



Charley's Strays, Inc.

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Dear Friends,

Meet Greta above, the little dachshund girl who runs the household of Cynthia and Galen Thompson. She's definitely a contestant for a Brewer cake which will be hard to beat. ☺ Last month I wrote about the Fleabag Ball, sponsored by Cynthia, Gale and Walter Moore. The Ball was a huge success!

I was going to write this month about receiving donations in the amount of a little over \$800 for November, but spending close to \$1000 for vet bills, and having no idea how to pay Reb's wages, the electricity, phone and all the other small things which need to be paid for, at the Shelter. Then the "Thanksgiving Miracle" happened: Cynthia and Galen Thompson came by the Shelter after the Fleabag Ball and dropped off lots of food and other goodies, and mailed me a check which made me smile again, being able to take out the checkbook and pay most of the other bills.

We received another nice check from Jake and John Wells, who had a table set up again in front of a store. With his check I could take care of the rest of this month's bills.

Bonnie Buckmore, one of our supporters and mom of Bridget, a Charley dog who has been in her care for 7 or 8 years delivered two huge loads of food, donated to us by an anonymous donor. So we did not have to worry about the food situation. Bonnie

also provided us with a link to vote for Charley's in the \$20,000 grant Holiday Challenge contest: www.shelterchallenge.com/home People can vote once a day each day through December 20, 2015. Wouldn't it be nice to win that!

And then we received lots of blankets and bedding from a lady named Bonnie from Bangor. Ted was there to receive the bedding, but did not get her entire name.

Jim spent some time at the Shelter because Reb had a family situation to deal with and had to leave for Massachusetts. While he was there, he took several gates from the inside runs to be re-wired, to ADA Fence in Palmyra. ADA Fence owner, Don, sent us an invoice with "Paid, donation to Charley's Strays."

So, to all of the above people, a HUGE **THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!**

Jim also fell in love with our newest addition, the 13-year-old very lively "Lucky". He said he would bring him home in a second, was it not for our own dog, Nikki, who we also call the "Queen B****" (a not so nice word, but widely used for female dogs). Nikki hates other dogs ever since she lost her buddy, Luke, many years ago to cancer. To make up for her loss, we had gotten another dog, which looked exactly the same as Luke, but must have smelled totally different, because she hated him from day one. In the five years we had Casper, before he also died of cancer, she never warmed up to him. So, we decided there was no sense in putting another dog through the misery of having to live with the "Queen." Bad luck for Lucky.

And here is Lucky:



Once again we are very grateful to the following supporters who helped our animals with their needs:

Al Smith, Belmont
Charlotte Paul, Chelmsford
Dale Critchley, S. Weymouth
Deborah Phair
Iris Martinello, Tewksbury
J. Rohweder, Northport
Jackie Lowney, New Bedford
Joe D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro

Joseph Blake, New Bedford
Joseph Mooney, Wakefield
Karen Deady, Skowhegan
Linda Merriam, Dresden
Marian Delarue, Woburn
Marlene Kaplan, Melrose
Nancy Brown, Olympia
Patricia Thain, Dracut

Phil Mann, Rowland Heights
R.D. Bournival, Nashua
Sandra Nicholson, Beverly
Susan Borsic, Woburn
Susan Culver, Charleston
Wm. Hanrahan, Westwood

Jim had another birthday, and we received a check in his honor for the Shelter from our Webmaster Charley and his wife Ruth.

And speaking of birthdays: Joseph Blake, Jr., a long-time supporter of Charley's and personal friend of mine, celebrated his 89th birthday! We wish you another 20 years of good health and smiles.

Thank you to all above people, as always we appreciate your help very very much!

Before I close, here is a photo of Baby, a lucky feline who resides at the home of our supporter Cristine Cardello, definitely another cake contestant. ☺



Best wishes and Happy Holidays!

Gabriele, Mary, Ted, Eric and Jim

CAT REPORT – NOVEMBER 2015

For those of you were kind enough to be concerned, Lisa is doing well so far. She's been acting and eating quite as usual (that is, she eats a lot when she's in the mood and I give her the food she wants at the moment, and nibbles and gives me reproachful looks when she's not in the mood or I make a wrong choice). I give her lots of extra hugs, just in case.

We have three new six- or seven-month old kittens in the group with Captain. I know, I say I have no room for more cats, and I don't. But these, like Captain who came from Gabriele's dooryard, claim an earlier affiliation with Charley's Strays: They and their mother were abandoned near my friend Jen's house, and I met Jen because she volunteered at the kennel while she was in college. When she couldn't add more cats to her family, I asked Gabriele if the kittens could be Charley's. Jen trapped two, a black and white (Feather) and a grey and white (Lucien), this summer; they're near enough tame. The third one, Alafer, is all black, and Jen couldn't catch him until this fall, giving him too much time unsocialized. When he first came to the house he lived in a big dog kennel where he was separate from the others, but could see, hear and smell them. I let him go free in the room on a Sunday, thinking he'd be under the furniture for weeks. That evening he was out sitting on a cat bed – he scooted when I came into the room – and by Thursday he was joining the rest for meals! I still can't come near him, but I'm delighted to be able to keep an eye on him, at least. Jen's not seen the mother in a while; I hope she's found somewhere to stay for the winter, but more likely she's been eaten by a coyote or fox.

Captain, incidentally, is fine with the kittens. He sometimes sleeps with and occasionally washes one or both, and he and Feather like to play-fight – the two black-and-whites all entangled until I can't tell which legs belong to which cat.

Many thank-yous this month. The cats got food and litter and a nice cage (useful when a cat's on medication and the rest shouldn't be sharing his or her meals) from Walter Moore's annual fund-raising party and more food from Pepper Charles and from Bonnie Buckmore (who, like John Wells, has been helping Charley's in various ways since adopting a dog from us). Coupons came from Suzanne Belisle, Roberta Chaves, Marlene Kaplan, Iris Martinello, Irma Simon and Al Smith (and quickly went to wherever coupons go after I hand them to the cashier). Thanks, also, to the rest of you whose gifts help keep our cats and dogs warm and healthy. I hope you've all enjoyed a pleasant Thanksgiving and will have a good Christmas season.