



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.us

Limestone, December, 2013

Dear Friends,

Here we are ready to start another "new" year! I can't help but wonder what this one will bring to all of you, and to our animals. My biggest wish is that everybody stays healthy, because we all know that's most important.

2013 was a bit of a weird year at Charley's; with lots of unexpected expenses, but thanks to you we managed to meet the various challenges and survived.

Which brings me right to the phone calls and letter regarding my last newsletter about not being able to keep the insurance on the Shelter: Thanks to YOU pulling all together, we did renew the policy for another year. After much haggling with the insurance company, we made them drop the premium to the \$1700 we paid last year, but have a much larger deductible now. If times get better again, and hopefully they will, we can always go back to the lower deductible and the higher premium. So many, many thanks for helping us. I know this did not come easy for you, but our Shelter and our animals are okay again.

The oil tank is filled and should last us most part of this winter. We bought plenty of food to last for another two months, too. Now the only thing, which can throw us off balance are vet bills. Hopefully our dogs and cats will not have to deal with any major illness.

One sad thing this past month: Our old German shepherd Princess had to be put to sleep. She had hip problems for a long time, and was usually okay for six months after several injections of Adequil. But two weeks ago, on a Saturday when Ted was there (poor Ted, for some reason it seems like he is the one who always has to deal with these emergencies) Princess was strolling around checking out the premises, and all of a sudden she laid down and even with much coaxing, would not get up. She also growled at Ted and our volunteers, which happened to be there. It was a challenge to pick her up and put in the car. Ted drove her to Bangor, since it was a Saturday, our regular vet was not on call. The vet at the Lucerne Animal Clinic in Bangor checked her out, and told Ted that Princess would never be able to walk again, and the humane thing would be to put her out of her pain. So, Ted

had a horrible day again, especially since he is very partial to German shepherds and had tried to take Princess home a year ago, which did not work out because Princess and his own dogs did not get along. Overall, I think Princess was very happy at the Shelter, and hopefully her soul is at peace now, too.

Of course the empty run did not stay empty for more than a couple of days. Mandy, a lady who is involved with several shelters in Maine and has brought us several dogs before and needed help for a medium-sized very adoptable dog, who came to stay with us until he finds a home of his own. I have been waiting on photos and more information on him. So far I have none. As soon as I do I will post him on Petfinders, and also let you know more about him. All Reb told me that he was cute, friendly and a herding type of a dog. And she said he was "very adoptable", so he should not have to stay with us too long.

The human-side of our supporters has lost a couple of great animal-people: Willa Rockett, who had been with Charley's Strays for many, many years and had celebrated her 100th birthday a couple of months ago, has passed away.

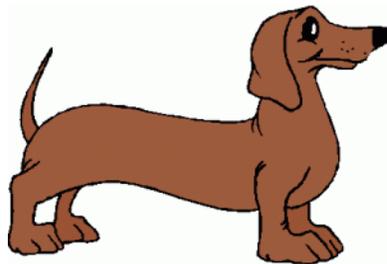
Our friend Lorena Clark who was at the fundraiser every year with her son Harry, and was a dear little lady, also passed away. Harry, all of us at Charley's Strays are mourning with you, we are so sorry for your loss!

And once again a HUGE **THANK YOU** to all of you who helped us pay for the insurance, the food, electric bill, vet costs and all the other necessities to run the Shelter. And of course for the stamps, the notes, and the phone calls.

ADA Fence, Palmyra
Al Smith, Belmont
Arlene Hayes, Reading
Barb & Jon Anderson, Augusta
Betsy Anderson, Framingham
Bonnie Wiegand
Carole Parker, Winchendon
Cindy Houston, Woburn
Cristine Cardello, Melrose
Dale Critchley, Weymouth
Debra & Grace Kiley, Andover
Diane Rizzo, Bryant Pond
Donna Wade, Unity
Elizabeth Davis
Emile Jorgensen, Boston
Florence Bournival, Nashua

George Hinds, Cambridge
Iris Martinello, Tewksbury
Irma Simon, China
Jean & Ralph Catignani,
Jeffrey Liebermann, Fairfield
Joe D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro
John Caswell, Newport
Josephine Smith, Woburn
Judy Rohweder, Northport
Judy Singer, Vassalboro
Jackie & Kellee Lowney,
Lesley Lichko
Linda Merriam, Dresden
Lynne Kaplowitz, Montville
Malcolm Newell, Tewksbury
Marcus Nordberg, Topsham

