



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

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Limestone, Christmas 2017

Dear Friends,

Another year has gone by, number twenty-three since Charley died. Since we took over along with Ted and Mary who would have thought that after all these years our little shelter is still going and going! We have faced some very hard times, some great times, and some very sad times. But, we are still "trucking" along with the animals in our care, thanks to all of you. I have to thank our Mary without whom we could not have taken in all the cats as we have no cat facility. Mary is keeping them all in her private home. I also have to thank Ted, who has been with the Shelter since the early 1990s, and who has helped the animals tremendously when Charley was still alive and had no money to feed them. I know Ted carried many pounds of food, canned and dry, to the Shelter to keep them alive. After Charley passed on, Ted kept on, helping every weekend and many weekdays to clean the runs, feed and water the dogs, and walk them many miles when we did not have the fence around the premises. A little side-note: we are forever grateful to Dorothy and Woody Watkins [Dorothy passed on many years ago] paid for the very expensive fence that was put all around the Shelter, to give the animals the freedom to run without a leash. I also thank Karen who spent many years volunteering her time at the Shelter, and now Eric, who has also been with us for a couple of years now, doing the "Saturday duty".

I know I should not brag about my dear hubby, but he does deserve lots of praise, too. He has built, repaired, build some more, repaired a whole bunch more, and even taken the chance of getting bit when he had to help the vet administering the yearly vaccinations. He did get nibbled on a little bit this year, too. Thankfully he wore a heavy jacket, so Nikolai, one of our Huskies who is deadly afraid of needles [Maybe she was a human at one time?] could not do any damage.

This brings me to the shelter news: The vet did not show up three weeks ago, they had some kind of emergency, so Jim had to drive home again after temporarily fixing the barn roof. One week later he had to take the 250 miles one-way trip again. This time the dogs did get their vaccines. That's when Nikolai decided to get a taste of Jim's bones, but was out of luck. So, that's done again until April of 2018, when the next batch of dogs has to be vaccinated.

In the meantime, we have to deal with winter. Hopefully it's going to be a lighter one than the past few years. We have had much less snow than normal so far this year. The temperatures did drop a week ago into the minus digits. We will see, all we can do is trying to keep the buildings warm, so our old dogs' bones don't get any more sore than they are, and go from there.

Once again I thank everyone for supporting our Shelter throughout the year. Of course you all know that without your help, there would be no Charley's Strays, and most likely all the cats and dogs who find their way to us, would be no more.

Following are this month's supporters. I am writing this newsletter a bit earlier than usual, so anyone who mailed us a donation after December 20th will not be in list below, but will be in there next time around.

Al Smith, Belmont	Grace Lenhian, Melrose	Melody Lavers, Wales
Alice Winston Swampscott	Inge Maiellano, Marblehead	Michael Kane, Greenwood
Ann Soares, Burlington	Jean & Ralph Catignani	Nancy Capone, Wakefield
Bonnie Buckmore, Waterville	Jeffrey & Debra Lieberman	Pat Thain, Dracut
Charley Ames & Ruth McKinney	Joe D'Allessandro, Tuftonboro	Philip Mann, Rowland H.
Charlotte Paul, Chelmsford	John Ingersol, N. Reading	Rust Pappathanasi, Swampscott
Cindy Houston, Woburn	John Walsh, Estero	Sally Sawyer, Albany Twp.
Cristine Cardello, Melrose	Judith Gallo & Dot Archer	Sandra Nicholson, Beverly
Dale Critchley, S. Weymouth	Linda Merriam, Dresden	Susan Borsic, Woburn
Donna Bering	Manuel German, Reading	Zee Zee Dreams
Dwyer, Detroit	Marcus Nordberg, Boxborough	
Emilia Jorgensen, Boston	Marian Delarue, Woburn	
George Watkins, Amesbury	Marlene Kaplan, Melrose	

We also received a donation in memory of Floyd, from Tim and Britney Gallaher. It came with a very nice note: "In 2010 we had to surrender our beloved Floyd, due to aggressive issues. Charley's provided a safe haven for him and we thank you." I am not sure how long we had Floyd until he found a home, or if he stayed with us the rest of his earthly time. There are so many animals coming and going, and my brain is not getting any younger, or better. But I am sure Floyd was happy with us while he was at Charley's.

To all of the above, a HUGE THANK YOU for helping us taking care of some of the needy animals!

I just wish we could take care of the millions out there with no home, no food, no love. Maybe in my next life I become president, increase the taxes for the rich, and give it all to the poor [animals].© My motto is going to be: ANIMALS FIRST!

And with this I will close the last newsletter of 2017.

Wishing you and your family a great, happy and healthy 2018

*Gabriele, Mary, Ted, Eric and Jim*

Please read on: Mary's Cat Report, and some health information since I still have an empty page.

