



Charley's Strays, Inc.

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Limestone, May, 2014

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you in good health, enjoying spring/summer or whatever season (mud?) you have right now.

Jim spent a week at the Shelter: Rebecca left for a camping trip to the place where the buffalo roam. Many things needed to be repaired after this horribly cold winter. We needed a new storage building. Our old portable garage (the tent-like structures with metal pipe and vinyl covering) had finally collapsed after about seven years of use. So we had to buy a new one, and that was a big job for Jim to put together. The problem was it rained pretty much the whole week while he was there. He came back home waddling like a duck because he now has webbed feet. ☺

The gate had to be fixed, it moved up out of the ground about six inches, letting the dogs escape underneath it. Many of the other fence pipes also had raised way out of the ground due to the deep frost we had this past winter. There is still a lot to be repaired, and hopefully there will be a week of sunshine sometime in the near future that he can do the rest of the jobs. He also made a trip to buy a load of canned food at Sam's Club, which is another large bill to be paid.

Everybody seems to be fine at the Shelter. We will be calling our vet to see if he does a "home" visit for rabies-shots, because some of our dogs just can't be handled into a car without Reb or Ted taking the chance of bodily harm.

Reb told us yesterday that we will be taking in two more dogs from another shelter. This one is a bit of a strange story: Several years ago a shelter opened up not far from Charley's Strays, calling themselves "C.C. Strays". There was always much confusion when I received emails asking about a certain animal, which I knew we did not have; only to find out that it was one of their animals.

Now "C.C. Strays" are closing their doors, and asked if we could take their animals. As it is, we have space for two dogs, that's it. Their shelter also has Parvo right now. I imagine it will be several weeks before this has cleared up. We refused to take in their animals with a disease which could put the lives of all of our dogs in jeopardy. Charley's Strays has been very, very lucky so far. Only once did we take in a sick "Parvo" dog. What a job that was for Ted, who had to sanitize the entire premises including, the kennel building, yard, everything, by spraying

bleach everywhere. Before we even take in these two dogs they will have to get the "OK" from our vet. Hopefully they will survive their sickness to make it to us.

Not much else happened this month: We had a couple of "play-dates", dogs which went home with adoption-prospects, but they were returned – too hyper for an older couple to keep up with. As for the cats, Mary will tell you all the news about them at the end of this letter.

Next month I will be mailing out fundraiser tickets again. Even though we will not be holding the fundraiser any more in Boston, we will still need the extra money for next winter's fuel. We still have the \$300 first prize, plus some items to raffle, and whatever else we come up with by October.

And now to the REALLY GREAT part of this letter:

We received donations from the following supporters, and once again I thank you so very much for keeping us afloat!

Al Smith, Belmont

Alice Winston, Swampscott

Carole Parker, Winchendon

Cindy Houston, Woburn

Cristine Cardello, Melrose

Dale Critchley, S. Weymouth

Diane Rizzo, Bryant Pond

Dorothy D'Alessandro, Ossipee

Enid Hayes, Halifax

Iris Martinello, Tewksbury

Irma Simon, China

Jackie Lowney, N. Bedford

Jean & Ralph Catignani

Joan Ryan, New Bedford

Joe D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro

John Walsh, Estero

Joseph Blake, New Bedford

Josephine Smith, Woburn

Kellee Lowney, N. Bedford

Linda Merriam, Dresden

Marian Delarue, Woburn

Marlene Kaplan, Melrose

Michael Kane, Greenwood

Nancy Capone, Wakefield

P.A. Lenk, China Village

Pat Thain, Dracut

Phil Mann, Rowland Heights

R.D Bournival, Nashua

Rust Pappathanasi, Swampscott

Sandra Nicholson, Beverly

Shirley Rancourt, Lebanon

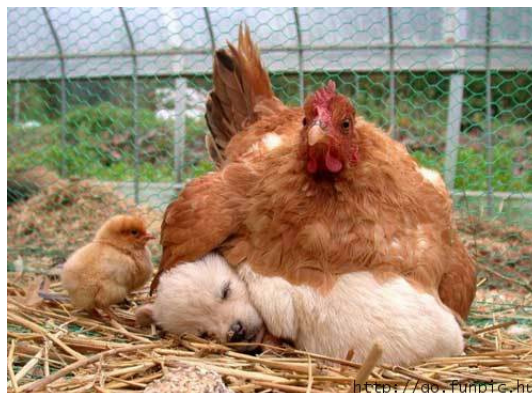
Susan Borsic, Woburn

- Our supporter Karen Rapallo works at the Boston Children's Hospital. Her colleague Pauline Connaughton collected money from her co-workers for our shelter, and mailed a check for \$400 to our fuel company. It's a very nice down payment for next year's fuel.
- We received a box filled with "great stuff" from Lynn Frischmann from sunny California. These items will be used by John Wells when he sets up his table in front of stores this summer, to collect donations for our animals.
- Dorothy Fleming mailed us a donation via Donna Bering, in memory of Jennie Bering.
- Bruce and Laura Anderson sent us a check to honor Betsy and Nancy Brown/Anderson.
- Harry Clark, Jr. also mailed us a donation in memory of his parents, Lorena and Harry Clark.

To all of you, a Huge **THANK YOU**.

This brings me to the end of another newsletter. I hope for a great June for all of you!

Gabriele, Mary, Ted and Jim





CAT REPORT – MAY 2014

Not much news from or about our cats this month. So far (knock on wood, the month isn't quite over) they've been behaving themselves, staying out of trouble and mostly away from the vet. Tiger made a quick trip to see about his sore mouth and was on antibiotics for a couple weeks, but he seems to be fine again now. Mr. Tom, who I told you last month was doctored for a drooping tail and found to be arthritic, is eating well and seems comfortable and has recovered the use of his tail enough so he can "talk" with it again.

The spring weather that finally arrived seems to agree with all the cats, as even some of the older ones are livelier than usual. Our three almost-four-year-old gray half-Siamese are a wide-awake inquisitive bunch even on dull days, and the warm sun wakes them up even more. Ryan, the most mobile of the three, spends half his time at the top of the porch screen or upside down on the narrowest windowsill in the dining room. Other times he's likely to be on my back – he loves to ride around the room with me.

The cats got some delightfully unexpected gifts this month, in addition to many cans of food from Pepper Charles. Staffers at an animal health company in Winslow organized a drive to collect pet food and supplies and made Charles's cats one of the beneficiaries, and Marlene Kaplan sent a box of toys and treats. Coupons came from Suzanne Be lisle, Roberta Chaves, Iris Martinello, P. A. Lenk, Irma Simon and John Walsh. Many thanks to everyone. The coupons might not seem like much, but when I check out of a grocery with a great long slip listing dry cat food and canned cat food and cat litter, it's nice to see the dollars subtracted at the end.