

Charley's Strays, Inc.

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Limestone, ME April 2015

Dear Friends,

Finally, the long awaited spring made it up to Maine, and everybody including all of our animals are feeling so much better. What a difference a few days of sunshine and NO SNOW on the ground can make. If I were a pessimist, I would say: four-and-a half months to go, and then we can figure on having some of the white stuff again.

I am enjoying every small green leaf of grass I can see out there. Of course we don't have any leaves on our trees, and nothing is blooming yet, but then we live on the very top of Maine. Mary has told me a couple of weeks ago that her neighbor's crocus are out in force. Oh well.

This was a kind of slow month, nothing much happened at the Shelter. No adoptions, no new dogs. There was the occasional person who thought they may want a companion, but nothing has come of that, yet. On the other hand, Mary has to deal with one more new cat, but she will tell you all about that in her cat-report. Of course there were the usual inquiries per email or phone, if we could take one of the not wanted dogs or cats. Due to no space available, we could not help. Same old, same old, another month in the life of Charley's Strays.

I will keep this letter short, no page-fillers ☺, and come right to our supporters:

"Our" John Wells and his dog Jake were at it again, collecting money to buy much-needed things for the critters. As usual, John sends a small note with his check, which, as always, made me smile:

Jake had an operation last month to remove a growth on his eyelid (it was benign) and then had to wear a lampshade for a couple of weeks. By the time we got through that, we both needed to get out and see other people, so we went to Shaw's (to raise funds for Charley's).

Dachshund Greta and Scotti Remy mailed me a cute card with a donation, saying that they asked their mom, Cynthia Thompson, to help us once again. It's really nice to receive cards from dogs; we do appreciate them very much.

There was also a check from Marion and Michael Shark in memory of Ruth Gallagher of Winslow, Maine.

Whitney Tibolt mailed us a donation "In the name of Haley Barnes, an eleven year old in Boston who loves animals and asked for a donation in lieu of gifts. She is a classmate of Grace Abbott, granddaughter of Judy Rohweder," one of our long-time supporters.

And this brings me right to all of our other supporters, who once again helped us with packages, blankets, food, and checks to keep the Shelter going and the animals well taken care of:

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Al Smith, Belmont | Linda Merriam, Dresden |
| Alice Winston, Swampscott | Marion Delarue, Woburn |
| Bob Graham | Nancy Capone, Wakefield |
| Bonnie Buckmore, Waterville | Pat Caswell, Newport |
| Cindy Houston, Woburn | Pat Thain, Dracut |
| Cristine Cardello, Melrose | Phil Mann, Rowland Heights |
| Dale Critchley, Weymouth | R.D. Bournival, Nashua |
| Donna Bering, Wakefield | Sandra Nicholson, Beverly |
| Dorothy D'Alessandro, Ossipee | Susan Borsic, Woburn |
| Enid Hayes, Halifax | |
| Jackie Lowney, New Bedford | |
| Joe D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro | |
| Joseph Blake, New Bedford | |
| Judy Rohweder, Northport | |

I came across an interesting article and would like to share it with you – not only for dog/cat food, but also for people food:

Beware of: The most misleading label of all,

The "natural" label. It does NOT mean a food is organic or has no GMOs. You should simply ignore "natural" claims. Instead, look for the "organic" seal. It means at least 95 percent of the ingredients are certified organic – and produced without genetically modified ingredients,

So, there you have it. And I used to think, too, that anything saying "natural ingredients" was a good thing. Goes to show me how easy I fall prey to crooks. Now that's a bad thing...

Before I end this letter, here is something cute. **This one is for the guys only!**

Why some men have dogs and not wives

1. The later you are, the more excited your dogs are to see you.
2. Dogs don't notice if you call them by another dog's name.
3. Dogs like it if you leave a lot of things on the floor.
4. A dog's parents never visit.
5. Dogs agree that you have to raise your voice to get your point across.
6. You never have to wait for a dog; they're ready to go 24 hours a day.
7. Dogs find you amusing when you're drunk...
9. A dog will not wake you up at night to ask, "If I died, would you get another dog?"
10. If a dog has babies, you can put an ad in the paper and give them away.

11. A dog will let you put a studded collar on it without calling you a pervert.
 12. If a dog smells another dog on you, they don't get mad. They just think it's interesting.
 13. Dogs like to ride in the back of a pickup truck.
- And last, but not least:*
14. If a dog leaves, it won't take half of your stuff.

Have a wonderful month of May!

Gabriele
Mary, Ted and Jim

CAT REPORT – APRIL 2015

Gabriele has now become a cat rescuer as well as a dog rescuer, and since her Nikki won't let her keep cats, I've ended up with one. While she and Jim were in Florida, their house-sitter, who thought he was feeding one stray cat, ended up with three. When Gabi and Jim got home, they trapped the cats one by one intending to have them spayed or neutered and let them continue to hang around. But it turned out a nice young black and white guy needs a special diet to protect his urinary tract from recurrent infections, and obviously keeping him healthy as an outdoor cat would be a challenge. So he's been at my house for a month now and is settling in well. His name is Captain; he eats in a wire condo so he can have his own food; and between meals he's out with a group that includes Ashley, Grover and Ryan, the grey siblings.

Ryan, by the way, is one of the craziest cats in the house. He's the one who sits on a windowsill waiting to hitch a ride when I walk by. Sometimes he's on my back, sometimes he's clinging to my legs – one day recently he wiggled until he was tucked upside down under my left arm with his front feet sticking straight up. All I could think of was a set of bagpipes with two drones instead of the usual three.

We're finally getting enough warm weather so I can leave cats on the porch for an afternoon. They're enjoying the fresh air. A few more degrees and I'll be opening windows so cats on windowsills can sniff outdoor odors.

Spring also means the Maine legislature is in session. My animal rescue friends have been keeping a wary eye on committees that have been considering changes to the funding for the Animal Welfare Program. The program includes the state spay/neuter program, which we keep hoping (dreaming?) will eventually bring down the number of unwanted cats and dogs and put us out of business, and investigations of allegations of animal abuse and neglect. The funding is based on animal-related things like a surcharge on pet food, an income tax checkoff and special license plates, not on general taxation. That system seems fair to many of us, so we've been sending legislators the "It ain't broke, don't fix it" message.

As usual, the cats' friends remembered them this month. As I'm sure you expected, when Gabriele and Jim delivered Captain they brought an ample supply of his special food, dry and canned. Our vet also carries it, so I can stock up when I need to. Pepper Charles provided grocery-store canned food to please the other cats, and I've bought more food, canned and dry, with coupons from Suzanne Belisle, Emilie Jorgensen, P. A. Lenk, Iris Martinello and Al Smith. Many thanks to all of you who help us take care of our animals.