



Beer | Vendors | Food trucks | Canine activities | Treats

Join us at Fort Hill Brewery on Sunday, September 19 from 1-4pm. Barks & Brews is an outdoor, dog-friendly party for humans and canines! No dog? No problem! Take your BFF (human or canine) for an afternoon of dogs, food, and fun!

VIP Admission (\$55): Includes early event admission at 12pm, on-site parking, a complimentary beer, and an event t-shirt

General Admission (\$30): Includes a complimentary beer

Visit dakinhumane.org for more information and to purchase tickets



Make sure to tag us in your Instagram story!



You've shown our animals and us a great kindness and commitment these last few months if not years. It's important to us that you know just how much we appreciate you. We hope you can spare 5 minutes to complete our survey so we can continue to show you just how special you are.

-The Dakin Team



Scan code to take the survey now!

WANT TO FOSTER?

Dakin needs fosters who can care for animals for as long they choose. You could play that vital role in giving a pet a bright future. It's easy to get started:

1. Visit dakinhumane.org
2. Click on "Volunteer"
3. Click on "Foster a Dakin Animal"
4. Follow the instructions!

FOSTER *continued*

"One of the most touching experiences for me was fostering a litter of kittens 3 ½ weeks old. They were very weak, and two of them did not pull through. I was committed to fight alongside the other girls, Leaf and Apple. They had the cutest little personalities. I visited them every day on my lunch break to warm them with heating discs and fleece blankets.

"Weeks later they learned how to eat unassisted, properly use the litter box,

and play with toys! Every milestone was a celebration. Leaf, Apple, and their littermates taught me the power of love and perseverance."

Love transforms lives. "I'm the one teaching these animals what love is, that they're safe, warm, and unharmed," said Jackie. "I get to see them change from being sick, shy and malnourished to being healthy and happy. It's the absolute best feeling. It gives me purpose."

Inside DAKIN

a newsletter about animals & the people who care about them | fall 2021

A Foster's Reward

"I get to see them change from being sick, shy and malnourished to being healthy and happy. It's the absolute best feeling."

"As a Dakin foster, the comment I hear most is 'I don't know how you can do it. I couldn't handle giving them up. Don't you get attached?' Yes, I do get attached, sometimes super-attached," stated Jackie Fanning.

Jackie's foster count is impressive. She has nurtured 104 animals, including 9 sick adult cats, and 60 sick kittens. "Sometimes I think back to the beginning, when I was trying to medicate the kittens. My first few fosters got poked so many times!"

There are many sick kittens who need

foster families and we will train new fosters on how to administer fluids or medications while providing supplies they need to care for them. You allow us to not only be there for the most vulnerable animals but those who dedicate their precious time to helping them.

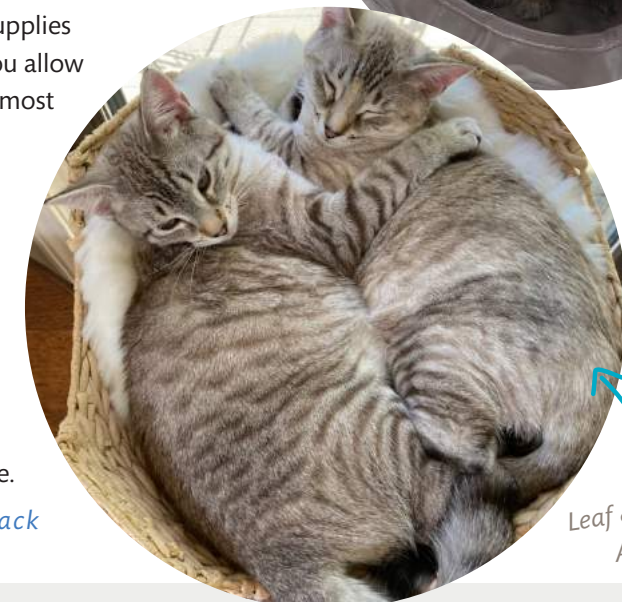
In fostering, "goodbye" is the goal. "I'm not here to fill my house with cats," explained Jackie. "That would defeat the purpose and hinder my ability to care for others who need me.

see **FOSTER** on back

Leaf & Apple Before



Leaf & Apple After



Dear Friend,

Your love of animals keeps reaching further and further out into the community. Thanks to you, so many animals are seeing better futures both under our roof and outside our walls.

You were instrumental in our Kitten Street Team forming in the midst of a pandemic. This all-volunteer program humanely traps feral cats, brings them to Dakin for spay/neuter surgery, then returns them to their colony site. Your kindness and compassion for animals allowed this program to get off the ground and be there for the most vulnerable feral cats and kittens, helping to stop the endless cycle of feral

breeding, and spare feline suffering. Just as important is our ability to answer the call for assistance when our partners across the country, like El Paso Animal Services in Texas, are overwhelmed with pets. It's difficult to describe the feeling as you wait on the airport tarmac, seeing hundreds of pets arrive in carriers, and knowing their futures could have turned out very differently had they not been transported. There's a scared look in their eyes, but I can feel in my heart that their future will be full of love and a family, thanks to people like you.

As you know, more than half the animals that arrive at Dakin have medical and/or behavioral issues that require special

treatment through PAWS (our Program for Animal Wellness) and of them, about half need foster care to enhance their recovery. Your compassion and commitment to animals make these turnarounds possible.

It's a great relief to know that we have you as a vital part of our team. Your touch transforms so many lives, and will continue to do so in the future, and for that I am continuously grateful.

