



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

December, 2014

Dear Friends,

It's official: another year gone forever. Once again I ask myself, if I missed part of it, or if it just runs away a little faster as we grow older.

Anyway, here we are, a brand-new year is ahead of us. Hopefully it will be a good one. Peace on Earth would be, I guess as long as there are human beings, there will be no peace. Treating animals with love and respect would be the second thing I ask for, but again, as long as there are humans, animals will suffer, all over the world. So, in our small corner of the world, I will be happy and grateful for your continuous love of animals, and I wish all of you THE BEST for 2015!

Not much has happened at the Shelter, all of our dogs are still in good shape, and seem to be as happy as can be, considering living in a commune of sorts. The weather has not been too bad, other than the couple of very cold 15 below zero days, and they do like to play in the snow, which is a good thing, too.

We used to have a local man plowing the snow out of our yard, but Reb decided to make small trails instead with the snow shovel, since the dogs like to play in and out of those trails. That saves us money for snow removal, and gives our furry friends more things to do. Not so with my own dog: She is part Basset Hound and getting on in age, and she is not very fond of dragging her belly on those short legs through the snow. Last night we had another six inches or so dropped on us, and when I opened the door this morning to let her out, she just stood inside the door, looking at me, and saying: "Really, you expect me to go out to pee in that?" So of course I had to shovel a nice trail for her first before she decided it was long and wide enough to do her business. Dogs, you gotta love them.

And now to you, our supporters: We are so grateful for all you have done for our animals, and probably many others, this past year. Wouldn't it be great if everyone on earth could/would feel like you do about our furry, feathered, scaled and partially naked friends? (There are some of them, too. ☺). The world would be a much better place, and there certainly would be no need for shelters.

Thank you for your donations, care packages, stamps, notes, and for **BEING YOU!**

A special **THANK YOU** goes to:

Al Smith, Belmont
Arlen Quirion, Augusta
Betsy Anderson, Framingham
Bonni Buckmore, Waterville
Bonnie Wiegand
Carole Parker, Winchendon
Charley Ames & Ruth McKinney
Charlotte Paul, Chelmsford
Christel Friedow, Plymouth
Cindy Houston, Woburn
Cristine Cardello, Melrose
Dale Critchley, S. Weymouth
Donna Bering, Wakefield
Dorothy D'Alessandro, Oss.
Dorothy Eckstein, Medford

Ellen Bolton, Somerset
George Hinds, Cambridge
Grace Kiley, N. Andover
Harry Clark, Beverly
Irma Simon, China
Iris Martinello, Tewksbury
Jean & Ralph Catignani
Jeffrey Lieberman, Fairfield
Nancy Brown, Olympia
Janice Halloran, Clinton
Joe D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro
Joseph Blake, N. Bedford
Josephine Smith, Woburn
Judy Rohweder, Northport
Linda Merriam, Dresden

Manuel German, Reading
Marcus Nordberg, Topsham
Marian Delarue, Woburn
Marlene Kaplan, Melrose
Maureen Dowd, Sargentville
Michael Kane, Greenwood
Nancy Capone, Wakefield
P.A. Lenk, China Village
Pat Thain, Dracut
Phil Mann, Rowland Heights
Philipp Crosby, Belfast
R.D. Bournival, Nashua
Rancourt Family, Lebanon
Sandra Nicholson, Beverly
Susan Borsic, Woburn

- A big surprise came in the form of lots of dog and cat food, toys and litter, and a big check from Cynthia and Galen Thompson.
- The Thompsons and Walter Moore held their annual Flea Bag Ball in honor of dog Lenny, and gave us and another shelter the proceeds.
- John Wells and dog Jake thought it would be nice to give all the dogs and cats some happier Holidays, and set up a table in front of a store. The people thought so too, and were quite generous, and of course it was all Jake's doing again. They all stopped to see him. ☺
- Bonnie Buckmore mailed us a check in honor of dog Bridget's 8th birthday.
- Ellen Bolton also sent us a check in honor of Lillian Bolton.
- Susan Borsic made a donation in lieu of Christmas gifts for Mom Marian Delarue, her sister Gail and Gail's roommate Christine McQuiggen.
- Phil Mann treated himself on his birthday for a larger donation to our Shelter. Happy Birthday, Phil.
- Judy Rohweder also sent us a donation to honor the birthday of her grandchildren, Sarah and Kevin Bravo.

A big THANK YOU to all!





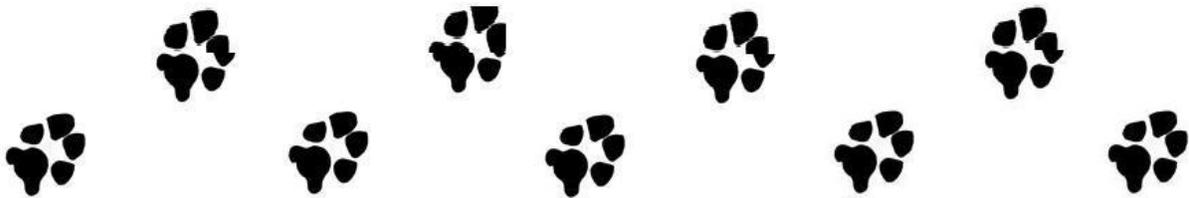
Last but not least, thank you to Gary Starzynski, who sent us a donation along with this beautiful card, water-painted by our supporter Mark Nordberg.

Lots of love went into this painting, and we appreciate it!

Wishing all of you THE VERY BEST for 2015,

Gabriele, Mary, Rebecca, Ted and Jim, and all of our cats and dogs!

Please read on, Mary's Cat Report is on next page.



CAT REPORT – DECEMBER 2014

The sad news first: Emery died in mid-December. I knew he was sick, but since he never let me tame him, I couldn't get him into a carrier to take him to the vet until he was really sick. The tentative diagnosis was that he had widespread cancer. He's one of several wild ones who were being fed by a woman with whom Charley's placed a dog years ago; when she had to leave her home, we took back the dog and the animal control officer brought me two cats. The female, whom I named Evita, soon had three kittens, but only a boy named Kennebec survived to grow up, and he and his mother both died young. Emery lived with Robin and Agnes and their roommates, apparently content and until the last six weeks healthy, but always so shy that I could seldom even pet him (except when he was preoccupied with his food dish). By the vet's records, he was about 14, so I'm guessing he'd been with me 11 or 12 years.

Otherwise, everyone seems to be in pretty good shape (knock on wood). I'm medicating a couple for sore mouths, but they and I are used to that. We'd all like to see the sun more often; on the rare occasions when it does come out for a few minutes, cats hurry to perch on windowsills and find the sunny places on the furniture and floor.

Gabi says she's writing about Mr. Moore and his annual benefit party for shelter animals, and his sister and brother-in-law who deliver the proceeds, including a share for Charley's Strays. They're always very generous; this year I brought home enough cat food, treats, litter and toys to cover the bed of my pickup plus a couple boxes in the cab. Karen has given the cats Christmas toys, treats and a bed already, and I'm told they have more gifts to look forward to from other friends. Pepper Charles has been supplying canned food, and every now and then my pharmacist hands me something for cats – most recently, jars of baby food, good to have on hand for cats who aren't feeling well. When I need to go shopping again, I have coupons from Suzanne Belisle, P. A. Lenk, Teresa Parent, Iris Martinello, Irma Simon and Al Smith. And of course those of you who read this newsletter do whatever you can to help us. So I'm starting the Christmas season full of gratitude to so many people who care about abandoned, abused and otherwise needy dogs, cats and other domestic animals.

Best wishes for Christmas and the new year. Talk to you again in the spring.

