

SECOND CHANCE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

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www.petfinder.org/shelters/ON99.html

2025

It's surprising to think how fast a year has passed. As the Romans wrote: Tempus Fugit. Although time might fly, some constants remain. We have the snow shovels out and our nostalgic lights are up as are our rescued/donated decorations as we start to prepare for the year-end holidays. This year, we have put lights in the sanctuary building and put colored bulbs in the book tunnel. It would be interesting to know what the cats think of all this. Interestingly, we have seen a large increase in the donation of Christmas items for our yard sales. Putting this together with the much reduced stocks of Christmas trees at stores suggests reduced interest in the classic natural tree fully trimmed with lights and decoration. Cats will miss this loss of tradition because, as we all know, they love to climb a tree and to bat around any low hanging decorations. Throughout the quickly passing year we continued with our main activities - rescues and adoptions, fundraising and looking after our premises.

As described previously, the Meeting Place is where, in the afternoon, several of the Sanctuary cats relax and wait for petting. Floyd continues as the petting caller. Flo and Big Tuna send "Christmas Meows" to all our readers. After a long time watching, a new member – Minky – has joined and now accepts swat-free petting. Almost all our cats have a story. Visitors to Second Chance would have noticed a large pure white cat called Buddy. He was surrendered when his owners moved to a pet-free building. Apparently, only about 5% of cats would be purely white, thus making Buddy something of a rarity. With his striking appearance and great disposition Buddy quickly went to his adoptive home. A lady was being threatened with eviction if she didn't "do something" with her cats: thus we took in four 3-month-old kittens. As usual kittens are just adorable, irresistible, balls of fur. Three have been adopted but the beautiful little Torte (Tori) is still available and is pictured below. In March, we got a call about 10 cats abandoned at a house in Newmarket. The homeowner went into long-term-care and the house had been sold. The cats were housed in a large semi-attached garage which had been modified inside to accommodate them. Nevertheless, the cats, all adults, were free to roam and were essentially feral. Demolition of the garage was imminent. Volunteers succeeded in trapping all

the cats. Three came to Second Chance and other rescues took the remainder. Slowly, one of our three (Pal) is becoming a bit approachable but the other two, Birdie and Boots have made little progress. It is unlikely that they will ever be adoptable and so will spend the rest of their lives at Second Chance. Paraphrasing the famous movie line - There are many cat stories at Second Chance; these are three of them.

Sadly, we lost several of our long-term residents this year, many who have been at Second Chance for most of their lives - Guinness, 19 years old; Tabitha, 19 years old and lived at the sanctuary since she was a kitten; B.B, 13 years old.

Below are pictured several new comers to Second Chance – all available for adoption –

Tori – DSH female is five months old and came into Second Chance with her three siblings, who have all been adopted. Tori is very friendly and loves to play.

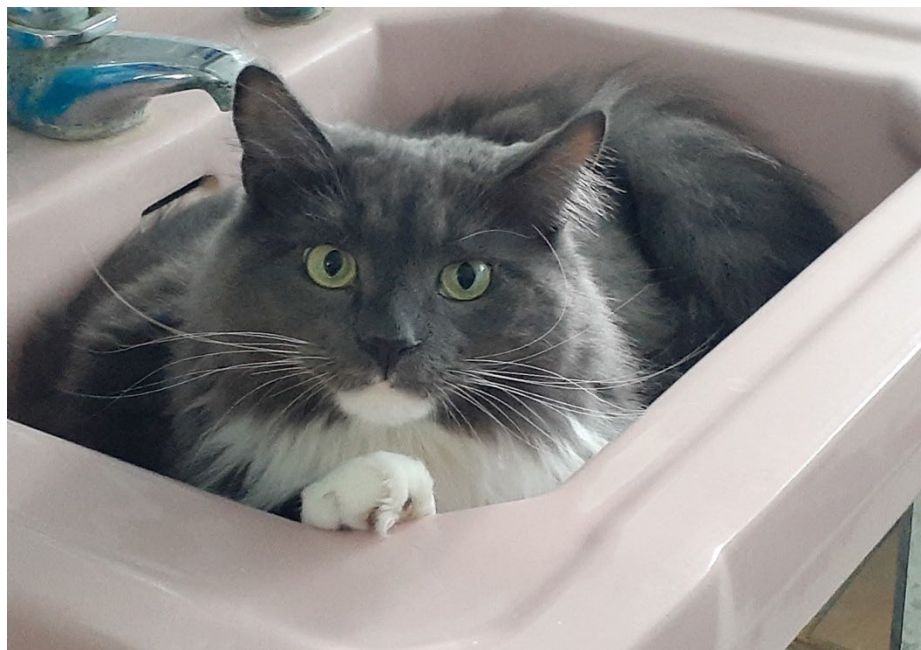


L.B. – DMH female is six months old. L.B. was caught outside in September but unfortunately, the people who rescued her were not able to catch her sibling or mother. L.B. (Little Baby)

keeps her distance from new people but, once she knows a person, she loves to be held and petted.



Romeo – Maine Coon male is 3 years old. Romeo was released to Second Chance as his owner had a disability and was no longer able to care for him. Looks like he is having a sinking feeling.



