



HAPPY TAILS

News from Second Chance Animal Center

The Sound of Music ... Shelter Style

Cathi Comar, Executive Director

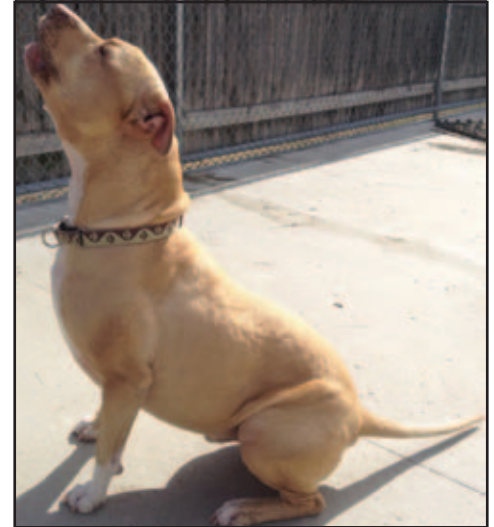
Second Chance Animal Center is a hub of activity every day of the year. We estimate that 7,000 people walk through our doors annually—sometimes it's a volunteer, sometimes someone is interested in adopting an animal, sometimes it's someone who needs some pet food, and sometimes an owner is surrendering a beloved pet due to a change in their life. Then, too, more than 5,000 annual incoming phone calls keep us on the go. With activities of all sorts, of course, come a variety of sounds unique to an animal shelter.

People are often amazed at the range of sounds their pet dog is capable of expressing. Imagine 13 dogs together at any one time, and the diversity of sounds you will hear every day. There is a special bark from the dogs in the back play yard, another style of bark from the front play yard, a different bark when dogs are in their kennels and a dog is walked past them, and even different barks in the morning when the staff has arrived to prepare their first meal of the day! Since we test the temperament of each dog while evaluating them

for adoption, we often hear two barks from a single dog: one bark is when a “scary stranger” enters the socialization room, and another bark when a “friendly stranger” then enters the room. A happy sound is heard when a dog's favorite volunteer arrives to bring them on a walk to the paddock or to Lake Shaftsbury.

Cats also add to the chorus of shelter sounds. There are the frightened cats who hiss when they are first introduced into a common adoption room, the variety of purrs you hear as a feline is being stroked, the simultaneous signals from all around the feline section when it's time for their feeding, and the thump on the floor when a cat comes down from its perch to get its share of human affection. Some of the sounds only heard by the staff (and a few foster families) are the gentle coo of a feline mom who approves your interaction with her newborn kittens, and the soft but defined first meows that come from her precious babies.

Of course, we can't forget our small critters! The sounds made by rabbits, ferrets, hamsters, guinea pigs, rats, and mice range from digging into their bedding and their almost, constant chewing, to a gentle *wheep, wheep* song. We recently had a hamster who loudly screeched whenever he saw people near his environment! (Please










make sure to check out Dare Meunier's article about guinea pigs in this issue of the newsletter.)

Humans also add to the sounds in our shelter. Small children interacting with cats often squeal when a feline unexpectedly jumps to grab a toy, adults speak softly with excitement when meeting just-the-right dog in the socialization room, and staff share their stories of monitoring a litter of kittens who are ready for adoption. One of the best sounds is the laughter of teenagers (yes, that often sullen period of growth) as they happily guide their new dog out to their car, marveling at its quickness to hop in the driver's seat.

Why do we, as shelter workers, listen to these sounds? That can be answered in one word: Inspiration.

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Animal Adventure Camp Registration Opens!

With the summer months quickly approaching, Second Chance has opened registration for our popular Animal Adventure Camp. This year's venue is Grace Christian School in Bennington. The four full-day sessions (for ages 7-12) begin the weeks of July 10, July 17, July 24, and July 31; the half-day session (for ages 5-6) is the week of August 7.

Space is limited, and reservations are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit our website to get full details, to register, and to make online payments using PayPal.

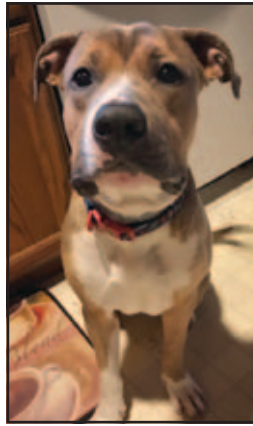


How's Hugo?

