

**A Second Chance to Thrive: An Initiative to Expand  
Services and Resources for Animal Well-Being at  
Second Chance Animal Services**



Written on behalf of Second Chance Animal Services

Authored by Juliette Fraser

15 December 2023

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Best Friends Network Partners  
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Dear Ms. Lodato,

I am writing to express our sincere gratitude for the opportunity to submit a grant proposal to The Rachael Ray No-Kill Excellence Grant. On behalf of Second Chance Animal Services, I am excited to present our project, "Second Chance to Thrive: Expanding Services and Resources for Animal Well-Being," and seek funding of \$60,000 to support our initiatives.

Second Chance Animal Services is a vital non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of animals in our community, operating in five different locations throughout Massachusetts: East Brookfield, Southbridge, North Brookfield, Worcester, and Springfield. However, we face significant challenges in fulfilling our mission due to limited resources. The proposed project encompasses a comprehensive approach to addressing the critical issues of limited access to veterinary care, pet food insecurity, animal overpopulation, and financial constraints. We are confident that with the support of the Rachael Ray No-Kill Excellence Grant, we can significantly enhance our impact within the community.

Our project comprises essential services, including affordable veterinary care, pet food pantries for low-income owners, adoption facilitation, and educational outreach programs. Initiatives such as Project Good Dog, Project Keep Me, and the K9 Solute Program showcase our commitment to promising animal care and community engagement. We have carefully outlined key performance indicators, including the number of animals served, an increase in spay/neuter surgeries, an increase in adoption rates, community engagement metrics, and notably the absence of any animal euthanization in our care due to space constraints or manageable medical conditions. These indicators will allow us to measure the tangible impact of the proposed project and ensure accountability in achieving our goals.

We are confident that the funds from the Rachael Ray No-Kill Excellence Grant will not only sustain our current initiatives but also enable us to expand our reach, providing vital care, resources, and education to more animals and community members.

Thank you for considering our proposal. We are eager to discuss our project further and provide any additional information you may require. We look forward to the possibility of partnering with Best Friend's Network Partners and the Rachael Ray No-Kill Excellence Grant program to make a lasting and positive impact on the well-being of animals in our community.

Sincerely,

Second Chance Animal Services

## Table of Contents

<b>1. Statement of the Problem.....</b>	<b>3</b>
A. Limited Access to Veterinary Care:.....	3
B. Pet Food Insecurity.....	3
C. Animal Overpopulation and Homelessness.....	4
D. Financial Limitations.....	4
<b>2. Specific Needs Addressed.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3. Statement of Request:.....</b>	<b>6</b>
A. Continuing Existing Programs:.....	6
B. Expanding Low-Cost Spay and Neuter Program:.....	7
C. Purchasing Additional Medical and Pet Care Equipment:.....	7
<b>4. Description of Proposed Work:.....</b>	<b>8</b>
A. Veterinary Services:.....	8
B. Pet Food Pantries.....	9
C. Adoption Services.....	10
D. Educational Outreach Programs.....	10
E. Community Outreach Programs.....	10
<b>5. Description of Measure of Project Success:.....</b>	<b>12</b>
A. Number of Animals Served:.....	12
B. Increase in Spay/Neuter Surgeries:.....	12
C. Increase in Adoption Rates:.....	13
D. Community Engagement.....	13
<b>6. Description of Available Facilities:.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>7. Qualifications of Personnel:.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>8. Budget.....</b>	<b>18</b>
A. Costs.....	18
B. Breakdown of Costs.....	18
<b>9. Summary.....</b>	<b>23</b>
A. Why This Project Matters.....	23
B. In Conclusion.....	25
<b>10. References.....</b>	<b>26</b>

# **1. Statement of the Problem**

In our pursuit of advancing the well-being of animals within our community, Second Chance Animal Services grapples with a series of interconnected challenges that impede our ability to fulfill our mission effectively. These challenges underscore the pressing need for financial support to address the following critical issues:

## **A. Limited Access to Veterinary Care:**

A significant proportion of pet owners within our community face formidable barriers to affordable veterinary care. This unfortunate reality results in untreated illnesses and chronic health issues for their beloved animals. The absence of accessible veterinary services not only contributes to unnecessary animal suffering but also diminishes the overall welfare of pets in our community. Second Chance strives to bridge this gap through low-cost and free care initiatives, but the scope of our impact is constrained by the extent of financial resources available.

