



BEST WINTER EVER!
At

Charley's Strays, Inc.
P.O. Box 64, Limestone, ME 04750
Tel. shelter 207-426-9482 or Jim at 207-325-8894
www.charleysstrays.us

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Dear Friends,

You may not think that this was/is the best winter ever, but Rebecca and Brittany (a volunteer-worker), feel that our two Huskies and Reb's own dog, the off-white Husky/Shepherd mix, have had one heck of a time playing in the snow at Charley's Strays! The rest of our dogs have different feelings about this cold and miserable winter.

Jim and I are back from Florida. We enjoyed the sunny warm weather, but we are glad to be back home. At least we only had to deal with the last part of winter.

All went well at the Shelter: several new dogs with very sad stories found their way to us, but I will not burden you with that. They are okay now, I think. One of our supporters, Karen Rapallo, took one of those dogs back to Massachusetts with her and found a good home. So that was a happy ending, even though I am sure being eight years in the same family and then "gotten rid of" most likely damaged that dog's faith in humanity for sure.

Once again, we are filled up to the top – both with cats and dogs. And once again we had to deny many requests, either by phone or email, to take in yet another unwanted, once much loved, pet. It's just a never-ending situation. At least we are grateful to be able to give some of those poor creatures a sanctuary, and, even better, find a home here and there for one.

Even though it was one of the coldest winters on record, our cats and dogs had a warm and cozy place, each with a framed bed several inches above the floor and a blanket on it, and a heater going almost day and night. Of course the tanks are just about empty now, but thanks to your help, they can be filled again to make it until summer comes.

The following will be a very long list of our supporters, everyone who mailed us checks, brought us food and blankets for the past three months, should be on this list. Please forgive me if a name is missing, I am trying my best. Maybe old age is catching me ☺. And with the heat wave in Florida and the cold-front coming back up north, my brain is a bit scrambled, I think.

Again, **THANK YOU** very much to help us through another harsh winter to:

Al Smith, Belmont
Alice Winston, Swampscott
Ann Beck, Oakland
Barbara Askew, Quincy
Betsy Anderson, Framingham
Bournival, Nashua
Carole Parker, Winchendon
Charles Soares, Burlington
Charlotte Paul, Chelmsford
Cindy Houston, Woburn
Cristine Cardello, Melrose
Dale Critchley, W. Weymouth
David Hingston, Chelmsford
Donald Chase, Waterville
Donna Bering, Wakefield
Donna Wade, Unity
Dorothy Alessandro, Ossipee

Dorothy Eckstein, Medford
Dot Archer/Judi Gallo, Canton
Dr. Alan Bachrach, Petersham
Emile Jorgensen, E. Boston
Enid Hayes, Halifax
George Watkins, Amesbury
Iris Martinello, Tewksbury
Jean & Ralph Catignani
Joe D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro
Joseph Blake, New Bedford
Joseph Kogut, Upton
Judy Singer, Vasselboro
Karen Deady, Skowheagen
Karen Pirello, Stoneham
Larry & Arlene Hayes, Reading
Linda Merriam, Dresden
Marcia Smith, Bucksport

Marian Delarue, Woburn
Mark & Kelli Resendes, Revere
Marlene Kaplan, Melrose
Maureen Dowd, Sargentville
Michael Kane, Greenwood
Nancy Brown, Olympia
Nancy Capone, Wakefield
Patricia Thain, Dracut
Philip Mann, Rowland Heights
R.D. Bournival, Nashua
Rust Pappathanasi, Swampscott
Sandra Nicholson, Beverly
Shirley Rancourt, Lebanon
Susan Borsic, Woburn
Susan Chase Culver, Wayland

We received donations from Jennifer Paine, Janet Adams and Lucy Gobin in memory of Ruth Gallagher. L. Scotti mailed a donation to us in memory of Harry and Lorena Clark.

Beverly Maheu mailed us a donation in memory of the beautiful dog Smokey, a former Charley's Stray.

An envelope with a cute photo of dog Henry, along with a check in his honor, arrived from Elizabeth Morgan.

I had sold something on eBay to a German lady, Katharina Nolden, from Köln Germany, and I was very pleasantly surprised to find a PayPal check for a much larger amount than the item sold, made out to Charley's Strays!

Karen Rapallo and her friend Pauline Connaughton had a fundraiser for Charley's Strays at the Children's Hospital in Boston, and sent us a check from Dr. Michele Walters.

