

Adrienne Linnell Is ED at Second Chance Fund for Animal Welfare



February 26, 2010 — Second Chance Fund for Animal Welfare, a Bolton-based nonprofit that aims to give cats a better chance at a healthy life and greatly reduce the number of unwanted kittens, recently named Adrienne Linnell as its executive director.

In assuming the leadership of [Second Chance Fund for Animal Welfare](#) (SCFAW), Linnell is taking over from founder Jan Beckwith who will continue as president of the board of directors.

"Nine years ago, Jan put into action an ambitious vision – bringing down the heartbreaking number of homeless cats," said Linnell. "Under her superb leadership, SCFAW has played a significant role in addressing the misfortune so many cats suffer through no fault of their own. We have spayed/neutered more than 11,000 cats, an enormous accomplishment for a local grassroots nonprofit group."

Jan Beckwith founded the organization in 2001 with the goal of reducing the suffering of homeless cats in Central Massachusetts "by preventing the tragedy before it begins."

The largely volunteer group achieves its mission by offering affordable, accessible spay and neuter services for pet cats and tame strays. It also provides counseling on difficult pet issues and care for catastrophic illness or injury of dogs and cats from financially challenged households.

"Building SCFAW has been a labor of love for me and all the wonderful volunteers and supporters who make our work possible. I consider them my extended family," said Beckwith. "Currently, however, my free time is greatly limited, so handing over day-to-day leadership of the organization has become vital to its ongoing progress."

She added that Linnell "brings to the role many years of devoted service to our mission and to the larger issue of animal welfare.

Linnell joined SCFAW in July 2004 and has served as an active volunteer in all areas of the organization. She was elected to the board of directors as clerk in 2007. She holds a bachelor of science degree from Cornell University and earned an MBA from the University of Michigan. She has extensive business experience, having held senior leadership positions in finance, operations, program management, strategic planning, and consulting.

Since 2008, when the recession began to take hold, the number of people who surrender their pets to animal shelters in Massachusetts has increased dramatically.

Second Chance Fund said that one pair of unaltered free-roaming cats can produce more than 12,000 cats and kittens in a five-year period. In addition to working with local veterinary hospitals, SCFAW provides access to affordable spay and neuter services as well as discounted medical care for many types of catastrophic feline illness and injury. The group also offers public education and counseling for people facing difficult animal-related situations.

<http://www.massnonprofit.org/news.php?artid=1858&catid=11>