

Charley's Strays, Inc.

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Limestone, September, 2014

Dear Friends,

Summer is officially over, and, as if abiding by the calendar. The leaves are turning beautiful shades of red, orange and yellow. I always feel bad when I see that happening, because I know much too soon everything will turn white, once again. For now all of our dogs and people enjoy the not so hot and humid weather and playtime in the yard, Rebecca throwing balls and toys without anybody suffering a heat stroke and chasing the various flying objects.

Things are okay at the Shelter. I was a bit scared, by the 20th of this month for not having nearly enough money to take care of the bills. By then we had taken in "only" around \$1000. Thankfully a couple of people came to our help by paying the land taxes and helping out with the vet and food costs. Even though Reb only gets minimum wages, it still adds up, and to take care of almost 50 animals, well, you know yourself how much one animal in your family costs, so no matter how I pinch pennies, there was no way to stretch the donations that much.

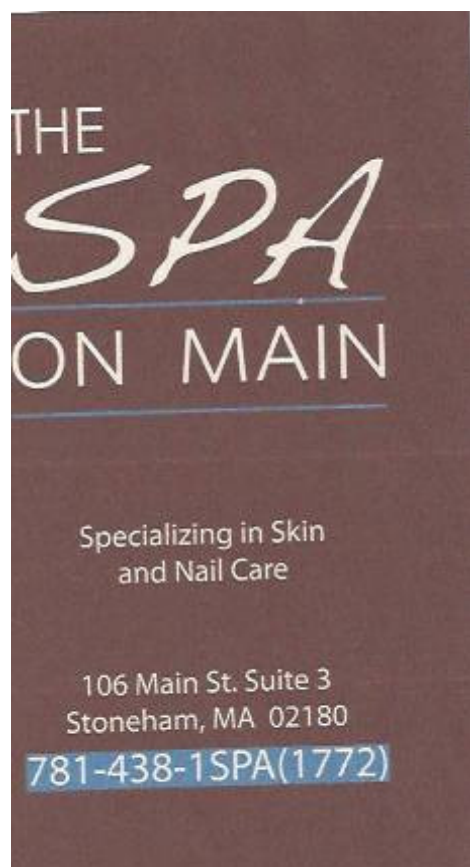
Reb took a week vacation, so Jim and I drove to the Shelter. I left Jim in charge ☺ after a couple of days. My harvesting up here was underway, and since we expected a couple of cold nights (It did drop down to 29 degrees.) I could not afford to have a frost kill all of my work. Jim had lots to do, repairing this and that, and also had to make three trips to Augusta to Sam's Club, to fill up the food storage building (only a couple of thousand dollars worth of food). We will need the food, and since this is some heavy stuff and a trailer is needed, he figured he may as well do it while the streets are still safe to drive without the hazard of ice and snow.

Cindy Houston had her yard sale, and it was a success. The proceeds are earmarked for heating fuel, as is our own fundraiser. She sent me a nice check. A huge thank you goes to Cindy and Steven! At 6:00 AM they were unpacking boxes and boxes full of donated items. Many thanks to the people who gave her these donated items. Afterwards they had to carry them all up the stairs onto the sidewalk. By 9:00 AM they were exhausted. As always, help arrived. Kim Doherty and Jackie Lowney helped, and we are all so very grateful for them. Cindy already mentioned that if these two ladies can't come any more, she will quit, too – it's just way too much work to set up and then try to keep an eagle eye on people. Afterward they closed up "shop" and wrapped up everything and stored the donated items away. A HUGE thank you goes to Cindy, Jackie, Kim and Steve!

Jean Tillson, the lady some of you know from the fundraiser in Boston, also send us a check from the proceeds of a craft fair she was hosting, along with a donation from a friend, Judy Richter. Many thanks to Jean Tillson and her better half, Jay.

Now to "our" fundraiser: You will find the last tickets for this year in the envelope. We will draw the winners around the 20th of October. Again: 1st prize is \$300, 2nd prize \$100, 3rd prize \$50, plus some other items, like Christmas decorations and other goodies.

