



Charley's Stray's, Inc.

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Limestone, July, 2011

Dear Friends,

As you know by now, I am not much good at begging, but looking at above photo I can't stop wondering if that's what we are going to end up doing some day, (hopefully not in the near future) to find the necessary funds that our Shelter can survive.

Many of our "old" supporters may remember that Charley made his weekly/monthly telephone calls to them, begging for help. Well, I will never do that. But this month was a VERY bad one, and I was tempted.

By the middle of the month we had received only seven donations; it picked up a little towards the end, but nowhere close enough to pay the bills. There was an emergency vet-visit with over \$600, the taxes from the Town of Benton matched that amount and needed to be paid, there were the regular vet bills, expensive special dog food for our Elly – this is the only type of food we found what will put a little bit of meat on her bones, without having to explain to everybody why she looks like a concentration camp survivor! Of course the regular bills like paycheck for Reb, electric bill, insurance, and all the smaller bills, which need to be paid in order to run an animal shelter. The State charges \$100 for the license, the insurance we have to have charges \$1500, so were to take it from when hardly anything is coming in!

Things all over the country are so bad that now we actually have people calling us asking for help. There was this man telling us he has three dogs and no money coming in until the first of next month, none left because there was an emergency with broken pipes in his home. "I don't want to have to get rid of my dogs", he said, "but I can't feed them". So of course we have to help out in situations like that. So Jim, who happened to be at the Shelter last week, took a couple of bags with dog food to the man, met the three dogs, and all was well. Believe me, it's still far less expensive to help than take in the dogs.

So, long story cut short, we are a bit in the dumps, again. And once again, we need your help. Thank you for any spare change ☺ you can afford to give us!



The dogs and people at the Shelter are doing well. They all have to deal with a very muggy summer, but thanks to a small children's pool, the canines, which are not afraid of the wet element, are enjoying playtime in the pool. After rolling around in the sand, and then taking a dip into the water, the pool does not look very appetizing late afternoon, but so far our pump in the well is still working fine and supplying our critters with the means to enjoy cooling-of time.

No dog-placements this month, and no newcomers because of that – we are as usual filled to the top. I did receive a very nice email from a lady who adopted little Laddie a few months ago and I always love to share the good news with you, too:

Hello Charley's Strays!

I just wanted to give you an update on Laddie who we now call Jack. I was hoping to send this earlier but life can be crazy so here we are.

Jack has been an absolutely wonderful addition to our family. He has no trouble at all getting comfortable. His favorite thing is to get on the bed and get under the covers. We took him to a training class where he has learned some good manners. We are still working on some issues with jumping on people as well as coming when he is called. At first he completely ignored me but I figured that would make sense since we changed his name. Now he listens much better. We have discovered that he must have some Beagle in him since he will totally ignore anyone if he is tracking a scent. We also think he has Bulldog since he will pick up anything and try to eat or destroy it. He is clearly very smart. He learned that if he is going to be in my daughter's room at bedtime that her stuffed animals are not a good chew toy since he sees we are not happy with his decision. So a couple of nights ago he went and got his Nylabone so he could hang out in her room while she got ready for bed and would not be tempted by all those perfect chew toys. He is a big love (see the picture of my daughter hugging him). If she gets too overwhelming to him he just keeps licking her face until she cannot take it anymore and leaves him alone. Again – very smart tactic! He is a little afraid of the cats but has worked out an agreement with them. He will tolerate the black and white cat since he is very friendly and he will make sure he is on the opposite side of the room from the gray cat. The gray cat is enjoying his power and Jack is happy just steering clear of him. He occasionally tries to play with the gray cat but in typical cat fashion he just stares Jack down until he walks away.

Thank you for bringing Jack into our lives. We just love him!!!

Take care and keep up the good work!

Megan

Unbelievable but true; three more months and we have our annual fundraiser, again. I won't bore you with my usual: Time flies.☺ Where did it fly to?

Anyway, enclosed you will find the three tickets again for the fundraiser – no building projects on the horizon, no \$\$\$ for that, but looking ahead to a cold winter with ridiculous fuel prices, so once again, the money we will make from selling these tickets will be used to keep our animals warm next winter.

If you have no use for them, just throw them away. If you need more for friends or people you are trying to alienate by making them buy tickets, let me know. I can print plenty more!

