



SECOND CHANCE ANIMAL SERVICES



Volume 22/Issue 2/Summer 2025

President's Letter

Dear friend,

Every day at Second Chance Animal Services, we are guided by a simple yet powerful mission: **to keep pets with the people who love them.** Animal welfare is evolving, and we're proud to be leading the way. While sheltering and adoption will always be an essential part of our work, true progress means preventing pets from ever needing to enter a shelter in the first place.

Too often, families are forced to make heartbreaking decisions because they can't access affordable veterinary care, pet food, or support during a personal crisis. That's why Second Chance is transforming animal welfare with a comprehensive focus on keeping pets in their homes, where they belong.

Our four full-service Community Veterinary Hospitals offer everything from preventive care to life saving surgery at a fraction of the typical cost. Our **Access to Care** model is removing financial barriers and bringing help directly to underserved communities through these hospitals as well as through our mobile vaccine and microchip clinics.

One of the most urgent needs we're seeing right now is food, especially cat food. Requests for help from our pet food pantry have more than doubled as families struggle with rising costs. No one should have to surrender a beloved pet because they can't afford a bag of food. That's why we are working to expand our pantry program to reach more pet owners and keep more pets fed, healthy, and home. With your support, we can meet this growing demand and ensure no pet goes hungry.

We are also proud to offer **Project Keep Me**, a program that provides temporary care for pets when their owners are facing extraordinary challenges. This includes survivors of domestic violence who are fleeing unsafe situations and veterans in need of inpatient care. By caring for their beloved pets until they are safe and stable, we're not just helping animals, we're supporting people in their greatest time of need.

This work is changing lives. Every day, we hear from pet owners who say, "I don't know what I would have done without Second Chance." **That's the difference you make when you support this mission. You're not only helping animals, you're keeping families together and giving people hope.**

Thank you for believing in this innovative vision. Together, we're building a future where no one has to choose between caring for their pet and caring for themselves. Your support is not just appreciated - it is truly life-changing.

Sheryl Blancato
President



Shelter dog Loki is still waiting, and we're still here. With a 99% no-kill rate, Second Chance remains committed to every pet in our care—no matter how long it takes.



Keeping Pets with the People who Love Them

Access to veterinary care is flipping the script for pets in need, making it possible for families to stay together, even in the face of serious medical challenges. All Second Chance Community Veterinary Hospitals provide high-quality, affordable care to every pet, and those who qualify can receive additional subsidies. **No pet should suffer, or be surrendered, because of financial hardship.** Here are just a few of the pets whose lives were transformed thanks to access to care:

Prince is Home Where He Belongs

Prince, a one-year-old mini poodle, came to Second Chance with a painful old leg injury. X-rays showed a deformity in his knee that prevented him from bending the joint or walking comfortably. His family was concerned that they may not be able afford to the surgery he needed. Thankfully, Second Chance was able to provide the care Prince required at a cost they could manage—giving him pain relief without the heartbreaking decision of surrender.



Prince underwent a successful leg amputation and is on the road to recovery. In just a couple of weeks, he'll be running around again—this time pain-free and surrounded by the family who loves him. Access to affordable veterinary care helps keep pets like Prince where they belong: home.



Fluffy's Family Finds the Care She Needs

Fluffy's family was frightened when their beloved cat suddenly became very ill. A late-night trip to the emergency room revealed she needed exploratory surgery—but the cost was more than they could afford. Desperate to save her, they contacted our North Brookfield Community Veterinary Hospital. **They drove over two hours in a snowstorm to get Fluffy the care she needed.**

X-rays revealed the cause: Fluffy had swallowed a sewing needle. The needle was safely removed, and Fluffy was soon feeling good as new. Her relieved owners were deeply grateful to receive life-saving care they could afford. This is what access to care looks like—keeping families together, even in the toughest moments.

Tiny's Life-Saving Surgery

Tiny came to Second Chance in urgent need of surgery. She was suffering from pyometra, a life-threatening uterine infection that can quickly become fatal if not treated. Thanks to prompt medical intervention, Tiny underwent emergency surgery and

Tine recently returned for her recheck—healthy, happy, and back on her paws. Her grateful owner couldn't stop smiling, and neither could our team. This is what your support makes possible: access to critical care that keeps pets like Tiny with the families who love them.





