



## Charley's Strays, Inc.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 64, Limestone ME 04750  
Tel. Shelter 207-426-9482 or Jim at 207-325-8894

**New web address:** [www.charleysstrays.us](http://www.charleysstrays.us)

Limestone, February 29, 2012

### Dear Friends,

And here we are again, safe and sound, back from Florida! We enjoyed some "quality time" whatever that means (if dogs have it, people do to, I guess). It was beautiful weather in the low to mid 80s, no rain, and no snow. Honestly, we are all happy to be back at home. We can take only so much of the nice stuff, and then we crave the hostile weather again. I think. Or maybe it's just sleeping in our own beds?

On the other hand, with the mild winter we have had so far, who needs Florida anyway. Even though we have a couple of feet of snow on the ground up here in northern Maine, for the past few days we have seen a single Robin flying around here. She seems to live off the apples from our crabapple tree. I feel so bad for the poor thing. Robins are no seed eaters; their diet consists mostly of worms and bugs, so how is she going to survive for the next month? So far we have never had a March up here without loads of snow and bitter cold.

The mild winter definitely has been a God-send to our shelter: The heating bills and electric bills are manageable, and for a change I am not worrying my head off as to where to take the money from for next month's fuel bill. We do have quite a few VERY old dogs that need more warmth, now; old Davy who must be around 15, seems to shake more often than usual, but will not accept wearing a coat. So it's either him being cold, or turn up the heat. Our Dante on the other hand loves his fake-fur-lined jacket, looks quite dashing in it and only takes it off when it gets too warm for him. Of course taking it off leaves it a bit shredded.☺

We did lose one dog in January, Mooshoo. He was fine one day, acted strange and fell over while having his daily outside playtime. Reb ran to get a blanket, but by the time she came back he was up and walking again. Later on that night he just died. The vet thinks he had a stroke; there was nothing we could have done for him.

Speaking of vets, our veterinarian, Dr. Slack, passed away a couple of months ago. We have a new vet now, "Hometown Veterinary Care" out of Fairfield. It's run by two veterinarians who used to work for Kennebec Vet, a clinic Charley had used and we also had been using for the first few years after Charley

died. We do feel comfortable with the expertise of Dr. Townsend and Dr. Walsh. For those of you, who rather make out your donation check to the vet, please do make it out to "Hometown Veterinary care". Thank you.

I have **not** forgotten to list all the people who helped us out for the past two months. But as mentioned in January's newsletter, I could not include your names because I was away. I wrote January's letter in the late part of December, printed it and left it here for a friend to mail by the end of January. Again I apologize; I know several of you were disappointed because they did not see their name mentioned; it was just not possible to do so.

But: better late than never and here they are:

Our supporter Karen Rapallo appealed to many of her friends who work at the Children's Hospital in Boston, to help our dogs and cats. Margaret Allen, Pauline Connaughton, Richard Cappock and Dr. Michele Walters gave us checks, many, many toys, treats, cat and dog beds: Some really great stuff. Thank you so much to all of you!

Then we received donations in loving memory of the following pets:

**Ellie Mae** aka Farah (Farah was one of the first dogs we took in after Charley died, and she stayed with us for many years before she eventually was adopted) from "Koot", Jack and Alex Cappock.

**Smokey** the Husky, who was adopted by Beverly Maheu, also quite a long time ago

**Tula**, beloved dog of Jackie Lowney – the donation in her memory came from Joan Ryan... Lance and Lee Wallace mailed us a check in honor of Kudo and Yankee Culver who are living the GREAT LIFE at the Culver residence.

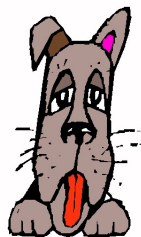
**Bridget**, adopted Charley'dog who now resides in splendor with the Buckmores- Lynne Kaplowitz mailed a donation in her honor.

We also received donations in honor and memory of the following people:

On behalf of Deborah Sommer in loving memory of Paul Sommer, from the Sommer Foundation. In lieu of Christmas gifts to her mom, Marian and sister Susan we received a check from Gail Delarue. Maureen Dowd mailed us a donation in lieu of Christmas presents for her brother Kevin and sister-in-law. Viola McDonald received Christmas-checks from various relatives and friends; all the checks were made out to Charley's Strays.