The first prize, again, will be \$300. And there will be plenty more prizes to raffle off. What exactly I will let you know by October, we are just starting to collect.

Please remember Cindy Houston's yard sale in September; here is her phone number again, in case you find something you have not used for the past five years in your closet. Then it's really time to get rid of it; unless it's a dog or cat hiding out in the closet. You should keep him.
Tel. 781-932-3387. Thank you.

Thank you to all of you kind-hearted people who did not forget our animals last month, and who helped us with food, care-packages, stamps, and their donations:

Al Smith, Belmont
Carole Parker, Winchendon
Cindy Houston, Woburn
Cristine Cardello, Melrose
Dale Critchley, S. Weymouth
Donna Bering, Lynn
Dorothy D'Allessandro, Ossipee
Dorothea Andrews, Warwick
Enid Hayes, Halifax
Iris Martinello, Tewksbury

Irma Simon, S. China
Joe D'Allessandro, Tuftonboro
Jon & Barb Anderson, Augusta
Joseph Blake, New Bedford
Josephine Smith, Woburn
Judy Rohweder, Northport
Linda Merriam, Dresden
Lorena & Harry Clark, Beverly
Marcia Smith, Bucksport
Marian Delarue, Woburn

Marlene Kaplan, Melrose
Mary Klayda, Winchester
Mildred Walker, Presque Isle
Pat Thain, Dracut
R. D. Bournival, Nashua
Ralph & Jean Catignani, Conway
Robert Hull, Lawrence
Sandra Nicholson, Beverly

We received a donation in memory of Penny Gustafson & George Talbot from Enid Hayes, and Judy Rohweder sent us a check in honor of her grandchildren's Sarah and Kevin's birthday. Al Smith sent us a check in memory of his wife, Judy. Thank you!

Need to know how to feed foxes? Karen Deady, the teacher whose kids rolled pennies for us, told me all about the little ones which are hanging around her yard:

My baby foxes are growing sooooooo fast. They are visible throughout the day. This morning all three were sitting in a row on my front lawn. They are about the size of my male cat, maybe even a little bigger. Two of them run when I go out but one sits right there while I feed the birds. I talk to him and he looks at me and listens. I think he even understands what I'm saying to him. There was a car coming this morning and he didn't run until it was right in front of my house. I'm afraid he's too tame.

They eat in my hay storage barn. One morning I put three powdered donuts down. I took my dog for a run and when I came back two little foxes were sitting in the sun with that white powder all over their faces. I need to get a camera! Everyone laughed when I told them but they couldn't appreciate it without seeing it I cracked right up! It would take the cake anywhere. Or should I say it would take the donut. I went to Waterville yesterday and they had no donuts!

That's all for today; have a great month. Stay happy and healthy.

Gabriele, Mary, Karen, Ted and Jim





CAT REPORT – JULY 2011

I hope you and your four-legged friends survived our July heat wave. The cats did all right. The two air-conditioned rooms stayed comfortable, of course, and the rest of the house wasn't too bad. The day it got up to 94 degrees on the porch I bribed as many cats as I could inside and shut the door on them. They lay on the comparatively cool dining room floor sulking and glaring at me because I wouldn't let them back out!

I was on vacation just before the heat wave – had I listened to a weather forecast, I might not have come home. ☺ As usual, Teresa and her family took excellent care of the cats. I was afraid Alison might not be here when I got back, but she was, and is still doing fine; a little wobbly at times, but she eats well, purrs well and seems happy. Assuming a somewhere near correct birthdate (it's on my list as "1995?"), she's in her 16th year now. Her son Robin will be 14 next month, and Agnes and Shy-High, whom I acquired about the same time as Alison and Robin, had their 14th birthdays in May. Neither Robin nor Agnes looks old; Shy-High is a bit thin and raggedy (not that he ever was fat), but he acts as though he feels okay.

And many thanks to all the rest of you who help keep the whole Charley's Strays venture afloat. Thanks to the cats' friends: Suzanne Belisle, P. A. Lenk, Sandra Nicholson, Teresa, Willa Rockett, Irma Simon and Al Smith for coupons (and those dollars off really do help), Cathy and Jeff and Pepper the Charles' handsome cat for cat food.