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## **SECOND CHANCE ANIMAL CENTER MARKS 50TH ANNUAL MEETING**

Walter and Dana Gilbert of Dorset will discuss their work with therapy dogs at the 50th Annual Meeting of Second Chance Animal Center on Friday, April 17th at First Congregational Church in Manchester. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Walter Gilbert and his therapy dog, Brandy, are familiar friends at Manchester's Equinox Terrace, where they have visited regularly over the past six years. Dana Gilbert is the Humane Educator at Second Chance and teaches at elementary schools throughout the county. Both speakers are members of the Caring Canines Therapy Dog Club of Southern Vermont.

The Gilberts and their dogs volunteer at hospitals, schools, nursing homes, libraries and anywhere else the therapeutic power of animals is seen to be effective. While service dogs do specific tasks for their owners, therapy dogs provide comfort and companionship during their visits. Brandy, an Australian Shepherd, will demonstrate his work at the meeting.

Following a brief social time to chat with friends and staff and partake of refreshments, the business meeting will start at 7 p.m.

Board President Nancy Boardman, of Arlington, will introduce new board members, thank outgoing officers, and pass the gavel on to Judy Murphy, of Bennington, who will take on the position.

The President's Award will honor the team of dog walkers who faithfully volunteer their time to see that every dog awaiting adoption gets a chance to take a walk and get some much-needed one-on-one socializing. Their work helps to relieve kennel stress as dogs wait for their "forever homes."

The staff at Second Chance choose an employee of the year to receive a Staff Award, which will be presented by Tina Wheeldon, Manager of Shelter Operations.

A door prize will be given at the meeting.

Tickets will be available to purchase a chance to win a whimsical quilt, handmade by Jane Wright of Cambridge, New York. Tickets will be \$5 each or five for \$20.

The public is invited to attend the annual meeting. To learn more about therapy dogs go to [www.therapydogvt.com](http://www.therapydogvt.com).

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