## **B. Pet Food Insecurity**

Low-income families find themselves confronted with the agonizing choice between providing for their own basic needs or ensuring the well-being of their pets. This difficult decision leads to pet food insecurity, causing malnutrition, health problems, and an increase in animal surrenders to shelters. Second Chance operates pet food pantries to alleviate this crisis, providing free sustenance to those in need and preventing unnecessary relinquishments. However, the demand for such services consistently exceeds our current capacity.

## **C. Animal Overpopulation and Homelessness**

Uncontrolled breeding and irresponsible pet ownership are central contributors to the widespread challenges of animal overpopulation and homelessness. These issues create a cascade effect, overwhelming shelters with overcrowding, elevating stress levels for animals, and ultimately diminishing adoption rates. Second Chance is committed to addressing this multifaceted problem through a comprehensive approach. Our strategies include promoting responsible pet ownership, providing affordable spay/neuter services, facilitating adoptions, and collaborating with other shelters and rescues to secure loving homes for as many animals as possible. Despite our concerted efforts, the sheer scale of the issue necessitates additional resources to expand and fortify these programs, ensuring a more impactful and sustained response to the ongoing challenges of animal overpopulation.

## **D. Financial Limitations**

Second Chance faces financial limitations that hamper our ability to fully address the critical needs outlined above. The organization's ability to provide essential services and implement impactful programs is compromised, limiting our potential impact on the community. We rely on external financial support, including grants, donations, and other funding sources, to sustain and expand our initiatives. In light of these challenges, Second Chance Animal Services urgently seeks funding to sustain and enhance our essential work. Your generous support will empower us to provide much-needed veterinary care, resources, and education, ultimately fostering a more compassionate and responsible community where all animals can thrive. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of both pets and their owners, creating a lasting positive impact on our community as a whole.

## **2. Specific Needs Addressed**

To sustain and enhance our ongoing efforts, Second Chance Animal Services requires funding to uphold our vital services within the community. This encompasses a range of essential needs, each contributing to the holistic well-being of the animals under our care and the broader community. Specifically, the funding will be allocated towards securing veterinary supplies, ensuring that our dedicated team can continue to provide necessary medical care to animals in need. Additionally, the financial support will cover the costs associated with procuring pet food and supplies, crucial for the sustenance and comfort of animals in our care. Adoption materials form another integral component, facilitating the successful placement of animals into loving homes. Moreover, educational resources play a pivotal role in fostering a responsible and compassionate community, and the funding will support the creation and dissemination of these resources. Alternative programs that we wish to continue operating include: Project Good Dog, Project Keep Me, the K9 Solute Program, and Second Chance Dog Park.

A substantial portion of our funding request is dedicated to addressing the pervasive issue of pet overpopulation within our community. The financial support sought will enable us to provide low-cost spay and neuter services to the public. This intervention is not only critical in curbing the cycle of overpopulation but is also instrumental in preventing animals from ending up in shelters without a home. By making these services accessible and affordable, we aim to empower pet owners to take proactive measures in controlling the reproduction of their pets, contributing significantly to the long-term reduction of the stray animal population.

Central to our mission is the unwavering commitment to preventing the euthanasia of healthy, adoptable animals within our shelter. Grant funding is essential to this commitment by providing the necessary care and resources required to secure loving homes for all animals under

our guardianship. This includes covering medical expenses, behavioral training, and the creation of promotional materials to showcase our animals for adoption. The financial support sought will enable us to implement comprehensive adoption programs, outreach initiatives, and community partnerships to maximize the chances of finding suitable homes for each animal. By securing these funds, we can uphold our promise to ensure that no healthy, adoptable animal faces the tragic outcome of euthanasia at our shelters, reinforcing our dedication to the welfare of every life we care for.

### **3. Statement of Request:**

Second Chance Animal Services humbly seeks a grant of \$60,000 from the esteemed Rachael Ray No-Kill Excellence Grant. This grant is specifically geared toward our goals because our organization has a strict no-euthanization policy, and now we face challenges as we strive to sustain this promise. This financial support is pivotal to advancing our mission and will be allocated strategically to address key facets of our organizational needs. Our comprehensive proposal outlines three critical areas where the requested funds will be instrumental in enhancing our impact within the community:

#### **A. Continuing Existing Programs:**

A substantial portion of the grant will be allocated to sustaining and expanding our existing programs and services. These funds are crucial for the continuation of vital initiatives such as providing affordable veterinary care, distributing pet food and supplies, facilitating adoptions, and offering educational resources to the community. By securing this support, we

aim to fortify our ongoing efforts, ensuring that our services remain accessible to those in need and that the welfare of animals in our community is consistently prioritized.

