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## **Celebrate Pets and People Saturday, June 26th**

Put down your barbeque tongs, grab the kids and pets, and hurry over to the Second Annual Bennington Pet Fest on Saturday, June 26th, from 10 a.m. 'til 1 p.m., rain or shine. Located next to the Walloomsac Farmers Market, behind the Bennington Station Restaurant on Depot Street, the Pet Fest, sponsored by Second Chance Animal Center, will offer a host of free, fun ways to learn more about all kinds of animals and strengthen the pet-person bond.

There will be vendors such as Dibble Dogs (T-shirts, cards and other whimsical dog-inspired art and gifts) ... Wagatha's organic dog biscuits, including some new flavors of these popular canine-cookie treats ... and dog and cat gear from Knapp's. Among the exhibitors will be Mrs. Doolittle, animal psychic, hands-on healer and Home Hospice Caregiver (TM) for animals ... the Bennington County Kennel Club, with tons of information about choosing the right dog for you, and then tips on how to care for it ... Janet Andrea of Collie Rescue League of New England, along with "Kenny" ... Caroline Albert of Click for Confidence, who will discuss the ease and benefits of clicker training, as well as demonstrate how it works, using volunteer dogs ... Steve the Groomer Guy with his mobile pet-grooming service. We also hope to welcome back one of last year's most popular guests, the dogs and their people from Caring Canines, who will explain how these wonderful therapy dogs bring joy and warmth to folks in life-care facilities, hospitals and children's homes. Also on hand will be Bennington's own pet photographer, Irene Goyette, and our friends at Mt. Anthony Veterinary Hospital, with helpful information about keeping your pets healthy and happy.

The Pet Fest is also delighted to welcome back Judy the Musical Clown, offering free face-painting and, for a small donation to the shelter, your choice of her many magical balloon creations. There will be games and activities for kids of all ages, as well as many wonderful prizes to be raffled off; winning ticket-holders will get an Orvis outdoor dog bed, gift certificates at local businesses, a Christmas yellow Lab ornament designed by Steven Hunick, and a really special prize -- a We-No-Nah two-seater canoe with paddles and three life jackets (two human and one dog!). Second Chance volunteer dog-walkers will be on hand--and paw--showing off some of our available dogs, and we'll have lots of information about other pets who are waiting at the shelter for their new forever homes.

So come join the fun on Saturday, the 26th. There's lots of parking, and everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Nancy Boardman at 375-6138.

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