



Charley's Strays, Inc.
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Limestone, May 30, 2012

Dear Friends,

Above photo was named: "Every cat should have a dog". But not every human should have a cat! A couple of days ago I received a plea from a woman whose mother started out with two cats four years ago, she now has over 30! Every one an offspring from the original two cats. The woman says she needs help, we should take them, after all that's what we are here for. I told her she should have gotten in touch with us four years ago when we could have helped neutering/spaying the pair, now it's too late. We can neither afford to pay the bills to have 30 plus cats fixed, nor do we have the space to take them in. I get so disgusted at the human race at times like this! That is just one case of many - you would not believe the phone calls and emails we receive almost every day.

I realize that with the economy down in the slumps it's even harder to take care off the animals, but this is ridiculous. There is no need to let the animals mate like crazy when it's common knowledge that inbred creatures have lots of health problems for one, and since there are millions being euthanized every year, there is no need to breed, and breed, and breed. Okay, I am all done venting. ☹

Now to the Shelter news, which is not much (that's good news☺): No newcomers, none were adopted. We had to hit the credit card with a huge vet bill to buy our 6-month's summer supply of heartworm pills; and the second half of the bill for Jasper's heartworm treatment was due, too. Again he had to stay at the vet for a day or two to keep him calm, but it looks like he is all done with his 4-week treatment, and everything went well.

Jim spent a couple of days at the Shelter. He picked up a large load of canned food and treats for our critters at the Good Shepherd Food Bank. But, Good Shepherd is not getting any dry food in and have not been getting any for quite awhile. Reb said she would try to stretch the dry food we still have in storage with more canned food, but she has to be careful with that as they seem to get diarrhea when they get to much canned food. So, it looks like we are going to have to start buying dry food for our dogs, which will add quite a bit to our expenses. Maybe the people who will come to our fundraiser in October can start looking for sales on dry food and bring some along for

us? But please, none of the colored stuff that also gives them diarrhea, just the plain old brown food without food coloring. Thanks!

I will start including tickets next month with the newsletter. I just want to give you time telling you now already, so maybe you can save some pennies to buy a ticket or two from us ☺. It looks like the pastor of the church where we have the fundraiser, is inviting several other groups/shelters to participate, and there will be an animal blessing and lots of other things going on. More about that next month.

In the meantime, I am running out of Thank-you cards, or any other cards with the exception of Christmas and birthday cards. I have enough of them to last me for the next 10 years. So if you receive polar bears and snowflake cards from me, don't think I have totally lost it, it's just that I am not going to spend money to buy cards. If you have some lying around and you don't need them, send them my way, please.

Since we are at the Thank-you's, I just keep going with saying **THANK YOU** to all of you who have supported us again this month, and who are responsible that our critters had all the food and comfort and TLC they need. Well, maybe not enough TLC, a home of their own would be better- but I really do believe they are quite content with their lives at Charley's Strays.

Thank you for the stamps, the coupons, the packages, the checks, and for caring!

Al Smith, Belmont	Irma Simon, China	Marlene Kaplan, Melrose
Brandon Lary, Hartland	Jean & Ralph Catignani, Conw.	Mary Klayda, Winchester
Carole Parker, Winchendon	John Caswell, Newport	Mildred Walker, Presque Isle
Cindy Houston, Woburn	Jon & Barb Anderson, Augusta	Nancy Capone, Wakefield
Dale Critchley, S. Weymouth	Joseph Blake, New Bedford,	P.A. Lenk, China Village
Dorothy D'Alessandro, Ossipee	Josephine Smith, Woburn	R & G. Welch, Stonington
Dorothy Eckstein, Medford	Judith Hampton, Cambridge	R.D. Bournival, Nashua
Enid Hayes, Halifax	Judy Rohweder, Northport	Sandra Nicholson, Beverly
George Watkins, Amesbury	Linda Merriam, Dresden	Susan Borsic, Woburn
Inge Maiellano, Marblehead	Lorena & Harry Clark, Beverly	Viola McDonald, Woburn
	Marcia Smith, Bucksport	
	Marian Delarue, Woburn	

As you probably can tell, the list of names is getting shorter every month. So I was really grateful when I received a copy of the following mail, one of our supporters had sent to another animal-organization:

Dear Caring Folks at BarkBox,

I wanted to let you know of a wonderful, no-kill shelter in Clinton, Maine. Three and a half years ago, we adopted our lovable Basenji-mix, Bridget, from them (I've attached a photo of our little ray of sunshine). We had also adopted Bobo, a yellow-lab mix, back in the mid-90s.

Charley's Strays is a very caring shelter that operates with one part-time staff person and a few loyal volunteers. Because of this, money to take care of the bare necessities is often hard to come by. The cats they take care of are housed in a volunteer's home because they do not have the resources to build housing for them. Because they are a no-kill shelter, they often have animals with health and/or behavioral issues who will spend the rest of their lives there. This is very costly.

Charley's is a place where animals are loved and taken care and that deserves any help that comes their way. I hope you will consider being that helping hand that will make a difference. Please visit their web site at www.charleysstrays.us.

Thank you for all you do to help shelter animals.

Bonnie Buckmore

Thanks Bonnie for helping spread the word about us!! And thanks to everyone who is helping us to continue our work! **THANK YOU!**

That's all the news I have for you – please read on, Mary's cat report is following on the next page.

Oh yes, one more thing; Maine is trying to put a seatbelt-law for pets in effect: (no kidding!)



ARE WE THERE YET?

Have a wonderful month of June with lots of sunshine, and very few black flies and mosquitoes

Gabriele, Mary, Ted and Jim



...every cat should have a dog....

CAT REPORT – MAY 2012

All our cats are much as they were a month ago, except some of them are more so – like Grover, who was beginning to be friendly with me, is now almost as likely to ask for attention as his sister and brother are. When I first got them, none was especially shy; it was going to the vet that disillusioned Grover, and it's taken him a while to get over it.

Alison, our oldest girl, seems to be feeling fine. She eats well, moves from kitchen to dining room to porch depending on the weather and her mood, and generally acts as though life still pleases her. All the group in the dining room and on the porch are younger than she is and most of them are bigger, but they don't give her any trouble, at least not deliberately. The playful ones, like Grover, Ashley and Ryan, occasionally stagger her as they tear past or jump over her in their exuberance.

When Ali's in the kitchen, she and Lisa keep swapping beds – it used to be each had a favorite spot, but now I never know which one I'll find where. Sometimes Lisa is in the wastebasket where Ali created a bed (I hadn't intended to have one there) and slept regularly for months; and Ali occasionally jumps into the basket on the back shelf where I meant to store plastic bags, not cats, until Lisa turned that, too, into a napping place.

Many thanks, again, to the cats' friends. I got lots of coupons for food and litter from Suzanne Belisle, P. A. Lenk, Teresa Parent, Irma Simon, Al Smith and Gail Walsh. Pepper Charles gave them some canned food, and his and my friends Robert & Norma brought a nice light-weight blanket that makes a fine bed.