

Your kindness brought Riley back home!

**1,362**  
pets treated at  
Pet Health Center  
Jun-Dec 2022

## Pet Health Center: Keeping Riley & Kevin Together

Kevin was in a tough spot. He had recently adopted an affectionate, bright-eyed pit bull puppy named Riley who was beginning to show symptoms of parvovirus. The normally energetic four-month-old pup had lost her appetite, been vomiting and experiencing diarrhea.

A friend mentioned Dakin's Pet Health Center (PHC), and Kevin desperately

got in touch. Having lost another dog not long ago to the disease, he assumed euthanasia would be Riley's only option, but the PHC team consulted with him to set up a treatment plan. Because Kevin worked long hours, Riley would be treated as an in-patient at Dakin.

His finances, he admitted, were in rough shape. "I had just spent a lot of money on my other dog, so I set up a payment plan with

Dakin." After five days, Riley recovered and was joyously reunited with her person.

A grateful Kevin stated, "I was so relieved that she was cared for, as she should have been. My pets are as important to me as children. They're always there to comfort us, but we can't always comfort them because they don't always show their pain."

**Because of you, we can put pet care within reach when it's needed.**

## Sir Reginald's Reign

Sir Reginald du Limburger turned heads when he arrived at Dakin in January of 2022. An angora rabbit, he is adorned with regal tufts of fur atop his upturned ears, which complement the formality of his name.

After three weeks at Dakin, Reggie found not just a home, but also a career. "He's our animal care ambassador at the Casey Program, where he spends his days teaching participants about responsibility while showing them how to be gentle and kind," explained Kelly Chmura, program director at Sunshine Village in Chicopee, which supports a variety of people with all types of disabilities.

Reggie interacts with the program enrollees who are interested in animal care. They learn that they need to be gentle and quiet with Reggie, and that rabbits are delicate. When he has had

enough human contact, he retreats inside his cage for quiet time. "They learn about boundaries and respect from Reggie," said Kelly. "They also learn to read his body language."

Reggie's custody is shared by Kelly and a coworker, and both of their families have fallen in love with him. He spends nights and weekends zooming around, playing with his toys, snuggling and relaxing after his workweek.

Sir Reginald has become an ambassador for Dakin as well, as he is a wonderful example of the powerful bond between people and pets. He provides unconditional love, confidence and education for people who are learning life skills. Kelly stated, "He's a very loved bunny, and we are so blessed to have found him."



**1,970**

animals were adopted in 2022

## BECAUSE OF YOU...

### We achieve our mission:

Dakin Humane Society delivers effective, innovative services that improve the lives of animals in need and the people who care about them.



**1,678**

animals given supportive care in a foster home (63% of all animal intakes)

**65,877**



total volunteer/foster care hours in 2022 valued at **\$1,973,016**



**114,510**

patients were spayed or neutered from 2009-2022

### Our vision is becoming reality:

A world where services that support the human-animal bond are accessible to all and companion animals are no longer vulnerable.