Healthy Pets, Stronger Communities

Second Chance is also bringing care right to where it's needed most. Whether it's setting up affordable vaccine clinics in local towns or visiting seniors through Homebound to the Rescue, we're helping those who may have trouble getting to us keep their beloved pets healthy and by their side.

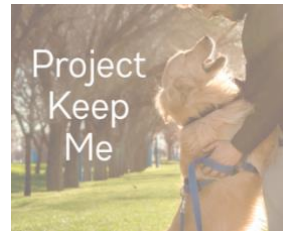
Low-Cost Community Vaccine Clinics hosted across Massachusetts communities offer life-saving vaccines, in addition to the weekly low-cost vaccine clinics at our hospitals. The clinics help keep pets across the region healthy, preventing the spread of infectious diseases and promoting the overall health of pets in the community.



Homebound to the Rescue provides veterinary services to seniors living in low-income housing areas. This program is funded entirely by generous donors and grants, offering no-cost veterinary care to ensure 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.

Project Keep Me: Restoring Hope, One Family at a Time

In moments of crisis, no one should have to choose between getting help and keeping their beloved pet. **Project Keep Me** provides temporary care for pets of domestic violence survivors and veterans entering in-patient treatment so their owners can seek safety or care without fear of losing their trusted companions.



Since expanding the program to serve veterans, we've helped many veterans. One pet owner entered a 30-day treatment program and trusted us with his dog's care while he focused on healing. When he was accepted into a longer-term program later this summer, we welcomed his dog back for a second stay—helping him continue his path to recovery, knowing his best friend was safe.

In another moment we won't soon forget, an emergency room contacted us about a veteran in urgent need. When we heard his dog's name, we realized it was a pup we had adopted to him years ago. After a short stay with us, they were joyfully reunited. These are just two of the many lives your support has touched through this groundbreaking program.

A Second Chance for 52 Cats

Last month, we took in **52 cats from one overwhelmed home** - a massive rescue made possible by the support of our community. The cats ranged from a mom and her kittens to dozens of affectionate adult cats. Many greeted staff with purrs and head-butts, a testament to their sweet and social nature.



Delta arrived with her seven kittens. This family is living with one of our amazing fosters until they are old enough for adoption.

Each cat received veterinary care, including vaccinations and spay/neuter surgery. Several were treated for upper respiratory infections, while underweight kittens and the mom with her babies were placed in loving foster homes to grow strong enough for adoption.

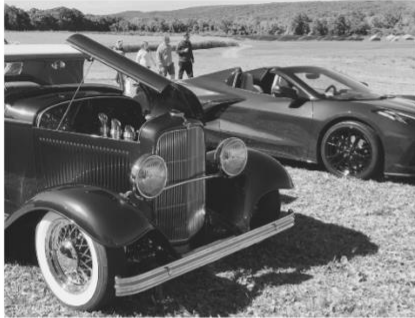
Caring for so many cats at once was a tremendous effort—both in time and cost. But thanks to generous supporters like you, more than 30 have already found new homes. Now, every one of them has a true second chance at a brighter future.



Puddles, one of the tiniest of the rescue weighing in at just 1.5 lbs., was being treated for a painful abscess before she was adopted.



Al Widlan's Service Connection Presents the 13th Annual



CRUISE for Critters



To benefit animals in need at Second Chance Animal Services

Saturday, September 20, 2025 from 10 AM to 3 PM

(rain date: Saturday, September 27)

Westview Farms Creamery: 109 East Hill Rd. Monson, MA



**\$20 Show Car
Entry Fee**

**100% of car entry fee
supports pets in need**

Free for spectators

Bring The Pups!



All dogs must be leashed
Please - no retractable leads

🎵 **Live music by the Barberic Band** 🎵

FEATURING:

- Homemade Ice Cream & Food
- Vendor Fair
- Adoption Event 11 AM - 2 PM
- Corn Maze
- Pumpkin Picking
- Hayride
- Live Raffles



facebook.com/cruiseforcritters

Questions? Call Alan at 413-267-9028

Interested in being a vendor?

Visit secondchanceanimals.org for vendor registration





BARKING '20s

Cocktails for Tails

A benefit for Second Chance Animal Services

Music & dancing

Dinner

Cash bar

Silent auction & raffle prizes

JOIN US FOR A FUN EVENING!

Saturday, November 8, 2025

4pm Cocktails, 6pm Dinner
Spencer Country Inn
500 Main St, Spencer, MA

\$65 per person
2 tickets for \$120
\$575 table of 10



SCAN FOR
TICKETS
& MORE
INFO!

