



Charley's Strays, Inc.

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Limestone, April, 2013

Dear Friends,

Spring has finally made it to northern Maine! As I am writing this, looking out of the window, I still don't see a single leaf on the scrawny looking trees, but there are some buds, and the lawn shows signs of life. It seems like March was the spring month for us in northern Maine. April went back to winter, and now we can just hope that after six months of winter we may actually enjoy some spring like temperatures. The Weather Channel promised us frost-free nights and 50/60s during the day. Well, we will see about that, not that I don't trust the weather forecast, but . . .

Easter came and went, but our bear, Teddy, was nowhere in sight. I had the nagging feeling since he left last year for his winter quarters, that we might not see him again. He looked so tired, and old and worn out. And after all we had the pleasure of knowing and feeding him for 12 years, so. As the saying goes; everything good comes to an end. Then one night, I was already in bed; our dog Nikki went wild, barking like crazy. After living with her for 10 years, I can pretty well interpret her barks, so I had the inkling that, yes, maybe - the bear? I jumped out of the bed (the kind of jump us older folks do, it's more of a crawling with lots of oh-no-it-hurts) and Jim who had been doing a marathon run to tell me (well, it was more of a slow walk) informed me that something big black with a fat butt and a white bib was laying below the birdfeeders cleaning up the seeds on the ground. Since Teddy is usually pretty grumpy when he first shows up in spring, we both coaxed him into backing off towards the woods, and then we filled a bowl with sunflower seeds and gave him an offering of suet. He barely gave us time to turn around and there he was, flat on the ground, eating and grunting with pleasure. ☺ Now we are one big fat happy family, once again!

That's the good news; the bad news is that donations are trickling in, and the money is pouring out to pay the expenses of the Shelter. I know times are bad, and we can feel it at the Shelter too. Monthly donations have become every-other-month donations, then every few-months-donations, and now 3-times-a year donations. We have lost many people due to old age, and have barely gained any new supporters.

And losing the inexpensive food-source of Good Shepherd is making things much worse. Jim will have to drive this month to Sam's Club to pick up a trailer load full of food at regular prices. I wish I could say that this will wipe out our savings account, but we don't have a savings account. Here we go again, tightening up the belt, which is already as tight as it goes.

I also received a mail from our friend Laurie Mountain, who is much involved in animal rescue, and who has been helping out many people with their pets. She said she is out of everything: dog food, cat food, litter, etc., and has

to turn people away. That means many animals will go hungry, not to mention will go without vet care. We have helped Laurie with food here and there when we had plenty, so that makes me feel lousy to have nothing to share with her.

But thank God we did have some donations coming in again this month, and we made it through another one without our animals going hungry or have no medication to ease their pain.

So a huge **THANK YOU!**

to the following supporters of our animals:

Al Smith, Belmont
Arlene Hayes, Halifax
Cindy Houston, Woburn
Cristine Cardello, Melrose
Dale Critchley, Weymouth
Donna Bering, Lynn
Dorothy D'Alessandro, Oss.
Dorothy Eckstein, Medford,
Glenna Hawthorne, Woburn
Inge Maiellano, Marblehead
Iris Martinello, Tewksbury

Irma Simon, China
Jackie Lowney, N. Bedford
Jean & Ralph Catignani,
Joe D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro
Joseph Blake, New Bedford
Judy Rohweder, Northport
Karen Rapallo, Wakefield
Linda Merriam, Dresden
Lynn Kaplowitz, Montville
Marian Delarue, Woburn
Marlene Kaplan, Melrose

Nancy Brown, Waltham
Nancy Capone, Wakefield
P.A.Lenk, China
Pat Thain, Dracut
Pat Williams, Litchfield
Phil Mann, Rowland Heights
R.D. Bournival, Nashua
Richard Williams, Winslow
Robert Gulino, Acton
Sandra Nicholson, Beverly
Susan Borsic, Woburn

Richard Williams lost his 15-year-old Lab JJ and sent us a donation in JJ's memory. Believe me we know what you are going through.

Jean and Ralph Catignani also sent us a check in memory of the furry companion of Melanie Porter.



And this brings me to the end of my part of this month's newsletter.

Wishing you a wonderful spring

Gabriele

Mary, Ted and Jim





CAT REPORT – APRIL 2013

Our cats have been enjoying spring, some on windowsills and some on the porch watching birds, bugs, two stray cats, the neighbors' friendly little Corgi and other outdoor phenomena. I've been counting daffodils and cursing mosquitoes (already!), and friends have been pulling ticks off their dogs and inside/outside cats for three weeks.

Not much news about individual cats. All have been well, for which I'm always grateful, and a lot bursting with spring energy. Our friend Laurie says it's the full moon that makes cats (and people) crazy, but I think it was the warmer air and especially the recent windy spell that had my guys and gals bouncing off the porch screens all day and racing up and down the stairs all night.

Many thanks, as always, to the cats' (and dogs') supporters who take the time to clip coupons for us. This month's donors include Suzanne Belisle, P. A. Lenk, Iris Martinello, Teresa Parent, Al Smith and Gail Walsh. Pepper Charles sent canned cat food, and Irma Simon and Teresa gave monetary gifts that will be used for new litter boxes and new toys as well as food. (ep)