You might remember the article about Hugo in our Fall/Winter 2016 issue of Happy Tails. Hugo had just arrived at Second Chance with a jaw condition that was left untreated, and we were unsure of and not optimistic about his prognosis. As you can see by the accompanying photograph, Hugo is doing quite well!

Hugo struggled for several weeks with high fevers, lack of appetite, and continued growth of his jawbone. He was fostered by a loving couple who provided him with the attention and care he needed to recover. Their pet dog also participated in Hugo's recovery by engaging him in carefree puppy play. Hugo turned a corner in his treatment at age one; his jawbone stopped growing, he no longer has fevers, and he is gaining weight!

Hugo's foster family recently adopted Hugo, and he continues to bring laughter and happiness to their home!



Adoption Sponsorship Program

Thanks to Maple Leaf Realty (mapleleafvermont.com) of Bennington, we will continue our Adoption Sponsorship Program in 2017. Through their generosity, one dog and one cat will always be available for a fee-waived adoption. Take a look at our currently available animals ready for adoption through this successful community program!



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. Tyson was transferred to us from another animal shelter, and we know we can find him a good home in our area!



Pam

Pam is a senior feline who arrived at Second Chance when her owner moved into a nursing home. Since she spent the first ten years of her life as an only cat, she prefers to be the one-and-only feline companion. Also, she's not crazy about dogs. Pam enjoys the company of adults and will share her affection as she decides what is best! If you can provide the quiet forever home that Pam is seeking, come visit and get to know her.

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Shona Ross - Shelter Operations Director
Dare Meunier - Education Director
Kate Ernst - Office Manager
Cathleen Perrone - Community Programs Coordinator
Olivia Moyant - Animal Care Coordinator
Sarah Braman - Canine Coordinator
Robyn Champine - Feline Coordinator
Mechelle Gates - Service Advisor
Hope Hersey - Canine Care Technician
Troy Quinn - Canine Care Technician
Michelle Kopeski - Feline Care Technician
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Rik Champine - Feline Care Technician
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Prism Finds Her Home

Sarah Braman, Canine Coordinator

Prism arrived at Second Chance in the fall of 2016. She came to us from Franklin County Animal Rescue (FCAR), where she had lived for over 18 months. Prism, along with seven other dogs, had been seized from a horrendous abuse case in northern Vermont. FCAR was able to find homes for two of the eight, so Prism arrived at our shelter with five companions. Within several weeks five were adopted. Unfortunately Prism did not have the same luck.

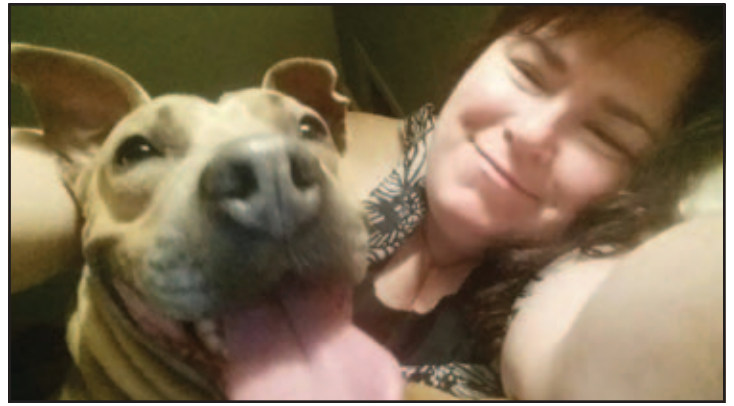
Prism was the only dog to come from this abuse case with food-guarding issues. Who could blame her? She had been abandoned in a home with seven larger dogs without food or water, and her only way to survive was to protect any food available to her. Prism's behavior became a project for Katie McKenzie, our dog behaviorist. Since Katie is very familiar with resource-guarding, she was able to work with Prism and help the staff to feel comfortable showing Prism to potential adopters. Prism required a home without small children or other pets. This was another issue that limited her pool of potential adopters.

Prism quickly became a favorite with staff as well as volunteers. She went on as many walks as she could, and loved to have visitors play fetch with her in the play yards. Prism became part of our Companion Enrichment Program and often went on outings to nursing homes, college campuses, and assisted living facilities. Prism became a community ambassador for the shelter! She even made an appearance on Steve Caporizzo's Pet Connection on News10 ABC. Steve joined her fan base and sponsored her adoption.