The Madison Elementary School in Madison, Maine had their second annual pet food drive in memory of Judy Waugh McLaughlin.

Charley Ames and Ruth McKinney send us a donation in honor of my old husband's [Jim] birthday. ☺ Okay, he is still young, at least "at heart". He says his bones are creaking and grinding. I think probably just to get my attention.

Once again we received a donation from the Sommer Family Foundation, Debra Sommer, in memory of Paul Sommer.

The employees of the Lynch Family of Companies participated in a fundraiser to benefit animal shelters, and mailed us a gift card to buy food, for our Shelter.

Colby College, not too far away from Clinton, has sent us an invitation to enroll our smartest dog with them, for an annual fee of \$50.00. Okay I am kidding, even Colby College is not THAT advanced yet. BUT, they do love animals, and send us a donation with the following letter:

It has become a tradition for the employees of the Physical Plant Department to donate to local charitable organizations during the holidays. Charley's Strays was selected by the crew this year as one of the recipients for their donations . . .

We have two Californians on our supporter list, and one of them, Phil Mann, has been advertising for our Shelter. We received a donation from his friend, Szuhua Julian Chou, with the following note: *My good friend, Phil Mann, asked that I donate to Charley's Strays the money that I would have spent on buying holiday gifts for him . . .*

And some very sad news for us: George Hinds, who had been with Charley's Strays since the "early days" passed away. It came as quite a shock. He will be very much missed. In George's memory we received a donation from our supporter and his neighbor and friend, Anne Tappan. We knew George personally from his attendance at just about every year's fundraiser.

Our Ted also gave us a check he received from Gerry Hoag and Morgan Herbert, who adopted "Hank" several years ago.

Judy Singer, a supporter from Vassalboro, donated dog beds, blankets and food to us. Sadly, Judy's dog recently died.

To all of you: THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Gabriele, Mary, Ted and Jim

CAT REPORT – JANUARY - MARCH 2015

What a winter! At least here in Maine we're used to it, so most people have reasonably well-heated houses and most towns have snowplows – though paying fuel bills and finding places to put the snow have been unusually challenging. Our cats have been warm and safe so far. I've had to postpone more than one vet appointment, but without any serious consequences, and some of the younger cats have had cabin fever. No outings on the porch, no open windows to sniff the breezes, and part of the time it's been snowing so hard they can't even see across the street.

None of the vet appointments was major. Tiger's mouth bothered him off and on, and he's been on medication that helps only temporarily. The last time he saw Heather, she recommended pulling his remaining teeth; his appointment is scheduled early in April. Despite his sore gums, he usually manages to help finish his roommates' dry food when he has a chance. There are multiple walk-in cages and varikennels in that room, so I can separate everyone to let them eat in peace. When a cat walks away from an unfinished dish, Mr. Tom usually gets first crack, since he's not too fat. Then I let out the rest, trying to vary the order from day to day.

Lisa and I have been enjoying the antics of her kitchen mouse, a pretty bright-eyed little woods mouse so dark brown she's almost black. She scuttles so fast I sometimes doubt that I really saw her. Lisa tells me her name is Myrawr, pronounced with the accent on the second syllable. Having a resident mouse has two drawbacks, though: Lisa eats less overnight than she's used to, because Myrawr beats her to the food dish, and we've not been able to teach Myrawr to use Lisa's litter box. When it warms up enough, I plan to live-trap her and take her to a nice place in the woods – I hope before she has babies.

Lisa, incidentally, will turn 17 on May 11, assuming she's still with us; she was born May 11, 1998, in the first litter born in my house. Her black muzzle has white hairs on it now, but she seems to be in good health.

The cats' friends have been good to them since you last heard from me. They got Christmas presents -- food and toys and beds -- from Karen, Teresa and two Kathies. Cathy's husband Jeff gave them home-grown catnip, some loose and some in handmade toys, for Christmas, and Jane in Alaska sent Alaskan catnip and toys for Valentine's Day. Both Maine and Alaskan catnip were well received. Pepper Charles still sends canned cat food about every week, and coupons have come from Suzanne Belisle, Roberta Chaves, P. A. Lenk, Teresa Parent and Al Smith.

Hope all of you survived the winter. Ted and I are predicting a short spring followed by a hot muggy summer – we hope we're wrong!