



HAPPY TAILS

News from Second Chance Animal Center

What to Expect When You're NOT Expecting

Cathi Comar, Executive Director

Second Chance is a limited-admission animal shelter. This means that we do not euthanize any animal due to space, and thus we can only accept a surrendered animal if and when we have the space available. Often members of the community will arrive at the shelter wanting and expecting to immediately surrender their pet. We see their disappointment when we explain that they need to put their name on a waiting list, and may have to wait a few days to a few weeks to surrender the animal.

To help those on the surrender waiting list, we provide information on how to continue to care for their pet (if there are medical or behavioral problems), provide them with food and/or litter (if there are financial issues), and encourage them to be patient until their place moves up on the waiting list. If we cannot meet their immediate needs, the staff offers to assist



them however possible during the waiting period.

So what do we do when we receive a phone call from a distraught community member whose dog died earlier in the day and they need to surrender 10 motherless four-day-old puppies? The call comes at 3:00 p.m. on a Friday, just 30 minutes before closing time and our kennel is full and without space for intake. We know that young puppies do not thrive in shelters, and that very young, motherless puppies have a limited chance of survival. But we spring into action anyway to make a plan that will give the puppies a chance at life.

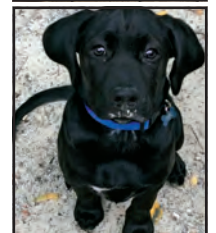
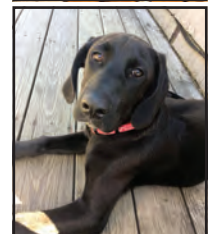
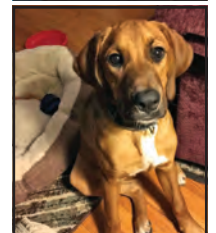
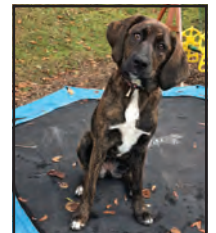
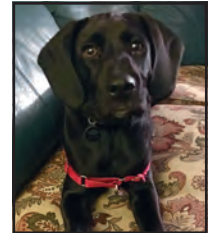
When they first arrived at the shelter in a laundry basket, the puppies were lethargic since they hadn't been fed since the morning. Before anything else, we had to administer subcutaneous fluids to each. The pain of the needle prick made them squeal, but it was the best method of giving them what was necessary. Once the fluids had done their job, the

puppies were ready for more solid nourishment.

We then called Ashley Coon, the Animal Control Officer at the Bennington Police Department, who knows just how to care for young puppies. We needed Ashley's guidance about what and how to feed this litter, and much to our surprise, she volunteered to foster these 10 siblings until they could be separated into two litters of five. The pups periodically returned to the shelter for their checkups, and they were all thriving under Ashley's constant care. At four weeks, it was time to find a second foster home, and Nicol Whalen, one of our knowledgeable volunteers, offered to fill that position. At eight weeks, another developmental milestone was reached, and we found homes for all the littermates under our foster-to-adopt program. After their spay/neuter surgeries at four months, the 10 pups were adopted.

Though the shelter world brings unexpected situations, it's how these situations are handled that makes the difference to an animal's life. Second Chance is fortunate to have the support of caring people like Ashley and Nicol who so willingly offer their time and energy. It is because of them that the entire litter survived. Thank you, thank you, and thank you!

We wish a long, happy and healthy life to these 10 puppies (Beau, Bella, Dixie, Harper, Luna, Maizzey, Milo, Porter, Teddy, and Zeke) and the loving families who opened their hearts and homes to them.

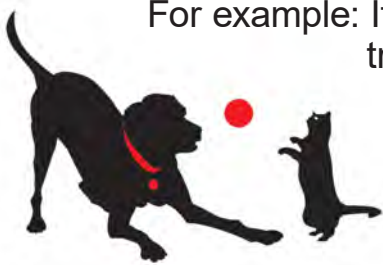


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Dog-Lovers' Training Tips

If your dog has a consistent and annoying habit, find a way to interrupt and change the habit to include a more desirable behavior.



For example: If your dog rushes the door, train the dog that the door will only open if he holds a sit a few feet away. This will give you time to shut the door if he tries to rush it!

Adoption Sponsorship Program

Thanks to Maple Leaf Realty (mapleleafvermont.com) of Bennington, the following animals are available for fee-waived adoptions. Both of these wonderful animals are our longest canine and feline residents ... their forever home might be with you!



