



### **Charley's Strays, Inc.**

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Limestone, November 2014

#### **Dear Friends,**

As you can see, our dogs have been very busy. And I think they did a good job. The cats of course frowned at them. They don't waste time and energy on numb things like building tiny snowmen. ☺

And yes, we did have lots of snow! Luckily not anywhere close to the unbelievable amounts in New York State, but enough to last us all winter. I am sure this is only the beginning.

As for the Shelter news: Other than some very nasty cold weather with lots of the white stuff and high winds, we also had to deal with the various emergency situations again. A lady who is getting a divorce and who has a couple of kids and a beautiful Black Lab-mix, came to us for help. Her husband does not want the dog, and she is moving to an apartment, which does not allow dogs, so poor 8-year old Lucy ended up at Charley's. She is a very sweet dog, loves all people, and other animals, and I can't even imagine what this dog goes through every time the kennel door opens up and it's not her family coming in to pick her up. If you know anybody who would be willing to give this old dog a few more nice years in a family, please let us know!

After that drop-off another older couple came with their dog – also a lab mix. The dog belonged to the daughter, who decided to move to California, leaving her small child and dog

in the care of her parents. The grandparents seem to have enough on their hands with the child. Unfortunately the dog had to go. I don't have the info on the dog yet; his age, or if he is a good candidate for adoption, or what. I will write more about him next month.

The rest of the "Gang" is still happy and fairly healthy, with the exception of our old ones, of course. Brady, the small viscous bull dog whom we had tried to place many times, but always came back for being just too nasty, is totally blind now. He must be close to 15 years old, if not older. Dante, the one with the Elvis-smile, is also getting way up there, yet he still jumps up on the doghouse. But his companion, the small white Eskimo dog, is really going down hill fast.

And we all know- wintertime is the worst time for them and for us old folks – all these aches and pains are hard to handle at times.

We try to keep them warm and comfortable, which of course would be not possible without your much needed and appreciated help.

About 10 dogs needed to be vaccinated this month, so we called the vet and asked for him to do a house call. We figured it would be much less stress on the dogs then putting each individual in the car, driving him/her to the vet, sitting around in a waiting room full of other dogs, and God forbid cats, and then deal with the vet. But, from what Reb told me, it was a nightmare. She said the vet actually had to wrestle one of our Huskies to the ground, which was a sight to behold. Sammy, the Eskimo, is deadly afraid of being touched, and he screamed his lungs out. And three of the others were just too nervous and looked like they considered biting her, so the lady vet could not vaccinate them. She will have to come back with a pole, similar to a rabies pole, which has a needle on the point to inject the dogs with. It never gets boring at our Shelter!

That pretty much covers the Shelter news.

Once again, we received donations of food, blankets, stamps, and checks to take care of our 4-legged friends, and once again I thank you very much for it! Our dogs and cats are very lucky to have you – so many out there, especially in the winter, have to suffer so much before they either die of starvation or exposure to the elements.

So- a HUGE THANK YOU to all of the following supporters of Charley's Strays:

Lynn Frischmann, Donna Bering and Joseph D'Alessandro – these were the people who won the three money prizes at our fundraiser, and all three returned the checks uncashed!

Jim had his birthday, and in his honor we received a check for the Shelter from Charley Ames and his wife Ruth McKinney.

The following supporters helped us pay for the vet, food, heat etc:

Al Smith, Belmont  
Carole Parker, Winchendon  
Cindy Houston, Woburn  
Cristine Cardello, Melrose  
Dale Critchley, W. Weymouth  
Donna Bering  
Enid Hayes, Halifax  
Irma Simon, China  
Iris Martinello, Tewksbury

Jaqueline Lowney, N. Bedf.  
Jean Tillson/FM Global  
Jean & Ralph Catignani  
Joe D'Alessandro, Tuftonb.  
Josephine Smith, Woburn  
Karen Rapallo, Wakefield  
Linda Merriam, Dresden  
Lynne Kaplowitz, Liberty  
Marcia Smith, Bucksport

Marian Delarue, Woburn  
Michael Banusiewicz,  
Pat Thain, Dracut  
R.D. Bourne, Nashua  
Sally Sawyer, Albany TWP  
Sandra Nicholson, Beverly  
Susan Borsic, Woburn

You may have noticed that our supporters dwindle away more and more. Honestly; I have no idea how we are going to survive this winter.

And I am sure you have also noticed that I am not mailing out 'Thank-you' notes any longer. The reason for this is not that I am ungrateful or lazy, but I am trying to save the stamp-money for things we have to buy for the Shelter.

Wishing you a wonderful Holiday-Season, and many thanks again for helping our animals!

*Gabriele*  
*Mary, Ted and Jim*





## CAT REPORT – NOVEMBER 2014

That end-of-October house call I mentioned last month as pending went off well, as usual. Dani, the tech who accompanied the vet, made out worst; she got scratched a couple times, and one of Robin, Emery and Agnes's roommates, in the course of flying from one end of the room to the other, threw a dish of water all over her. But the cats got vaccinated and more or less examined, depending on their level of cooperation. Many got three-year rabies vaccines with no more than the usual after-effects. I always have a few who skip supper the evening after they've been vaccinated; the three-year shots produced no more non-eaters than normal.

Speaking of Agnes and company, here's a mildly amusing story from their room that I'm sure will sound familiar to those of you who have cats. There are six cats in that group, the three from Charley's Strays plus a black and white family, mother, son and daughter. The six cats have many sleeping places. There's a twin bed with layers of cat-bedding and four separate cat beds on top of it; a carpeted cat tree in the south window (especially popular on sunny spring days, I've noticed); two pillows on top of the walk-in cage; a pillow on top of the varikennel that holds spare bedding; and a cat bed on top of the plastic food storage container. The other day I emptied a bag of Tidy Cats litter, and by the time I finished in the room, a cat had flattened the bag on the floor by the bed and was lying on it. Since then whenever I come into the room there are three or four cats using that flattened bag as a bed! – overflowing in all directions, of course. Usually it's Agnes, Emery and one or two of the others; Robin prefers to be Lump, that is, the cat almost completely hidden under the top piece of bedding on the bed. The current top pieces are soft lap blankets, one orange and one yellow, nice colors for Robin's black and white head to peer from under.

The cats' friends have been generous again this month – they got lots of canned food from Pepper Charles and coupons for more food and litter from Suzanne Belisle, P. A. Lenk, Irma Simon, Susan Borsic, Iris Martinello, and Al Smith. Many thanks to them, and thanks to all the rest of you who help us out.

For those of you from Maine who are thinking about income taxes already, please don't forget the companion animal fund check-off on the state tax form. And if you haven't already switched to an animal welfare program license plate, please consider it when you reregister your vehicle. Lots of people have them now – one evening recently I parked on Main Street in Waterville and when I came back to my truck realized I had one of three animal welfare plates in a row.

Merry Christmas and happy 2015 to all --