



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

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Limestone, November, 2017

Dear Friends,

Christmas came a little early for our Shelter: Santa in the form of Cynthia and Galen Thompson delivered a truckload full of goodies and a check to us. All collected at their annual Fleabag Ball. Once again, we are so very grateful to have supporters like the Thompsons and their little dog Greta. Thank you very much for all your work, to help the animals!

Another great thing happened this month: Nolan was adopted, and it looks like this time it's for good. You may remember that another family gave him a try in summer, but sadly that did not work out for him. A couple of weeks ago I received a call from a gentleman, asking about Nolan. He introduced himself as the son of someone who had adopted our Elli a few years ago.

Elli passed on to the Rainbow Bridge, due to old age, and they needed another 4-legged creature around. He took Nolan home for a play date, and so far everything is working out. Keeping all of our paws crossed.

As I am writing this letter, Jim is spending some time at the Shelter. The last big storm we had, damaged the roof of our barn, which is used only as storage area since our bull and pig also passed on years ago. The storm took part of the roof off, and Jim is trying to temporarily fix it with one of those large and ugly blue tarps, until spring gets here. Then he will tear down the barn. We will once again ask for your help in spring to buy a storage building. We have tried the tent-like structures, they are no good and do not last, so it will have to be something more solid than that. But let's deal with winter first.

While he is down there at the Shelter, he also will help the vet who is coming to vaccinate the dogs we can't get into the car and to his office. When Jim left, I said, "Be careful, don't fall of the roof." He answered, "I am more worried about getting bit by a dog when I try to hold him for the shot," administered by the vet, not by Jim. Hopefully that will not happen. Years ago Ted got bit by a dog and ended up four days in the hospital. One never knows what's going to happen when a dog is

afraid. All of us have gotten bit at one time or another and we all survived. I guess it's not really a big deal.

You would think the dogs prefer to chew on rawhide bones then people bones, but even that is becoming very dangerous, according to the FDA- but dangerous to the dogs:

### **FDA warns pet owners against giving dogs bone treats**

Pet owners may want to rethink rewarding their dogs with bones after the U.S. Food & Drug Administration released a warning of the risks of the much-coveted treat.

The FDA has received dozens of reports detailing pet illnesses -- and even deaths -- relating to "bone treats," it said on its website. Bone treats differ from uncooked butcher-type bones because they are processed and packaged for sale and are commercially available for dogs.

Among the descriptions for the bone treats listed in the reports are "Ham Bones," "Pork Femur Bones," "Rib Bones," and "Smokey Knuckle Bones," according to the FDA. The bones may be dried through a smoking process or by baking and can contain other ingredients such as preservatives, seasonings and smoke flavorings.

"Giving your dog a bone treat might lead to an unexpected trip to your veterinarian, a possible emergency surgery, or even death for your pet," said Carmela Stamper, a veterinarian at the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine.

Illnesses that were reported include choking, gastrointestinal obstruction, or blockage in the digestive track, cuts and wounds in the mouth or on the tonsils, vomiting, diarrhea, bleeding from the rectum and even death, according to the FDA. About 15 dogs died after eating the bone, the FDA reported.

The reports involved about 90 dogs and were sent in by pet owners and veterinarians, the FDA said.

There you have it. I guess the mushy food I have to feed my own dog is much safer. She has a condition called EPI, which means her pancreas is not working and she can't digest food. So I have to soak her food in enzymes (horrible smelling stuff) so that she does not starve to death. If you ever have a dog like this and need help, let me know, I am becoming an expert.☺ It seems that more and more dogs, cats and now even people have to deal with this illness. Is it an environmental thing or food, who knows?

In addition to the Thompsons playing Santa Claus, we also had a great surprise in the form of our first prize at last month's fundraiser being returned: The winner of the \$250, Grace Lenihan, gave it back to our Shelter! Thank you so much, Grace!

John Wells also raised money again by setting up a table with goodies and trying to educate people, in front of a store. He also told me that he received a package with toys, from Jackie Lowney, to use on his table. Thank you to Jackie, and of course to John for once again facing the cold and helping our animals!

And a huge THANK YOU to all of the following few supporters, who once again helped with stamps, packages with goodies, and donations to keep Charley's going:

Al Smith, Belmont  
Bonnie Buckmore Dale Critchley  
Cristine Cardello, Melrose  
Donna Bering & Joseph Mooney  
Dot Archer & Judith Gallo  
Iris Martinello  
Joe D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro

John Ingersol, N. Reading  
Joseph Blake, New Bedford  
Linda Merriam, Dresden  
Marian Delarue, Woburn  
Marlene Kaplan, Melrose  
Mountain Greenery Greenhouse  
Nancy Brown, Olympia

Pat Thain, Dracut  
Patricia Harrison, Litchfield  
Phil Mann, Rowland Heights  
Sandra Nicholson, Beverly  
Susan Borsic  
William Beck, Oakland

We also received a check from The Sommer Family Foundation.

Julie Gallagher mailed us a donation in memory of Floyd.

Charley Ames and Ruth McKinney sent us a check in honor of Jim's birthday.

Bonnie Buckmore also sent us a check from her monthly "emptying of donation cans at different locations"

To all of the above: We are very grateful for your help and thank you very much to each and every one of you!

Wishing you a peaceful Holiday Season

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

**Please read on, Mary's Cat Report on next page.**



## **CAT REPORT – OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2017**

Sorry about the lack of an October cat report – blame Central Maine Power Company. I was lucky at that, going only 63 hours without power. Other people were out for more than a week.

This report is mostly good news! The most pleasing is that Ashley started eating on her own again late in October. First time since August, I believe; and for the first few days I watched her constantly, fearing she'd change her mind. Some days she eats better than other days, but she seems to feel all right however much or little time she spends at the food dishes. I've been weighing her every couple days; she's gained back more than a pound of the weight she lost while she was on strike. We never did find out what ailed her; the multitude of tests came up with no informative results.

Alafer has had one return to the vet, after he stopped eating for a couple days. The upper respiratory infection that flares up every now and then was bothering him; an antibiotic injection made an almost instant improvement, and he too is eating well and acting normal at the moment. His head still wobbles, not enough to keep him from eating, getting into and out of the litter box and jumping onto his favorite chair

Another good thing in October was that a nice couple came to meet Lucien and Feather, thinking they might adopt them. Lucien thought they were fine people; Feather, who's usually the bolder and more outgoing of the two, barely spoke to them and hid in a corner most of the time they were here. They want to come back for another visit, but our schedules haven't meshed. We'll see what happens.

In November our friends in Bangor and East Millinocket hosted the annual Fleabag Ball in Bangor, with guests bringing dog and cat food and supplies and Charley's Strays getting a generous share. The cats got a big assortment of food, litter, treats and toys, as they do every year. The ball is a memorial to a dog who crossed the Rainbow Bridge -- such a nice idea, and I'm delighted that Charley's Strays is on the list to get donations. I've also had cat food from Pepper Charles and my friend Shirley and coupons from Suzanne Belisle, Iris Martinello, Kim Doherty, Irma Simon and Al Smith. Many thanks to all our friends and supporters.

I hope all of you had a pleasant Thanksgiving and are looking forward to Christmas and the New Year.