## **B. Expanding Low-Cost Spay and Neuter Program:**

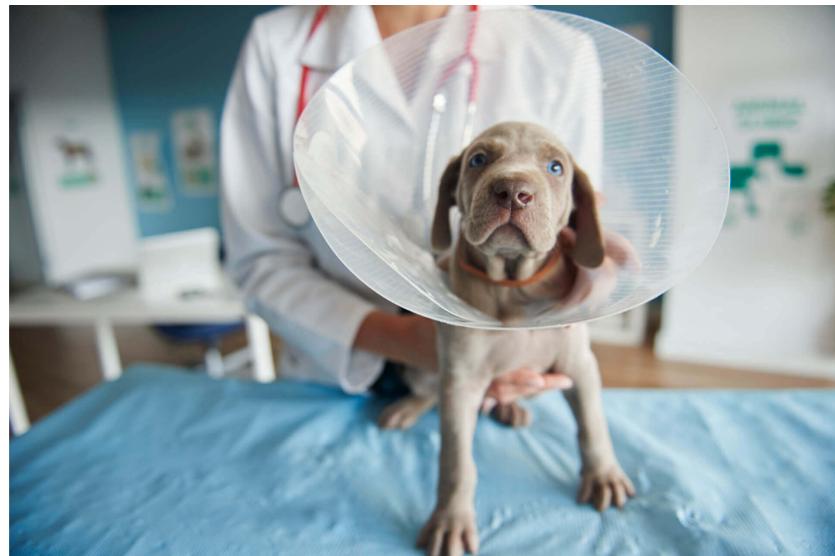
A significant portion of the grant will be dedicated to expanding our low-cost spay and neuter program. This expansion is paramount to our overarching goal of addressing pet overpopulation and reducing the number of unwanted animals entering shelters. By reaching more pet owners through this initiative, we can empower individuals to take proactive measures in controlling the reproduction of their pets, contributing substantially to the long-term solution of curbing pet overpopulation within our community.

## **C. Purchasing Additional Medical and Pet Care Equipment:**

The grant funds will be utilized to acquire additional medical and pet care equipment, thereby improving the overall quality of care provided to animals under our guardianship. This includes essential veterinary supplies, diagnostic equipment, and pet care tools necessary for the well-being and health maintenance of animals in our care. By enhancing our medical capabilities, we can ensure that each animal receives the attention, treatment, and care required for optimal health, ultimately contributing to increased adoption rates and the overall success of our mission.

The requested \$60,000 from the Rachael Ray No-Kill Excellence Grant is an essential lifeline that will empower Second Chance Animal Services to not only sustain but also expand our impact within the community. We are confident that with this support, we can continue to provide exemplary care for animals in need, address critical issues such as pet overpopulation,

and foster a more compassionate and responsible community. We sincerely thank the Rachael Ray No-Kill Excellence program for considering our proposal and the potential positive impact it holds for the animals and the community we serve.



*Image of a puppy at a Second Chance Animal Veterinary Hospital*

## **4. Description of Proposed Work:**

Second Chance Animal Services envisions an impactful project, "Second Chance to Thrive: Expanding Services and Resources for Animal Well-Being" aimed at expanding services and resources to elevate the well-being of animals in our community. The multifaceted initiative comprises various programs, each designed to address specific needs and contribute to a more compassionate and responsible community.

### **A. Veterinary Services:**

Our comprehensive veterinary services extend a lifeline to animals across the community, irrespective of their owners' financial circumstances. Our veterinary clinics are currently located

in North Brookfield, Southbridge, Springfield, and Worcester. This encompasses a range of critical care, including wellness exams, vaccinations, parasite prevention, spay/neuter surgeries, minor medical procedures, and emergency care. By maintaining that these services are affordable and accessible, we aim to ensure that every animal receives the necessary medical attention, promoting their overall health and well-being.



