



**Charley's Strays, Inc.**

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Limestone, March, 2014

**Dear Friends,**

Here we are again, back from warm sunny Florida, to cold snowy Maine. But I am not complaining, at least we did have a nice break from the horrible cold up here, not like most of you who had to face this loooong winter!

Up here in Limestone we have at least 3-4 feet of snow on the ground, and it's still bitterly cold. I feel for the animals and birds, even though we try to do our part by feeding them. We had someone feeding them for us while we were gone. I am sure they would have suffered terribly out there with little food available.

All went well at the Shelter- we did have the water pipes freeze at one time, but luckily none burst. We also had plenty of heating oil to keep our old boys and girls warm, thanks to your generous donations at Christmas time.

One sad event happened again this winter: our old dog "Titan" died of heart failure. He was a Katrina Rescue. Actually Titan was rescued by a California group who then flew him at their expense to Bangor, where we picked him up. Titan was a very mean pit bull when we first had him, and everybody was afraid of him. But over the years he mellowed out, and the last few years he was an old cuddly baby. He stayed at Charley's for 10 years, and of course nobody knows how old he was when Katrina hit New Orleans. Here are a couple of photos Susanna took of him in 2010:



Ted, once again, had to do the heart-breaking chore to take Titan to the vet, who told him Titan was old, worn out, and ready to go. And it never gets easier. You would think after the countless times we had to say good-bye to a pet, it would ...

As for the good, even GREAT news: All of our supporters pulled together around Christmas, and sent us enough donations that we did not have to worry about food, or heating fuel for our 4-legged friends. We are very, very lucky to have you and your support.

### **Thank you, thank you, and thank you!**

- On behalf of Debora Sommer we received a check in loving memory of Paul Sommer.
- Allen Wiegand sent us a donation in memory of his wonderful brother and lovely wife.
- Linda Scotti mailed us a check in memory of Harry Clark Sr. and Lorena Clark.
- We received a donation in memory of Willa Rockett, from Dorothy Eckstein.

Jackie and Harold Jacobs sent us a check in honor of Alice Winston's birthday.

- I had one of them "got a-year-older days" too, and our friends Charley Ames and Ruth McKinney also mailed us a check for Charley's in honor of that day ☺
- It looks like there were several birthdays to celebrate, and one was Megan's, the daughter of Cynthia, Galen and Greta the dachshund Thompson, who also sent us a check in her honor.
- Jay Tillson, husband of "our" Jean Tillson, emptied his change-shoe (that's a modified piggybank) for us, and mailed it along with a check from their English friend Erin.
- Beverly Maheu also sent us a check in memory of her adopted "Charley" dog, Smokey.
- Keren Pirello mailed us a donation in memory of a yellow lab named Maple. Karen and Maple's human Shalin Liu miss her terribly.

Another yellow Lab named Sam left his family for the rainbow bridge. His person was Betty, a lady who saw the kids of the Madison Elementary School roll pennies years ago for Charley's Strays. Betty was so impressed that she started the "Madison Elementary School Pet Club. Our supporter Karen Deady mailed us a check in memory of Betty's "Sam".

A day before Christmas we received a check from Stephen Nickerson. Enclosed was a flyer, "Judy Waugh McLaughlin Memorial Pet Food drive". It said that the second graders of Madison Elementary School were hosting their annual food drive for the Somerset Humane Society. So why we ended up with a donation, I don't know - normally I would have investigated, but it came one day before we left for Florida, so it slipped my mind. Of course we are very grateful, even though we are NOT the Humane Society. ☺

"Heart of Earth" mailed us a check to buy dog food.

We received a donation from Julian Chou in honor of Phil Mann "*who loves cats and has taken in a number of stray cats himself*".

Our supporter Jean Catignani told me, that after over 60 years the Caroll County Kennel Club of New Hampshire closed its doors. A friend of hers was on the Board of Directors, and was willing to let us have some of the "leftover" money they would distribute amongst different organizations. And, true to her word, they did mail us a check for our dogs.

A couple of Christmases ago Nancy McGinnis told me about a type of fundraiser she was having by selling Christmas wreaths. The company, who made them, would give us via Nancy a percentage of the sale. Nothing ever came out of it, until last week, when she sent me this email:

*I know it has been a while ... but I decided to pester the Worcester Wreath folks once more about our fundraiser and I am HAPPY to tell you it was worth it: They looked back and found they did indeed get orders using the promo code, so they are finally making things right and putting a check in the mail to you for \$42.29 ...*

So now we did receive the check from the Worcester Company for our animals. Thanks Nancy for not giving up!

Bonnie Buckmore mailed out letters to the Clinton dog and cat-owners, asking for help. She invested lots of time, and money for stamps, into that project. Several people did respond to it with checks and food-donations.

A HUGE **THANK YOU** TO ALL OF YOU!

