



Charley's Strays, Inc.

Mailing address: P. O. Box 64, Limestone ME 04750

Tel. Shelter 207-426-9482 or Jim at 207-325-8894

www.charleysstrays.org

Limestone, March, 2011

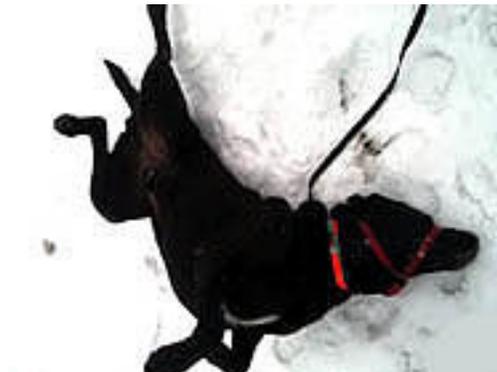
Dear Friends,

Another cold, snowy month in Maine – it seems like this winter just does not want to end. At least the dogs and cats in our care are nice and warm and go to sleep with full bellies, not like so many all over the world.

I was away for a couple of weeks to visit my elderly brother in Germany, and the constant 24-hour coverage on TV of the horrible happenings in Japan made me realize once again how quick life can change, for us and for the animals.

Not too much news at the Shelter this month other than Toby, the black Lab, is settling in and seems to be quite happy and content. Susanna, the lady who has the "Dogs Deserve Better" rescue in southern Maine and who works with many different people to save animals on the death row, sent the following email to me this morning:

Toby is doing really well at Charley's - once again - all the dog needed was to get out of the horrible shelter environment. Rebecca is enjoying his typical stupid Lab behavior. He nearly drowned himself in a mud puddle the other day because he had to roll in it - but just could not stand to release the Kong he had in his mouth while he was mud diving. I have attached a picture of Toby the day he arrived at Charley's.



Toby does have a newly diagnosed thyroid issue - which also might have contributed to his negative behavior at Coastal Humane Society. That is not a big deal though - medication is only

\$10-\$15 a month depending on whether you order three months of meds at a time or only one month. You do have to re-test the thyroid level a month after starting the meds to make sure the dosage is correct - and then usually once a year after that if the meds are correct.

Another life saved!

Karen Deady, the lady whose students rolled pennies in December for Charley's Strays, mailed us another check from her class. They had been saving their bottles since Christmas! She also got the Kindergarten kids involved. They collected lots of canned food for our critters. 😊

Kudos to the kiddos from Madison Elementary school!

Pauline Connaughton collected money and treats from the doctors of the Radiology Department of the Children's Hospital in Boston for our Shelter. One of the docs, Michelle Walter, bought some beautiful cat beds and dog blankets for us.

Lots of kisses and purrrrrs to all of you!

So it would have been an almost perfect month for us if it had not been for the sad letter I received from our friend and supporter, Al Smith, writing that Judy, his beloved wife, passed away. Some of you had met Judy at our fundraiser; she was always involved in one cause or another to help animals, whether it was "stop Greyhound racing", or anything else, which involved collecting signatures to better the plight of animals. I still can't believe that Judy is not with us any more, and I feel very sad for Al. One thing is certain: I will never forget her. She was one of the nicest and most compassionate ladies I had the pleasure to meet and be friends with.

Another month, another huge heating bill, more vet bills, but with your help we managed to stay afloat once again. Thank you for staying with us, and for having a huge heart for animals! Without you there would be no Charley's "sanctuary" as some of the people who have come to see the Shelter have called our place. Thank you very much to:

Al Smith, Belmont
Alice Winston, Swampscott
Carole Parker, Winchendon
Cindy Houston, Woburn
Cristine Cardello, Melrose
Cynthia Herrick, West Newton
Cynthia Thompson, Millinocket
Dale Critchley, S. Weymouth
Denise Trombly, Nashua
Donna Bering, Lynn
Dorothy Andrews, Warwick
Dorothy Eckstein, Medford
Elizabeth Fay, Belfast
Enid Hayes, Halifax

Inge Maiellano, Marblehead
Iris Martinello, Tewksbury
Irma Simon, S. China
Jackie & Kellee Lowney, Bedford
Jean & Ralph Catignani, Conway
Joan Ryan, New Bedford
Jon & Barb Anderson, Augusta
Joseph Blake, New Bedford
Joseph D'Alessandro, Tuftonb.
Josephine Ford, Holden
Josephine Smith, Woburn
Judy Rohweder, Northport
Linda Lougee, Newport
Linda Merriam, Dresden

Lorena & Harry Clark, Beverly
Marcia Smith, Bucksport
Marian Delarue, Woburn
Mary Klayda, Winchester
Melody Lavers, Pownal
Mildred Walker, Presque Isle
Nancy Capone, Wakefield
Pat Thain, Dracut
Patricia Heath, Caswell
R.D. Bournival, Nashua
Robert Hull, Lawrence
Sally Sawyer, Albany
Sandra Nicholson, Beverly
Shirley Rancourt, Lebanon



We received a donation in memory of Frank Klayda's birthday from his widow, Mary. We also received checks in memory of Judy Smith from friends and relatives of the family. Lynne Kaplotz and Jim Bean mailed us a donation in honor of dog Bridget, whose parents are the Buckmores. Judy Rohweder mailed us a check in honor of her daughter Cindy's birthday, and George Hinds also sent us a donation in memory of his late wife. We also received a donation in honor of Greta the Dachshund from her mom, Cynthia Thompson.