*Image of East Brookfield Second Chance Animal Veterinary Hospital*

## **B. Pet Food Pantries**

Operating several pet food pantries is a cornerstone of our commitment to preventing animal surrenders due to financial hardship. Food donations can be dropped off at any Second Chance location. These pantries provide free food to low-income pet owners, supporting them in caring for their animal companions. This initiative not only keeps animals healthy but also strengthens the bond between pets and their owners, mitigating the need for surrendering animals to shelters.

## **C. Adoption Services**

Facilitating adoptions is at the heart of our mission. We connect animals in our shelter with loving homes and collaborate with other shelters and rescues to expand our reach. Adoption counseling and support services ensure that potential adopters are well-informed and equipped to provide a nurturing environment for their new companions, fostering successful, lifelong matches.

## **D. Educational Outreach Programs**

Our commitment to responsible pet ownership and animal welfare is underscored by educational outreach programs. These initiatives cover topics such as spaying/neutering, microchipping, and general pet care. By raising awareness and providing essential knowledge, we aim to prevent instances of cruelty, neglect, and abandonment within our community.

## **E. Community Outreach Programs**

In a unique collaboration with correctional facilities, Project Good Dog goes beyond enhancing the adoptability of dogs; it transforms the lives of both canines and human participants. Second Chance is currently partnered with two correctional facilities: Hampden County Sheriff's Office, and Worcester County Sheriff's Office. The dogs are paired with inmates who then provide them with constant care and training. The result not only helps the dogs become more adoptable, but it has also had many positive effects for the handlers. Many have said that the opportunity gives them a focus while they transition back into the community. By involving inmates in the training and care of shelter dogs, the program not only provides these dogs with valuable skills and socialization but also offers inmates a sense of purpose

during their transition back into the community. The positive effects on both dogs and handlers underscore the transformative power of the human-animal bond, showcasing the potential for rehabilitation and second chances for all involved.

Recognizing the unique challenges faced by survivors of domestic violence, Project Keep Me addresses a critical need by offering temporary accommodations for their pets. By providing a safe haven for these animals, the program empowers survivors to seek safe housing options without the fear of leaving their beloved pets behind. This initiative not only safeguards the well-being of the animals but also plays a crucial role in supporting individuals on their journey to recovery, fostering a sense of security and companionship during challenging times. The Rachael Ray No-Kill Excellence grant will provide supplies for these pets, along with any medical equipment that might be needed. Second Chance is currently seeking more funding to keep this project running so that we will be able to take in these animals if the need arises.

The K9 Solute Program pays homage to the indispensable role played by police K9s in maintaining community safety. This initiative extends free veterinary care, vaccines, and exams to any Massachusetts police K9, ensuring their health and well-being. By supporting these working animals, we contribute to the overall welfare of those who selflessly serve and protect our communities. The K9 Solute Program is a testament to our commitment to recognizing and honoring the contributions of these loyal and dedicated service animals.

The "Second Chance to Thrive: Expanding Services and Resources for Animal Well-Being" project embodies an integrated approach to animal welfare, featuring a spectrum of programs that address immediate needs, prevent future challenges, and actively contribute to the creation of a community where all animals can thrive. The requested funding will play a pivotal role in empowering us to expand and fortify these impactful initiatives. Through the combined

efforts of Project Good Dog, Project Keep Me, and the K9 Solute Program, we aim to make a lasting and positive impact on the well-being of animals and the community we are dedicated to serving. These programs embody our commitment to nurturing a compassionate and supportive environment for both animals and their caregivers. With the support of funding, we aim to sustain and, if possible, identify additional challenges within our communities that we can address in the future.

## **5. Description of Measure of Project Success:**

### **A. Number of Animals Served:**

A fundamental metric for the success of our project lies in the number of animals that benefit from our diverse services. We will meticulously track the number of animals that receive essential care, encompassing veterinary services, pet food, supplies, adoption services, and educational programs. This quantitative measure will provide insights into the reach and impact of our efforts in improving the well-being of animals in our community.

### **B. Increase in Spay/Neuter Surgeries:**

A key objective of our project is to address pet overpopulation through our low-cost spay/neuter program. We will closely monitor and assess the increase in the number of spay/neuter surgeries performed. This metric will serve as a tangible indicator of our success in reducing the number of unwanted animals, preventing their entry into shelters, and contributing to the long-term solution of controlling the animal population in our community.