Tyson

Tyson is a three-year-old American Shelter Dog who is friendly, energetic, and playful. He prefers to be the only pet in the home but may be accepting of a female canine companion after proper introduction. Since Tyson is a large dog at 63 pounds, we recommend a family with older children.



Julio

Julio is a senior feline who will live with other feline companions but prefers not to interact with those companions. He spends much of his time sleeping atop higher locations to keep an eye on all situations! Julio enjoys human companionship, especially if there is a treat or two that comes along with the attention.

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Cathleen Perrone - Community Programs Coordinator
Sarah Braman - Canine Coordinator
Mechelle Gates - Service Advisor
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HAPPY ENDINGS

Zeus Finally Home

Sarah Braman, Canine Coordinator

Zeus made his way to the shelter one Saturday this past April. At eight months old, he was an under-socialized Mastiff mix who needed just the right home. The kennel staff had a lot of experience working with dogs needing socialization, so when we received the call informing us that Zeus was on his way to the shelter we were ready for the lengthy process that lay ahead.



Upon arrival, Zeus was very fearful and had bonded only to his previous owners, so the first step was to leave him alone for a few days. We made it a point to often walk by his kennel, tossing treats while praising him and avoiding eye contact. We did everything we could to make him feel comfortable, hoping that in return he would warm up to the staff. Once we gained his trust, Zeus began to hang out with the staff in the play yard and in the office. It seemed that he had started to enjoy our company and looked forward to seeing us each morning.

The next step was to complete Zeus's temperament test. Mastiffs are bred as guard dogs so it did not come as a surprise that Zeus guarded his food. Even standing next to him while he ate upset him! Katie McKenzie, our professional dog behaviorist, knew her skills would be put to the test working with Zeus. Every day Katie worked on Zeus's food-guarding issues while encouraging him to accept strangers.

Meanwhile, the kennel staff was on the lookout for the perfect adopter—someone with experience with Mastiffs, no other pets, and no young children. We also needed to find a family who understood that Zeus may always be a homebody and not the super social dog that enjoys accompanying his family beyond their home. After a few meetings with potential adopters, we didn't have any luck finding the perfect match for Zeus. He was still very fearful of strangers, and had to wear a muzzle during these visits. How could we find Zeus's forever home when the people who met him expected to find a happy, playful puppy?

And just when we least expected it, a couple stopped by to visit Zeus after seeing his photograph online. Even though they couldn't pet him during their first visit, as Zeus would only accept treats tossed in his direction, they knew that they could offer this dog a good home. Weekly visits soon started, eventually becoming twice a week when Zeus began to accept their presence. After many meetings, Zeus learned to trust and began to look forward to those special days when this family would visit and take him for walks. Once the muzzle was no longer needed, we knew that Zeus accepted this family as "his." Ten days before Zeus's first birthday, his (and our) wish came true, and he was on his way to his forever home.

This truly is a happy ending for Zeus, his wonderful new family, and the shelter staff. His story is a great reminder that with patience and persistence, and sometimes a dose of destiny, "difficult" dogs can find their perfect forever homes.

Pooka's Good Luck

Cathi Comar, Executive Director

Our shelter work brings us out into the community often, and we meet many passionate animal lovers who want to do the best for all animals. Through our Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program, we met a kind couple in Bennington who care for homeless community cats that wander through their neighborhood. They often trap and bring cats to Second Chance to be spay/neutered, then sometimes keeping them as pets but most often releasing them back outdoors to continue living a healthier life.

This couple contacted the shelter this summer to report that an injured kitten had been trapped at their fence and that its mom and littermate had disappeared. Concerned about the injury, and because we had space in the kitten section, we retrieved the little guy to find he had a horrific eye injury. Only six weeks old, he seemed in good health other than the bulging right eye. After a diagnosis of an infected and irreparable ruptured cornea, a staff member agreed to foster the kitten to provide care to the eye with endless applications of antibiotic ointment and lots of love and attention. Knowing that this little guy was lucky to walk into that Bennington backyard, he was given the name Pooka.

Weeks later, Pooka had gained significant weight and his eye infection had healed; he was ready for surgery, including the removal of his injured eye, then adoption. As often happens at shelters, foster homes turn into "foster fails." Sometimes the bond that you expect to be temporary turns into something more permanent. Pooka was adopted by his caring foster family and now lives a carefree life indoors while getting used to seeing the world through one very perceptive eye. A lucky guy, indeed.