Second Chance



Animal
Services™



All proceeds benefit
Second Chance programs
and services assisting
pets in need.

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





Because Pets Like Gwinnie Can't Wait: Become a **Monthly PetPal Champion** Today

When **Gwinnie** was found on the side of the road, she was weak, underweight, and missing both ears...her future was uncertain. A Good Samaritan rushed her to safety, but her story was just beginning. This 1-year-old American Staffordshire Terrier mix had endured cruelty no animal should face, and to make things worse, she tested positive for heartworm, a potentially deadly disease.

Despite it all, Gwinnie remains one of the sweetest souls you'll ever meet. She patiently accepted every step of her treatment with gentle trust, and she's now recovering with a loving foster family who will soon be her forever family!

Her second chance didn't happen by accident...it happened because of monthly donors who made sure we were ready. When you become a **Monthly PetPal Champion**, you are there for pets like Gwinnie before they arrive. Your monthly gift ensures we're ready to provide lifesaving care, from emergency rescues and medical treatment to daily meals and shelter. It also supports the programs that help keep pets in loving homes.

Just **\$18 a month**—less than the cost of a couple of coffees—can change a life.

- It's automatic and budget-friendly
- It helps us plan and respond quickly
- It keeps pets safe, healthy, and home

You can be the reason another pet gets their second chance.



Scan to become a PetPal Champion or
enroll by mail – see page 7

Expanding Our Pet Food Pantry Program to Meet Skyrocketing Demand



BoSox is more than a service dog. He's her best friend. She's gone without food to feed him, but thanks to our pet food pantry, they both get the nourishment they need.

As more families face financial hardship, many are making heartbreaking choices to keep their pets fed by skipping their own meals, forgoing medications, or ultimately surrendering beloved companions when they can no longer afford pet food. At Second Chance, we're committed to addressing this hidden crisis. By providing pet food to local human food pantries, we're making it easier for families to access pet food where they're already seeking help for themselves, removing barriers and helping pets stay where they belong: at home.

BoSox, a loyal service dog and best friend to his owner, is a powerful reminder of what's at stake. His owner, who lives with multiple sclerosis, has at times gone without food to make sure BoSox could eat. They rely on Second Chance's pet food pantry program so they can both get the nourishment they need. Their story is not unique. Lack of access to pet food is one of the leading reasons pets are surrendered to shelters.

Since 2021, demand for **our pantry program has surged by 484%**. What began as a partnership with 12 food pantries helping 3,495 pets has grown to serve over 20 pantries and more than 16,900 pets in 2024—an average of over 1,400 pets each month.



Scan to learn more

This spring we launched a campaign to **expand our pet food pantry** so fewer families will have to face a very painful decision. With the support of our generous donors, we will expand to double our capacity to store and distribute pet food, reaching even more pets in need and supporting families when they need it most.



Every Pet Deserves a Second Chance

The stories in this newsletter share just a few of the pets whose lives you have touched with your generosity. Thanks to you, thousands of pets have received a second chance—from life-saving surgeries and rescues to the chance to stay in their homes with the people who love them. **None of this would be possible without compassionate animal lovers like you who believe in our mission.**

But the need keeps growing. Every day, more pets and families reach out for help - from local food pantries requesting pet supplies to individuals facing urgent medical emergencies or sudden crises. Whether it's a bag of food, veterinary care, or a safe place to stay, **Second Chance is here because you are here with us.**

Together, we're not just saving animals, we're building a future where no one has to give up a beloved pet due to hardship. **Thank you for standing with us, for giving hope, and for making second chances possible.** We can't wait to see how many more lives we'll change next, together.

Yes, I want to help pets 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 securely online at www.secondchanceanimals.org/donate



Donate Online

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

NLS2025



Second Chance Animal Services
PO Box 136
East Brookfield, MA 01515
"More Than Just a Shelter"

Open for great stories and information.
Save these dates!!!
Cruise for Critters:
Sept. 20, 2025
Westview Farms
Creamery, Monson
Cocktails for Tails
Barking '20s
Nov. 8, 2025
Spencer Country Inn,
Spencer



SECOND CHANCE ANIMAL SERVICES

mutt matters

& cat chatters

www.secondchanceanimals.org

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

Left on the roadside and missing her ears, Gwinnie's journey will break your heart...and fill it with hope.
Read Gwinnie's story - plus more inspiring tales of second chances inside.