# A Huge

Thank You



**Heartfelt thanks goes to the following supporters of our animals:**

Al Smith, Belmont  
Barb & Jon Anderson, Augusta  
Barbara Sitoski, McAdoo  
Beverly Maheu, China Village  
Carole Parker, Winchendon  
Cindy Houston, Woburn  
Craig Oliver, Hermon  
Cristine Cardello, Melrose  
Dale Critchley, S. Weymouth  
David Hingston, Chelmsford  
Donna Bering, Lynn  
Donna Wade, Unity  
Dorothy D'Alessandro, Ossipee  
Dorothy Eckstein, Medford  
Dr. Bachrach, Petersham  
Elizabeth Morgen, Portland?  
Enid Hayes, Halifax  
Erin Zibrowski, Burlington  
G & R Welch, Stonington  
Gail Delarue, Woburn  
Galen & Cynthia Thompson,  
Harry & Lorena Clark, Beverly

Iris Martinello, Tewksbury  
Jackie Lowney, Medford  
Jean & Ralph Catignani, Con.  
Jean Tillson  
Jennie Bering, Lynn  
Joe D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro  
John Caswell, Newport  
John Wells, Oakland  
Joseph Blake, New Bedford  
Joseph Kogut, Upton  
Josephine Ford, Holden  
Josephine Smith, Woburn  
Judith Gallo, Canton  
Judith Archer, Canton  
Judy Rohweder, Northport  
Karen Pirello, Stoneham  
Kellee Lowney, Medford  
Lance & Lee Wallace, Reston  
Linda Merriam, Dresden  
Marcia Smith, Bucksport  
Marian Delarue, Woburn  
Marie O'Brian, Pawtucket

Marlene Kaplan, Melrose  
Mary Klayda, Winchester  
Maureen Dowd, Sargentville  
Melody Lavers, Pownal  
Mildred Walker, Presque Isle  
Nancy Brown, Waltham  
Nancy Capone, Wakefield  
Pat Thain, Dracut  
Patricia Lynch, Chelmsford  
Phil Mann, Rowland Heights  
R.D. Bournival, Nashua  
Rita Lawrence, Reading  
Rizzo Family, Bryant Pond  
Robert Hull, Lawrence  
Rust Pappathanasi, Swampscott  
Sally Sawyer, Albany  
Sandra Nicholson, Beverly  
Shirley Rancourt, Lebanon  
Susan Borsic, Woburn  
The Sommer Foundation  
Viola McDonald, Woburn

Without your help our animals and our Shelter would not be here anymore. **Thank you very much!**

That's all for my part of the newsletter for this month; on the next page you can catch up to all of Mary's cat news. Wishing you a wonderful March with no snow, lots of sunshine, and temperatures in the low to mid 60s 😊

**Gabriele**  
**Mary, Karen, Ted and Jim**

PS: A reminder: Please do mail your donations to Limestone- they will eventually find their way to me, but it takes much longer if you mail them to Clinton. So here is the address again:

**Charley's Strays**  
**P.O. Box 64**  
**Limestone, ME 04750**





## CAT REPORT – JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2012

Our cats had a lovely Christmas back in 2011 – how long ago that seems now! Karen gave them food and two nice scratching posts and one of those cubes they enjoy playing in and on. Teresa and her family provided food plus a couple new litter boxes and a bag of hand-knit toys stuffed with home-grown catnip. My neighbor Kathy brought still more food. And a little Yorkie named Saffy, who weighs less than my smallest cat, sent the kennel a big box of toys intended for the dogs, only some of them were, as Saffy's human pointed out, too small to be safe for big dogs; but, Rebecca suggested and I agreed, they're just the right size for cats. The box included balls, which it's hard to have too many of, considering how often they end up inaccessible under furniture or the heating system (the cats get them under, I can't get them out) or behind the litter box. I hope Saffy doesn't mind having cats playing with some of her gifts. ☺

After Christmas, the cats (and the dogs) received more gifts from a doctor in Boston, I believe the same one who sent a lot of nice beds a year ago. In February, our friend Jane in Alaska sent the annual Valentine box with toys and catnip. I think the Alaskan catnip harvest must have been unusually good: I gave the cats in the dining room part of a bag, and before the day was over they'd gone so wild all the furniture, theirs and mine alike, was completely rearranged.

Then one day when I was checking out of the grocery with my usual basket of cat food – only 60 cans, because it wasn't on sale, but this grocery had the lowest price in town at the moment – I got talking with the lady ahead of me in line and explained that I rescued cats and therefore had a houseful. Before she left, she handed me \$5 for the cats, and said she had two of her own.

Plus I've been given lots of coupons these last two months, from Suzanne Belisle, P. A. Lenk, Teresa Parent, Irma Simon and Al Smith – I've probably used at least \$15 worth, and still have a few left. Pepper Charles sent canned food. The cats are lucky to have so many people who help them, and I'm very grateful to everyone who supports this enterprise.

The sad news is that we lost Shy High. The tumor in his mouth didn't respond to treatment, and when it got to the point where he couldn't eat even canned food mixed with warm water, I had to give up. He would have been 15 in May, so he had a decently long life, and I think a reasonably happy one.

I hope all of you have had a good winter and are looking forward to spring. It's been mild enough here so that the snowdrops that usually start coming up in March are already showing their tips – but as I write this, there's snow and cold in the forecast, so winter's not quite over yet.