The Cats of Circa50

Nancy Boardman, SCAC Trustee

It all started with Squirt. Not that Steve Dunning didn't already love cats, but Squirt turned his fondness into a passion—from just caring for cats to rescuing them.

Steve and his partner, Jeff Linebeck, own Circa50, a furniture and lighting store that specializes in mid-20th Century modern design. Located on Main Street in Manchester Center, one of its former neighbors was Factory Point National Bank (now Berkshire Bank), whose parking lot abutted their store.

The men began noticing furtive feline action in the parking lot, mostly in the evening but then during the day. Talking to fellow shop-owners on that stretch of the street, they learned that others had seen the cats, too, and some were putting food out for them. That was all well and good until, Nature taking its usual course, they began to spy kittens scurrying in and out of the bushes. "I knew how that was going to end," says Steve. "More and more cats, in danger of cars and at the mercy of the elements. I realized that feeding them wasn't really going to make their lives better. Someone had to make sure they wouldn't keep reproducing, or get sick from disease and lack of care. We decided to step up to the plate."

And so, in 2014, their rescue work began. Steve took the lead, becoming a pro at baiting and setting humane traps. When a cat springs the trap, he rushes it to Green Mountain Veterinary Hospital on Rt. 11/30 so it can be checked for diseases common to homeless cats living in colonies, such as feline distemper. Once deemed healthy, the vets vaccinate and do those all-important spay/neuter surgeries to ensure no progeny.

Steve is full of praise for the veterinarians with whom he partners. "Dr. Amanda (McNutt) was the lead vet in the beginning, but when she left the practice to start her own, Dr. Paul (Kotas) took over with the same expertise and kindness," Steve says.

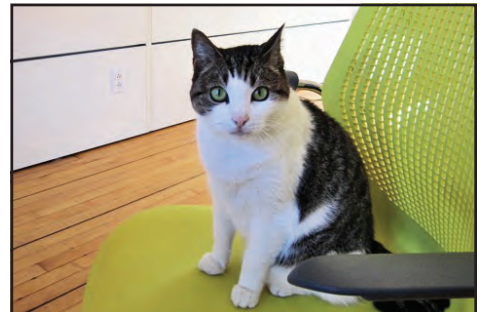
When the kittens are healthy and neutered, Second Chance steps in. Steve and Jeff bring them down to the shelter, so their paperwork can be filled out with each one's medical history, estimated date of birth, and other data. Most important, the shelter makes sure

they get lots of socialization from the staff and exposure to the public, so that their adoption rates are satisfyingly high. Sometimes the mom cat comes to SCAC at the same time, but usually the adults stay around Circa50, assured of good food, heated water and cozy shelter.

Of course, some of the lucky ones—like Squirt—find their way into the store, where they live a life filled with luxury and love. They sleep in hammocks in the front window, lounge on the furniture and race up and down from the basement to the second floor. They may be curious about the pedestrians passing the store, but those pedestrians are just as curious—and amused. You can see them glance into the store, do a double-take, and then come close to tap at the window or take photos on their cell phones. When Steve is working late inside, he often sees cars pull into the parking spaces in front of the building and the occupants just sit and watch the cats' nighttime antics. It's a bit like interactive TV, which was a perfect analogy last month, when the ITVFest (The Independent Television and Film Festival) took place in town. Some pretty blasé-looking big-city visitors broke into huge smiles when they spotted the cats snoozing in the window.

Steve and Jeff have become fast, generous friends of Second Chance. A few years ago they designed a large glass vessel, hand-blown by local artisan Andrew Weill, to raise money for the shelter. The proceeds of the sale of *A Collection of Cats*, a new book by Phillip Tietbohl, about the pair's rescue, rehab and rehoming efforts, will also help shelter cats.

Steve and Jeff's commitment to their store posse of 10 is total. If you think it is hard to pill one cat, think of doing five or six that might all need to be treated for a cough. Or imagine having to give an insulin shot twice a day to a diabetic cat, not just for a week but for its lifetime. Given the three floors of the store and the individual hygiene habits of the cats, litter boxes number 13. Dining preferences vary widely as well, so various combinations of kibble and canned food must be offered at the daily smorgasbord.



Jeff remarks that the cats more than repay them with their affection. They have taught the men a lot about cats who were once feral or simply homeless. "They talk to each other all the time," Jeff reports, "and a couple of them do everything together, including eating their dinners." He adds, "You might think that they would be wary of the others, or selfish, given their tough times in the wild, but instead they are incredibly easy-going and thoughtful of each other. It's been a real education."

