



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

Mailing address: P.O. Box 64, Limestone ME 04750  
Tel. Shelter: 207-426-9482 Tel. Jim: 207-325-8894  
[www.charleysstrays.org](http://www.charleysstrays.org)

September, 2010

Dear Friends,

I hope you are enjoying these last "summer" days. What a beautiful year we had, weather wise! I wish this could go on forever, and ever. I am already getting the shakes thinking about the cold winter winds blowing all that snow into my face, while walking with the dogs. Oh well, nothing lasts forever.

Everything is going fine at the Shelter. The dogs are also enjoying the warmth and sunshine, rolling around in the grass, playing with Frisbees and whatever Rebecca throws their way. We are still very happy and thankful to have her - the dogs love her, she spends lots of time with them, and everybody looks really happy and content.

One of our dogs was adopted: Honey, a very cute girl who was supposed to be put down because she had a habit of chasing porcupines (the vet called us and Ted saved her) found her, hopefully, forever home. The new owners brought their own dog along who looked like a duplicate of Honey.

Another dog that was adopted last month was returned, because he became aggressive towards the other family dog. I always tell people to have a little patience with a new animal; after all relationships between

people need time to work out too, and they don't always do. In my opinion there is no difference between people and animals; either they hit it off and stay together for the rest of their lives, or they don't, and the animal has to look for another person. So if things don't work out after giving the animal a reasonable amount of time to adjust, it's definitely much better to bring him back to the Shelter than have a miserable life together.

Great news came our way from Cindy Houston's yard sale; we received a huge check, almost twice as much as last year, made out to MainGas, our heating supplier. A whopping \$855! That should take care of one month of heating the shelter, depending on how cold it will be and how much the oil giants will be charging. Cindy's husband, Steve, kept an eye on would-be-thieves (imagine stealing from a Shelter – it is always advertised as the money going to the animals, but last year people did walk off without paying) and Jackie Lowney and Kim Doherty were wheeling and dealing. Cindy told me she could not have done it without Kim, who has THE knack of working with people ☺. A huge



to Cindy, Jackie, Kim and Steve, and to all the people who sent and brought items for this yard sale-fundraiser!

Two more weeks and we will be having our yearly BIG EVENT, the fundraiser. Due to popular demand ☺ we will have a bake sale this year. Cindy and Enid Hayes and I will be baking lots of goodies for you to take home with you. Of course there will be "samplers" so you know what you are buying. There will be chocolate/pecan cake, zucchini bread (my own organically grown zucchini) cognac/raisin loafs, cherry/crumb cake and whatever else I can think of, from me – baked with real butter and unbleached flour. Enid Hayes just sent me a list of the things she will bake: brownies, banana bread & apple, raisin bran bread, and Cindy with whatever surprise she whips up. Of course we are grateful for anything else eatable and sellable being brought by our visitors to the fundraiser.

We will have a huge table with odds and ends, leftovers and new things from Cindy's yard sale; including hand knitted items from my friend in Germany, donated jewelry from Barb Anderson, a bunch of brand new dog jackets from our supporter, Lynn Frischmann from California, along with some beautiful Christmas items, and, and, and... You just have to be there to see it all. If you need to do Christmas shopping, our fundraiser is the place to do it!

Before I go on to the *Thank You's*: P. A. Lenk and Barb Anderson had to deal with illness, and in Barb's case, broken ribs (caused by speedy Gonzales, her husband who threw her around in their RV ☺) We wish you a fast recovery!

