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Limestone, September, 2017

Dear Friends,

I could not resist sharing Princess Greta's 12th birthday photo with you. She is the little dachshund on the left, whose human companions are Cynthia & Galen Thompson. The Thompsons once again are getting ready for their annual Flea Bag Ball in Bangor on November 11th. You may remember that this has been a yearly event, where they collect dog and cat food and cash for a couple of Shelters. We are very lucky to have been one of the recipients for the past several years.

Some sad news at the Shelter - Mary lost a cat, Mr. Tom, who was much loved by everybody. And we lost our Dante, the old guy who had been with us for many years. Before he came to us, he was living in another state, but since he was the terror of the neighborhood with other dogs, a judge had actually evicted him from that state. That's how he ended up with us. He found a great buddy in Sammy, the little Eskimo dog, and shared his life and doghouse with him. Sammy died last year, and Dante was alone again. Even though we started feeding him people-food last month, which he loved, he stopped eating a week ago. When Reb took him to the vet, she was told it was time to let him go. He will be very much missed, and so will his crooked Elvis Presley smile.

Other than that not much else happened this month. I am a bit upset at the other shelters around the country. We all know that especially the southern shelters are packed to the maximum, killing animals left and right to make space for more. A few months ago, when my much beloved Nikki, the mix lab/basset hound, died, I was applying with many shelters for another dog in need. It took me four weeks and, more or less, lots of begging to be approved for a dog that had medical issues and

needed a home. Now the same thing is happening with our friend and supporter, John Wells. John wants to give another dog a great home, but runs into the same problems as I did. There are so many dogs out there in need of a home, and so many homes in need of a dog. John said, "What's wrong with these shelters? They don't even reply to my adoption application, but do take the fees for these applications. And if one actually does answer, they say 'no' because I have no fenced-in yard." So they rather kill these animals then letting a person without a fenced yard adopt one? Shame on these so-called shelters!

Since we have lost several old dogs over the past year, we do have some open runs, so I contacted several shelters to take some of their animals. Pretty much with the same results – much writing and phoning back and fourth, and then it just fades out- too much work to get their vets to write the necessary documents to move the dogs up here, or some other lame excuse. I get all these emails pleading for help, such and such dog will be put down by the end of this week. I call and either I get no answer, or no one calls back. That makes me wonder if it's all a money-making scheme. And what's behind those emails? That's pretty much all that's going on in our neck of the woods.

Today I am enclosing the last set of tickets for the fundraiser. We will have the drawing of the prizes towards the end of this month. Hopefully we will have enough money with this ticket sale to pay for the heating fuel. I am sure we will have another long cold winter in Maine, judging by the hot summer and fall.

Some great news for us: I just had to pay the Town of Clinton their property taxes of almost \$700, which depleted our funds once again. So I was very happy to receive a check, which almost paid for the taxes from the "Tote-Bag Sale" that was hosted by Loyal Biscuit Company.

And of course John Wells also did his table-fundraiser again and helped us with the donations he collected from that. Once again, a HUGE Thank you to John, and another HUGE THANK YOU to Loyal Biscuit Company and Bonnie Buckmore who made it happen!

Last, but not least, a big thank you to the following supporters who once again helped us out with donations, food, cleaning supplies, stamps and kind words:

Al Smith, Belmont	Joe Blake, New Bedford	Nancy Capone, Wakefield
Bonnie Buckmore, Waterville	John Ingersoll, N. Reading	Pat Thain, Dracut
Bonnie Wiegand, Danvers	Joseph D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro	Paula Wisniowski, Tyngsboro
Cristine Cardello, Melrose	Joseph Kogut, Upton	Ralph & Jean Catignani
Dale Critchley, S. Weymouth	Judy Rohweder, Northport	Rancourt Family, Lebanon
Danielle Warren	Linda Merriam, Dresden	Sandra Nicholson, Beverly
Donna Bering	Lori Farrow, S. China	Sascha Metz
Dorothy D'Alessandro, Ossipee	Lynn Frischmann, Los Gatos	Scott Adams, China Village
Emile Jorgensen, E. Boston	Marian Delarue, Woburn	Steve Martin, Augusta
Iris Martinello, Tewksbury	Marlene Kaplan, Melrose	Susan Borsic, Woburn
Jackie & Kellee Lowney	Michael Kane, Greenwood	Zackary Swank
Joan Ryan, S. Dartmouth	Morgan Byrd	

The Thompson Family mailed us a check in honor of dachshund Greta's 12th birthday. ☺

We received a donation in celebration of her parents love for each other from Kate Ahrens. Kate's dad died this year. Had he lived, her parents would have celebrated their 65th anniversary!

In memory of their daughter Marie-Kristin we also received donations from her parents and sister, Christel, Michelle and Thomas Friedow, and from family and friends as far away as Germany.

Bonnie Buckmore mailed us a check from donation jars she put up in several stores, along with a check in honor of her dog Bridget.

A big **THANK YOU** to all of you!

