



Charley's Strays, Inc.

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Dear Friends,

Meet Tia, our newest addition to the Shelter cats! This Siamese beauty came to us with four kittens, and on the last page you will see a photo of them. More about these felines in Mary's cat report.

First of all I have to make a correction about Cindy's yard sale date: It's going to be on September 11th, not as previously stated, September 16th. So just in case you would like to stop buy and spend some money for goodies which will benefit our animals, I think it would be wise to give you the correct date. ☺ The address again: 143 Winn Street, Woburn, Massachusetts. That's the same street you have to take when you come to our fundraiser. Nothing has changed with the fundraiser date. The big event is still going down on October 16th.

Not much has happened this month at the shelter. No news is good news, I think. We had several people showing up inquiring about dogs: There are some possible adoptions on the horizon, but nothing sure yet. Princess the Shepherd had her last of the series of Adaquin shots and is moving around very well, compared to her mobility when we first took her in our care. It's a difference like day and night. One-eye Bandit collapsed one day, but seemed fine a few minutes later. Ted will be taking him for a checkup since Bandit is overdue for one. I figure it may have been a small seizure, but that's one of those things even a vet will have a hard time to pinpoint on a later date.

Before I move on to our people news, here is something to smile about:

Sister Mary Ann, who worked for a home health agency, was out making her rounds visiting homebound patients when she ran out of gas. As luck would have it, a Texaco Gasoline station was just a block away.

She walked to the station to borrow a gas can and buy some gas. The attendant told her that the only gas can he owned had been loaned out, but she could wait until it was returned. Since Sister Mary Ann was on the way to see a patient, she decided not to wait and walked back to her car..

She looked for something in her car that she could fill with gas and spotted the bedpan she was taking to the patient. Always resourceful, Sister Mary Ann carried the bedpan to the station, filled it with gasoline, and carried the full bedpan back to her car.

As she was pouring the gas into her tank, two Baptists watched from across the street. One of them turned to the other and said,

'If it starts, I'm turning Catholic.'

I would like to thank all of you who have been buying tickets for the fundraiser. As mentioned last month, every penny of this money will be used to buy roofing material for the main kennel building. The small addition's roof is still in good shape, and all the roofs which had been put over the outside runs are fine. Only the original kennel which Jim had built in 1993 has terrible shingles on it, which look like they actually have dissolved.

Thank you very much for the stamps some of you have been sending, they are very much needed and appreciated.

Of course, once again, I would like to send a big **THANK YOU** for helping our animals with food, veterinary care, toys, blankets, and care packages, to:

Alice Winston, Swampscott
Anne Tappan, Cambridge
Arlene Hayes, Reading
Betsy Anderson, Framingham
Carole Parker, Winchendon
Cindy Houston, Woburn
Cristine Cardello, Melrose
Donna Wade, Unity
Dorothy D'Alessandro, Ossipee
Dorothy Watkins, Amesbury
Doug Robertson, Dennis
Enid Hayes, Halifax
George Hinds, Cambridge
Grace Kiley, N. Andover
Inge Maiellano, Marblehead
Iris Martinello, Tewksbury
Irma Simon, S. China
Jean Catignani, Conway
Jim Lavita, Dennis
Joan Ryan, New Bedford
Joe D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro

John Walsh, Waterville
Jon & Barb Anderson, Augusta
Jo Ford, Holden
Joseph Blake, New Bedford
Joseph D'Alessandro, Tuftonb.
Josephine Smith, Woburn
Linda Merriam, Dresden
Lisa D'Alessandro, Raymond
Lorena & Harry Clark, Beverly
Marcia Smith, Bucksport
Marian Delarue, Woburn
Marlene Kaplan, Melrose
Mary Klayda, Winchester
Mary Grace Leniham, Lynnfield
Melody Lavers, Pownal
Mildred Walker, Presque Isle
Nancy Brown, Waltham
Nancy Capone, Wakefield
Pat Thain, Dracut
R.D. Bornival, Nashua
Sandra Nicholson, Beverly

Susan Borsic, Woburn
Steve Martin, Augusta

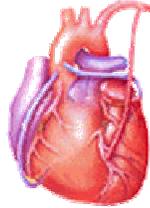


We received a donation in memory of dog "Zing", much missed companion of David and Ginger Zeller, from Alice Winston. Judy Rohweder sent us two checks in honor of the birthday of her two grandchildren, who prefer a gift to the animals to "stuff" for them!