### **C. Increase in Adoption Rates:**

The successful placement of animals into loving homes is a paramount goal. We will monitor the adoption rate for animals in our care, assessing the effectiveness of our adoption services, counseling, and outreach efforts. An increase in adoption rates signifies not only the success of our matchmaking processes but also the positive impact of our educational initiatives on creating responsible and caring pet owners.

### **D. Community Engagement**

Measuring the success of our educational outreach programs involves assessing community engagement. We will track the number of people who actively participate in our outreach initiatives, including responsible pet ownership workshops, spaying/neutering awareness campaigns, and general animal welfare programs. Increased community engagement reflects the effectiveness of our educational efforts in raising awareness and promoting responsible practices within the community.

These comprehensive measures collectively reflect the success of our project, addressing not only immediate needs but also contributing to long-term solutions in animal welfare. Regular monitoring and analysis of these metrics will guide our ongoing efforts, enabling us to adapt and optimize our programs for the maximum benefit of both animals and the community.

## **6. Description of Available Facilities:**

Second Chance Animal Services takes pride in operating an extensive and purposefully designed facility network, ensuring that we can effectively address the diverse needs of animals

in our community. Our facilities encompass veterinary clinics, an adoption center, pet food pantries, and a public dog park, as detailed below.

Strategically located in North Brookfield, Southbridge, Springfield, and Worcester, our veterinary clinics are equipped with state-of-the-art facilities. These clinics house modern exam rooms, cutting-edge surgical suites, dedicated recovery areas, and secure storage for essential medical equipment. Our commitment to providing top-notch veterinary care is reflected in the advanced resources available at each clinic.

Nestled in East Brookfield, our adoption center serves as a haven for animals awaiting their forever homes. The center is designed to prioritize the comfort of our residents, featuring spacious kennels, inviting meet-and-greet rooms, and dedicated storage space for pet supplies. This welcoming environment ensures that animals have the best possible experience during their stay with us.

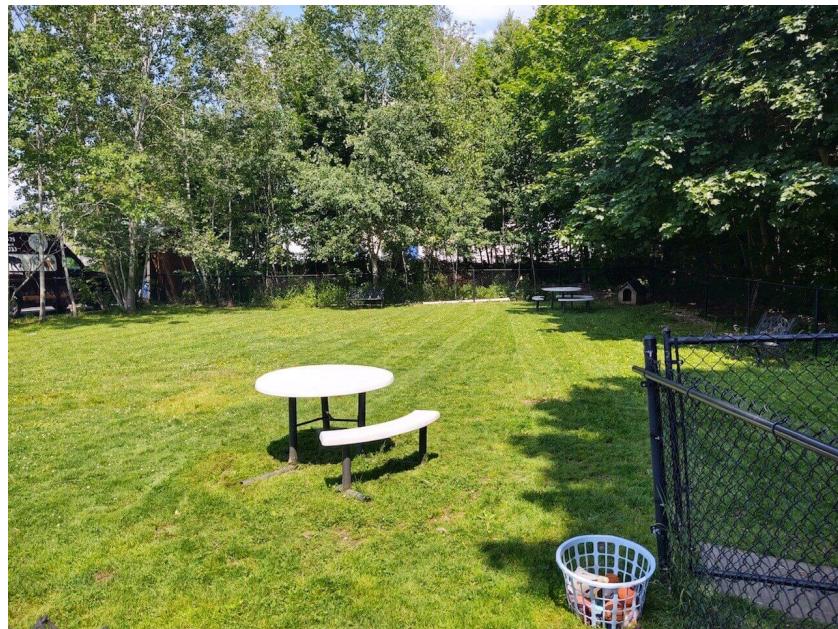


*Images of dogs currently available for adoption at East Brookfield Adoption Center*

Distributed across East Brookfield, North Brookfield, Springfield, and Worcester, our pet food pantries play a crucial role in supporting pet owners facing financial challenges. These spaces are not only ample for food storage but are also organized for efficient distribution,

ensuring that no pet in our community goes hungry. Our commitment to the well-being of animals extends beyond veterinary care to addressing the fundamental needs of pet owners.

Adjacent to our North Brookfield clinic, the Second Chance Dog Park provides a safe and secure outdoor space for dogs to exercise and socialize. Open from 8:00 am until sunset, the park is accessible to the public and maintained by dedicated volunteers. To ensure the safety and health of all dogs, a valid license, up-to-date rabies vaccinations, and leashing when entering and exiting are required. Once inside, dogs can roam freely while owners enjoy a leash-free environment. The park is a testament to our commitment to the physical and mental well-being of our canine companions.



