



Charley's Strays, Inc.

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Limestone, Maine March, 2017

Dear Friends,

We made it back, safe and sound, from Florida to cold Maine. The above photo gives you an idea how it looks like right now in the Northern part of Maine; cold, dreary, and miserable. Regardless, the first pair of ducks showed up a week ago. The rivers and lakes are still frozen. It's beyond me what they find to eat, other than in our back yard which has lots of birdseed. As for the squirrel in the front of the picture, he has been around all winter.

Florida had great weather this time, Jim enjoyed fishing, I enjoyed reading until one book faded into another and I could not keep the stories straight any longer. So it got boring, perfect weather and all.

In the meantime, Rebecca, Ted, Eric and Mary ran things at the Shelter. Other than having to pay more money than usual for heating fuel; it's been a very cold winter and had to be plowed out a couple of times because the snow just got too high. Everything went well at the Shelter and at Mary's cat sanctuary.

Reb snow shoveled her dog trails, so the dogs could have fun with their hide-and-seek games (the snow banks are way above their heads). The trails are crisscrossing

all around the large yard. The trails give the dogs lots of fun racing back and forth on them.

As I am writing this letter, a mosquito just bit me in my foot, unbelievable, as cold as it is, they still manage to survive!

Nothing major happened at the Shelter while we were gone. No new dogs. We had some applications for the ones we do have, but they did not work out, i.e. the dogs we have are just too old for people to really want to adopt them, or they have too many other hang-ups, like not wanting to be petted on their head without biting the person who does the petting, etc.

This brings straight to the people news, to all of our supporters who have helped keeping our Shelter going for the past 3 months. A huge

THANK YOU TO

Al Smith, Belmont
Alice Winston, Swampscott
Barbara Askew, Quincy
Charlotte Paul, Chelmsford
Cristine Cardello, Melrose
Dale Critchley, S. Weymouth
David Hingston, Chelmsford
Deborah Phair
Donna Bering
Donna Wade, Unity
Dorothy D'Alessandro,
Elizabeth Morgan, Portland
Galen & Cynthia Thompson

Iris Martinello, Tewksbury
Jackie Lowney, New Bedford
Jean & Ralph Catignani
Joan Ryan, New Bedford
Joe D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro
Joseph Kogut, Upton
Judith Gallo and the Archers
Judy Rohweder, Northport
Kate Ahrens, Granby
Linda Merriam, Dresden
Marian Delarue, Woburn
Marlene Kaplan, Melrose
Melody Lavers, Wales

Nancy Brown, Olympia
Nancy Capone, Wakefield
Pat Thain, Dracut
Philip Mann, Rowland Heights
R.D. Bournival, Nashua
Rancourt Family, Lebanon
Sally Sawyer, Albany Twp.
Sandra Nicholson, Beverly
Susan Borsic, Woburn
Susan Culver, Wayland
William Hanrahan, Westwood

We also received a donation from the Madison Elementary School, in memory of their beloved teacher, Judy Waugh McLaughlin.

And some very sad news: Marcia Smith, who has been supporting our Shelter since before Charley died in 1996, lost her husband, Stanley. I did not know about that until I received a couple of donations in his memory, one from Gale Wodeweick, and one from Janette Blodget. We are so very sorry for your loss, Marcia!

We received a donation in memory of Vada, beloved pet of Debra and Jeffrey Lieberman. Vada was laid to rest on February 7 at the age of 14. Believe me, Debra and Jeffrey, I know exactly what you are going through.

Beverly Maheu also sent us a donation in memory of Smokey, a beautiful Husky she had adopted many years ago and who also passed on several years ago.

Judy Rohweder mailed me a bit of a sad letter with a check:

. . . contribution to honor my former beautiful companion who left me three years ago. Tigerlily was a sweet little Shih Tzu who had belonged to my friend, Jeanne, down the street. Jeanne died in the year 2000. There was nobody who wanted to give Tigerlily a home. . . . Tigerlily knew me well. She literally came right up the street and knocked on my door! I think she deserves some recognition for the happiness she gave me and she would approve of my donation in the name of her brothers and sisters at Charley's . . .

John Wells once again he not only sat in the cold with his table, collecting donations for our Shelter, but also mailed us a check in memory of Jake. His new companion, Rickie is coming along socially, but she is going to need time. She is very nervous around people. I know Jake was a "people-person", and most people who came to John's table wanted to pet Jake (John probably will not go along with them petting him, that's why we hope Rickie will come around). Update: *"Rickie is becoming much more self-confident in all areas of this new life, except for people. She goes out of her way to avoid them unless they come accompanied by another dog."*

We also had some great news: A lady named Karen wanted to adopt Riley, one of our cute but nutty dogs. She loved Riley, but he terrified the cats she has, so that did not work out. But Karen talked about it at her place of work. Her coworkers, who donate to one or another organization every Christmas, decided to donate to Charley's Strays this Christmas. So, a HUGE "Thank YOU" to the Mid-Maine Dental Center in Winslow, and of course to Karen who made it all happen!

