.

We are deeply grateful to our supporters for making happy endings like this possible. Together, we're transforming lives, one pet at a time.

No Pet Hungry

How Second Chance's Pet Food Pantry Program Fed an Estimated 16,937 Pets in a Challenging Year

Last year, the Second Chance Pet Food Pantry Program provided food to approximately **16,937** pets, helping families in need keep their beloved companions fed and healthy. As financial challenges continued to strain households, the pantry became a lifeline for many, ensuring no pet went hungry.

By distributing donated pet food to local human food pantries, the program became a crucial resource for pet owners struggling to make ends meet during challenging times.

The demand for assistance was greater than ever, and there were moments when the shelves of our pantry ran bare. Urgent pleas for donations went out to ensure that no pet went hungry. Volunteer groups worked tirelessly at our Community Engagement Center in Southbridge to prepare and distribute food to our human food pantry partners, who delivered the food directly to families in need.



This program, designed to prevent pet surrenders by addressing the root causes of hunger, reflects the heart of Second Chance's mission: keeping pets and families together.

The need for this service continues to grow, and Second Chance is committed to meeting it. Your support is vital to ensuring that no pet—or family—faces hunger in the year ahead. Together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of pets and their people.





Luna's New Beginning

Luna, a 7-year-old cat, found herself at Second Chance after her owner's health took a turn, leaving her without a home. This sweet and playful kitty was confused to suddenly be in a shelter, but our dedicated staff and volunteers showered her with love and care.

While our goal is always to keep pets in their homes whenever possible, sometimes it isn't an option. That's when we step in to provide love, shelter, and veterinary care to give homeless pets their best chance at a second chance. With your support, every shelter pet gets a thorough checkup and receives needed veterinary care, vaccinations, spay or neuter surgery and a microchip.

Luna's charm and goofy personality quickly won hearts, and she's now settled into her new home, ready to bring joy to her new family. She's just one of the **1,342** pets who found new, loving homes in 2024 thanks to your support.

Ribbet's Journey: A Story of Resilience and Hope

When **Ribbet**, a two-month-old Labrador Retriever puppy, was returned to Second Chance after a devastating injury, his future was uncertain. Rehomed without the safeguards our adoption policies require, Ribbet found himself in a home with a larger dog who attacked him, crushing his skull and causing irreversible damage to his eyes.

Our veterinary team immediately performed life-saving surgery to stabilize Ribbet. Though he lost both eyes, their efforts ensured he had a chance to heal. His recovery was a testament to his incredible resilience and the dedication of those who rallied around him. Thanks to the love and expertise of all his caregivers, Ribbet is adapting to his new reality with remarkable courage, learning to navigate his surroundings and even discovering a newfound joy: playing fetch with a jingle ball.



Immediately after losing his sight, Ribbet found comfort from the gentle touch of caregivers.



Update from his new family: He is such a special little guy and we love him so much. He slept a lot last week and it feels like he grew overnight! He's getting so big already.

Thousands followed Ribbet's journey on social media, captivated by his strength and transformation. When he was finally cleared for adoption, his foster family could officially welcome him into the family. Today, Ribbet is thriving in his forever home, a happy and playful puppy surrounded by love.

Ribbet's story is a powerful reminder of why Second Chance exists. It's a testament to the life-changing impact of adoption, the importance of safeguards in ensuring pet safety, and the incredible difference your support makes. Because of you, Ribbet was given a second chance, and countless other pets in need will receive the care and compassion they deserve. Thank you for being part of this journey and helping us create brighter futures for pets like Ribbet.

Visit <https://www.secondchanceanimals.org/ribbet> to learn more about this amazing pup's journey and see him with his beloved jingle ball.



Keeping Pets and People Together in 2024



People love their pets and will do anything to keep them healthy and happy. In 2024, two special programs worked hard to help pets stay in their homes with the families who love them.

Homebound to the Rescue hit the road, providing veterinary services to seniors living in low-income housing areas. Funded entirely by generous donors and grants, this program offers no-cost veterinary care, ensuring pets stay healthy and up-to-date on vaccinations. This program works directly with community managers to schedule visits at housing communities across Central and Western Massachusetts, preventing seniors from having to choose between their pet and putting food on the table.

Meanwhile, our **Low-Cost Community Vaccine Clinics** visited communities offering life-saving vaccines, in addition to the weekly low-cost vaccine clinics at our hospitals. Offering rabies and distemper vaccines, these clinics help keep pets across the region healthy, preventing the spread of infectious diseases and promoting the overall health of pets in the community.

Be a Monthly PetPal Champion - Monthly giving is a great way to make a big impact!

By becoming a Monthly PetPal Champion, you can create lasting change with a manageable monthly gift. Together, we can ensure pets get the care, love, and second chances they deserve—all year round.

Why Choose Monthly Giving?

It's Effortless: Once you set up your monthly gift, you're helping pets in need automatically. No reminders, no hassle—just consistent support that makes a world of difference.

It Fits Your Budget: You can choose the amount that works for you. For just \$18 a month—less than what you'd spend on a couple of coffees—you can fund lifesaving vaccines, critical surgeries, and other essential care.

Be Part of a Movement: Join a compassionate community of monthly donors who are changing lives every day. You'll receive updates and stories showing exactly how your kindness is making a difference.

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.

Why Monthly Giving Matters More Than Ever

Plan for Tomorrow: Reliable monthly donations help us prepare for the future, allowing us to expand programs and reach even more pets in need.

Be Ready in Times of Crisis: Emergencies don't wait. Monthly giving ensures we're equipped to respond immediately when pets need us most, whether during a local crisis or an unexpected medical emergency.

