



### **Charley's Strays, Inc.**

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Limestone, June 2017

Dear Friends,

Wildlife is in abundance at our home, everybody is looking for FOOD. Between cooking for Jim and putting out seed for the birds and ducks, fat for the coyotes and foxes, leftovers from the table for the crows, I even find time to do the newsletter. ☺ The above photos show a woodpecker, I think they're Downy Woodpeckers, busy stuffing the beak of it's young one. Bon appetite!

We had a setback at the Shelter: Nolan, the dog who was adopted last month, was returned to us. He bit one of the children, even though the girl said it had been her fault and begged to keep him. Mom would not hear of it. Reb picked him up and brought him back to the Shelter. She said in a way it was funny, Nolan had been driving with the man of the family to his work in a pick-up truck. Since he could not climb up by himself into the cab, the man always picked up his hind legs to help him get up there. When Rebecca came to pick him up, Nolan stood at the door of her Volkswagen, which sits low to the ground. He had his front legs inside, the hind legs outside, waiting for the boost into the car. ☺ It's a shame that it did not work out, but so is life.

Other than that everything is soaking wet. There's nothing new at the Shelter. Even the rain is old news from last month. What a strange spring and summer.

I will be enclosing three tickets again for our yearly fundraiser. If you have no use for them, just throw them away, or maybe a friend or relative will to buy one, or more. The money will be used to buy heating fuel for next winter. First prize of \$200.00 plus a bunch of other prizes will be mailed to the lucky winners in October. Our money-situation is not very good. I will explain this later on in this letter.



For now let me thank each and every one of you who helped us get through another month with donations of money, food, treats, stamps and two Target gift cards!

Al Smith, Belmont  
Charlotte Paul, Chelmsford  
Christel Friedow, Plymouth  
Cristine Cardello, Melrose  
Dale Critchley, S. Weymouth  
Deborah Phair  
Donna Bering

Iris Martinello, Tewksbury  
James Bean  
Joe D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro  
Jon Anderson, Augusta  
Linda Merriam, Dresden  
Lynne Kaplowitz, Liberty  
Marlene Kaplan, Melrose

Marian Delarue, Woburn  
Melody Lavers, Wales  
Michael Kane, Greenwood  
Pat Thain, Dracut  
Sandra Nicholson, Beverly  
Susan Borsic, Woburn

Bonnie Buckmore emptied collection jars again and sent us the \$42.50 from them.

As you can see, 20 people helped us this month, and that's why I would like to show you the following:

And this month donations were even less, I can't even pay the "regular bills."

### **Financial Statement for April 2017**

I thought maybe some of our supporters would like to know where their donations went. April was an average month donation-wise, Christmas is much better, the summer-months are much worse. But even the Christmas donations don't stretch further than to the early spring, if we are lucky, of the following year.

So, I would like to point out that with what we are taking in on donations, we can't afford to run an animal shelter the way it should be taken care of.

### **We took in \$2010.13 in April 2017**

That amount came from 22 supporters, John Wells with his fundraiser-table, and Bonnie Buckmore with donation cans.

We paid out:

Hometown Vet	\$656.56
Animal Hospital	\$13.92
Electric	\$221.07
Stamps, newsletter	\$54.39
Telephone	\$39.62
Cat food/litter	\$310.56
Reb Pay	\$449.70
Home Depot	\$477.00

That's why she has to have another part-time job. New refrigerator, the old donated one, finally died after 19 years of use.

Dog food cost is only an estimate, as we bought \$1500.00 worth around Christmastime.

### **Total, not counting the smaller items bought at Walmart, i.e. cleaning supplies, and whatever else is needed and the Shelter can't do without is: \$2622.82.**

That's another \$600.00+ that had to be paid with a credit card, which is not quite maxed out, but getting there!

Of course we don't need to buy a new fridge every month, but there is always something else going out, a washer, dryer, heater, a lawnmower, flooring has to be replaced, a gate newly rewired,

For May we had another huge expense for heartworm tablets, over \$880.00. And we have been worrying since several years that our heater has to be replaced, and that the well will dry up, meaning at least \$5000 to drill a new one.

I guess when we hit the number 10 of monthly supporters, we will close the Shelter. God only knows what will happen to our animals after that.

On this sad note I wish you all a wonderful month of July

## **Gabriele Mary, Ted, Eric and Jim**



## **CAT REPORT – JUNE 2017**

I wouldn't know what to do if I didn't have at least one cat to worry about – this month it's Mr. Tom, who continues to eat less than he should. He's been back to the vet and diagnosed with gradually failing kidneys, not surprising at his age (my records say he was born in 1999, and that's a guess, since he came to us as an adult). He goes in twice a week to get rehydrated, a treatment I could do at home if I had to but would rather trust to the experts. Tom doesn't mind riding, and he's acting lively and well and eating small amounts when he's in the mood. His FIV friends are sympathetic; I often find him sharing a bed with one or another.

The rest of the feline mob seem to be well. We're sort of ready for summer; the air conditioners are in and have been used one hot humid day already, and several nights the doors onto the porch have stayed open for cats' ining and outing. Last night when I went to bed the temperature was around 60 degrees, so I closed both the storm door and the heavy inside one and pulled the padlock through the security chain, without locking the padlock. When I came down this morning the doors were open and cats were enjoying fresh air and sunshine. Based on experience, I strongly suspect Lucien and Feather were the ones who opened the doors. Tang probably would have helped had he been with that group, but he spent the night on my bed.

Thanks as always to the cats' friends for this month's gifts – cat food from Pepper Charles and Shirley, coupons from Melissa Pillow, Irma Simon, Iris Martinello, Lynn Kaplowitz and Al Smith. Best wishes to all of you for Independence Day celebrations that don't include enough fireworks to terrify your pets!