Does that mean the Circa50 cat door is still open? Not really, Steve says, since the 10 residents have a companionable dynamic that might be thrown out of whack by a new arrival. Plus, the introduction of a health problem could spell trouble for the group. But the two admit there are plenty of temptations still out there, needy-feline-wise. So Squirt might have been the beginning, but he might not be the end.

President's Message

Kimberly I. Gould, President (2013-2017)

Transitions. Transitions are all around us, constantly. Transitions are the stuff of everyday life. Perhaps it is the change in temperature, maybe the change in the leaves, or even the change in the number of cars on our local roads, but fall always makes me think more seriously and profoundly about transitions.

The animals coming into our shelter go through significant transitions, and no matter what circumstances bring those animals into our shelter, we are grateful to welcome them in and give them love and care. The animals who are adopted into their forever homes also go through considerable transitions. These are filled with joy, love, comfort, warmth... and hopefully many, many treats!

All of us experience the joy—and sometimes pain—of transitions in our personal lives, too. Children grow and move away to college or leave home for a job or a new adventure. We switch houses, apartments, and condos. We welcome new loved ones into our lives with great excitement, and we say goodbye to others with sorrow and an overwhelming sense of loss. These things are part of what makes us who we are as people.

We at Second Chance are thrilled to have just broken ground to begin the process that will mean our transition into our brand new, state-of-the-art shelter facility. With this transition will come the movement of animals and people, papers and kennels, blankets and toys, and we'll also be "moving" all of our practices and policies that allow us to provide those in need, both shelter animals and the people in the communities we serve, with care, kindness, compassion and help. The transition to our new facility will not only allow us proper spaces designed to provide even better care to the animals—and humans!—we serve, but this will also result in new programs and opportunities that will enable us to better serve our communities. These things are a part of our work at Second Chance and our dedication to our mission.

I, myself, am also facing a bittersweet transition. Due to increasing demands of work and my personal life, it is with sadness—but also with truly great hope and expectation—that I turned over the Presidency of the Second Chance



Board of Trustees to Board Vice President Jim Evans as of November 1, 2017. Jim, a retired Orvis Vice President, has been a longtime supporter of Second Chance. He has been a Second Chance Trustee for 7 years, served as Vice President since 2011, and chairs our Personnel Committee. Jim was instrumental in the search and selection of our new building site as well as other Second Chance initiatives.

Second Chance is stronger than ever because of the commitment and dedication of our staff, volunteers, and Trustees. For the past nearly five years, I have been fortunate to have been able to assist, in some ways, the talented, hardworking shelter staff and Chair the Board. My sincere thanks to all of you for this opportunity. I will remain on the Board and I look forward to all of the excitement and hard work that comes with all of these transitions. These things will forever be a part of my human experience.

GO GREEN WITH US Help us save money and the environment by joining our e-mail service, iContact. You'll get the latest updates on upcoming events, find out what's new at the shelter, and be able to read Happy Tails electronically.

To subscribe, visit 2ndchanceanimalcenter.org and click on Email List. Be assured that we won't share your information with any other organizations.

Thank-you letters can be sent via email, too, saving paper and postage, and further helping the environment.



Our Amazing Supporters

Second Chance gratefully acknowledges the outstanding support of our many contributors—those who make financial contributions, donate in-kind services and materials, and those who donate their time. The following pages list contributors from May 1 through September 30, 2017. Please accept our apology if any names have been misspelled or inadvertently excluded.

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Hewinson, Chelsea
Kenyon, Samantha
Ring, Julie
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Beckerman, Andy & Lauren
Barrows, John
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Bentley, Brittany
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Bowen, Jules
Chadurjian, Jon
Clune, Jim
Cooper, Tina
Dandeneau, Lisa

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Fritsch, Freya
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Guare, Lisa
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Kaepffel, Morgan
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Murray, Kirstin
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Ogden, Katharine
Perry, Amy, Beth & Megan
Pratt, Stephen & Roseanne
Prandini, Sophia
Reap, Tandra
Renish, Kristan
Stevens-Boey, Thea
Schor, Cathy
Seese, Sonja
Smith, Logan
VanHessell, Marianne
Vosburgh, Cassie
Wells, Jennifer
Wood, Bill
Zemaitis, Mikaela
Wright, John

And our Shelter Buddies:

Aiden, Aliyah, Andrew, Ariana, Audrey, Bryn, Cameron, Camm, Cash, Cooper, Ella, Elijah, Emma C., Emma H., Esme, Finn, Grace B., Hadley Hunter, Isla, Jacob, Kaelene, Kyrrah, Lila, Lily, Lorenzo, Madison, Maggie, Mirabel, Phoebe, Rylee, Sierra, Sigrid, Spencer, Thomas, Vern, Willa



Second Chance Animal Center is very excited to announce the groundbreaking of our new Arlington facility! We have committed many months to planning and designing a building to meet our program and animal-care needs and, with the support of our dedicated community contributors, the construction equipment rolled onto the property in early November to begin work.