Support Everyday Care: From spay/neuter surgeries to daily meals, your recurring gift keeps our operations running smoothly, providing essential care for pets who depend on us.



*The support of **Monthly PetPal Champions** allowed us to say **YES** to 27 local pets in crisis. Today, they are all in loving homes.*



Take the First Step Today

Scan the QR code or visit www.secondchanceanimals.org/monthly-pet-pal-champion/ to become a champion for pets today. See page 7 to enroll by mail. Join us now to ensure no animal is left behind.



Dinner
and Silent
Auction!

2025 Annual Auction GALA

Saturday, March 29, 2025
AC Marriott, 125 Front St., Worcester

Join us for an unforgettable evening! We invite you to help us provide support to more than 55,000 pets this year, in our most important annual fundraiser.

Cocktails 4-6pm as bidding begins

Dinner starts at 6pm immediately followed by presentation and auction closing

Cocktail or dressy casual attire

Vegan gluten free dinner option available



Scan the QR code or visit
www.secondchanceanimals.org/dinner-auction
for tickets and event details!

You can also call us at 774-318-1101 ext. 113
for assistance.

\$75 per person
**\$650 for a reserved
table of 10**



Is your business interested in a sponsorship
or donating an auction item?
Visit: www.secondchanceanimals.org
or Email: development@secondchanceanimals.org





Transforming Lives – One Pet at a Time

Second Chance's four **Community Veterinary Hospitals**, located in North Brookfield, Southbridge, Springfield and Worcester, are changing lives every day by providing access to compassionate, high-quality care that keeps pets healthy and with the families who love them. In 2024 alone, our hospital team cared for **38,213 pets**, delivering everything from routine checkups to life-saving treatments.



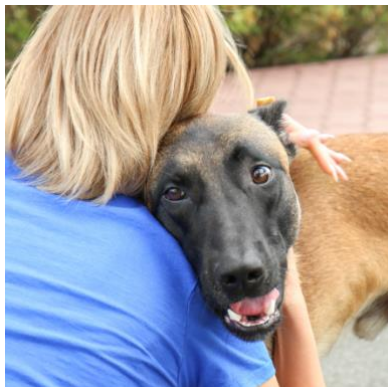
One-year-old Mia is our 85,000th spay/neuter patient.

This year also marked a significant milestone as we performed our **85,000th spay/neuter surgery**, a reflection of our dedication to reducing pet overpopulation and improving the lives of pets.

By offering affordable services, we're breaking down barriers to veterinary care and helping families avoid the heartbreak of giving up a beloved pet. Every one of those 38,213 pets represents a story of hope and healing. For families struggling to make ends meet, our hospitals provide more than medical care—they offer peace of mind. With a focus on addressing the root causes that often lead to pet surrenders, our hospitals are not only transforming individual lives but also strengthening the bond between pets and their people. Together, we're making a lasting impact, one pet at a time.



A newborn kitten nurses at our Springfield Hospital after the owner brought mom to us for an emergency c-section that saved both their lives.



Project Keep Me Expands to Offer a Lifeline for Veterans and Their Beloved Pets

Second Chance has expanded our groundbreaking **Project Keep Me** program to offer critical support to veterans seeking in-patient treatment. Originally designed to provide temporary housing, food, and medical care for the pets of domestic violence survivors, the program now extends the same critical lifeline to veterans who need a safe place for their pets during recovery. Pets in the program receive dedicated care for up to 90 days, giving their owners the opportunity to focus on recovery while knowing their beloved companions are safe and well cared for.

For many veterans, the bond with their pets is a vital source of comfort and emotional strength. Project Keep Me ensures they don't have to make the heartbreaking choice between seeking life-saving treatment and ensuring their pet's safety. This life-changing program is entirely funded by generous donors and reflects Second Chance's commitment to keeping pets and their people together during life's most challenging times. With your continued support, we can provide a lifeline for more pets and their owners when they need each other most.



2024 Second Chance Golf Tournament

Save the Date for the 13th Annual Golf Tournament

Swing in to action to help pets in need



www.secondchanceanimals.org/golf

Monday, July 14th, 2025
Cold Spring Country Club, Belchertown



Every Pet Deserves a Second Chance

We are so grateful for your support, which touched the lives of over 56,000 pets last year. Your generosity made it possible for Second Chance to provide critical medical care, vaccinations, and shelter for pets who had nowhere else to turn. Every life saved and every family kept together happened because of your commitment to making a difference.

But the need is still great. Every day, pets arrive at Second Chance through no fault of their own, suffering as silent victims of circumstances beyond their control. Whether it's a family struggling to afford vital veterinary care or a pet tearfully surrendered due to unforeseen hardship, these animals are in urgent need of compassion and care. Without help, these pets face heartbreaking uncertainty. Your support makes all the

difference, ensuring we can step in to provide the care and resources they desperately need to survive and thrive. A gift of any size provides life-saving care and ensures that pets in need have the chance to find health, safety, and love. Please consider donating today. Together, we can continue to give every pet 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: \$ _____

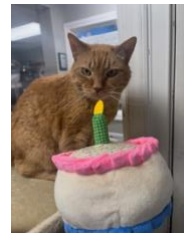
☐ My check made payable to Second Chance Animal Services is enclosed

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: _____

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 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

NLW2025



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!!!

26th Annual Auction Gala – March 29, 2025
AC Marriott – Worcester, MA

13th Annual Golf Tournament – July 14, 2025
Cold Spring Country Club-Belchertown, MA

Cruise for Critters – September 2025
Watch for more details

4th Annual Cocktails for Tails – Fall 2025
Watch for more details

SECOND CHANCE ANIMAL SERVICES

Mutt Matters & Cat Chatters

www.secondchanceanimals.org

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

