



Charley's Strays, Inc.

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Limestone, November, 2012

Dear Friends,

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your friends and family! We at Charley's Strays have so much to be thankful for: A chance to take in and care for some abandoned animals, even if it's just a drop in the ocean, and the good luck to have you, the backbones of our Shelter. I am very thankful to Mary, Ted and Rebecca, who do all the "dirty" work; cleaning the droppings, mopping the puddles, and comforting the lost souls, and when one of our poor critters is sick, holding his/her paw.

Thanksgiving was perfect weatherwise; I don't remember having one that warm and sunny in a long time. But the cold and snow up here in the northern part of Maine hit us a few days later. Overall this was one of the best summer and fall in Maine. Our dogs enjoyed every day they could spend outside. Now the long boring days inside the kennel are back, and the monotony will be just broken by several breaks to run around outside and then come shivering back to a warm building. It's "only" another 120 days or so until spring. ☺

Nothing much happened this month at the Shelter. Everybody seems to be okay, no health issues right now. Amazingly our oldest guy, Davy, who will be 17 soon, is still hanging on. He is very skinny, eats all day long one kibble at the time. Its mostly moist food since he is minus most of his teeth. He still goes for his walks outside. So my guess is that life is not too bad for him, or he would have given up a long time ago.

I keep getting emails from various shelters in the south, including lots of pictures with very sad looking animals, and the title: "We will be euthanized by the end of this week if you don't take us." These emails of course tear me up, knowing we can't take them in. I know I should hit the delete button as soon as I see one, but many times I just have to look. And that messes up the rest of my day. So I am relying on you folks to hit the megabucks that we can leech off of you and build a bigger place to take in all these poor critters.

In the meantime, we take care of the furry guys and girls in our care now. And thanks to you they are being well fed, vetted, and have their own beds several inches off the floor, with blankets, toys and a food bowl.

Thanksgiving also brought all the people to mind who had fundraisers for us this year: Cindy Houston and Jackie Lowney, Jean Tillson and her friends, John Wells who spent many weekends in front of stores collecting money for us, and Cynthia Thompson with her brother Walter Moore. Cynthia sent me the following letter I would like to share with you:

. . . last year my brother Walter Moore and his friend Angela Brawn wanted to do something in honor of our dachshund Lenny who had three unsuccessful back surgeries and was than euthanized after a third back injury in just a few months. That is how "The Lenny Project" came about, which led to the Flea Bag Ball, which was held in Walter's back yard. It was a great success, with a lot of people attending and plenty of food and dancing until 11:00 pm, when the police came and shut us down due to the noise ordinance!

Around 1,000 pounds of food was collected, as well as toys, cat litter, and money. This was divided among 4 small Shelters, which strictly rely on private donations. Charley's Strays was my suggestion, as I have donated to you before, after reading about the Shelter's origin online.

This year was even bigger and more successful, resulting in over 1,500 pounds of both cat and dog food and \$700 in cash and gift cards, along with assorted treats and other pet related supplies. The goal is to make this an annual event, with the donations increasing every year if possible! This year's recipients were Charley's Strays, The Animal orphanage in Old Town, and the Penobscot Valley Humane Society in Lincoln.

As much as we all enjoy attending the Flea Bag Ball to get together with friends, for Walter, Angela and myself the greatest reward is making the deliveries to such deserving people. We want you to know how appreciated all the hard work that you do is. I only wish we could do more to help.

Sincerely, Cynthia Thompson

That was one of those feel-good-letters, which are so much appreciated.

But just as much appreciated are the many notes we receive from you, the stamps, donations, coupons and care packages. You are THE BEST supporters any animal could ask for, and that's why you were on my mind when I sat at the Thanksgiving table, eating a poor turkey who had to give his life to fill my stomach☹. I promise no white meat next year for me ☺ Veggies only!



A heartfelt **THANK YOU** to:

Al Smith, Belmont
Bob Connelly, Woburn
Bonnie Buckmore, Waterville
Christa Friedow, Plymouth
Cindy Houston, Woburn
Cristine Cardello, Melrose
Donna Bering, Lynn
Dorothy D'Alessandro, Ossipee
Dorothy Eckstein, Medford
E. Davis, Bangor

Elin Woodger Murphy, London
Enid Hayes, Halifax
Grace Lenihan, Lynnfield
Iris Martinello, Tewksbury
Jean Tillson, Franklin
Joe D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro
Judy Rohweder, Northport
Judy Singer, Vassalboro
Linda Merriam, Dresden
Marian Delarue, Woburn

Marlene Kaplan, Melrose
Maureen Dowd, Sargentville
Nancy Capone, Wakefield
Pat Thain, Dracut
Patricia Tavitian, Watertown
Patricia Williams, Litchfield
R.D. Bournival, Nashua
Robert Hull, Lawrence
Sandra Nicholson, Beverly
Susan Borsic, Woburn

Our donor Grace Lenihan had to deal with much sorrow – her husband Daniel passed away. We received a donation from Valia Burns, Stephen Servello and Patricia Tavitian in his memory. We are very sorry for your loss, Mary Grace!

On a happier note: we also received a check from Maureen Dowd in honor of our friend, Laurie Mountain's birthday. Many happy returns, Laurie!

Last but not least: Joe D'Alessandro returned the check for his 3rd prize winning at the fundraiser. ☺

And this brings me to the end of November's newsletter. Wishing you happy Holidays,

Gabriele, Mary, Ted, Jim and all the critters at

Charley's Strays



CAT REPORT – NOVEMBER 2012

I hope all of you enjoyed a pleasant Thanksgiving and are looking forward to the Christmas season. Our cats did not get any turkey – not all of them like it particularly, so I gave them their regular meals instead. They seemed satisfied.

The November house call went well, with only the tech who accompanied the vet getting scratched badly enough to need Band-Aids. The cats don't mean to hurt anyone, but some of them get really scared when strangers come in with a big bag and start picking them up and sticking needles in them. Others, of course, are just the opposite of scared – they hop up on the table to supervise, fetch things out of the bag and generally make themselves so helpful we have to encourage them to step into another room.

The cats all seem healthy at the moment. Prince is still underweight, despite eating well, and he still bulges in the middle after every meal. A friend who met him for the first time took one look and asked, "Is she pregnant?" He acts very happy here – frequently snuggles with one or two of his roommates, enjoys going out on the porch on sunny days even when it's not very warm, lets me comb him (now that enough fur has grown back so I can) and purrs a whole lot.

At the moment I'm feeling secure in terms of cat litter and cat food, though I know I'll soon be running low again. Shaw's had Tidy Cats litter on sale, at last – not a great sale, but enough savings so I ordered 20 bags to stack in the garage. Then I got fed up with Walmart's one-bag-at-a-time policy and did a special order on Purina One; those bags are stacked in the kitchen, where, so far, the mice haven't found them. I keep reminding Lisa she's supposed to catch mice, not invite them to share her food overnight, but she doesn't believe me.

Many thanks, as always, to the cats' generous friends. This month we got coupons from Suzanne Belisle, P. A. Lenk, Irma Simon and Teresa Parent (and Gabriele might have some she's not forwarded yet) and canned food from Pepper Charles. I'm sure many of you are also doing what you can for other cats – and dogs – who aren't lucky enough to be safe with Charley's Strays. My best wishes for a merry Christmas to all of you and your four-footed companions.