

Charley's Strays, Inc.

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July, 2015

Dear Friends,

Another summer-month down the drain, literally! It has been so wet and cool up here in the northern part of Maine, that we are wondering if the rest of this year is going to be like this. A horrible cold winter, a very cold and rainy spring, the summer looks the same way, so what's left? A wet nasty fall, too? On the other hand, it's still much better than what the central and western part of the US have to deal with, I guess?

Not much better at the Shelter, muggy, wet, the kind of weather which is awful on the bones of our old dogs. And we "old" folks all know the pain of arthritis, and the influence of the weather on it.

Yesterday Jim was complaining about all his aches and pains. I asked him which part of his body did not hurt. He thought about it for a minute, and then answered; "my right elbow." So I can imagine what our old dogs are going through right now.

Not much has happened at the Shelter. Our two dogs, who were adopted last month, are still with their new families. There seems to be no problems there, so I think that should work out. I would never have thought in my wildest dreams that Elli would find a home, and actually be nice and SMART enough to stay there!

Cindy Houston will have her annual garage sale for Charley's Strays sometime in September, and she still needs sellable items. If you could please take a quick look in your closets and clean them out a bit, we would appreciate it. Small things preferably, because she does not have much storage space. Her address:

Cindy Houston
143 Winn Street
Woburn, MA 01801

We will still hold our fundraiser, even though we are not doing it physically in Boston. But we do need the extra money for next winter's heating fuel. Once again I am including three fundraiser tickets with this letter and with the next three newsletters. We will do the drawing for the prizes in October. There will be a \$300 first prize, I also have some new items for prizes, and maybe we will still get another one or two prizes donated from our supporters. I will let you know as the months go by. Please discard the tickets if you have no use for them, or give them

to friends or relatives. The cost for one ticket is \$5.00, and the money will be used for heating fuel only.

As I stated in last month's letter, I had a problem with typing, but all is mended now and here are the names of the donors from June and July (that's why the list is much longer than usual)

A huge **THANK YOU** to the following supporters for helping our animals:

Al Smith, Belmont	Enid Hayes, Halifax	Maureen Dowd, Sargentville
Charles Ames & Ruth McKinney	Harry Clark, Beverly	Michael Kane, Greenwood
Charlotte Paul, Chelmsford	James Peterson & Jean Tillson	Nancy Capone, Wakefield
Cindy Houston, Woburn	Joe D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro	Pat Thain, Dracut
Cristine Cardello, Melrose	Judy Rohweder, Northport	Phil Mann, Rowland Heights
Dale Critchley, Weymouth	Linda Merriam, Dresden	R.D. Bournival, Nashua
Deborah Phair	Marcia Smith, Bucksport	Ralph & Jean Catignani
Donna Bering, Wakefield	Marian Delarue, Woburn	Sandra Nicholson, Beverly
Dorothy D'Alessandro	Marlene Kaplan, Melrose	Shirley Rancourt, Lebanon
Dorothy Eckstein, Medford	Martha Brooks, Henrico	Susan Borsic, Woburn

We also received a donation in memory of Misty, from Alice Winston. Misty the cat was a companion of Inge Maiellano.

Last but not least: John Wells set up a table in June, and again in July, in front of a couple of stores to collect donations for our cats and dogs. His dog Jake was the biggest draw to people, as usual. ☺ When they see him, they can't refuse picking up a little something of the table and leaving a little something in return. Thank you John and Jake!

My daughter who also has two dogs, brought something to my attention, and it may well be a "life-saver" for your cat or dog. I know for a fact from a lady who has had several cats: vaccinations are not always the best thing for an animal. This lady's cats contracted cancer strangely right at the neck, where they got their vaccinations.

However there is a test, called "Titer-test" which the vet can do. They take out some blood, send it to a lab, and the blood will be tested to see how much it contains on anti-bodies. It will tell your vet exactly if your animal needs to be vaccinated, or not. I have done it myself with my older dogs, and usually they did not have to be vaccinated.

We just received the Tax-bill for the Shelter of \$607.50. If someone would like to help out on this one, please make out a check for whatever amount you can afford, to "Town of Benton". Thank you much!

And that's all for today. Please read on, Mary's Cat Report follows on the following page.

Have a wonderful rest of the summer,
Gabriele, Mary, Ted and Jim

CAT REPORT – JULY 2015

Not a lot of cat news this month – it's been a pretty good summer so far. Most of this month the nights have been warm enough so the cats with access to the porch can run in and out 24 hours a day, and the air conditioners have been installed in the two rooms that sometimes get too hot. We've had a couple humid spells, but luckily the cats don't seem as bothered as I am. Perhaps that's because they nap all day while I rush around waiting on them?

Of course I always worry about them, especially the older ones. Agnes and Robin were born in the spring and summer of 1997, respectively, Lisa in May 1998, Tommy probably in 1999. The first three I'm sure of, because Agnes and Robin were kittens when they came to us, and Lisa was born in my house. Tommy's age is a guess – he's the one who was a stray in Ted's neighborhood and already a rather battered adult when he joined the household.

Captain continues to do well here, except right now he's decided he's bored with his urinary tract diet dry food and would rather leave his own dish full and finish up the regular stuff the other cats get. He still eats his special canned food; I hope that will be sufficient. One of my own cats, a black guy named Whitie (because unlike his brother Blackie he has a few white hairs on his chest) likes Captain a lot, to the point where Captain sometimes can't hop into his condo for a meal because Whitie's rubbing against him affectionately.

As always, my thanks to people who've supported the cats – P.A. Lenk, Teresa Parent, Irma Simon and Al Smith with coupons, Pepper Charles with canned food – and to all of you who help our dogs and needy animals everywhere.