*Image of Second Chance Dog Park in North Brookfield*

In conclusion, our facilities all located in Massachusetts embody Second Chance Animal Services' holistic approach to animal welfare. From high-quality veterinary care to providing temporary homes for adoption candidates, ensuring access to pet essentials, and offering a secure

environment for dogs to play, our facilities are the cornerstone of our mission to promote the overall well-being of animals in our community.

## 7. Qualifications of Personnel:



*Image of Second Chance Worcester Community Veterinary Hospital Surgery Team*

Our accomplished team at Second Chance Animal Services comprises highly qualified professionals dedicated to advancing our mission. Dr. Ashley Raymound, our esteemed Medical Director, holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Syracuse University and a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from St. George's University and the University of Tennessee (2014). With advanced training in dentistry, oral health, and a keen interest in internal medicine and ultrasonography, Dr. Raymound brings a wealth of expertise to our veterinary clinics.

Dr. Kristen Cormier, our Lead Surgeon, earned her Bachelor's in Animal Science from UMass Amherst and a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from Ross University (2009). Studying alongside renowned experts such as Dr. Robert Hutchison, she specializes in surgery, anesthesia,

reproduction, and emergency surgical procedures. Dr. Jackie Celmer, a dedicated Veterinarian, holds an undergraduate degree in pre-veterinary sciences from the University of Massachusetts and a Doctorate from Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine (2018). Driven by a passion for shelter medicine, she is committed to assisting animals in finding their lasting homes.

Dr. Alison Gouinlock, with a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine, a Master of Science degree, and certification as a Strength and Conditioning Specialist, earned her Bachelor's and Masters degrees in Kinesiology from the University of South Alabama. Completing her Doctorate at Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in 2019, she focuses on end-of-life care and physical therapy/rehabilitation. Dr. Colleen Dugan, a Veterinarian, completed her undergraduate studies at the University of New Hampshire and graduated with a Veterinary Medicine Doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania in 2010, specializing in internal and preventive medicine.

Dr. Rosario Delgado-Lecároz, another dedicated Veterinarian, graduated from Tufts University in 1993 and completed internships in large animal production medicine at Cornell University and small animal surgery in CT. With a background in emergency clinics and additional training in veterinary homeopathy and acupuncture, she recently earned a shelter medicine certificate. Dr. Kathryn Clark, a Veterinarian with a degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Vermont, contributes 17 years of experience as a small animal veterinarian. Finally, Dr. Tania Roos, a Veterinarian with an undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota and a DVM from Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine (2019), has completed a one-year small animal rotating internship at North Carolina State University, specializing in soft tissue surgery, wound management, and exotic/aquatic medicine.

Our team's collective expertise, diverse skills, and unwavering commitment underscore our ability to provide exceptional care for animals in our community, aligning with the goals of our grant proposal.

## 8. Budget

### A. Costs

Category	Amount
Medical Equipment	15,000
Pet and Food Supplies	10,000
Adoption Materials	10,000
Educational Resources	5,000
Program Expansion	8,000
Operational Costs	12,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,000</b>

### B. Breakdown of Costs

#### 1. Medical Equipment - 15,000

Our veterinary clinics, strategically located in North Brookfield, Southbridge, Springfield, and Worcester, serve as the cornerstone of our commitment to providing comprehensive and high-quality veterinary care. The \$15,000 for medical equipment is pivotal for the ongoing acquisition and upkeep of cutting-edge instruments, diagnostic tools, and

specialized equipment. These resources are indispensable for our clinics to deliver advanced veterinary services, encompassing vaccinations, wellness exams, and spaying/neutering.

Furthermore, these veterinary supplies extend not only to our clinics but also to our shelter locations, reinforcing our holistic approach to animal well-being. The estimated veterinary cost for one dog, excluding any other medical issues, ranges from \$200 to \$300. This comprehensive care package includes vaccinations (Distemper/Parvo, Rabies, and Bordetella), a thorough wellness exam, and spaying/neutering if age-appropriate. Additionally, each dog undergoes a 4DX test to check for heartworm and tick-borne diseases, along with receiving heartworm preventative and flea/tick treatment.

This investment in veterinary care directly augments our capacity to address the diverse medical needs of animals in our community, ensuring they receive optimal care and setting a standard for responsible and compassionate pet ownership. Your support will play a pivotal role in sustaining and expanding these crucial veterinary services, ultimately contributing to the overall well-being of the animals under our care.