And without the following supporters, we would have had a horrible winter. As it is/was, all went well because of your big hearts for animals: (the following names are our supporters are for the past three months)

Al Smith, Belmont  
Alan Bachrach, Petersham  
Alice Winston, Swampscott  
Allen Wiegand, Port Townsend  
Angela Kazazian, Merrimack  
Beverly Maheu, China Village  
Carole Parker, Winchendon  
Cindy Houston, Woburn  
Cristine Cardello, Melrose  
Dale Critchley, S. Weymouth  
David Hingston, Chelmsford  
Don Smith, Woburn  
Donna Bering, Lynn  
Donna Wade, Unity  
Dorothy D'Alessandro, Ossipee  
Dorothy Eckstein, Medford  
Elizabeth Morgan, Portland  
Enid Hayes, Halifax  
Gail Walsh, Estero  
Galen & Cynthia Thompson  
Grace Lenihan, Melrose  
Iris Martinello, Tewksbury

Irma Simon, China  
Jackie Lowney, New Bedford  
Jane Miller, Clinton  
Jaqueline Jacobs, Chestnut Hill  
Jean & Ralph Catignani  
Jean Tillson/Jay Peterson  
Jennie Bering, Lynnfield  
Joan Ryan, New Bedford  
Joe D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro  
John Caswell, Newport  
Joseph Blake, New Bedford  
Joseph Kogut, Upton  
Judith Gallo, Canton  
Judy Rohweder, Northport  
Karen Pirello, Stoneham  
Kate Ahrens, Granby  
Kathryn Vreeland, Sudbury  
Kevin Dowd  
Linda Merriam, Dresden  
Linda Scotti, Beverly  
Malcolm Newell, Tewksbury  
Marcia Smith, Bucksport

Marian Delarue, Woburn  
Marlene Kaplan, Melrose  
Maureen Dowd, Sargentville  
Meagan Dudley  
Melody Lavers, Pownal  
Michael Banusiewicz  
Michael Kane, Greenwood  
Nancy Brown, Olympia  
Nancy Capone, Wakefield  
Pat Thain, Dracut  
Phil Mann, Rowland Hights  
R.D. Bournival, Nahsua  
Rancourt Family, Lebanon  
Rust Pappathanasi, Swampscott  
Sandra Nicholson, Beverly  
Sherry Moody  
Steven Furrow, S.China  
Susan Borsic, Woburn  
Susan Culver, Wayland  
The Sommer Family Foundation  
William Hanrahan

Thank you so very, very much!



**Think Spring** 😊

*Gabriele  
Mary, Ted and Jim*

**Please read on, Mary's Cat Report follows.**

## CAT REPORT – JANUARY-MARCH 2014

I know I won't remember everything that's happened since the last cat report, but I'll do my best to give you the highlights.

The sad news is that we lost Prince, our old black and white boy, earlier this month. He came to us from a bad situation, so his last years were happier than they would have been if two nice ladies hadn't rescued him. Each of them came to visit him once more before he died, and his last day was just as I'd hoped: he went out on the porch in the sun, ate a good breakfast and took a nap until it was time for the final trip to the vet. He'd been in enough times so that wasn't scary, and he went to sleep entirely peacefully. I'm still having trouble remembering that when I'm serving cans of his favorite food, I don't need to save a bit for his between-meals snack.

On a more cheerful note, the cats got lots of Christmas presents, food and treats and toys and soft things to sleep on and a brand-new litter box, from their many friends. I started to name everyone and realized I'd be sure to leave out someone, so I gave up. This year maybe I'll be organized enough to make a list (but don't count on it).

This cold snowy winter has bothered the cats less than it's bothered my human friends; cats tend to sleep through the storms, and when the power went off before Christmas my guys and gals just cuddled a bit closer to their companions. Now that we're having intermittent days with the temperature above freezing, the ones with access to the porch have been out for short periods. I keep reminding them that some day, we'll be able to leave the door between the house and the porch open for hours at a time again.

Lisa and Mr. Tom made vet visits, too, when they stopped eating as well as I thought they should. Right now they're both doing fine. Lisa's the only kitchen cat, with a wide choice of beds; Tommy gets along well with Buddy, Tiger and the rest of the FIV-positive guys. The three grey half-Siamese siblings are thriving. Ryan, especially, is super-lively -- he still likes to ride around on my back, and his new thing is a determination to crawl up inside the sleeves of my short-sleeved shirts. Robin, Emery and Agnes are senior catizens now. Robin and Agnes, both born in 1997, sometimes act as though they feel a little stiff and creaky. Emery, who might be a year or two younger, doesn't seem to share the problem. He's almost as feral as when he came into the house; after all these years, he lets me pet him only while he's busy eating.

I've probably forgotten people I should thank for coupons, as well as for Christmas gifts, but here are at least some of them: Suzanne Belisle, Roberta Chaves, P. A. Lenk, Teresa Parent, Iris Martinello, Irma Simon and Al Smith. I used some of the fruits of their labor in town this afternoon, and would have used more if there'd been more bags of Tidy Cats on the shelf. Pepper Charles and his humans are still contributing canned food every week or so, too. I do appreciate the many things you-all do for our cats (and dogs). Thank you much, and I hope the new year has started well for you.