As promised in last month's letter, I have the information on the gift certificates for facials from the day spa in Stoneham, Massachusetts.



We have three gift certificates, each valued at \$70-85. Anyone who is interested in one of those certificates, please earmark your donation "facial" so I can put the donations into a separate box for the facials. Of course you do not need to send \$70, just whatever you feel comfortable with.

Erin Zibrofski Bush has recently opened her new business, after being in business for over 17 years. She says she would be honored to help raise money for our animals. Her own beloved little Yorkie named Saffy passed away some months back. Erin says she would be grateful to do this in Saffy's memory.

Thank you so much, Erin!



A **HUGE THANK YOU** to the following people who helped taking care of our many dogs and cats:

Al Smith, Belmont
Carole Parker, Winchendon
Charles Soares, Burlington
Cindy Houston, Woburn
Cristine Cardello, Melrose
Dale Critchley, Weymouth
Donna Bering
Dorothy Eckstein, Medford
George Watkins, Amesbury
Irma Simon, China
Jackie, Jack & Kellee Lowney

Jean Tillson & Jim Peterson
Joan Ryan, New Bedford
Joe D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro
Joseph Blake, New Bedford
Josephine Smith, Woburn
Judy Rohweder, Northport
Karen German, Reading
Katherine Hillman, Chelmsford
Linda Merriam, Dresden
Lynn Frischmann, Los Gatos
Marian Delarue, Woburn

Marlene Kaplan, Melrose
Nancy Capone, Wakefield
Phil Mann, Rowland Heights
R.D. Bournival, Nashua
Ralph & Jean Catignani
Rancourt Family, Lebanon
Mary-Grace Lenihan, Melrose
Ruth Giusti, Titusville
Sandra Nicholson, Beverly
Steve Martin, Augusta
Susan Borsic, Woburn

Also Cindy Houston sent \$20.00: Her small grandchildren picked up every penny they found on the streets, and Cindy and son Jesse helped with the penny-collection. ☺

We very grateful for your help!



This brings me to the end of another newsletter. Wishing you a wonderful month of September, take care, stay happy and healthy.

Gabriele
Mary, Ted and Jim

Please read on: Mary's cat report on next page.



CAT REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2014

Another quiet month for our cats, who've been enjoying the lovely fall weather, some on the porch and some on windowsills. I try to remember to close the windows overnight, but if I forget, nobody freezes – the nights aren't very cold (yet) nor the windows very wide open (obviously; the cats might be smart enough not to try to break through the screens, but who knows?).

Robin, who turned 17 last month, is showing his age a bit, getting thinner and stiffer in the legs (though he still jumps up and sleeps atop the walk-in cage). I've started feeding him canned food twice a day, to his pleasure. Lisa, the kitchen cat, is another senior citizen – she was 16 in the spring, the only survivor of the first litter born in my house – and gets lots of extra meals, like whenever she asks. Robin's roommate Agnes is about three months older than Robin, and like him moving a little stiffly sometimes, but she doesn't look as though she needs extra food. Nor do Mr. Tom, Buddy and Tiger, our FIV-positive cats – they're all very large, very friendly and apparently healthy.

Emery, the wild one who was trapped on the banks of the Kennebec and came to us at least 10 years ago, lives with Robin and Agnes. After all this time, he finally deliberately let me pet him one evening before supper! Frequently I can sneak in a few strokes while he eats, but this time he actually stood still without the incentive of a dish of food.

The young half-Siamese, Ashley, Grover and Ryan, have just turned four. For siblings and look-alikes, they have amazingly different personalities. Ashley's quiet and shy; Grover's dignified; and Ryan's a clown. When a gray cat lands on my back as I bend over to put down or pick up a dish, I don't have to look to know it's Ryan.

As usual, the cats' friends have sent much-appreciated coupons and food. My thanks to Suzanne Belisle, Roberta Chaves, P. A. Lenk, Irma Simon and Al Smith for coupons, and to Pepper Charles for canned food. And thanks to all of you for your continuing support of this operation.

