



Mailing address:
PO Box 6307
Springfield, MA 01101-6307
www.dakinhumane.org

Leverett
163 Montague Road
Leverett, MA 01054
413-548-9898

Springfield
171 Union Street
Springfield, MA 01105
413-781-4000

January 13, 2023

Dear Friends of Dakin Humane Society, I am writing with an update regarding Dakin's Leverett Adoption Center. Since our last communication in May, the Board of Directors, in partnership with Senior Leadership, have been examining a number of possibilities to decide the best future for the property.

Dakin has been contacted by several interested parties hoping to purchase or rent the Leverett property and we have recently begun discussions with a realtor to identify a potential buyer or tenant. We acknowledge the important history of the Leverett Adoption Center and understand this news may be disappointing to some community members, volunteers, and supporters of Dakin. I assure you that this decision was not taken lightly.

Over the past decade, animal overpopulation has seen a steep decline in New England, which has, in turn impacted Dakin's adoption processes and animal housing needs. As you may know, Dakin has an incredible network of volunteer foster caregivers. Prior to the pandemic, these foster homes were used primarily for pets who were not ready for adoption; most were either too young and/or needed medical care. When these animals became adoption-ready, they returned to live in cages at our shelters until they were matched with their new owner.

We learned during the pandemic that foster care can – and should – be used for most pets while they are waiting for an adoptive home. This is in the best interest of the animals, allowing them to live in a home environment where we can learn more about how they behave, including introductions to other people and pets, and without the stimulation and limitations of cages in a shelter setting. In addition, these animals can still receive behavioral and medical care, as needed, under the supervision and direction of Dakin staff. Ultimately, all of this information and individualized care helps us make better adoption matches and eliminates the need to operate a second facility.

Although the Leverett Adoption Center has been closed since the start of the pandemic, Dakin has and will continue to provide much needed services in Hampshire and Franklin Counties. These services include, but are not limited to, supplying pet food to the Northampton and Amherst Survival Centers, assisting pet owners and animal control units by taking in cats and dogs when hoarding or other pet emergencies are identified, and arranging "Snip Trip" rides to our Spay/Neuter Clinic for pets whose owners cannot make the drive to Springfield.

Staff and volunteers at Dakin continue to work tirelessly each day to honor Janet Dakin's vision for "care and concern for all pets" and to uphold our core values: integrity, compassion, and innovation. Dakin remains in a strong financial position and we are eager to identify and pursue meaningful ways to serve animals in need and the people who care about them throughout the Pioneer Valley region.

Dakin is committed to communication and transparency with our community as we move forward with the sale or lease of the Leverett Adoption Center. We are grateful for your support and patience during this process. If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to us via email at: feedback@dakinhumane.org.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Appleton
Chair, Board of Directors

DAKIN HUMANE SOCIETY