



Charley's Strays, Inc.

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Limestone, July 2016

Dear Friends,

As always I am thrilled when I receive a letter from the parents of a former rescued animal. This one came via Susanna to me, and it read:

"Hello... I stayed with you back in 2008, I went by Jay Jay then, for a bit until I was adopted. I was a spry young pup then, now I'm getting a bit gray . . ."

Susanna had rescued Jay Jay in upstate Maine and had to bring him directly to the vet. The poor dog had Cherry eye and needed surgery; after that he ended up at Charley's Strays for a while before being adopted. Another happy ending to a, not so great, life before Charley's.

Right now we are waiting to see how the story of Buddy, the little Beagle who came to us a month ago, will turn out. I have been emailing with a couple that will be coming to Charley's this weekend, to see if Buddy and their dog and cats will get along. Keeping paws crossed for him, as Susanna always says.

It has been a very strange month, weather wise, at the Shelter - rain, rain and more rain, and then temperatures soaring to the high 80s, making life miserable. Along with black flies, mosquitoes and God know what else on flying and biting creatures, the dogs are not so happy. After all they are wearing fur coats, and I can't even imagine what that's like in very hot and humid conditions. On the other hand, I do know it will be bitter cold up here in no time, again. So we just have to make the best out of this strange summer.

And since we know the next cold front will be coming and the heaters will have to be turned on, we have to get ready to buy more heating fuel. This year it looks like we will get lucky with the price of the fuel, which seems to be down from previous years. We will still need your help filling up the tanks. Once again we are doing a raffle to get money together for the fuel. Enclosed you will find 3 tickets, as usual they are \$5 each, and as usual, please ask your friends or relatives if they would be interested in purchasing a ticket or two. Because of the lower donations, we have to cut down a little with the cash prize, the first prize will be \$250 this year compared to the \$300 we have been doing for the past 20 years. But we will still have many other prizes, some you can use in your home, others you can use for gifts. The raffle tickets will be sold from now until October. By the end of October we will have the drawing. I will also bake a couple of cakes as prizes for the people who have that "sweet tooth".

Which reminds me: Bridget Buckmore, who is another one of our former dogs, has won the cake prize for one of the cutest dog. Her picture was pulled out of the box, (not that there are many in the box ☺). I am still waiting for you to send me a pic of your favorite pet! Hopefully Bonnie, Bridget's mom, did not eat the cake all by herself, after all, Bridget is the star in the Buckmore household. I need more of your photos. Make your pet a star – sort of. Thanks.



Bridget Buckmore

A huge **THANK YOU** to the people who supported our animals this month with donations, treats, blankets and stamps!

Al Smith, Belmont
Alice Winston, Swampscott
Bonnie Wiegand
Charlotte Paul, Chelmsford
Cristine Cardello, Melrose
Dale Critchley, S. Weymouth
Deborah Phair
Florence Bournival, Nashua

Iris Martinello, Tewksbury
Jackie and Kellee Lowney
Joe D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro
Joseph Mooney, Wakefield
Judy Rohweder, Northport
Linda Merriam, Dresden
Michael Kane, Greenwood
Marian Delarue, Woburn

Marlene Kaplan, Melrose
Nancy Capone, Wakefield
Pat Thain, Dracut
Patricia Caswell, Newport
Philipp Mann, Rowland Hts.
Rancourt Family, Lebanon
Ruth Giusti, Titusville
Susan Borsic, Woburn

Donations are almost non-existent right now, so we were very happy to receive another check from John Wells, who once again set up a table with Jake, doing a fundraiser for us. You all have seen Jake's photo, he is a large black lab. Both John and I thought it was very funny, that a lady asked him if Jake was part beagle?! Oh well.

Kellee, Jack and Jackie Lowney mailed another box with toys to John and Jake, so they have something to give to people who donate money for our Shelter.

Maureen Dowd mailed us a check in honor of her friend Megan's birthday.

Harry Clark, Jr. also mailed us a donation in memory of his parents, Lorena and Harry, Sr.

And we received a donation in memory of Jamaica, beloved pet of Melanie Porter.

To all of the above: **THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**

Before I close July's newsletter, I would like to show you a photo of a beautiful bird, a Evening cross beak who flew into our window. It happens every so often, and usually when I pick up the bird and put him an hour or so into a closed cardboard box, he survives. So did this one- he was fine a half hour later and flew away



Wishing you a great month of August!

Gabriele

Mary, Ted, Eric and Jim

CAT REPORT – JULY 2016

Good thing I have cats to keep me in a decent mood – otherwise between the hot humid weather and the political speeches I'd have been in a bad temper this month. The cats aren't perfect, but they're such friendly and amusing companions it's easy to overlook the scratched woodwork and occasional hairballs and outside-the-litter-box accidents. The heat seems not to bother them; I've been keeping them comfortable with ample fresh water, the air conditioners in the two back rooms (the electric bill will be interesting, I'm sure), and open doors and windows at night when it's cooler. And of course they ignore the politicians (as I should too).

As I write this Mr. Tom is sleeping after a major spell of throwing up; I hope his problem is temporary. The rest seem okay (knock on wood). During the day everyone naps; when it cools down in mid-evening there's lots of running around, especially Feather, Lucien, Willow, Alafer and however many others they can persuade to race with them on and off the porch and up and down the screens.

Tang continues to adjust to his new friends and vice versa. The shouting matches are much less frequent now, and every now and then I find him and one or two others sleeping within inches of each other, all peaceful.

This month's mail included coupons from Suzanne Belisle, Marlene Kaplan, Iris Martinillo, Al Smith and Gail Walsh. Pepper Charles gave the cats canned food, and a new friend named Shirley bought them a bag of high-quality dry food, because she likes cats and has only one of her own. Many thanks to all, and to all of you who help keep this organization going.