



## Responding to New Challenges and Opportunities Repurposing Dakin's Closed Leverett Facility

### **Dear Friend of Dakin,**

As the world and our region emerges from the pandemic it is safe to say every organization has had to respond to new challenges and opportunities. Dakin Humane Society is no different.

As a result of the pandemic dramatically impacting the normal course of business for virtually all organizations, our Dakin leadership implemented the closure of our facility in Leverett, Massachusetts. The Leverett facility represents an important part of our history. Our namesake Janet Dakin, the animal advocate who called Hampshire County home for many years, was the visionary who informed our work and her contributions to our organization are indelible.

We are reaching out to you today to offer an update about the continuing closed status of the Leverett location and to share our current thinking about the future of that facility. Many friends, supporters and organizations including the Greenfield Animal Shelter, the Friends of Amherst Stray Animals and the Pioneer Valley Humane Society were all integral in the establishment of the Leverett facility.

We would like our stakeholders to know that Dakin is in the process of identifying possible reuse or repurposing opportunities for the building that respond to community needs. If we are unable to identify a new use for the building along these parameters, we would explore the leasing or selling of the property to another party, including to an animal care or related enterprise.

As many of you know, our pet adoption resources are housed at Dakin's Springfield facility located on Union Street. Before the pandemic, adoption services were also available in Leverett. Dakin has expanded how we house pets for adoption, increasingly utilizing a foster care network that we believe is good practice and more humane for the animals in our care.

We will keep you informed as the process unfolds for a related or new use for the Leverett facility. If you have any questions or comments you would like to share with us, please send us an email at [feedback@dakinhumane.org](mailto:feedback@dakinhumane.org).

As we emerge from the challenges of the past two years, we realize we have not been immune from the transition out of the pandemic. Our staffing levels are at the lowest they have been in 10 years. Without an Executive Director since October of last year, Dakin is also in the process of identifying a new leader for the organization.

While so much is changing, we assure you that Dakin remains strong, our fundraising has been consistent, and despite the staffing shortage, we are a healthy and responsive organization to our stakeholders. Thank you for your continued support of Dakin and our mission and we will reach out to you directly when there are any new developments with our Leverett property.

Board of Directors  
Dakin Humane Society