



Charley's Strays, Inc.

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Limestone, March, 2012

Dear friends,

I hope you are enjoying this perfect spring weather as much as these two do. Several days ago I was sitting on my lawn chair outside marveling over temperatures we normally have in June, up here in the northern part of Maine, never in March. Of course this early summer with close to 80 degrees did not last for more than a few days, but while it did, I surely took advantage of every sunray!

This warm weather also helped us tremendously with our heating bill at the shelter; as donations were way down this month and I barely had enough to pay Reb's wages and the electric bill. Hopefully next month will be better one money-wise, as I am behind in paying some of the other invoices. Mary has the spring-vaccination scheduled for April for the cats, and I have no idea how to pay for the vet's invoice.

Since pictures say more than words, here is one describing our situation:



We did not only break records weather-wise, but also broke one at the Shelter: Davy, our little dog who originally came from somewhere in Massachusetts, has been with us this month for 14 years! We never could place him because he would bite every new person he met, one time, just to let them know who they were dealing with. He

never bit a second time, but of course that did not help placing him. In the past five years he has mellowed out and does not bite any more; but nobody wants him anymore, either. He always was one of my favorite dogs, and I would have liked nothing more than to take him home; but he seems to hate my own dogs. Davy is now somewhere between 16 and 17 years old, a bit shaky, but still runs around and seems to be quite happy.

More dog-news: A couple of weeks ago we received a letter from "Almost Home rescue", telling us about a dog named "Jackson", who was on the list to be euthanized. Here is part of the letter:

Jackson came to Maine from another rescue and, unfortunately, he learned how to guard and dominate the house by his adopters. They loved him, but they also let him rule the house. His owners brought Jackson, who is about 5 years old, to a vet in Southern Maine to be euthanized because they could no longer deal with him. The vet thought he was so well behaved that she couldn't do it.

AHR was called and we had a canine behaviorist do a 24-hour evaluation of Jackson and we hated to see him put down and his original rescue would not take him back. Honestly -- you will never hear a story of AHR not taking back one of our dogs -- we always do.

Jackson has two issues -- he is a guarder of high value items and he is, what has been described to me, as a truly "dominant dog". In a house, he takes over and runs the house by demanding what he wants, in a potentially unfriendly way, from the members of the household. However, in a kennel, shelter or day care setting, he is perfect. He gets along with dogs and people alike. I am told that Jackson learned how to control the house in his adoptive home.

Please, please, please -- would you please take Jackson? He will thrive in a sanctuary setting and be very happy.



And this is Jackson [see above]. After I saw his photo, I could not say no, and asked Reb if she could make another space available for the little guy. Because of Mooshoo's demise a couple of months ago, she could, and this week Jackson will be moving in at Charley's Strays, probably for the rest of his life; unless you want to take up the challenge? 😊

Now to the people-news:

Many of you noticed that something was up with the website – it was no longer accessible. Our Webmaster accidentally let the time run out, and some company from St. Kitts and Nevis bought the domain name, charleysstrays.org and is trying to hold us ransom by selling it back to us, probably for a ridiculous price. So our Webmaster changed it to charleysstrays.us.

The name is the same, only the dot org changed to dot us. By now it should be pretty much on top of the search-engine-lists. Sorry about any inconvenience to you!

We received a donation in memory of Penny, beloved cat of Cristine Cardello from Julie Augustyniak and Jim Cardello.

Richard Williams sent us a check in memory of Lucky, "Jean's" cat.

Judy Rohweder mailed us a couple of checks in honor of her daughters Whitney Tibolt and Cynthia Bravo's birthdays.

Cindy Houston sent us a check in honor of Dr. Thistle and her staff and in memory of Cindy's neighbor's dog, Tyson.