## 2. Pet and Food Supplies - \$10,000

This budget of \$10,000 is purposefully designated to uphold the well-being of animals within our shelters through a thoughtful distribution of resources. A significant portion of this budget is dedicated to the acquisition of vital supplies, including but not limited to bedding, toys, and enrichment items. These elements play a crucial role in creating a nurturing environment that promotes physical activity, mental stimulation, and overall contentment for the animals in our care.

A substantial focus of this budget is directed towards securing nutritious and high-quality food for our sheltered animals. Recognizing the profound impact of proper nutrition on the health and vitality of our residents, this investment aligns seamlessly with our steadfast commitment to providing a supportive and comfortable living environment during their stay. By prioritizing nutritional excellence, we not only address the immediate needs of our animals but also contribute to their long-term health and well-being.

This approach to pet and food supplies is grounded in our dedication to enhancing the overall quality of life for the animals within our shelters. We believe that a well-cared-for and content animal is more likely to thrive and, ultimately, find a loving forever home. Your support of this \$10,000 budget will directly contribute to the fulfillment of these objectives, ensuring that every animal in our care receives the essential resources and care necessary for a happy and healthy life.

### 3. Adoption Materials - \$10,000

The \$10,000 budget for adoption materials is crucial for developing impactful and visually appealing resources. These materials, including brochures, flyers, and promotional items, are designed to raise awareness about available pets, promote responsible pet ownership, and inspire community engagement in the adoption process. This investment in marketing and promotional materials is informed by data on successful adoption campaigns, ensuring that our messaging resonates effectively with our target audience and increases adoption rates. Not only will this budget go to raise awareness, but the money will also be directed toward preparing our animals for adoption, ensuring that they are completely ready for their new home. At Second

Chance, we strive to guarantee the lasting satisfaction of every animal placed in their forever homes, minimizing the likelihood of returns to the shelter.

#### 4. Educational Resources - \$5,000

Grounded in our commitment to community outreach and education, the \$5,000 budget for educational resources is allocated to the development and distribution of evidence-based materials. Workshops, seminars, and outreach programs will be conducted to address specific community needs, leveraging surveys and assessments to tailor our educational initiatives. This investment aims to foster responsible pet ownership, create a more informed community, and contribute to the overall well-being of animals through preventive care and knowledge dissemination. These volunteer groups travel to schools, church groups, senior centers, libraries, and several other community groups to promote animal welfare, animal responsibility, animal safety, and preventing animal bites. One of the main objectives of the program is to address the issue of pet overpopulation and educate on what solutions are available. In this case, the Rachael Ray No-Kill Excellence grant would help in this solution by providing medical equipment for low-cost spay and neuter services.

#### 5. Program Expansion - \$8,000

The \$8,000 budget for program expansion signifies a deliberate and strategic approach to build upon the success of impactful initiatives that have demonstrated significant effectiveness. Notably, programs like Project Good Dog, Project Keep Me, and the K9 Solute Program, which have proven instrumental in positively influencing our community, will benefit from these

additional resources. The goal is to amplify the impact of these programs, extending their reach and effectiveness to address a broader spectrum of community needs.

Specifically, for Project Good Dog, a portion of the funds will be directed toward essential training materials. These include treats, clickers, long leashes, collars, target sticks, and training books. These materials are indispensable in ensuring the comprehensive training and development of dogs, fostering positive behavior, and enhancing their adoptability. The strategic use of funds in this manner reflects a data-driven approach, utilizing insights gained from the success of these programs to inform targeted expansion efforts.

This expansion is not just about numerical growth but a purposeful endeavor to address specific community needs. By investing in the expansion of successful programs, we aim to fortify our ability to fulfill our mission of creating communities that prioritize responsible pet ownership, advocate for animal welfare, and establish lasting connections between animals and their loving homes. Your support of this \$8,000 budget will directly contribute to the growth and effectiveness of these impactful programs, thereby strengthening our ability to make a positive and lasting impact in our community.

## 6. Operational Costs - \$12,000

Based on data and operational needs, the \$12,000 budget for operational costs is designed to cover monthly expenses for lease, utilities, and cleaning supplies. Maintaining a clean, safe, and conducive environment for animals and staff is paramount. This budget ensures that our shelters and clinics consistently meet the necessary standards for hygiene, safety, and overall functionality. It is grounded in the practical realities of maintaining a supportive infrastructure for our operations.

