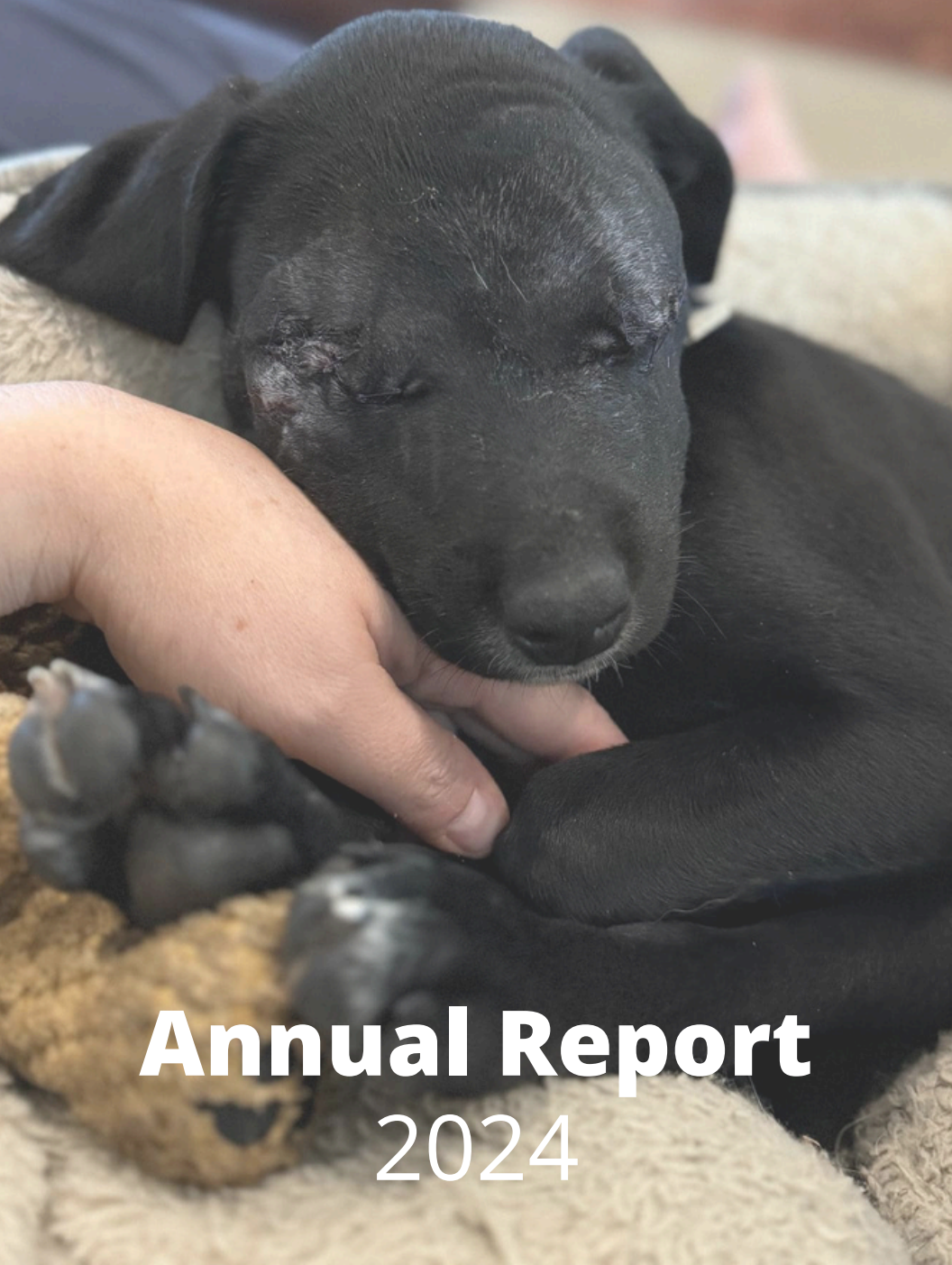


Second Chance Animal Services



Annual Report
2024



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.

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

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 completely 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 people in domestic violence situations, and has expanded to help veterans seeking in-patient care. Both of these vital programs help house and care for their pets so they can get the help they need without having to say goodbye.

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.



Photo Credit: Simple Truth Imaging

As we look ahead, I am inspired by the possibilities that lie before us. This year, we have added 14 additional veterinarians, along with support staff, to expand our capacity and increase our community impact in this new year. 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.**

Sincerely,
Sheryl Blawatto
President



Second Chance Animal Services, Inc.

🐾 56,828 PETS HELPED IN 2024

🐾 OVER 443,000 PETS HELPED SINCE 1999

Second Chance now helps over 56,000 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.



OUR LEGACY

Over 335,000 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.



OUR IMPACT

Over 21,700 pets have found forever homes.

OUR PROMISE

Over 86,000 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 Gasparri - Treasurer

Heather Gablaski - Member



OUR CORE VALUES

Teamwork ~ Compassion & Understanding ~ Efficiency ~ Innovation

Ribbet's Second Chance

A STORY OF RESILIENCE



Gracing the cover of this year's annual report is a true survivor—Ribbet, a tiny Labrador Retriever whose journey captured the hearts of so many. **His story is a testament to the importance of Second Chance's mission and the lifesaving role of our adoption policies.** Ribbet was adopted from our shelter with the promise of a loving home, but when he was rehomed without following our adoption policy requiring the adopter to contact us for assistance, tragedy struck. Placed in a home with a much larger dog, Ribbet suffered a devastating attack that left him with a fractured skull and injuries so severe that both of his eyes had to be removed.

