

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, BUY A WREATH ~ CHANGE A LIFE !



www.worcesterwreath.com or 1-855-876-3772

Order anytime, starting NOW -- holiday shipping is underway! Choose from their entire catalog of balsam and twig wreaths, tabletop decor, garlands, balsam pillows and more. You can even support 'Wreaths Across America' - decorating graves at Arlington & other veteran cemeteries - by ordering 'the Patriot Pair'. Because you are supporting our animal rescue fundraiser, you save 10% off your order. And best of all, Worcester Wreaths will donate 25% of your purchase to CHARLEY'S STRAYS, helping Maine animals in need! Learn more at www.charleysstrays.org.



Your one simple action can translate into many good deeds! Order holiday wreaths and greenery (for yourself, or to give as gifts) from the only small family business in downeast Maine that manages its own balsam woodlands as a source for its beautiful Made in Maine products! And by using our promo code, you save 10% off your purchase and Worcester Wreath will also donate a generous **25%** of your order to **Charley's Strays, Inc.** - a small Maine non-profit organization tirelessly dedicated to providing refuge, while seeking loving homes for, abandoned and abused dogs, as well as cats and other animals in need.

HOW IT WORKS Order for yourself, or choose gifts to be shipped anywhere (it's easy, and you'll be so glad you did!)

- 1. visit www.worcesterwreath.com and place your order**
- 2. be sure to enter **CSI 2011** in the coupon code box**
- 3. you save 10% -- and 25% goes to Charley's Strays, Inc.**

Zap, shown above and at right, is happy to serve again this year as the Maine holiday wreath spokes-dog. Can you believe that he was once homeless and unwanted? Thanks to the collaboration of dedicated volunteers, he now has a loving forever home, and a family who couldn't begin to imagine life without him. It's no wonder he's smiling... we all are!

Organizing this fundraiser is one way Zap and his family are trying to give back to the dedicated nonprofit organization that brought our lives together. We hope you will consider taking part -- this is a win-win way to boost holiday cheer all around!

Zap is shown here modeling the Worcester Wreath Company's 24" decorated balsam holiday wreath.



Charley's Strays, Inc.
Mailing address: P. O. Box 64, Limestone, ME 04750
Tel. Shelter 207-426-9482 or Jim at 207-325-8894
www.charleysstrays.org

Limestone, November, 2011

Dear Friends,

Twenty some days to Christmas, and then a few more days to the New Year; once again it seems the year of 2011 has gone by so fast that I wonder if I am in some kind of time warp. It just started, and poof - it's gone.

In order not to waste any more valuable time, I will get right to the Shelter news. It was a sad month at Charley's Strays. Our "Queen of the Kennel", Sassy, had to leave us. She is now at the Pearly Gates, hopefully running around with the rest of our gang who have died throughout the years. Sassy did not feel well one day, and within a few hours became very weak. Rebecca needed the help of a neighbor to get Sassy into the car in order to take her to the vet. Dr. Slack found a burst tumor on her spleen. He said surgery would not only be very expensive, but her life would only last from a couple of days to a couple of month max after surgery. And all along she would be in pain. He advised to put her to sleep. As Mary said a week later; "The kennel is not the same without Sassy." I believe our Sassy had been with us for at least ten years. We miss her very much.

It seems as older we get, animals and humans alike, as more aches and pains pop up. I wonder many times who the person was who came up with "The Golden Years" line. My own dog that is a lab/basset hound mix and prone to bad legs and bones, has had lots of problems walking and getting up. She had two knee

surgeries, which went fine, but still, I can tell the pain is there. The vet prescribed *Remidy* for pain and inflammation, but I know what these meds do to the kidneys and liver. So I have tried all kinds of natural things, but none seemed to work. Several months ago Susanna, the lady who is involved with "Dogs Deserve Better", another Maine rescue, gave me a bottle of *Dasuquin* tablets for my Nikki. I did not think much of them because I have tried so many things. But after she was on that for about a month, I did notice a difference in her walking and getting up. Now she has been on it for almost three months, and starting a week ago she has running spurts which she has not had for years. A three month supply for large dogs cost \$58.00, and free shipping. Here is the phone number if you would like to give it a try for your own old dog: 1-866-473-8432.

I have had a similar problem; lots of arthritis, and lots of pain. A friend of ours gave me a can of something he said was all-natural, and he praised it as THE WONDER DRUG. Again, I did not think much of it, but when I said to him that in my experience all the natural things needed months before they kicked in, he told me that was not so with this stuff; I should feel a difference within the first 3-4 days. OK, since he gave it to me as a gift, I figured I had nothing to lose, and tried it. Now this is some amazing stuff! Jim and I took it for about a week, a difference like day and night with the aches and pains! The week after our initial taking it, Jim went to the Shelter for several days and did not take any. He came back and said he was hurting all over again. Back on the stuff, and voila; he felt much better. We took it for about 2-3 months, every day one scoop, and then stopped. Now we only take it when some arthritis pain starts again, then we use it for 3-4 days, and it's all better. So if you are interested, check it out on the Internet- you can't buy it in any store. My friend orders it for me, but you can get it through a distributor directly on the net. It is called Arthafect. The phone number is 1-800-735-4887. It cost around \$60.00 a month if you take it every day, but it is well worth it. It has only natural ingredients, like Ginko leaves, cat's claw bark, burdock, alfalfa, bilberry, devils claw, etc.