In conclusion, this comprehensive budget breakdown not only allocates funds strategically but also emphasizes our commitment to evidence-based decision-making. Each budget category is meticulously designed to maximize the impact of the grant funds, fostering the well-being of animals and contributing to the overall success of our non-profit organization in our mission to create a more compassionate world for all animals.

## **9. Summary**

### **A. Why This Project Matters**

Since its establishment in 1999, Second Chance Animal Services has witnessed extensive growth and unwavering commitment to serving and aiding our communities tirelessly. The organization has saved the lives of thousands of animals, with our 2019 annual report highlighting the assistance provided to 40,000 pets and the adoption of 1,536 pets in that year alone. Notably, no pet has ever been euthanized at our shelters due to space constraints or treatable medical conditions. In a pivotal step towards addressing the root causes of pet homelessness, our non-profit recently celebrated the milestone of completing 75,000 spay and neuter surgeries on October 10, 2023. This accomplishment underscores our dedication to making a lasting impact on reducing pet overpopulation.

Against the backdrop of alarming pet adoption statistics in the United States, where an average of 1.5 million shelter animals are euthanized annually, Second Chance Animal Services is actively working to decrease this number. This grant is pivotal in supporting our mission to save animals and provide them with necessary care, eliminating the need for euthanization. The challenge is considerable, with only 10% of dogs born in the United States finding permanent

homes, leading to approximately 3.9 million dogs being abandoned or given up to shelters each year. Second Chance strives to address this by carefully matching dogs with their forever homes, and providing training before they enter these homes, resulting in a higher success rate.

Furthermore, the plight of homeless cats in the United States, totaling around 70 million, underscores the urgent need for intervention.

A careful analysis of surrender statistics reveals that 14.1% of dogs are surrendered due to housing issues, 22.6% of cats are surrendered because owners have too many animals, and 10.1% of animals are surrendered due to an owner's death. Additionally, 7.8% of animals are surrendered due to aggressive behavior, and 7.2% are surrendered due to the owner's financial situation. Recognizing these challenges, it becomes critically important that shelters across the country stay open.

This grant is essential for maintaining our existing veterinary and animal adoption centers, which have profoundly influenced our communities. Moreover, it will enable us to raise awareness about pet overpopulation and offer low-cost spay/neuter surgeries as a sustainable solution. By supporting Second Chance Animal Services, this grant will contribute significantly to our ongoing efforts to create a more humane and compassionate world for animals in need.

Second Chance Animal Services stands as a compassionate non-profit organization deeply committed to enhancing the lives of animals within our community. Our multifaceted approach involves a range of impactful programs tailored to meet the diverse needs of animals in need. These include essential veterinary services, pet food pantries to address nutritional challenges, comprehensive adoption services, and educational outreach programs aimed at fostering responsible pet ownership.

## **B. In Conclusion**

In our ongoing efforts to provide vital services to the community, we are seeking a grant of \$60,000 from the Rachael Ray No-Kill Excellence Grant program. This financial support will enable us to not only sustain but also enhance our crucial initiatives. A major focus of the grant will be directed toward expanding our low-cost spay/neuter program, a key strategy in addressing the root causes of pet overpopulation. By making these services more accessible, we aim to contribute significantly to the reduction of stray and abandoned animals across Massachusetts.

Additionally, a portion of the grant will be allocated to acquiring additional medical equipment. This investment is essential to ensure that our veterinary clinics remain equipped with the latest technology and resources, allowing our skilled professionals to provide the highest standard of care to the animals we serve. The grant will play a pivotal role in reinforcing our commitment to the principle that no healthy, adoptable animal should ever face euthanization at our shelter. This assurance aligns with our dedication to providing every deserving animal with an opportunity for a second chance and a loving forever home.

We firmly believe that the \$60,000 grant from the Rachael Ray No-Kill Excellence Grant program will empower us to make a transformative impact on the lives of animals in our community. With this support, we are poised to achieve our overarching mission of creating a more compassionate world for all animals. The grant will not only sustain our existing programs but also fuel innovation and growth, allowing us to reach even greater heights in our pursuit of animal welfare and advocacy. Together, we can build a brighter future for the animals that rely on our care and compassion.

## **10. References**

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