**Our Fundraiser: October 16, 2010**

Once again our animals were well taken care of with care-packages and donations from the following supporters:

Alice Winston, Swampscott  
Ann Sargent, Chestnut Hill  
Ann Thiboutot, China Village  
Carole Parker, Winchendon  
Cindy Houston, Woburn  
Cristine Cardello, Melrose  
Dale Critchley, S. Weymouth  
Diane Rizzo, Oxford  
Donna Bering, Lynn  
Dorothy Eckstein, Medford  
Doug Robertson, Dennis  
Emile Jorgensen, E. Boston  
Elizabeth Fay, Northport  
George Hinds, Cambridge  
Inge Maiellano, Marblehead  
Iris Martinello, Tewksbury  
Jackie Lowney, New Bedford

Jean Catignani, Conway  
Joan Ryan, New Bedford  
Joann DeNapoli, Winchester  
Joe Blake, New Bedford  
Joe D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro  
Josephine Ford, Holden  
Josephine Smith, Woburn  
Judy & Al Smith, Belmont  
Judy Rohweder, Northport  
Linda Merriam, Dresden  
Lorena & Harry Clark, Beverly  
Marc Voyvodich, Portland  
Marcia Smith, Bucksport  
Marian Delarue, Woburn  
Marlene Kaplan, Melrose  
Mary Klayda, Winchester  
Melody Lavers, Pownal

Michael Kane, Greenwood  
Mildred Walker, Presque Isle  
Nancy Capone, Wakefield  
P.A. Lenk, China Village  
Pat Thain, Dracut  
Philipp Mann, Rowland Hts  
R.D.Bournival, Nashua  
R.Glover, N. Andover  
Robert Hull, Lawrence  
Ruth Giusti, Green Mtn.  
Sandra Nicholson, Tewksbury  
Steve Martin, Augusta  
Susan Borsic, Woburn  
The Bachrachs, Petersham  
Viola McDonald, Woburn  
Willa Rockett, Belmont



That's all, folks, on my part! ☺ Rebecca also wrote a bit, please read on. And then there is the cat report from Mary who has all the newest on our felines. . .

Hope to see you on October 16th at the Fundraiser. Until then, stay happy and healthy!

**Gabriele, Mary, Karen, Betty, Ted and Jim**

---

### Life at Charley's #1, by Rebecca

I need to give you a quick overview of the layout at the Charley's Strays kennel to explain how we care for our dogs' physical needs. It's a three-part setup. There are two adjoining kennel buildings, a small one for quarantining incoming or ill dogs and the main one. Both have indoor pens connected by doggy doors to outside runs. Then there are 15 big fenced outdoor runs, each with a dog house and a free-standing roof over the house, and four smaller outdoor runs without houses. All this, plus the storage buildings, is inside a fenced yard where dogs can run free.

In winter and in bad weather most dogs live in the main kennel. From April through October, roughly, most spend days in the outside runs, unless it's too hot or too wet. Because of the roofs, they can sit on top of the dog houses where they can keep an eye on everything. Unless it's really bad weather, everyone gets play time in the fenced yard at some point in the day.

The main kennel houses the kitchen where I prepare food and wash dishes and the all-important washing machine and drier. I hate to think how many donated washers and driers we've gone through – they get constant hard use. I'd bet most of the water we use goes for washing blankets, dishes and floors, not for drinking.

Kennel life features regular meals, clean drinking water and shelter. With more than a dozen dogs, there's always company, too. Most dogs have an indoor pen connected to an outdoor run all to themselves – only best friends share a pen. But each dog's space is within sight, smell and sound of other dogs and of the humans who come and go. The daily exercise in the yard and the moves from the kennel building to outdoor runs provide a chance to sniff around and catch up on what's been happening outdoors.

However, kennel life isn't like home, where a proper dog supervises the housework (especially the cooking), sleeps on – or gets shooed off – the couch and goes for walks and rides. So I look for ideas, on the web and elsewhere, to increase the variety in our dogs' lives. For instance, I've tried serving a meal in cardboard boxes instead of dishes. Some dogs tear the box to shreds and gulp the food; others open the box carefully and take out the food mouthful by mouthful.

Another suggestion I found is to give each dog new toys every three days, on the theory that after three days, a dog is bored with the same old things. The toys don't have to be expensive – empty paper towel rolls strung on an overhead rope provided entertainment for our Boston terrier. As you'd expect, some dogs appreciate new toys, some are happy with the old ones and some don't care for toys at all. Kennel Queen needs a new toy every three hours; in her opinion, all toys, whether made of paper, hard rubber or something in between, are to be shredded instantly.