Thank you very much to all of you!



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

VERY IMPORTANT for all Maine friends of animals – please help spread the word

Rep. Sara Stevens from Bangor is introducing legislation, LD 760, to create an animal abuser registry similar to Maine's sex offender registry. The law would require anyone over 18 convicted of animal abuse in Maine or elsewhere to register with the county sheriff within 10 days of moving into a county. The sheriff's office would notify the Department of Public Safety and "every residence, school, humane society, animal shelter and any other business" within half a mile of the abuser's location. The Department of Public Safety would keep a register that would be available to the public. Anyone on the register would stay on for 15 years.

One county in New York State approved a registry last year. The idea has been proposed informally before Maine legislative committees in the past, but this is the first time it's appeared officially. If enacted, the law would help keep tabs on known abusers, saving animals from suffering and taxpayers from spending money to rescue them. It will also cost money to set up the registry, making enactment difficult in this economic climate.

The public hearing on LD 760 is scheduled for 10 a.m. Friday, April 8, in Room 436 of the State Office Building in Augusta before the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. This is not the committee that usually hears animal welfare bills, so it's important that supporters turn out to show these legislators how many Maine voters care about this issue.



CAT REPORT – MARCH 2011

I wish you could see our kittens – I really need to get my friend Brian and his camera over here. All three have lovely soft gray coats and long tails. Ryan, the friendliest, has orangey-gold eyes and an extra-long tail. Ashley, who finally got spayed (with no complications), she has yellowish-tan eyes with a green ring around the iris. Grover, poor little guy, is still as untouchable as he's been ever since he got neutered; he's the lightest gray, and I think his eyes are darker tan than Ashley's, but he's so elusive I'm not sure. You may remember that I put breakaway collars on them as the only way to tell them apart. Ryan's and Ashley's I've adjusted a couple times as their necks grew, and when Grover was neutered I asked Dr. Tim to loosen his, but since then I

haven't been able to touch it. A couple nights ago I decided I'd better do something, so as he popped out of the kennel where he and his siblings eat their kitten chow (before they go help the grown-up cats finish the cat chow) I caught him by the collar and sure enough, it broke away. So I can still identify Grover: he's the one with no collar. Also the one on the far side of the room most of the time. . .

The couple who adopted Michelle sent me photos a couple times – they're delighted with her. She's very smart and enjoys playing fetch with a twist of paper. I've known only a couple other cats who'd retrieve a toy so I could toss it again.

Most of our invalids are doing all right. Purina/Meg's pancreatitis hasn't recurred, but she came down with an upper respiratory infection. It responded immediately to antibiotics and she was fine for about a week, but now she's sniffly again and I've restarted the meds. She, by the way, proved you can teach an old cat new tricks: For months she's taken her meals atop a file drawer in the back hall, but when I needed to keep the other cats from sneaking bits of her medicated food I fed her in my bedroom with the door closed. Now she'll eat either place; I just show her the dish and indicate whether I want her to go east or west.

With Mr. Tom and his more stubborn pancreatitis, I tried the theory that fighting twice a day to medicate him was doing more harm than the antibiotic was doing good, and it worked: he's pretty well back to normal. I'm still feeding him canned food in the walk-in cage at least twice a day because he likes the food and enjoys being special. He also eats dry food now as he used to.

Emery, meanwhile, developed a sore mouth. I don't know what the trouble is, because after all these years he still won't let me handle him beyond occasional petting while he's busy eating. He, too, has been taking antibiotics in canned food, except this morning he refused breakfast. Until now he's seemed to feel fine, and since I started adding warm water to his canned food he's had no trouble eating. Unless he gets worse, my plan is to have Dr. Tim and the tech that come out for the spring house call in April catch him so Dr. Tim can try to check his mouth and if necessary take him back to the hospital for treatment.

Lots of people to thank again: my neighbor Nancy for a big bag of blankets and sheets, the Charleses and the Madison students for cat food (the Madison youngsters sent three big boxes, with a variety of flavors and textures that appealed to Mr. Tom while he wasn't feeling his best); Teresa and her sister Suzanne, the Smiths and someone in Montville, Maine, who mails envelopes to the kennel for coupons; and of course all of you whose donations help with the vet bills and other expenses.