On a warm February day, a retired couple walked into the shelter to visit Prism. They had seen her out and about and quickly fell in love. The very next day, Prism was on her way home. Or so we thought...one of Prism's new owners became very allergic to her. After trying multiple remedies, they made the tough decision to return Prism. The staff and Prism were heartbroken, but we never lost faith that this wonderful dog, after all she had overcome, would get her happy ending.

About one month after her return to the shelter, a single mother and her teenaged son stopped by to see what dogs were available for adoption. They met Prism and immediately knew she was the one for them. She had everything they were looking for—perfect size, happy personality, good energy level, and just the right age. It was a perfect fit!

Prism is now living the life of luxury as a spoiled only dog, and Second Chance is thrilled. This story teaches us that second chances—and sometimes third or fourth—really do happen!



A Happy Life for Pillsbury

Robyn Champine, Feline Coordinator

Pillsbury was in pretty rough shape when he was abandoned at Second Chance. A concerned citizen put him in a carrier and left him on our doorstep with a note saying that his life was at risk if he remained a stray. Poor Pillsbury was extremely underweight and suffered from a lot of hair loss. Yet, despite his condition, he was a sweet and gentle cat who enjoyed giving hugs.

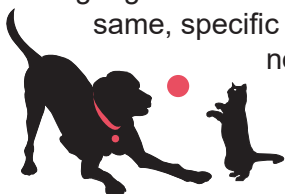
After undergoing treatment with antibiotics for nearly three months to resolve his gastrointestinal problem, Pillsbury was a new cat. His hair grew back, he gained weight, and he was finally ready for his forever home. Because of his affectionate behavior, many people were interested in adopting him, but his strict dietary needs often deterred them. Pillsbury spent several weeks as an office cat and loved to greet everyone ... but we could tell he was longing for so much more.

Five months after arriving at the shelter, Pillsbury got exactly what he needed. A loving family with two young children arrived at the shelter, met Pillsbury, and fell in love with his personality. What more can a feline want in life?

Pillsbury is doing great in his new home and adores his new family. The feeling is mutual!

Dog-Lovers' Training Tip

Training your dog is similar to teaching a foreign language... use the same, clear word for the same, specific activity or behavior, and do not use full sentences.



This tip will help your dog to learn much faster!

A Look at 2016

Kimberly I. Gould, President

Since 1959, Second Chance Animal Center has been providing compassionate shelter and adoption services for the animals in its care, and has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of companion animals in the communities we serve. This is the mission of Second Chance, and the hard work, dedication and tireless efforts of our staff, volunteers and the Board of Trustees all honor this mission every day. The generosity of our donors, supporters and benefactors allows Second Chance to do the work that supports the animals, the mission, and the goals of our organization.

I was pleased to see so many Second Chance supporters in attendance at our 58th Annual Meeting at the beautiful Kimpton Taconic Hotel in Manchester last month. As I told the group assembled there, the statistics for Second Chance's service to animals in 2016 are incredible, and I am truly humbled by all that Second Chance accomplished last year:

- Cats/kittens adopted: 447
- Dogs/puppies adopted: 134
- Critters adopted: 8
- Total surgeries: 912
- Low cost spay/neuter surgeries (SNAP): 443

In addition to our work with companion animals, Second Chance also served the community mightily in 2016. The Children & Animals Relationship Program (CARE) brought the lessons of kindness and responsible pet ownership to more than 1,000 students each month



in Bennington County classrooms. We again operated our very successful summer Animal Adventure Camp for over 70 children, and Second Chance also participated in 40 events involving the community over the course of last year—many of these in conjunction with Petco, Tractor Supply, and our very generous corporate sponsor, Orvis.

All of this, of course, was in addition to making continued progress on our new shelter project. Since purchasing the Arlington property in 2015, we continue to do site preparation, and we are readying for the start of construction by finalizing the building's design plans. We have been given the incredibly unique and truly fortunate opportunity to build Second Chance a necessary new home, one that will enable us to serve and care for the companion animals—and the community—that need us for years to come!

I thank all of you for the very generous support that allows us to bring this once-in-a-lifetime dream for Second Chance's new facility to fruition, and for your continued support that allows Second Chance to do the work in our community that is critical to its mission every day of the year.

Annual Meeting

Second Chance's 58th Annual Meeting took place at the Kimpton Taconic Hotel (Manchester, VT) on the evening of Wednesday, April 5. Board President Kimberly Gould presided over the meeting and provided the shelter's 2016 statistics. Cathi Comar updated the attendees on the status of our new Arlington facility, and Randy Schmidt, Co-Chair of the Capital Campaign Committee, spoke about the fundraising efforts to support the new building.