While we were in Florida, Bonnie Buckmore also pitched in, again, to help collecting food and donations. Here is what she said:

"Today was the Paws for a Cause Cheering competition put on by the Lawrence High school in Fairfield. It was a huge success. We received dog and cat food, dog treats, towels and washcloth. There was money collected in 2 jars, which were started by my colleagues Erin, Nancy, and Shonna. Also, the winner of the raffle donated half of his winnings (\$108) back to Charley's."

We are so grateful for this support for the second year in a row. Thank you very much to the LHS cheerleaders and boosters and to everyone who donated, picked up a flier, or stopped by to ask about the dogs and cats at Charley's!

Bonnie, proud mom of Bridget who at one time was a dog at Charleys, has also been distributing money jars in various locations. She just emptied one of its \$14, not very much, but it definitely adds up!!!!

Charley Ames and Ruth McKinney (Charley does the website for us) remembered my birthday. Not that I care to remember, it's getting boring to do so. They mailed me a birthday gift in the form of a check made out to Charley's Strays.

Jean Tillson made her better half, James Peterson, empty his change-boot and mailed us a check. And as always, the company Jean works for, FM Global, will match that.

Pat Linehan came by the Shelter with his family and brought 200 lbs of dog and cat food.

While we were in Florida, we had an invitation from a neighbor to a Valentine's party. Jim attended by himself; I could not leave our old lady, Nikki the dog, alone. So it seems that everybody at the party talked "dogs", which ended with Lisa Gill, another neighbor of us, mailing us a check for the Shelter! I will be sure to send Jim to more parties; he seems to have a knack for it. ☺

To all the people who did all these special things for our animals, and of course to all of you who helped them again with donations, food, treats, toys and blankets, a huge:

THANK YOU!

This brings me to the end of this letter- please read on, Mary's Cat Report is on next page.

Have a wonderful month of April with lots of sunshine and little worries.

*Gabriele
Mary, Ted, Eric and Jim*



CAT REPORT – JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH 2017

The new year's news was that Feather and his brother Lucien learned to open both doors between the porch and the dining room. Unfortunately, they haven't learned to close them or to check the temperature, so often my first indication that they've done it again is an icy draft coming through the pass-through from the dining room to the kitchen. Then I look out on the porch and see half a dozen cats and rush to close the doors. It's cute to watch them, though, when I'm outside. The inside door has a knob they've learned to turn (usually when the door's securely closed they can't move it, but I have a chain and padlock for overnight, just in case), and the storm door has a latch they need to lift. So I hear the latch jiggling, and then the storm door swings open with one or the other cat clinging half-way up it to reach the latch.

In early February Lucien played a new trick. I had a big dog kennel against one wall on top of two cardboard banana boxes (to make it high enough so a cat eating medicated food in it wouldn't have other cats right in his or her face). Lucien decided to take one of the banana boxes to pieces. He got two other cats to help, and they did so well that I set the kennel on the floor before it fell on them. That left the boxes upside down on the floor with the square holes in the bottoms facing up. Lucien promptly dived into one and, with his back half still in the air, started poking other cats through the hole he'd made in the side of the box.

Feather and Lucien are big cats now, and their brothers Willow and Alafer are not small. Alafer is short-haired long-legged black; Willow is long-haired chunky black; Feather is black with white trim and random black marks on his face; and Lucien is grey with white trim and three grey dots on his face. Feather is named for the bit of white that looks like a feather on his hip, and is known as Bubble and Squeak for his habit of bobbing up against my leg and squeaking when he wants to be picked up. Lucien recently acquired the nickname Optimist, because when I give canned food to three cats in the group who are PCs (Privileged Cats) for various reasons, he comes to help, hoping somehow it will be for him. Willow is shy and sometimes sweet, but he can be a bit of a pill; he tends to swat other cats or chomp on their ears for no reason. Alafer, who was the really shy one, also has a new nickname: Twinearound, because since late January he's been rubbing around my legs at mealtimes and letting me pet his back.

The various older cats are also doing well so far this year. We're all waiting for spring, known to the dining-room cats as leave-the-door-open weather when they can come and go onto the porch as they choose. I hope all you made it through the winter, or escaped to Florida like some people we know.

After such a long break I hope I haven't forgotten anyone who sent much appreciated cat food and coupons. The food list includes Pepper Charles, our bridge partner Shirley and former Charley's Strays volunteer Karen, who sadly lost her cat Annie and brought me food and treats Annie didn't have time to eat. Coupons have come from Suzanne Belisle, Emily Jorgenson, Iris Martinello, Irma Simon, Al Smith and Mr. & Mrs. John Walsh Jr. Many thanks to all.