



Chin-Chin,  
on the road  
to recovery

**\$705**

Average cost of care  
for 1 Dakin animal.  
Animals like Chin-  
Chin exceed this!

## Chin-Chin's Trailblazing Journey

Last December Chin-Chin and Midnight, a bonded pair of chinchillas, were surrendered to Dakin. Upon arrival, our medical staff discovered that Chin-Chin's left hind leg was damaged. Efforts to examine her were complicated by Midnight, her (neutered) male companion, who became very feisty when hands reached into their cage to tend to his lady love.

Chin-Chin's leg was severely fractured and very painful, so the decision was made to amputate her limb; the first time this was performed on a chinchilla at Dakin. Dakin's Dr. Elizabeth

Helton, selected to conduct the procedure, was facing her first chinchilla amputation as well.

As with any surgery, risks are involved; like how the patient will react to - or tolerate - anesthesia, or the potential for uncontrollable bleeding. With small animals, there's also more of a concern for hypothermia because they lose body heat very quickly once anesthetized.

The surgery took about 45 minutes. Chin-Chin was awake within a half hour after surgery, and over the next few days she became

see **JOURNEY** on pg 3

## The Dakin Difference

### Dear Friend,

Welcome to our new donor newsletter to keep you, our valued supporters, informed of the impact you make possible and the animals' and individuals' journeys we share.

To truly help animals, helping those that love them is essential. Animals and people have an undeniable bond

that can be seen every day - like the rowdy welcome your dog may give you when you come home, or the slow blinks your cat offers as a sign of affection and trust. We need them as much as they need us.

We want you to see how your touch not only transforms animals' lives here at Dakin, but travels well beyond to the people whose lives they uplift.

We couldn't be more thankful to have you alongside us as we continue to look forward to all the stories yet to be written.



Sincerely,

Carmine DiCenso  
Executive Director

## Mutual support: "Thea & I – We Be Buds"

I am a retired teacher who now tutors. Stacy, the mom of one of my students, fosters for Dakin. That is how I met my little Thea. She had been fostered in Stacy's home for about two months. Every time I showed up, Thea would be there to gleefully greet me at the door. It was love at first sight.

When I adopted her I was told she had a mild seizure disorder for which she takes medications, so she needs a little extra TLC. These meds effectively and virtually eliminate any seizure

activity, so Thea is a happy, healthy little 6 year-old Chihuahua mix.

Thea came to me during a difficult time. I had recently ended a long term relationship, and my depression was through the roof. It was a traumatic event, and my breakup also separated me from three dogs I loved dearly, making it more difficult. When you suffer from depression, you know it's hard to not think about why you're depressed. Trying to occupy your time only works for a little while.

I registered Thea as an emotional support dog, so she pretty much goes everywhere with me. She's used to riding through Price Chopper and Big Y in the shopping cart. And boy is she popular! She's friendly, so she's comfortable being petted by strangers. If young children spot her, I take her out of the cart. I tell them her name, so they can talk to her on a more personal level. Grocery shopping becomes about meeting new people and sharing stories about our pets; it's social. I often refer to her as my "bodyguard," assuming

how YOU'VE helped

1,379

animals like Thea went into foster homes last year

62%

of Dakin animals in 2019 were treated through PAWS (Program for Animal Wellness) before adoption. PAWS helps animals requiring a longer stay and more intensive care.



When you help animals like Thea, love travels with them.

they've heard of the reputation Chihuahuas can have. "Take your leg off" is a common retort I use for giggles.

My little Thea has been a huge player in the healing process I've gone through. She gives me purpose and loves me unconditionally. She truly provides for me the emotional support we all need and crave; I know I do the same for her.

*Thea and I - we be buds.*

–Pete Delmasto

FREE EVENT

# WHEN IT'S ALL GOING TO THE DOGS

Estate Planning For Your Pet!

Guest Speaker: Gina M. Barry  
Attorney at Law, Bacon Wilson P.C.