Our Annual Meeting also gives us the opportunity to honor staff, volunteers, and others for their work with companion animals. This year Tammie Woods (Hoosick Falls, NY) received the Good Citizens Award for her work to spay/neuter and rehome stray cats; Joe Egan was given the Volunteer Recognition Award for his many years of volunteer service with Second Chance; and education director Dare Meunier received the Staff Recognition Award.

This year's guest speaker was Jane Sobel Klonsky, photographer and author of the National Geographic Society book, *Unconditional: Older Dogs, Deeper Love* (published 2016). Jane discussed the origins of this book project and how her appreciation for senior dogs (and their relationship with their people) deepened while working with the project participants. Jane also signed copies of her book, and 50% of the book-sale proceeds directly benefited Second Chance.

We wish to thank the Kimpton Taconic Hotel for sponsoring and hosting this event by waiving their standard venue fee. The staff was welcoming and helpful, and the food was delicious!

The image shows a promotional banner for Pet Rescue Rx Inc. On the left, the logo features the text 'Pet Rescue Rx Inc.' in a stylized font, with 'A Pets Before Profits Pharmacy' underneath. To the right of the text are icons for a peace symbol, a heart, and a paw print. On the right side of the banner, there are two small photographs: one of a kitten and one of a puppy. Below the logo and photos, a dark brown banner contains the text: 'Support our shelter! Buy your pet medication @ www.PetRescueRx.com. They donate 100% of your order's net profit to us.'

Pet Rescue Rx, Inc. is a pharmacy for pets that donates all of its net profits to animal shelters and rescue organizations. You can purchase your pet's medications and supplies online at petrescuerrx.com and choose Second Chance Animal Center as the shelter that you support.

We post reminders about these, and other, partnerships on our Facebook page; please share them with your friends.

Companion Enrichment Program

Cathleen Perrone, Community Programs Coordinator

For the past several years, Second Chance has been asked to bring a dog to visit at the Centers for Living & Rehabilitation, Bennington College, and Southern Vermont College, all in Bennington, VT. Whether to provide temporary companionship to someone who is unable to own a pet or to relieve stresses associated with college life, we were happy to assist.

In light of the need for, and success of, these visits, the shelter took the opportunity to assign a title to this program, as well as to expand our offerings within the community. Our Companion Enrichment Program is now up and running.

This mutually beneficial program is more than a feel-good service we provide as a shelter; it is a program based in science. Nationally recognized universities and research organizations have studied the health benefits of the animal-



to-human relationship. The results show that interacting with animals lowers blood pressure, helps to release the calming and pain-reducing hormones serotonin and oxytocin into our system, improves eating and exercising habits, and encourages positive interaction between people. The benefits extend to the animals themselves: They develop trust for people, learn to relax under stressful circumstances, and enjoy the affection most animals need.



While the benefits of our Companion Enrichment Program are many, an important aspect is knowing the joy these animals bring to participating residents. Few things bring a smile to someone's face as quickly as the presence of a snuggly cat or a happy dog.

Residents, participants and students at Bennington Project Independence, Brookdale Fillmore Pond (including their Clare Bridge Program) and Williams College are now enjoying our animal visits, along with the original groups. If you know of a facility or organization that might benefit from this program, please contact Second Chance at 802-375-2898, ext. 312.

AmazonSmile and Second Chance

Kate Ernst, Office Manager

Our shelter sends a BIG thank you to our supporters who have taken the time to sign up for the AmazonSmile program, selecting Second Chance as the benefactor. The AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the selling price on all eligible purchases made through their website (the same products and prices offered on Amazon.com), and Second Chance receives a quarterly check based on the total of these sales. In the past two years, our shelter has received over \$500 through this philanthropic organization!

For those who would like to help, it is a quick and easy process. Go to smile.amazon.com and select the Bennington County Humane Society (our legal name) as your charitable organization. Then, each time you shop, log into your account at smile.amazon.com, and Second Chance is automatically credited. It's that simple.

Smiling is contagious, pass it on!

"We shall never know all the good that a simple smile can do."