Before I close this letter, I have a bit more on living healthy and happy with cherries.

Did you know that adding cherries to your diet can greatly reduce the pain of arthritis, Inflammation and gout? A study done by the USDA confirms that Bing cherries may help fight arthritis, cancer, heart disease and inflammation. Blood samples indicated that levels of three indicators of inflammation, -nitric oxide, C reactive protein and a marker for T-cell activation, dropped by 18 to 25 percent after eating cherries.

The director of CMU's neuroscience program said that the compound build around extracts from tart cherries improved brain function in mice with Alzheimer's and reduced symptoms of Huntington disease in other lab animals.

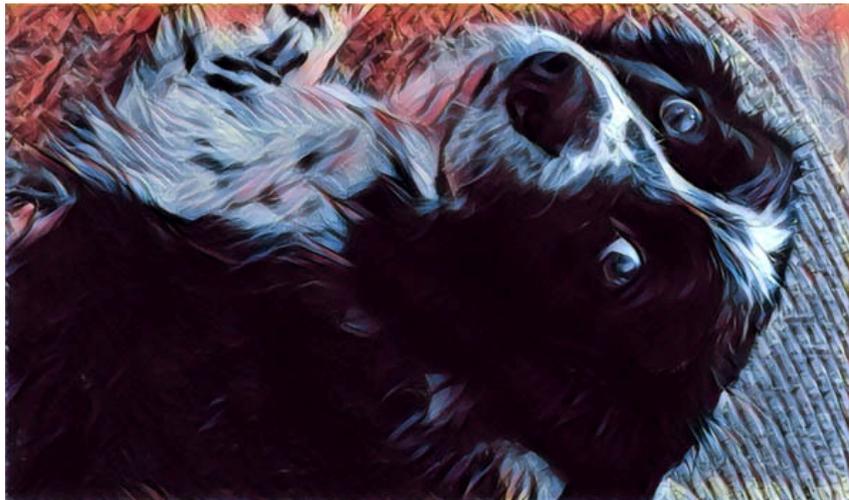
Cyanidin, also found in cherries inhibits tumor development as well as reducing the proliferation in cancer cells.

Cherries contain melatonin, which is beneficial for regulating your sleep cycle. Two tablespoons of tart cherry juice in studies have been shown as effective as a melatonin supplement.

So now you know how to stay healthy with cherries. ☺

Have a wonderful month of October, and a Happy Halloween

*Gabriele*  
*Mary, Ted, Eric and Jim*



**Kody - the Border Collie**

## CAT REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2017

If it weren't for Ryan, Feather and Lucien being such delightful clowns and Tang purring on my pillow at night, this would have been a depressing month in terms of Charley's Strays cat.

Buddy died in late August, soon after I wrote the cat report for the August newsletter. In mid-September we lost Mr. Tom, the senior FIV+ in terms of age and time spent with me – he started the FIV room. I knew he wasn't well, but I was surprised to find him dead in his sleeping basket one morning. One of my own FIV+ cats had to be euthanized a day later. I'm down to five in that room, including Tiger, who seems to be doing fine.

Ashley's ear infection cleared up – she still has a slight head tilt, which in my experience is neither uncommon nor serious – but something else is going on and she won't eat. I've tried to tempt her with everything I can think of; she's been to Animal Hospital of Waterville repeatedly; she spent three weeks getting nourishment through a feeding tube, partly from the doctors and techs and partly at home from me. As I write this she's back at our vet's after an overnight at a specialty veterinary hospital in southern Maine, where she had an ultrasound and an endoscopy. Neither showed anything unusual, but the endoscopy allowed collection of internal samples that will be biopsied. Her blood work shows some abnormalities often associated with cancer; we'll see what the biopsies find. Meanwhile she purrs, cuddles with me and the other cats, and except for being very thin and not eating looks, acts and sounds like a happy, healthy cat.

Alafer also developed an ear infection and as he started to respond to treatment a respiratory infection that set him back again. He spent too much time sleeping in out-of-the-way corners and ignoring meals. This week he's done much better – still wobbly, but he eats often and is back to being my Twinearound cat, winding around my ankles, usually as I try to navigate the dining room carrying a tray loaded with dishes of cat food. Lucien, Feather and Ryan all help with that exercise. If their idea is to make me drop the tray so they can have the food, they've not succeeded -- yet.

Willow, Alafer, Lucien and Feather's long-haired black brother, doesn't help by losing his temper and swearing and swatting when Alafer lurches across his path. Willow can be a sweetie when he feels like it, but when he doesn't, watch out!

All these illnesses have created a formidable vet bill, even though our vets treat us well. I'm sure Gabriele would be grateful if some of you could add a few dollars to your next donations, or perhaps talk some of your cat-people friends into helping our cats.

Thanks, as always, to the cats' friends for their support. In addition to your contributions to the bill-paying, this month I got canned cat food from Pepper Charles and dry food from Shirley, and coupons from Suzanne Belisle, Emile Jorgensen, Iris Martinello, Caley Pillow and Al Smith.