Over the next few months, we have many fundraising opportunities available for you to contribute to this life-saving, life-enhancing project. Check our website, follow our Facebook postings, and watch your mailbox for further details.

Second Chance greatly appreciates our many quiet-phase Capital Campaign donors who have helped to make this project a reality!!

Pave the Way to a New Second Chance!

Consider purchasing an inscribed paver for installation in the entrance walkway at our new facility. There are three standard sizes available: 4"x8" (\$125); 8"x8" (\$200); or 12"x12" (\$300). We can also work with you to create a special design using several pavers.

To order online, please visit bricksrus.com/donorsite/scac or call us at 802-375-2898.

Carnival for CARE

On Saturday, October 14, many Bennington area community members came out to participate in Second Chance's first annual Carnival for CARE. Our goal was to host a day of family fun with games, prizes, food, music, vendors, demonstrations, kids' activities, popcorn, and ice cream. With the help of so many supporters, mission accomplished!

We appreciate the support of the following contributors to this event:

- Event Vendors
- Hemmings Motor News
- Kate McKenzie, Dog Lovers Training
- MAU's Interact Club
- Sarah Blau, DVM, West Mountain Animal Hospital
- SCAC Volunteers, Staff, and Trustees
- The Chocolate Barn
- The Lunch Box
- The Original Express Band
- Wayne Godfrey and "Tarawa," from the Vermont State Police K-9 Unit
- Wilcox Ice Cream
- And Mount Anthony Union Middle School for allowing us to use their beautiful site and for providing equipment.

We also wish to thank Lisa Dandeneau, a Second Chance volunteer who socializes our cats and kittens, who contributed her creative inspiration and assisted with many aspects of event organization.

In 2018 we plan to announce a summer date for the event, so stay tuned!



AmazonSmile Reminder

As you make purchases throughout the holiday season, please remember that Second Chance can be a beneficiary of 0.5% of the selling price on all eligible purchases made through AmazonSmile. Simply sign up through smile.amazon.com and select Bennington County Humane Society (our legal name!) as your charitable organization.

Each time you shop, log into your account at smile.amazon.com and Second Chance is automatically credited.

A simple way to help our shelter!





Second Chance Animal Center

PO Box 620
6779 Route 7A
Shaftsbury, VT 05262

You can also help Second Chance by donating supplies.
Visit our website 2ndchanceanimalcenter.org to learn more.

Second Chance is on Television!

CAT-TV, Channel 15 Public Access: Watch *Pets of the Week* to see SCAC animals available for adoption. For a schedule, visit catamountaccess.com.

GNAT-TV: Steve Dunning of Manchester's Circa50 chats with a variety of community members, including Second Chance folks, about animals and animal care. For a schedule, visit gnat-tv.org.

News10 ABC: Join Steve Caporizzo and *Pet Connection* to see dogs and cats from Second Chance. Steve works with several shelters and rescues throughout the region, and SCAC is featured once a month.

Air time is 5:45, Monday through Friday, and recorded sessions can be found at news10.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Check our website often for updated event information (2ndchanceanimalcenter.org)

DECEMBER 2 - Over the Moon for Cats

American Legion Post 13 ~ 225 Northside Dr., Bennington
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Make a gift for the cat lover in your life! \$20 per person

DECEMBER 2 - Adoption Event

PETCO ~ Bennington, VT | 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 9 - Holiday Open House

SCAC ~ Shaftsbury, VT | 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Activities for kids, sugar cookies to decorate, and behind-the-scene shelter tours

DECEMBER 16 & 17 - Gift Wrapping Benefit

Orvis Flagship Store ~ Manchester, VT | 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

JANUARY 6, 2018 - Adoption Event

PETCO ~ Bennington, VT | 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 3, 2018 - Adoption Event

PETCO ~ Bennington, VT | 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

MARCH 3, 2018 - Adoption Event

PETCO ~ Bennington, VT | 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.