- Mother Teresa



Investment in the Future: A Commitment to Animal Health

Shona Ross, Director of Shelter Operations

At Second Chance we are constantly evaluating our animal-care procedures and processes to ensure they are the best that we can offer to our animals. Sometimes, as we look at trends and medical advances in the veterinary and animal-shelter fields, we must make long-term investments to change and upgrade our equipment. This is especially necessary since Second Chance is one of the very few shelters in Vermont that has a dedicated treatment area where veterinarians perform surgeries on-site. We want to share some recent changes at the shelter to demonstrate this commitment.

While preparing our 2017 operating budget, we realized that we could perform a wider range of diagnostic tests onsite if we upgraded our blood analyzer machine. We first started to run in-house tests in 2009 when we received a donation from Jim and Patti Evans, in memory of Elma M. Evans, RN. By upgrading to this new machine, our staff now runs more tests than before, some of which are the same blood tests that a veterinarian runs when your pet is sick. The results are displayed on a monitor in merely ten minutes – no sending out samples and waiting for results the following day. The speedy results also allow us to begin important medical treatments earlier. Additionally, the new analyzer allows us to check in-house for one of the most common illnesses in cats, thyroid disease. With the introduction of a specific prescription food to manage feline thyroid disease, we can quickly improve the life quality of these felines. (In case you are wondering, the memorial plaque on the 2009 machine now sits proudly on the 2017 machine!)

Thanks to a grant from the Petco Foundation, Second Chance recently purchased a professional-grade dental machine to provide dental care for our animals. Animal dental health is vitally important to overall good health and, just like humans, dogs and cats can suffer from dental disease, gingivitis, gum recession, cavities, tooth loss, and broken teeth. Bacteria from gingivitis and gum disease pass into the blood system and can very quickly attack and damage an animal's liver and kidneys. We can now assess the dental health of every animal who comes to us and develop treatment plans that include dental cleaning and extractions—all on-site! Dr. Emily Dowd now dedicates one day a week to performing more involved dental procedures, and we are committed to this long-term investment in the health of our animals.

Everything We Do is For the Betterment of the Animals is one of our mantras, and we take pride in working hard every single day to achieve this goal.



Second Chance Animal Center is a proud recipient of funding from **Maddie's Fund®** (maddiesfund.org), a funding organization helping to achieve a no-kill nation. #ThanksToMaddie.

A portion of **Maddie's Fund®** is used to underwrite some of Second Chance's adoption fees. Please contact our Director of Shelter Operations at 802-375-2898 for more details.

Retractable Leashes: Where and When

By Katie McKenzie, CPDT-KA of Dog Lovers Training

Retractable leashes are great for letting your dog have a little more freedom to exercise and explore in a field. These leashes allow for more activity, a little independence at a distance, and some freedom to explore, all while keeping your dog safely leashed. But retractable leashes are not ideal for use on sidewalks, in stores, among crowds, or in veterinary offices—basically anywhere there are groups of people and/or other dogs.

Unless you keep the leash short and locked, it is inappropriate to use a retractable leash in a store. The majority of handlers in this circumstance are usually focusing on shopping or talking, and they often do not pay attention to their dog ten feet away. This lack of concentration leads to unsupervised interactions between the leashed dog and unfriendly people or unfriendly dogs, and the owner is unaware of a problem until their dog has given somebody a “rope burn” from his leash.

In fields, parks and other open areas, these leashes are very useful while teaching and practicing a recall, such as a come-when-called command, especially since retractable leashes allow the dog to be at a greater distance from the handler. However, there are exercises when the retractable leash will actually hinder learning. Many people try to use the leashes to teach their dogs to walk without pulling as the dog keeps

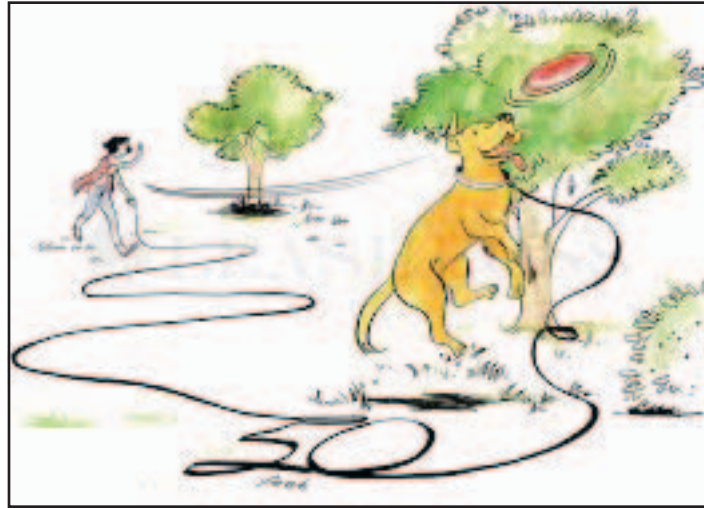
tension on the leash and strains to move forward. The lesson we want our dogs to learn is that the end of the leash is as far as they go and pulling will not get them any further in that direction. When you change the length of leash it makes it impossible for the dog to anticipate when the “pulling” behavior that upsets you begins. We change the length of the