**We're best in show!**

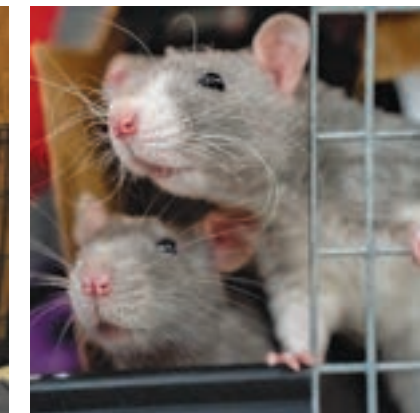
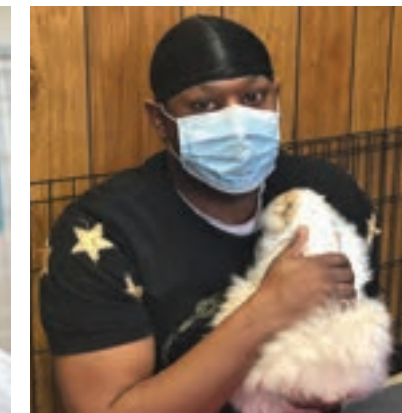
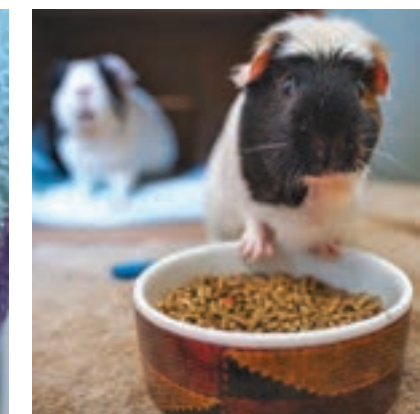
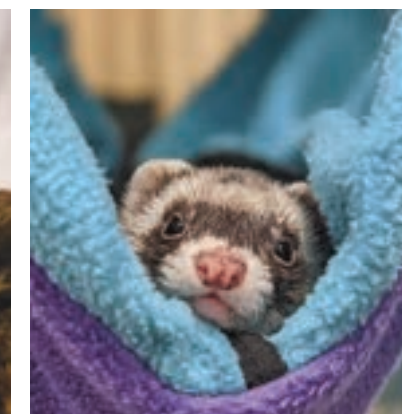
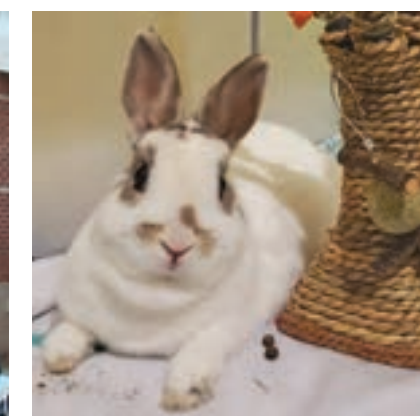
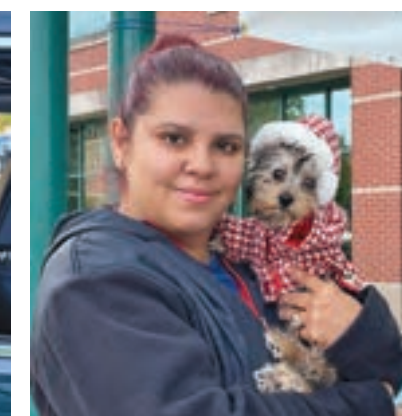
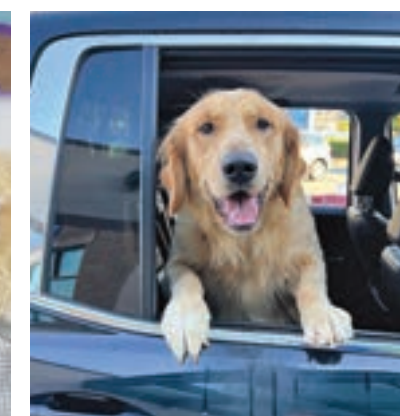
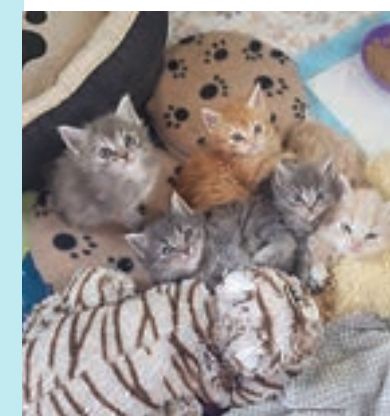
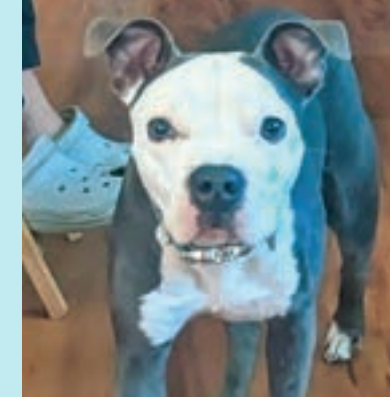


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New Beginnings & Reemerging Trends: a message from Meg

Dear Friends of Dakin,

2022 was a mix of new beginnings and reemerging trends at Dakin and the staff, volunteers, and supporters at Dakin rose to the challenge to serve our community with integrity, compassion, and innovation.

