



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

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Limestone April, 2014

Dear Friends,

I hope you had a very enjoyable Easter! We still have snow up here in Limestone, so the Easter bunnies did not bother to lay any eggs for us this year. ☺

It was a bit of a sad Easter for Jim and myself; Teddy, our black bear who had been faithfully coming every Easter for the past six years, did not show up any more. But we kind of expected that, since he left us last summer and did not come back as he always had for the 13 years we had the pleasure to feed him, talk to him, enjoy him. Chances are that he died last summer – hopefully of old age, but probably of a fight with another younger bear, or possibly he got shot by a poacher (there are plenty around) or killed by a car. We are grateful though that we had him for all those many years. He will always be remembered as our gentle Teddy.

Reb and the dogs are fighting lots and lots of water at the Shelter. The snow is melting, the rivers are out of their banks, and since Charley had the concrete plate for the Kennel building poured at the lowest point on the grounds, all the water from up hill is flowing down. Jim had built a retaining wall many years ago, but now the water has found a way around it, making everything wet, muddy and miserable. Yep, mud-season in Maine is even less fun than black-fly-season.

The dogs are all fine, nothing much happened there. Someone has come a couple of times to check out Jinx, hopefully he will be lucky to get himself a home of his own, but nothing definite yet. As for our felines, Mary will update you at the end of this letter. There was some sad news this month, too: Our long-time supporter, Jennie Bering, died. We are very sorry for her family, especially her sister Donna whom we also have known personally for many years. Jennie and Donna hardly ever missed a visit to our fundraiser.

We also received a letter and donation from Allen Calafrafranciso, who informed us of the passing of his aunt, Dorothy Andrews. I am not sure how long Dorothy was a supporter of Charley's Strays, but I know it must have been many years, definitely before Charley died in 1996.

It seems like we are "shrinking" more and more, not just body-wise (old-age) but also supporter-wise. As our old folks leave, the young ones seldom have any interest in shelters, whether animals or humans.

Oh well, such is life. For the good news, many of you helped our animals again to make it through another month, being fed, vetted, and have all the little things besides a home of their own, no cat or dog should do without. Thank you very much for that.

We received donations from the following supporters of Charley's Strays:

- In loving memory of Jennie Bering, from her family Pat and Ed, Donna and Joe. and a check in her memory from Mrs. Foster.
- Lori Furrow sent us a donation in memory of Tucker, her German shepherd, who is missed every day.
- Kathleen Dowd mailed us a check in honor of Maureen Dowd's birthday
- Another little dog, Bailey, went to the Pearly Gates. His companions, Maggie and Brent Fernaldo gave him a wonderful life, and I thank them for that! Karen Deady sent us a donation in his memory.

Al Smith, Belmont  
Ann Soares, Burlington  
Betsy Anderson, Framingham  
Carole Parker, Winchendon  
Cindy Houston, Woburn  
Dale Critchley, S. Weymouth  
Dorothy Eckstein, Medford  
George Hinds, Cambridge

Irma Simon, China  
Iris Martinello, Tewksbury  
Joe D'Allesandro, Tuftonboro  
John Caswell, Newport  
Joseph Blake, New Bedford  
Josephine Smith, Woburn  
Judy Rohweder, Northport  
Marcia Smith, Bucksport

Marian Delarue, Woburn  
Nancy Brown, Olympia  
Pat Thain, Dracut  
R.D. Bournival, Nashua  
Sandra Nicholson, Beverly  
Susan Borsic, Woburn

As you may notice, our "usual" donors of 30-35 shrank down to 22 this month. We were very fortunate that "our" John Wells took Jake, his dog, and set up a table again in front of a store, to plead for help for our animals. John usually has some small toys and catnip-bags, but we are about out of them. If anybody would like to donate some little dog/cat toys or such, it would be most welcome. John does not charge anything; people who give him a donation for us can take a little something home for their own animals.

That pretty much takes care of the monthly news at Charley's Strays. I thank everybody very much for keeping us in their mind and heart!



Before I close, here is something to read which really is amazing: Just up the road from my home is a field, with two horses in it.

From a distance, each horse looks like any other horse. But if you stop your car, or are walking by, you will notice something quite amazing...

**TWO HORSES...** Author  
Unknown



*Looking into the eyes of one horse will disclose that he is blind. His owner has chosen not to have him put down, but has made a good home for him.*

*This alone is amazing. If you stand nearby and listen, you will hear the sound of a bell. Looking around for the source of the sound, you will see that it comes from the smaller horse in the field. Attached to the horse's halter is a small bell. It lets the blind friend know where the other horse is, so he can follow.*

*As you stand and watch these two friends, you'll see that the horse with the bell is always checking on the blind horse, and that the blind horse will listen for the bell and then slowly walk to where the other horse is, trusting that he will not be led astray.*

*When the horse with the bell returns to the shelter of the barn each evening, it stops occasionally and looks back, Making sure that the blind friend isn't too far behind to hear the bell.*

Wishing you a beautiful month of May, and a Happy Mothers Day to all the moms out there!

*Gabriele,  
Mary, Ted and Jim*

## CAT REPORT - APRIL 2014

A good thing happened late in March: students at Clinton Elementary School held a drive to benefit the Charley's Strays dogs and cats. Ted said the dogs got a lot of food (I wasn't there that weekend, so didn't see it). He brought to my house a whole box of cat things – soft bedding, toys, treats and canned and dry food. A day or so later I spotted one cat looking bored, so I offered her three toys; next thing, I had five cats playing with them!

Our young ones continue to do well, but some of our seniors worry me. Tommy's been back to the vet – this time he had X-rays to see why his tail was drooping. The doctor found that his hips and lower spine are bent out of shape and severely arthritic. She thinks the likely cause is that he was hit by a car while he was a stray – you-all probably don't remember, but he was at least four years old when Ted brought him to me and had been on his own for a couple years, if not longer. The other possibility is that because he's FIV, he has cancer of the spine. He had a few days' worth of painkillers and rest, but he didn't like being confined to the walk-in cage and seems to move around comfortably, so for now he's free again.

Agnes, too, is getting stiff in the hindquarters and is less agile – when she wants to get onto the bed, she climbs instead of jumping. But I still find her on it frequently, so climbing can't be painful. Robin usually sleeps up high somewhere, too. Emery I'll find anywhere in the room – the basket under the shelf, the bed, the pillow on top of the varikennel, the pillow on top of the walk-in cage....

Lisa is doing well. Her pet mouse, who used to come out only at night to empty her dish, now eats in the daytime, too. Lisa gets fresh food whenever she asks, and if I don't remember to cover the dish when I leave the room I'm apt to find it completely empty, much cleaner than Lisa ever leaves it, when I come back. I bought a new no-kill trap, since my old one's levers were so loose it seldom worked, that I've not yet had time to try. I must say I felt a bit silly walking out of the farm supply store with two packages of replacement centers for Star Chaser turbo scratchers and a mouse trap. Luckily, the clerk who checked me out was too busy to comment.

Thanks, as always, to my faithful coupon clippers, including Suzanne Belisle, P. A. Lenk, Iris Martinello and Al Smith; and to the cats' friends Pepper (feline) and Jackie (human) who gave them canned food this month; and to all of you who help keep Charley's Strays in business. I hope it's spring wherever you are. We got about one spring day a week this month – the rest of the time it's been rainy, snowy, windy or some combination.