Thursday, April 16th | 6:00 - 7:30 pm  
Education Room, Springfield Adoption Center  
Dakin Humane Society

- Key final questions that should be answered to address your pet's welfare and their future.
- Choosing continued care and your financial decisions regarding your pets.
- How to include and structure your will to ensure care for your animals and their legal status in regards to your estate plan.
- A discussion around Pet Trusts and special provisions to support and protect your beloved furry family member.
- Necessary documents to include to protect your pets.

Light Refreshments. **Limited Seating – RSVP Required.**  
Register at [bit.ly/EstatePets](http://bit.ly/EstatePets) or email [development@dakinhumane.org](mailto:development@dakinhumane.org).



Interested in joining Dakin's Legacy Society and ensuring your lifelong passion and commitment to animal welfare by including the animals of Dakin in your will, trust or estate plans? Contact Stacey Price, Director of Development and Marketing at [spice@dakinhumane.org](mailto:spice@dakinhumane.org) or call 413.781.4000 ext 121.

# The last loving journey

Sometimes the greatest love and mercy we can show toward our beloved pets is knowing when their time has come, and making their passing compassionate. We are here to help you and your pet get through this sad time. This is a true story that happened recently, as recalled by Director of Operations Karina King.

"A man called and told us about his cat, Mina, who he got as a kitten when he lived in Puerto Rico. Mina was now 18 years old and in very poor shape. He realized that euthanasia was the humane

choice. He called a few places and was not able to afford euthanasia anywhere, so he reached out to us. We told him he could come in.

He couldn't wait to schedule an appointment. 'It's time for her, now,' he said. He took a taxi, and when he got here, we knew that he was right, that Mina was at a point where euthanasia was needed. He told me all about how long they had been together, from her kitten days onward. When he was leaving Puerto Rico, he said, there was no way he was going to leave Mina behind.



**Thank you for being there for Mina, her person, Dakin, and everyone who is comforted by your compassion.**

Normally we ask for a donation for euthanasia, but all he had was a couple of dollars and some change, which he gave to us in gratitude. I found out that he had taken a taxi here, and asked him if he needed a ride home. He said no and explained that he got a cab

because 'I had to get her here quickly and smoothly. The walk home will be good for me. I can walk off some of my grief.' And off he went."



## Animal Hero [an · i · mal he · ro]

*noun* · a person who makes a positive difference in the lives of animals and people

Nominate an animal hero for a **Dakin Humane Award!**

Nominations accepted through April 26.

<http://bit.ly/HumaneAwards>



Together, we made history saving Chin-Chin

## JOURNEY *cont from pg 1*

more mobile and comfortable. After some foster care, the couple was returned to Dakin, and adoption quickly followed. Less than a month after they arrived, Chin-Chin and Midnight were leaving us for a bright future together.

"Thanks to a community that loves animals and wants them to have every medical advantage,

we have the equipment necessary for more innovative procedures," noted Dr. Helton. "And if we don't have what we need, we can improvise. I love being part of a team that thinks outside the box and is daring enough to try something new."

*Your love and support of animals, combined with our dedicated staff, makes fantastic moments like these happen every day at Dakin.*

because of YOU



**3,811**  
animals found new families last year

**92,000+**  
animals spayed/  
neutered since 2009



**624**  
Dixie pets transferred to Dakin in 2019

**273**  
kittens received tender care & treatment in Nick's Nursery



**WISH LIST**

Looking for other ways to help?  
Most needed items:

Dry cat food



Canned cat food



Timothy hay for small animals



Dry dog food



Please visit  
<http://bit.ly/DakinWishList>

**SAVE THE DATE**

Mark your calendars for these annual Dakin events!



**Barks & Brews**  
Fort Hill Brewery  
Easthampton  
June 7, 2020



**Toasted Owl Halloween Fun Run**  
Toasted Owl Tavern  
Northampton  
October 25, 2020



Dakin Humane Society  
171 Union Street, Springfield, MA 01105  
(413) 781-4000  
163 Montague Road, Leverett, MA 01054  
(413) 548-9898  
[www.dakinhumane.org](http://www.dakinhumane.org)

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