Marian Delarue, Woburn
Marlene Kaplan, Melrose
Maureen Dowd, Sargentville
Melody Lavers, Pownal
Meredith Hurchinson, Canton
Michael Kane, Greenwood
Nancy Brown, Olympia
Nancy Capone, Wakefield
P.A. Lenk, China Village
Pat Thain, Dracut
Phil Mann, Rowland Heights
Philip Crosby, Belfast
Rust Pappathanasi, Swampscott
Sandra Nicholson, Beverly
Shirley Rancourt, Lebanon
Susan Borsic, Woburn



Cindy Houston sent us a very welcomed gift card for Sam's Club, which will be used for the next purchase of food for our 4-legged ones. We received a donation in memory of Willa Rockett from Al Smith. A check was mailed to us by Wilma Stevens in memory of Judy Waugh Mc Laughlin. Sandra Nicholson also sent us a donation in memory of Lorena Clark. We received a donation for our dog Boomer, in honor of Bonnie Buckmore, from Lesley Lichko.

My eBay-friend Christel Friedow mailed us a donation in memory of her daughter Kristin, who lost her life being only 19 years old. Instead of an gift-exchange with her mom and sister on Christmas, Susan Borsic decided to donate the money to "our favorite animal Shelter".

Judy Rohweder sent us a check in honor of Mary Maher and Pete Rose, and as for the past 10 years or so, her grandchildren Sarah Bravo and Kevin Bravo have not been the receivers of Christmas gifts from grandma, but our animals are . And a donation was made by Katie Clegg for our former dog Chester – she says “*Thank you for bringing him into my life . . .*”

Last but not least: Our supporter John Wells braved the elements and once again spent a day in front of Shaw’s, collecting donations for our animals. The note that came with the check, said it all:

“ . . . I was the only one signed up on the store’s calendar, but, of course, the Salvation army showed up and stood right next to me, so people felt guilty unless they gave money to both of us. And then some mothers showed up with a dozen eight/nine year old girls to sell baked goods for the Girl scouts, which involved a lot of shrieking and jumping up and down so that Jake (that’s the big black Lab John adopted a couple of years ago from Charley’s) didn’t dare lie down . . .”

I enjoy John’s notes which accompany his checks just as much as the checks themselves. ☺

A big THANK YOU to all of you!

Well, I just run out of space and things to write about, so I will be sending this letter on its way to you. Wishing you the very best.

Gabriele, Mary, Ted and Jim





CAT REPORT – DECEMBER 2013

As Christmas and 2014 draw near, the cats and I want to wish all of you a joyous holiday and a happy and prosperous new year (and many years after that), and to thank you again for all you do for our cats and dogs. Your support lets us aid homeless animals as well as people who love their pets but lack means to care for them; your concern helps make up for too many others' indifference.

I've been in the cat "business" since I was in high school – the first stray I rescued I named Abandoned, and called Banni for short – and have known Charley's Strays cats since before Charley McCarthy died in 1996. After his death the cats he had taken in moved from the end room of his trailer to a room in my house. All those original Charley's Strays cats are gone now, but we've acquired more as people call the kennel to report cats in need. Too often we can't help; occasionally the timing is right so that I can find or invent space to house just one more.

Thankfully, there are many other individuals and organizations in Maine and all over the country who do the same things we do. Among us we care for a whole lot of otherwise unwanted companion animals of all kinds. We can't help all who need it, and there are sad stories galore, but there are happy stories, too, and you-all are part of each happy one.

And, Maine residents, please don't forget the state programs, especially the spay-neuter program, Help Fix Me. The annual companion animal sterilization fund tax check-off and the animal welfare license plates are two important sources of support for Maine's animal welfare programs. Seems as though I'm seeing more and more of those plates on the road; I'm delighted.

Special thanks this month to Pepper Charles for canned cat food and to Suzanne Belisle, Roberta Chaves, P. A. Lenk, Iris Martinello, Teresa Parent, Emile Jorgensen, Irma Simon and Al Smith for coupons (and the month isn't over yet). Pepper's donation this month included several cans of one of Lisa's favorite flavors that I'd run out of; as she happily dived into her breakfast, I told her she should be grateful to Pepper and his humans.