The biggest milestone at Dakin last year was the realization of a long-awaited goal of opening The Pet Health Center (PHC) with help from a grant from The John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation and major gifts from other generous donors.

We know one of the best ways we can support the pets and people in our community is to lessen the number of barriers to veterinary medical care. The response has been extraordinary. In fact, we're thrilled to announce that a second PHC veterinarian and support team will be joining Dakin in mid-2023 so we can increase our impact and deliver

outstanding care to more pets and their families.

This past year we also responded to some reemerging challenges, namely an increase in animal intake and rehoming requests and very high demand for low-cost spay/neuter services. These two trends are certainly linked – during the pandemic, spay/neuter surgeries were not as readily accessible in the community (and throughout the country) as they had been in the past. The result was more animals being born in homes and outdoors. At the same time, we continued to help a significant number of community residents struggling with housing insecurity, medical problems, job loss, and other unexpected life events that have led them to make difficult decisions about long-term care for their pets. This is why programs like the Dakin Community Spay/Neuter Clinic, resources and counseling provided by our Adoption Center,

and the Kitten Street Team are so critical – and all of this important work is made possible through your generous gifts!

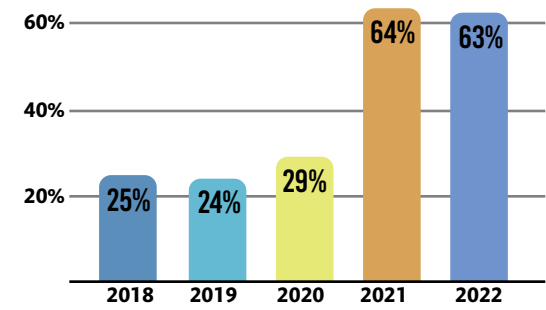
Finally, one more new beginning in 2022 was my own. Since October, I have had the honor of serving as Dakin's Executive Director. I wish to send a heartfelt thank you to our staff, donors, volunteers, clients, and partners for welcoming me into this incredible organization. The positive energy, teamwork, kindness, and generosity in our community is what makes Dakin so special.

With gratitude and excitement for all that we will accomplish together in 2023.



Foster Care Needs Continue to Rise

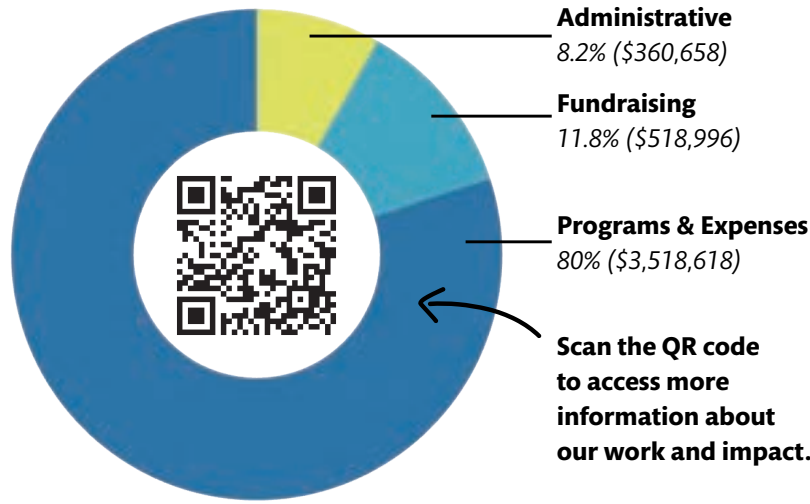
Dakin's foster program is made up of a large network of dedicated volunteers who open their hearts and homes to animals when they need help most. Fostering saves lives and over the last 5 years the need for foster homes has increased significantly for the animals in our care; it improves a pet's physical and mental health, helps prevent illness and offers round-the-clock care if needed.



Percentage of animals receiving foster care

Your Gift's Impact Per Dollar

Total Financial Budget FY22: \$4,398,272



Scan the QR code to access more information about our work and impact.