It's always fun to have visitors, but please call ahead so I'll know you're coming. Otherwise I might be out shopping or doing a dump run. The number at the kennel is 426-9482.

---

## CAT REPORT SEPTEMBER 2010

Lots of news again, so let me postpone the bad part by starting where August left off.

The change at my house that I mentioned: it sounds crazy, but I had a screen door installed inside the house, between the kitchen where I spend a lot of time and the FIV+ room that opens off the kitchen. My main reason was a selfish one: the FIVs have an air conditioner, and I wanted some of that cool air circulating into my space. I've used the a/c once since then, and I did get some benefit. I'd also thought the FIV room will be warmer in winter with additional warm air from the kitchen, and that's working, too. What I hadn't thought about was how much more time the FIVs and I would spend almost together, and that's been a real bonus. Frequently two or three of them sit at the door trying to see what I'm doing and we talk to each other, and I can hear when they're playing with noisy toys (or throwing up hairballs).

Tia and the kittens seem to be doing fine. From the top, all four kittens look alike; if you turn them upside down, one (I think it's the girl named Michelle) has a white triangle at the base of her (or maybe his) belly. I bought them (very expensive) breakaway collars in four different colors to keep track of who's who. I *think* I put blue collars on the boys and a pink one and a red one on the girls, but I might be wrong. The collars are oversize for kittens, but so far only Ryan has shed his. Michelle and Ashley tend to wear theirs bandolier style, around the neck and under one arm.

For the last two weeks I've been running back and forth to the vet almost every day with one cat after another. Three were Charley's Strays cats. Purina/Meg was the easy one; she's been eating a lot and gaining no weight, so I had her thyroid checked again. It was normal, as it was last spring. At her age – she was born in January 1995, according to our records, and is the only cat in the house who knew Charley – I don't feel guilty about having her see the doctor more often than once a year.

Agnes, on the other hand, was eating less than usual. When I took her in, Dr. Chaisson found she had sore gums and several bad teeth, so she went back for a dental six days later. In the interim she ate very well; I switched her to canned food, which she likes and which I'll continue giving her while her mouth heals. She also got her vaccinations, so that's one cat off the fall house call list and bill.

Pooh, the younger gray and white funny-foot, is no longer with us. He collapsed late one evening and went to the vet first thing the next morning. Blood work showed an infection; he had antibiotic injections three days in a row and seemed to be a little better, but when I came home from the kennel Saturday he had died, apparently peacefully. I'd moved him and his sister Lisa down to the kitchen just a few days before he got sick, so they could have more peace than the rambunctious youngsters upstairs allowed. I'm glad I did; I was able to keep a close eye on Pooh. On Dr. C's advice, I turned up the kitchen thermostat to keep him warm (that's how I know a warm kitchen heats the FIV room).

In August I mentioned Chris, who's the older gray and white funny-foot and Pooh and Lisa's half-brother: he appears to be over his annual summer droopy spell and back on an even keel. Sure hope so! Gabriele's going to be tired of trying to find money to pay the vet.

The coupons and cat food gifts keep coming, and I'm very grateful to all of you. An envelope of coupons from Judy and Al Smith arrived this week and two went right into my pocket as I headed for town (but I could use only one; both supermarkets had empty spaces where my type of Tidy Cats litter was supposed to be). Thanks also to Suzanne Belisle, Jenny and Donna Bering, Roberta Chaves, Marlene Kaplan, P. A. Lenk, Iris Martinello, Teresa Parent, Willa Rockett and Irma Simon, and to Karen and the Charles cat for food.

Whoever's planning to go to the fund-raiser next month, bring a list of your catted friends and your checkbook. Gabriele will be selling the toys Cathy O'Connor's friend Kim made for us with Cathy's home-grown catnip, and they should delight any cat except the few who're indifferent to catnip. The scent comes right through the colorful cat-patterned cloth and the plastic wrappers.