Because of the many replies to the Asparagus info in last month's newsletter, I would like to share with you another interesting article. This may be something good to memorize:

What are you to do if you have a heart attack while you are alone?

The Johnson City Medical Center staff actually discovered this and did an in-depth study on it in our ICU. It is called cough CPR. A cardiologist says it's the truth



Many people are alone when they suffer a heart attack. Without help, the person whose heart is beating improperly and who begins to feel faint has only about 10 seconds left before losing consciousness. However, these victims can help themselves by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously. A deep breath should be taken before each cough, and the cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest. A breath and a cough must be repeated about every two seconds without let up until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again. Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it regain normal rhythm.

This brings me to the end of the newsletter. Following is a photo of one of Tia's kittens, since they all look exactly alike there was no sense in taking any additional pictures. Very cute, and soon very adoptable!



Wishing you a great rest of the summer!

Gabriele, Mary, Karen, Betty, Ted and Jim

CAT REPORT – AUGUST 2010

From no news the last couple months to all kinds of news this month!

First, we didn't get B.W., the cat I was expecting to pick up soon after I wrote the June cat report. The lady who was moving had a yard sale and got into conversation with a customer whose father had recently lost his elderly cat. The father came to meet B.W. and it was love at first sight. It sounds as though B.W. has found an excellent new home; the lady said his new person built a screened porch just for the cat he lost.

Instead, we now have Tia, a petite young Siamese, and her four kittens. If things worked out as planned, you should have seen the photos Teresa's son Brian took at the top of the first page and the bottom of the third page as you read the newsletter. I asked Brian to photograph only one kitten because when you've seen one, you've seen the lot: their coats are alike, gray all over and slightly striped. I think there are two boys and two girls – I hope so, because I've named them Ashley, Grover, Michelle and Ryan. The one who's largest right now is Grover and the smallest one is Ashley, but I assume their relative sizes will change.

Tia and all four babies are available for adoption. The kittens were probably born around Aug.1, so they should be weaned and ready to go around the first of October. Meanwhile, Gabriele suggested anyone who loves kittens but can't take in another cat might sponsor one or more, making monthly payments toward his or her food, litter and vet bills. I don't know how much a kitten costs, so if you'd like to be a sponsor, please invent your own figure and write on the check you send to Gabriele that the money is for one of these cats. And don't worry – if we end up with some sponsored and some not, I'll still feed all of them. ☺

Tia, who's very friendly and obviously someone's pet, was probably dumped when her owner realized she was going to have kittens. A lady who lives in farming territory not far from my house saw her, very pregnant and then not pregnant, and tracked down the kittens. Tia had hidden them between the double walls of the garage, so the lady tore part of her garage to pieces to bring the family into her house. She already has enough rescued pets, including horses, to be a drain on her time and her finances, and the fleas inside the cast on her daughter's broken arm were the final straw; she started calling no-kill shelters and found us. Since the kittens are too young to be treated, there are still a few fleas that I find with a flea comb and drown.

The rest of the crowd is doing as well as usual. Purina/Meg, our senior lady, seems to be in excellent health and spirits. Christopher is slowly pulling out of his summer doldrums; he's eating more and throwing up less and feels as though he's gaining back some of the weight he lost. There was a spell when I went through a roll of paper towels a week just for him -- never mind the hairballs and the occasional oops-I-thought-the-box-was-bigger-than-that incident.

Speaking of litter boxes, the store that's had the lowest price on Tidy Cats kitty litter for years just raised it 50 cents a bag. Simultaneously, the Purina One I use so much of went on sale there -- I've stocked up. The litter's 22.5 cents a pound and the dry food, on sale, over a dollar a pound, so those coupons you-all collect are very welcome. This month, many thanks to Suzanne Belisle, P. A. Lenk, Iris Martinello, Teresa Parent, Willa Rockett, Irma Simon, Judy Smith and John Walsh for coupons; to Karen and the Charles cat for canned food; and, as always, to all of you who help us help our animals enjoy healthy and happy lives.

There's been a minor physical change at my house that some of the cats and I really enjoy, but I'll have to save that tale for next month – no more space!

One more piece of news for my fellow Maineiacs: Our state's Help Fix ME program recruited volunteers to answer phone calls from people needing financial help to have their cats and dogs altered, and as a result gave out \$193,000 worth of vouchers in eight weeks this spring. The other result is that the program is out of funds again; but so far this year, it's issued vouchers to help get almost 2,300 cats and dogs spayed and neutered. Too bad Tia's folks didn't get one! ☺