DAKIN MOMENTS OF COMPASSION, INNOVATION, & INTEGRITY



Battling Parvovirus

An outbreak of Parvovirus in Springfield last fall sparked a rapid mobilization and collaboration of staff and volunteers from Dakin, Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control & Adoption Center, and other organizations. From in- and out-patient treatment of sick dogs to a series of five free vaccine events, the community worked as one to keep more dogs from getting sick by serving 500 dogs with vaccines or treatment. In 2022, 472 dogs were vaccinated against parvo at clinics; and 28 dogs were treated for parvo at Dakin.



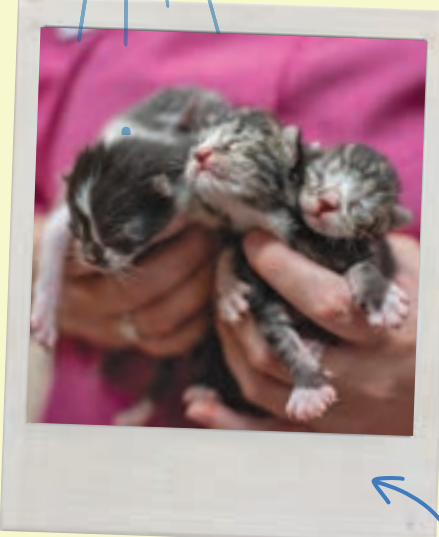
A Guiding Light Through Grief

The death of a beloved pet strikes us very deeply, and navigating the grief can be incredibly hard for some pet lovers. Dakin's Pet Loss & Healing Support Group, a free monthly online gathering of those in mourning, has become a vitally important program. People take comfort from the support of fellow participants, and group leader, family therapist, and author Ken Dolan-Del Vecchio. In 2022, over 100 people from the Pioneer Valley and beyond found solace through this remarkable program.



Mush's Long Wait

Mush was found as a stray, brought to Dakin, and diagnosed with ringworm, a highly contagious fungal disease. His skin was swollen and covered in lesions, and he suffered significant hair loss. After a record-breaking treatment length of 205 days, around 50 lime sulfur medicated baths, and the ongoing love and care provided by staff and volunteers (who needed a mountain of isolation gowns and gloves) Mush FINALLY tested negative for ringworm and found a loving home. Your generosity gave Mush, and others like him, what they needed to thrive.



Franklin County Rescue

Through your love and compassion, we helped a local animal lover whose household cat population ballooned from under 10 to over 100 in just one year. Neighbors who knew about this person's love of cats were leaving carriers of cats on their property, and before long, litter after litter appeared. Imagine getting the call for help from this person, visiting their home, and seeing that there were way more cats in need than originally counted. What if we couldn't help them all? Thankfully, your dedication made it possible for more than 150 of them to be helped.

KITTEN STREET TEAM

Preventing Suffering in Unplanned Litters

One of the most impactful ways Dakin responds to the needs of community animals is through the tireless efforts of the Kitten Street Team (KST). This all-volunteer program assists in controlling feral (wild) cat populations through TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return), in which ferals are brought to Dakin for spay/neuter surgery and life-saving vaccinations, then returned to their colonies.

Adult ferals have little to no social contact with humans and cannot live as domestic pets. Their offspring, if captured in the first few weeks of life, can become socialized pets, a far better fate than living outdoors, since 75% of feral kittens do not survive their first year. In some cases, the mother doesn't survive and a tiny, defenseless litter is left behind.

On Mother's Day in 2022, we got a



Coconut, one of many at-risk kittens rescued by the Kitten Street Team who are made healthy and welcomed into loving homes

call about four three-week-old kittens spotted, wobbly-legged and searching in a backyard, for their mother who would not be coming home. The KST raced to the scene, humanely captured and bottle fed the starving kittens, then brought them to Dakin for care. Later, they all found loving adopters.

Thanks to you, Dakin is also able to help people with dogs and cats facing unwanted litters through its Moms Fixed Free program. Once the puppies and kittens are eight weeks old, moms get spay surgery and vaccines free of charge, then return home, while the young ones find a new path through Dakin adoptions.

DAKIN CATS BY THE NUMBERS

479 cats helped through TNR in 2022

135 requests for KST assistance in 2022

124 Moms Fixed Free surgeries out of 6,601 total spay/neuter surgeries in 2022



In 2023 the KST helped its 1,000th cat!