leash for many reasons, none of which the dog understands. What the dog feels is that you are now frustrated with him for pulling at four feet when he had ten feet before—he doesn’t understand that you are approaching a busy road and need to restrict his movement.

The constant tension provided by the leash also teaches your dog that walking with tension on the leash is normal, and this is the exact opposite of the lesson you want to train. Remember that pulling is supposed to end his progress in that direction.

Retractable leashes have their place, in open spaces. If you want your dog to walk nicely on a four- or six-foot leash, you need to use a four- or six-foot leash to practice. Walking your dog on any leash is always good mental stimulation for your dog, so by all means, do it!

Wishing you many happy and satisfying walks on the appropriate leash!



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 October 8, 2016, through April 30, 2017. Please accept our apology if any names have been misspelled or inadvertently excluded.

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Stark, Krishna

Stein, Patricia & Jerry
~ in Memory of Joseph Curran

Stepp, Sharon ~ in Memory of Linda Chaffin

Sterling, Blue ~ in Honor of Maddy
winning the January Photo Contest

Stevens, Sandy of Time for Yourself LLC

Stokes, Heidi

Strachan, John & Judith ~ in Memory of
Shadow, Buddy, Timmy, and Lilly the cats

Strasser, Marion

Strohl, Curtis

Stuermer, Susan & John
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Sullivan, Leslie
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Sumner, Margaret

Sun, Grant ~ in Memory of Bobby the dog

Suss, Charles

Sverduk, Marjorie

Svrcek, Pamela
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Swartz, Mary Ann & Terrance
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Trimble, Kristen

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Barrows, John
Bentley, Brittany
Bowen, Jules
Bull, Stacy
Chadurjian, Jon
Clune, Jim
Cook, Meghan
Cooper, Tina
Crane, Ellie
Dandeneau, Lisa
DuFault, Laurie
Dulin, Pegi
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Forest, Maia
Forest, Nix
Freeman, Michelle
Fritsch, Freya
Gerst, Cassandra
Grimsley, Lauren
Guare, Lisa

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Hamilton, Shelia
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Hawksly, Laura
Henderson, Martha
Hurley, Andrea
Kaeppel, Morgan
Kelley, Erin
Kennedy, Kristin
Khutsidze, Giorgi
Lambling, Jo
Lamy, Stefanie
LaPlant, Jasmine
LaRoche, Samantha
Lin, Phillip
Lonergan, Laurie
Madison, Steven
McAfferty, Megan
McElravy, Connor
Mohan, Maia
Murray, Kirstin
Novak, Morgan
Oceanna, Meg
Oceanna-Kolb, Rosalie
Perry, Amy/Alison/Bean/Beth
Prandini, Sophia
Pratt, Stephen and Roseann
Quintana, Shane
Reap, Tamra
Richmond, Tamra
Roberts, Kim
Rozycki, Dana & Jennie
Schor, Cathy
Seese, Sonja
Shepard, Nicole
Sherman, Jamie
Staples, Manda
Swenson, Kaylyn
Thomas, Jerry
VanHessell, Marianne
Vosburgh, Cassie
Wilkins, Brownell
Wood, Bill
Wolf, Jessica
Wright, John

And our Shelter Buddies:

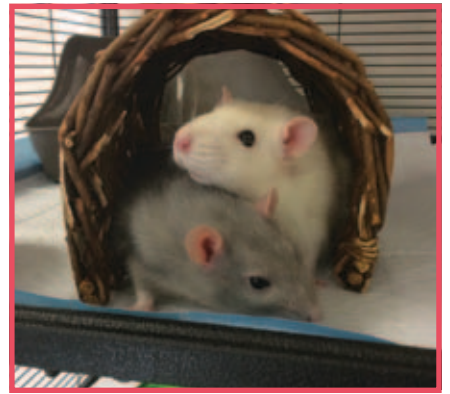
Abigail, Aliyah, Albert, Andrew, Arianna,
Ashley, Avrie, Camm, Cash, Charlotte,
Cooper, Emma, Erich, Eva, Evie, Franco,
Grace B., Grace K., Hunter, Isla, Joanna,
Julian, Camden, Katherine, Katie, Katrina,
Mackenzie, Madison, Maggie, Maple,
Marilyn, Matthew, Mia, Owen, Riley,
Samantha, Shaun, Taylor, Thomas,
Vivian, and Vern.