We held three yard sales this year. Our June sale was very successful despite some rain showers. The garden plants are a popular feature of this sale and it pays to come early. Attendance at the August and October events was lower than expected. Finishing touches were made to the book tunnel. **The book tunnel is always open during visiting hours.** We constructed a new large display table at container 2 and removed some metal bars to improve walk around access to the display shelves. Roofing was repaired in several areas. Finally, we have abandoned the sale of videotapes. We have a very large selection of CDs and DVDs and records (LP's). The Second Chance 2026 calendar is now sold out. As for last year, revenue from bottle returns was lower again but revenue from scrap increased.

We continue our participation in charitable bingo at the Delta Bingo Hall in Pickering. The extensive renovations to the Bingo Hall are now complete and everything looks wonderful. It is fresh and spacious, with traditional and electronic Bingo, Vegas-Style machines and food service. The bingo hall is very nicely decorated for Christmas. It's a welcoming place to meet your friends, enjoy bingo and perhaps be a winner.

Last year, we wondered what effects we might see from the postal strike in Canada and from the national election in the US. We notice two things. One is the decreased attendance (and sales) at our yard sales and a significant decrease in personal donations. Both the economic uncertainty created by the Trump administration and the postal strike could be contributing factors. The post strike has now ended but there seems to be no end in sight to the economic uncertainty and it could be that people are tightening up - getting more selective with spending. In spite of nine lives, the cats might be starting to worry about what's ahead.

The year comes to a close as it always does, however, this year we are already under a blanket of snow plus freezing temperatures. It's quite a shocking change from last December. The cats will get their extra treats and petting. Cats at home will be "enjoying" the Christmas tree although perhaps fewer than last year. Artificial trees don't support cats as well as real ones. We thank our dedicated caregivers who look after the cats so well and thank our volunteers for their invaluable help throughout the year. We thank all our donors, whose thoughtfulness and generosity keeps the sanctuary going. On behalf of all at Second Chance, people and cats, best wishes for the holidays and for a safe and successful new year.

FUNDRAISING THANKS

Fundraisers are very important to the sanctuary and would not be possible without the efforts of many people –

1. **Global Pets** - Whites Road in Pickering - donated all funds raised during their **Show Us Your Heart** campaign to Second Chance.

2. **Pet Valu** - Pickering Parkway in Pickering - selected Second Chance to receive monetary and product donations during their 2025 Pet Appreciation Month
3. **All contributors** to the Second Chance on-going bottle drive.

THANK YOU

Second Chance gratefully acknowledges the support received from the following organizations as well as all of those individuals too numerous to list but without whose generous support, the sanctuary could not continue to operate.

CLUBLINK
CORPORATION



Purposely, a company who matches corporate volunteers with opportunities in their area, arranged for **Amy** and **Carolina** to volunteer at Second Chance. These two ladies spent the afternoon on May 16 sorting items for our yard sale.



Hailey, Jazielle, Lacey and Lilly (from left to right in the picture below) volunteered at Second Chance on the morning of April 5. These girls were working towards their Lady Baden award and needed to complete a community service project. The girls spent the morning washing dishes, floors, cages and under cages and, of course, petting and playing with the residents of Second Chance.



Aven-Sofia and Lauryn volunteered at Second Chance on the morning of April 26. These girls were also working towards their Lady Baden award.

Pet Valu, Pickering Parkway in Pickering, invited Second Chance to bring cats/kittens into their store for Adoption Days. These events help to make the community more aware of Second Chance, and promote additional opportunities for our cats/kittens to be adopted.

DONATIONS HONOURING

Second Chance is grateful for donations received in honour of -

Helen Baker
John Crane

Rudy Clegg
Muffin, also known as Kimber

IN-MEMORIUM DONATIONS

Donations have been gratefully received by Second Chance, in memory of –

Aki, my cat
Cinnamon, Second Chance resident
Shirley Eckhart, friend
Guinness, Second Chance resident
Gwen, Second Chance resident
Little Dorrit, my shining, always
at my side best friend

Yolanda McBride, mother
Mee Mee and Mau
Mystery, former Second Chance cat
Red, Zoe, Ben
Spinner, Second Chance foster
Tipps, Second Chance resident

UPCOMING EVENTS

Second Chance Yard and Plant Sale will be held either the last week of May/first week of June, 2026.

DONATIONS

Did you know that 100% of every donation goes directly to sanctuary activities? SCWS Directors are not paid. There is no paid staff other than those who directly handle and care for the animals. SCWS does not pay fundraisers. Administrative expenses consist of things for which we are charged, for example, phone, cable, bank charges, mailing costs.

Thus, donations to SCWS are used for the expenses of keeping the buildings operating, food, veterinary expenses and, as just noted, ordinary administrative costs. Veterinary expense is a very large item (burden) usually running to several thousand dollars per month. When you donate to SCWS, your money goes directly to the welfare and care of the animals. It is spent carefully and responsibly just as you would want it to be.

If you are already a donor, please consider increasing your donation; if not, please consider becoming a donor.