## 12 human foods dogs can eat and 5 they shouldn't

1. **Peanut butter:** Giving your dog the occasional tablespoon of unsalted peanut butter is a treat you can both enjoy. (Just make sure your brand of peanut butter doesn't contain xylitol.) It's a great source of protein and healthy fats for dogs, and it's a perfect photo opportunity for you.
2. **Yogurt:** High in protein and calcium, plain yogurt is an ideal treat for dogs, especially if your pooch suffers from digestion problems. Make sure you opt for yogurts that don't contain added sugar or artificial sweeteners.
3. **Oatmeal:** Oatmeal is a good source of fiber, making it great for dogs with bowel irregularity issues, and it's also safe for dogs with wheat allergies. Before serving it to your pet, cook the oatmeal and don't add any sugar.
4. **Chicken:** If your dog requires extra protein in his diet, cooked, unseasoned chicken is an easy addition to his regular food. It also makes a good meal replacement if you're out of dog food.
5. **Salmon:** Dogs can benefit from omega 3 fatty acids too, so slip some cooked salmon into the food bowl for a healthier, shinier coat.
6. **Broccoli:** This vitamin-rich vegetable can be a great occasional nutrition boost for dogs. However, it shouldn't make up more than 10 percent of a dog's diet as it could cause gastrointestinal irritation.
7. **Pumpkin:** You can serve your dog pumpkin — raw or in a can — as a source of fiber or vitamin A. It's also a helpful addition to doggie diets if your pooch is experiencing digestion problems.
8. **Green beans:** Nutritious and low in calories, green beans are a good choice that will load dogs up with iron and vitamins. Make sure to feed your dog only fresh beans or canned ones with no added salt. Something to consider: Most types of beans contain a type of protein called lechtins that, depending on the amount, can cause nausea, vomiting and diarrhea if not destroyed by cooking. Green beans only contain 5 to 10 percent of the lechtins in kidney beans, which cause the most problems, and green beans are typically safe when eaten raw. If you're still concerned, you may want to cook your green beans before serving them to your dog (or your family).
9. **Cottage cheese:** This bland food is high in calcium and protein, so it can be a good addition to dog food. However, avoid it if your dog has issues digesting dairy.
10. **Other cheese:** In small quantities, cheese is a great treat for pets, says the American Kennel Club, as long as your dog isn't lactose intolerant (which is rare for dogs, but possible). Choose lower-fat options like mozzarella.
11. **Carrots:** This vegetable is low in calories and high in fiber and vitamins. Plus, crunching on carrots can be good for dogs' teeth.
12. **Eggs:** If your pooch needs a protein boost, scramble an occasional egg for a healthy snack. Eggs are high in protein, but they're also high in fat, so don't give your pet too many of them. Don't feed raw or undercooked eggs to your dog, cautions the American Veterinary Medical Association. There's the risk of contamination from bacteria such as salmonella, and that can make your dog sick.

### Foods not fit for Fido

1. **Chocolate:** You've likely heard that you're never supposed to feed a dog chocolate, and there's a reason for that. That delicious candy contains caffeine-like stimulants known as methylxanthines. If ingested in large amounts, chocolate can cause vomiting, diarrhea, irregular heartbeat, seizures and even death.
2. **Grapes and raisins:** While this fruit is nutritious for you, it's toxic to dogs and can cause kidney failure.
3. **Onions:** They may make you cry, but they can make your dog very sick by causing damage to his red blood cells.
4. **Avocado:** Avocado leaves, fruit, seeds and bark contain a toxin called persin that can cause upset stomach and breathing difficulties.
5. **Alcohol:** Even drinking a small amount of alcohol can result in significant intoxication for a dog, which can lead to vomiting, seizures and even death.

## **CAT REPORT – DECEMBER 2017**

As I write this report in mid-month, all's well with our houseful of felines – goodness knows what may have happened by the time you read it! The latest change is that several have started dashing through the door that separates the two larger groups from each other. Tang's considered himself a member of both the dining room mob and the front-of-the-house crowd ever since he came; now Willow and Ryan, formerly content in the dining room, join him. There's no harm done, nobody has any diseases or anything, but not everyone in the front group greets interlopers in a friendly manner. Willow, who's not fond of other cats, reciprocates with growls, hisses and paw-slinging (no real fights). Ryan has a couple of favorite niches where he sits quietly until things settle down. I keep track of the assorted dark-colored cats in the dining room by counting them at breakfast and supper; now when the count comes up short I have to think whether one has moved temporarily to the front of the house before I start checking under the furniture for someone who's skipping or sleeping through the meal.

So far – knock on wood -- I'm pleased with Ashley, who acts very lively and continues to gain weight slowly but steadily. Just now she weighed in at six pounds, give or take half an ounce (she wiggles on the scales). Considering she was less than four pounds at one point, I think she's doing all right.

Alafer is also doing well. Lucien and Feather, Willow and Alafer's big (and I mean big – I can barely lift them) brothers, are still here while the people who might adopt them continue to correspond with me and also to consider whether they want to take on a pair of abandoned cats (being fed and garage-sheltered by friends) whose need is greater.

Too early in the month for a lot of coupons to have arrived, but the cats have canned food from Pepper Charles and dry food from Shirley, and today's mail brought a package of fresh Maine-grown catnip, some loose and some in toys, from Cathy and Jeff. Tossed a toy in front of Tang and Feather, who were together on a table; Tang pounced and said MINE ALL MINE, so I gave Feather another one.

Best wishes for the New Year to all of you, and thanks for everything you do for animals, yours and ours and other people's.