In Memoriam

We are saddened to report the passing of three special Second Chance animals who were a part of the shelter and our programs.

Sister rats Pip and Pearl arrived at Second Chance two years ago and proudly became ambassadors throughout our Humane Education Programs. For the past several months their cage was prominently positioned in the lobby to teach our visitors how to handle these small critters. Pip and Pearl both loved treats and would happily receive any goodies offered to them. This duo did a terrific job convincing people that rats aren't something to fear.



Senior feline Penny Lane came to the shelter as a stray who was in terrible condition. After running our usual tests, it was discovered that she suffered from kidney disease. Penny lived in a foster home for a few months and came back to the shelter in much better shape. She continued her progress, and though her kidney issues were never going to go away, we were able to maintain her condition. Penny could not be adopted but we felt her quality of life was great considering her health problems, so we invited her to become a shelter cat. She greeted everyone in the hallways, followed staff into the kitchen to catch some treats, and fell asleep in any office that had a soft chair. Penny Lane's last public appearance was in February at a book-signing event featuring Jane Sobel Klonsky; the smile on this young man's face says it all!

Cavy Care *Dare Meunier, Education Director*

This spring, classrooms enrolled in our C.A.R.E. Program (Children & Animals Relationship Education) learned about small-animal care and spent time with a cavy, more commonly known as a guinea pig. These popular rodents make delightful companions and can be a nice choice for families that may not be able to have a larger pet where they live. If you are thinking about adding these chatty critters to your home, then read on ...

Native to South America, cavies live and travel in groups. Because of this social nature, it is best to keep these rodents in pairs of the same gender. On average, a pet guinea pig can live five to eight years, so be prepared for years of squeaks, wheeps, and purrs! Like all rodents, their teeth are open-rooted, meaning they are ever-growing. Be sure to provide them with hay and wooden toys to chew in order to keep their teeth trimmed. Guinea pigs are awake up to 20 hours a day and spend most of this time eating.

Cavies are strict herbivores and should subsist on timothy hay, raw vegetables and a high-quality pellet food. A small amount of fruits can be given as a treat. In addition to providing this balanced diet, cavy owners should provide Vitamin C daily to avoid scurvy (yes, scurvy!). It is best to find a veterinarian who specializes in exotics, and be sure to

bring your guinea pig to the veterinarian right away if you notice signs of illness or unusual behavior. Despite their stocky appearance, cavies have very fragile bodies, so encourage young children to be calm, quiet and gentle when spending time with these small critters.

The average critter cage on the market is 2.5 cubic feet, yet one pig needs a minimum of 7.5 cubic feet. We recommend C & C style cages and/or enclosures with a flat bottom; avoid wire-bottomed habitats for guinea pigs, as well as any rodents and rabbits, as these cages can cause foot deformities. There are many bedding options, including hay or fleece. If you do not have the space to accommodate a larger habitat, allowing your pig exercise time in a pen or even walking on a harness is a great choice. Be sure to keep cages away from drafty windows or heat sources.

As with any pet, learn all you can about guinea pigs before making them part of your family. We strongly recommend that you check with local shelters and rescues before buying a cavy at a pet store—there are many “pocket pets” waiting for their forever home. Wheep, wheep!





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)

JUNE 17 - Pet-A-Palooza!

Curtis Lumber Store ~ *Hoosick, NY* | 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

JULY 15 - Dorset Dog Days

Dorset Village Library ~ *Dorset, VT* | 12:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

JULY 29 - Pets Etc. Anniversary

Pets Etc. Store ~ *Manchester Ctr., VT* | 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

AUGUST 19 - Clear the Shelters Adoption Event

Second Chance ~ *Shaftsbury, VT* | 11:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

AUGUST 19-20 - Stratton Mountain Weekend

Stratton Mountain Village ~ *Stratton, VT* | 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 21 - Adoption Event

Northshire Bookstore ~ *Manchester, VT* | 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.