Sincerely,



Carmine DiCenso
Carmine DiCenso
Executive Director



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The Dakin Difference



NOT FOR SALE

Springfield Bans Cat/Dog/Rabbit Pet Store Sales

An ordinance prohibiting the sale of cats, dogs and rabbits from pet stores has been enforced by the City of Springfield. The ordinance was approved by Mayor Domenic J. Sarno and the Springfield City Council and went into effect July 5. There is a penalty fee of \$300 per animal for anyone in violation.

Springfield has joined municipalities nationwide adopting similar legislation in efforts to decrease the outlets that depend on puppy mills to supply their pets for sale.

According to the Humane Society of the United States, there are at least 10,000 puppy mills in the U.S., fewer than 3,000 of which are regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Dogs at puppy mills are often kept in cages their entire lives. As long as the dogs are given the basics of food, water and shelter, puppy mills – in many cases – are not illegal.

Dakin Humane Society, along with many animal advocates in the Pioneer Valley, is pleased to see this legislation put forth, and we thank Springfield Mayor Domenic J. Sarno, the Springfield City Council, and everyone who had a hand in this successful outcome.

Champions for Ferals

When Dakin volunteer Anna Marie responded to a call from a woman who had trapped a feral cat she had been feeding, she was in for a surprise.

Anna is member of the all-volunteer Kitten Street Team (KST) that humanely traps feral cats, brings them to Dakin for spay/neuter surgery, and returns them to their colony site (a process known as TNR).

“Ellie was at the front of the trap, mewing. I knew right there that this cat was friendly,” Anna recalled. Ellie was also a recent mother, and the surgery had to happen fast so that she could be reunited with her kittens, who were hidden nearby. Anna made sure Ellie was a high priority patient and afterward, she released her where she had been trapped.

Anna and the woman who had been feeding Ellie searched for the litter. “A couple of days went by with no luck,” said Anna. “Ellie’s routine was she would come to the woman’s deck for food every 3-4 hours, then disappear back into the woods.”

Anna was in the woods looking for the kittens when she saw a large pile of brush. “I walked around it, looking in the gaps, and within minutes I saw eyes...and it



Anna Marie rescuing Ellie's kittens.

was Ellie! She was with her kittens.” Ellie was lured out with food, and then she and her three-week-old kittens were placed in a carrier, brought to Dakin, and eventually adopted.

The Kitten Street Team was formed in 2020 during the pandemic. The dedicated volunteers who make up this team, working with Dakin staff members, have saved over 250 local cats and kittens. None of their incredible successes would have been possible without you.

Litters born in feral colonies are exposed to the elements and predators, and most don't survive their first year. Curbing the feral population through TNR helps lessen their hardships. Adult ferals - unable to live as domestic pets - are returned to their colony site, while young kittens are adopted. Your love and concern for them creates much better lives for these cats and kittens.

HOME Again



Home Again thrift shopping at Dakin every Saturday from 10am - 3pm. Bargains everywhere for your pet...and you! 171 Union Street ~ Springfield

Ebay: bit.ly/DakinEbay
Shopify: bit.ly/HomeAgainDakin



We're Here When You Have to Say Goodbye

The time we spend in the company of our companion animals fills us with joy. Their warm presence, their loyalty and devotion, and their unconditional love are gifts that we carry forward, especially when we need them most...when our pets are no longer with us.

For a pet that is sick and suffering, euthanasia is a merciful outcome when there is little to no chance for survival. People who bring their pets to Dakin for humane euthanasia are helped and comforted by our team members.

Animal Resource Counselor Eliza Fischer performs euthanasia in addition to her other duties. She says it takes a steady presence and empathy to help a client in those moments. “It’s important to give them the space to share their feelings. Sometimes they feel like they could have done more for their pet. Our job is to put ourselves in their shoes and remind them that their pet felt loved.”

Eliza recalled an especially tender moment.



“There was a 10-year-old boy in a car outside. He was trying very hard not to cry as he held his lifelong pal, a guinea pig who needed euthanasia. He gave me his pet, and a special blanket that he wanted him to be laying on, plus a couple of his favorite toys to place nearby. He wanted me to tell him, in his final moments, that he had been a good boy and was loved very much. I did.”

“When I brought the pet’s body back outside, His mom asked if their cat, who

loved the guinea pig, would be sad. I told her probably yes, and suggested that they let the cat sniff her friend’s body, so she might understand that he was gone. I advised them to give their kitty a lot of extra love, attention and playtime. I felt like I was providing important support for them that day.”

Dakin offers an array of services, from clinics and spay/neuter surgery to pet food

aid and dog grooming. Euthanasia is as essential as any of these. We stand ready to help those who share our love of animals endure the toughest day they will spend with their pet; when it’s time to say goodbye.

Dakin has several brief, informative videos to help people through the grieving process of pet loss. Please visit dakinhumane.org/grief-support.html



YOUR LOVE BROUGHT THEM HOME

On July 2, more than 350 animals were flown from an overcrowded Texas shelter to California, Wisconsin and New Jersey, where several shelters, including Dakin, met planes and collected animals to bring to their locations. Dakin staff and volunteers traveled to Morristown, NJ to bring 9 dogs and 7 cats back for adoption.

- 1 Dakin staffer Eliza (middle, in blue) helps get carriers onto the tarmac.
- 2 Eliza (left) and Abigail are ready to head north!
- 3 Alanna, Betsy, Eliza and Abigail settle the new arrivals at Dakin



Some of the faces we were able to welcome because of YOU!