And a big Thank you goes to all of our supporters who have sent us stamps, cards, coupons, packages with goodies and the much-needed green backs. 😊

Al Smith, Belmont
Anne Tappan, Cambridge
Cristine Cardello, Melrose
Cynthia Houston, Woburn
Dale Critchley, Weymouth
Donna Bering, Lynn
Dorothy Eckstein, Medford
Elizabeth Fay, Belfast
Glenna Hawthorne, Woburn
Inge Maiellano, Marblehead
Irma Simon, China

Jean & Ralph Catignani, Conw
Joe D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro
John Wells, Oakland
Jon & Barb Anderson, Augusta
Joseph Blake, New Bedford
Josephine Ford, Holden
Judy Rohweder, Northport
Karen Pirello, Stoneham
Linda Merriam, Dresden
Lorena & Harry Clark, Beverly
Marcia Smith, Bucksport

Marian Delarue, Woburn
Marlene Kaplan, Melrose
Nancy Capone, Wakefield
Pat Thain, Dracut
Paula Wisniowski, Tyngsboro
R.D. Bournival, Nashua
Susan Borsic, Woburn
Viola McDonald, Woburn

This pretty much covers everything for the month of March.

There is one more item below to look at for the art-lovers amongst you, and then of course Mary's Cat Report.

Last month I received a phone call from a lady, Barbara Niro, who heard about us from Susanna, the "Dogs Deserve Better rescue" woman.. This lady donated a wonderful painting to us, to raise some money. Here it is:



Paul Landry, Flower Market

The original print registration will also be included with the print. The print number is 989; there were 1500 issued in 1991. The paperwork is also in excellent condition, no spots, no fading.

It is framed; the frame alone cost over \$300 in the early 90s. Needless to say it is in mint condition. The measurements unframed are: 35" Wide x 21" High, and framed: 42" Wide x 28" High

It will be professionally packed and shipped with UPS, directly from the donor's home.

Here is what an appraisal firm says about the "Flower Market":

Flower Market Limited Edition Print by Paul Landry

This Limited Edition Artwork is currently be available

Estimated Market Price: \$1,560.00-\$1,999.00

Make us an offer, please!

Wishing you a perfect Easter, lots of sunshine and much fun with your friends and family.

Gabriele, Mary, Karen, Ted and Jim



CAT REPORT – MARCH 2012

**Maine residents who get this newsletter, please don't skip the last paragraph that's just for you!
Out-of-staters can ignore it.**

Many thanks to our cats' friends who've been good to them again this month. They got lots of coupons from P. A. Lenk, Teresa Parent, Irma Simon and Al Smith, and my friend Cindy made some really handsome crocheted sleeping mats. I think she intended them for the dogs, but they're much too nice for those big roughnecks to chew up, so instead of taking them to the kennel I appropriated them. The cats enjoy them. And I don't feel a bit guilty -- with the expensive hard-to-destroy raised beds we bought several years ago, plus the blankets and other bedding their friends supply, the dogs are very comfortable.

The cats have also been enjoying this early spring. I haven't yet left the door onto the porch open all night, but it's been open many afternoons so cats can bask in the sun. This past week there were a few sparrows back from the south flitting through the bush beside the porch to entertain them.

Sad news: Tia, the Siamese who gave birth to Ashley, Grover and Ryan, and who made her home with one of the techs at Animal Hospital of Waterville, died suddenly of a heart problem. The tech was devastated, of course. The scary part is that the problem is likely to be hereditary, and it's usually symptom-free until the cat collapses, perhaps under stress.

Otherwise not a lot to tell you. I just scheduled the spring house call for early April – Buddy and Mr. Tom, our two FIV+ cats, are on the list, but the rest were vaccinated last fall. As far as I can see, Buddy and Tommy are both doing very well. Buddy certainly has a good appetite! He eats in a dining cage, as do several other FIVs, and is the last one let out, because I know he'll clean up every morsel of food any of the other cats left and I don't want him overweight.

The Maine news is about the income tax checkoffs, including the one for the companion animal sterilization fund that I hope we've all been using to help support the state's spay-neuter program. A bill was introduced this session to eliminate the checkoffs. Two women who ought to get medals for all they've done for animals in Maine alerted the rescue networks, and apparently we "spay/neuter people" were the principal group that persuaded legislative committee members to recommend changes instead of elimination. The proposed new plan, which isn't yet law, requires each charitable group to get at least \$10,000 in donations through checkoffs this year and increases the minimum by \$3,000 annually to \$25,000. Any group that falls short is deleted the next year. So if any of you haven't done your state taxes yet, please increase your donation to the companion animal sterilization fund on Schedule CP if you can. Next year I'll try to remember to start reminding you in January and keep right on nagging until March. ☺

Meanwhile, I hope everyone's enjoying the weather while it lasts; and I certainly hope it isn't the beginning of a long hot summer.