So much to the health of our animals and human friends, now to the rest of the story ☺

Once again we received blankets, food, treats, some medication from a lady whose dog passed away, stamps, which are much appreciated, and the checks with your donations, which keep us afloat.

Al Smith, Belmont,
Barbara & Don Chase, Waterville
Carole Parker, Winchendon
Cindy Houston, Woburn
Craig Oliver, Hermon
Cristine Cardello, Melrose
Dale Critchley, S. Weymouth
Dorothy D'Alessandro, Ossipee
Dorothy Eckstein, Medford
Dr. Alan Bachrach, Petersham
Emile Jorgensen, E. Boston
Enid Hayes, Halifax
Glenna Hawthorne, Woburn
Inge Maiellano, Marblehead

Iris Martinello, Tewksbury
Irma Simon, S. China
Jackie Lowney, New Bedford
Jean & Ralph Catignani, Conway
Joe Blake, New Bedford
Joe D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro
Jon & Barb Anderson, Augusta
Josephine Smith, Woburn
Judy Rohweder, Northport
Linda Merriam, Dresden
Lorena & Harry Clark, Beverly
Manuel German, Reading
Marcia Smith, Bucksport
Marcus Nordberg, Topsham

Marian Delarue, Woburn
Marlene Kaplan, Melrose
Mary Klayda, Winchester
Melody Lavers, Pownal
Mildred Walker, Presque Isle
Nancy Crawford, Cambridge
Pat Thain, Dracut
R. D. Bournival, Nashua
Robert Hull, Lawrence
Sandra Nicholson, Beverly
Susan Borsic, Woburn
Target Auto
Viola McDonald, Woburn



Not much else to write about this month. Everything is well at the Shelter; so far we have been very lucky with the weather, (other than 6" of very wet snow a week ago) –but we have not needed any heat yet to keep our 4-feet warm. Hopefully it stays like that the rest of this winter ☺

Here is something nice I wanted to share with our dog-people:

If you can be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,

If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,

If you can eat the same food everyday and be grateful for it,

If you can understand when loved ones are too busy to give you time,

If you can overlook when people take things out on you when, through no fault of yours, something goes wrong,

If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,

If you can face the world without lies and deceit,

If you can conquer tension without medical help,

If you can relax without liquor,

If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,

Then . . . you are probably a dog.

That's all for my part of this letter. Please read on, more news from Mary to follow.

Wishing you, your family and friends a wonderful Holiday season, and thank you again for helping our animals!



Gabriele, Mary, Ted and Jim



CAT REPORT – NOVEMBER 2011

As I promised last month, a report on the November house call: a whole bunch of cats, some Charley's and some mine and other people's fosters, got vaccinated. As usual, the vet, the tech and I did some very undignified crawling under beds to fetch the recalcitrant ones. However, no person got hurt, and no cat was adversely affected by the shots – not even a skipped supper this year.

There was, however, quite a bit of follow-up. One of the follow-ups was Shy-High, who went in to have his teeth cleaned and loose ones pulled. Dr. Heather found a long lump in his mouth and throat, probably cancerous but so flat she couldn't even get a bit for a biopsy. Shy's on piroxicam, which sometimes retards the growth of cancers and once, the very first time I used it, made an aggressive tumor go away. So far Shy's doing extremely well. he piroxicam goes into canned food, and the meals have been getting bigger and bigger as he eats better and better.

I think piroxicam must enhance appetites – one of my own cats is on it, too, and also eating enthusiastically.

Otherwise, all's well. Alison and Lisa, being on hand in the kitchen, got some chicken for Thanksgiving – I wasn't sure how they'd like turkey, but I know they approve of chicken. Ali's getting independent; one sunny day she insisted on joining the dining room cats after breakfast and went out on the porch for a few minutes with some of them. We're enjoying delightfully mild weather in central Maine, with the snow melting almost as fast as it fell the day before Thanksgiving.

Many thanks, as always, to the cats' friends. A bag left at the kennel gate one day contained cat toys and collars and several sheets, which are more useful for the cats' beds than for the dogs – we don't know who left them. Pepper Charles provided food; Irma Simon brought food, treats and litter; and coupons came from Suzanne Belisle, P. A. Lenk, Teresa Parent, Irma Simon and Al Smith (that I know about – every now and then I get a pleasant surprise when Gabriele sends down a bunch from Limestone). Someone asked me if the coupons really matter: the answer is absolutely yes. I'm not an extreme couponer like the person recently interviewed on public radio who's cut her grocery bill by three-fourths, but when I have coupons for something I intend to buy I use them, occasionally I try something new because I have a coupon, and what I don't use I share with other people in the area cat-rescue network. I don't get a Sunday paper, so I'm delighted that you-all are willing to clip for me.

I hope all of you had a pleasant Thanksgiving. Mine was peaceful, with extra time to spend with the cats. And, since the next newsletter probably won't reach you before Christmas, let me wish you an unstressful shopping season and a very merry Christmas.