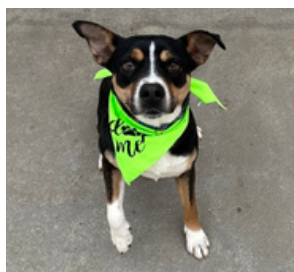
Despite the unimaginable pain he endured, Ribbet's spirit never wavered. Thanks to the swift action of our veterinary team and the generosity of our supporters, he received the critical care he needed to survive. His journey to recovery was long, but his resilience and love for life shined through every step of the way. From learning to navigate the world without sight to playing fetch with a jingling ball, Ribbet proved that with the right care, anything is possible.

His story is a powerful reminder of why Second Chance requires adopters to return pets to us if they can no longer keep them. Our policies exist to protect pets like Ribbet, ensuring they are placed in safe, loving homes. **Because of you—our donors, volunteers, and advocates—Ribbet got the second chance he deserved.** Today, he's thriving in his forever home, bringing joy to everyone he meets. His journey is proof that, together, we can transform lives—one pet at a time.



2024 By the Numbers

A RECORD-BREAKING YEAR OF
TRANSFORMING LIVES - ONE PET
AT A TIME



56,828
pets helped



38,213
pets treated at
our Community
Vet Hospitals



8,259
low-cost
spay & neuters



1,342
pets found
a new home



16,937
pets fed Pet Food
Pantry Program



336
pets helped through
community outreach

Transforming Lives, One Pet at a Time, Through Access to Affordable Care

COMMUNITY VETERINARY HOSPITALS

North Brookfield · Southbridge · Springfield · Worcester



Second Chance Community Veterinary Hospitals offer affordable care to everyone, and those that qualify can receive additional subsidies to ensure access to care for all.

In 2024, Second Chance expanded its team of dedicated veterinary professionals, welcoming 14 new veterinarians alongside skilled vet techs, assistants, and receptionists. Together, they provide exceptional care using the latest advancements in veterinary medicine. Our hospitals are equipped with cutting-edge technology, including in-house blood analysis, digital diagnostic and dental X-rays, ultrasound, and urinalysis. Our state-of-the-art hospital management software allows seamless access to patient records across all locations, ensuring continuity of care.

Our hospitals offer full-service veterinary care, including chronic disease management, emergency treatment, and a wide range of elective procedures. In addition to spay/neuter surgeries, we perform mass removals, orthopedic procedures, dental surgery, and more, giving pets the comprehensive care they need to live healthy lives.

Our hospital pricing remains competitive with private veterinary clinics, while **those in need can access additional financial assistance.** Pet owners may qualify for subsidized services by providing proof of total household income at or below 150% of the federal poverty level, reinforcing our mission to keep pets healthy and in their loving homes.



We are a
no-kill
organization
with an over
99%
save rate!

Adoption Center

1,342 ANIMALS ADOPTED IN 2024

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 1,342 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, an emergency placement partner for pets in crisis, took in 27 dogs from an overwhelmed local owner in the fall of 2024, some with significant medical needs. They received urgent care and have since found loving homes.



Programs

SPAY/NEUTER SERVICES

Our hospitals collectively performed an unprecedented 8,259 spay and neuter procedures in 2024, marking a significant increase from the previous year's record count of 7,803. 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 patients' 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 87 rescues, shelters and municipal facilities in 2024. 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.

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 2024, 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 (Rosemary Davis Memorial Fund), Berkshire Bank Foundation, Banfield Foundation, Pets for the Elderly, and Robert J. Mullen Charitable Trust.

PROJECT KEEP ME

In 2024, Second Chance expanded our groundbreaking Project Keep Me program, which **provides companion pet shelter resources for survivors of domestic violence, to include veterans seeking in-patient care.** Through this program, we provide temporary housing, food, and medical support if needed for pets, giving their owners the freedom to seek safe housing or medical care without compromising the well-being of their animal companions.



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 2024, the program served an estimated 16,927 pets, distributing dog and cat food to 20 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.

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, an important part of our Educational Outreach Program, was 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 where they 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 celebrate our 25th Anniversary while raising much-needed funds for all our programs.

The **25th Annual Dinner Auction** was held in March at the La Salle Reception Hall in Southbridge.

In June, we celebrated our 25th Anniversary with a **Block Party** full of festivities at Klem's in Spencer and Timberyard Brewing Company in East Brookfield including a vendor fair, barbecue and more.

The **12th Annual Golf Tournament** was held in July at Cold Spring Country Club in Belchertown.

In September, the **12th Annual Cruise for Critters** was held at Westview Farms Creamery in Monson.

The **Third Annual Cocktails for Tails - Comedy Unleashed** 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

To learn more about our work, visit us at: secondchanceanimals.org



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Want to help?

Scan the QR code for all the ways you can help.

