



Charley's Strays, Inc.

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Limestone, Maine, December, 2018

Dear Friends,

Another holiday season is gone; a very sad one for some of our supporters, a happy one for our shelter. Several of our friends had to deal with the loss of a loved one: a mother, a friend, a pet. But more about that later on.

The good news: Supporters of our cause went out of their way again, to help our animals. The above Christmas tree was set up by Pet Quarters with the plea to their customers to donate food, treats, toys and litter. The customers obeyed. Bonnie Buckmore picked up a nice load of goodies for our shelter guys and girls.

A big surprise came in the form of many checks: Karen Hilton organized an online auction for Charley's through her group "Friends of Animals Waterville Maine". "Friends of Animals Waterville Maine" organizes raffles and fundraisers, mostly on Facebook, primarily for area shelters. Here is their webpage if you would like to check them out:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1444235699217586/> Thank you so very, very much for your kindness.



"Our" Jean Tillson, longtime supporter of our Shelter, again outdid herself: She painted "Avery" the little dog on the left, for someone, and the proceeds will be going to us. I have painted some artwork myself, but nowhere as beautiful as what Jean can do with her paint brushes. It is simply unbelievable. I am sure some day her paintings will be very sought after.

THANK YOU JEAN!

We would have had a perfect Christmas, had it not been for a huge bill which of course had to show up just before Christmas: Our insurance for the Shelter in the amount of \$2100. We started with \$900 years ago, and even though we never made a claim against it, over the years it just keeps going up. We can't even complain, I heard of other shelters that were refused insurance, because of the chance a dog may bite someone. But we manage one way or another, in the hopes that nothing major ever happens were we have no choice but to use this insurance. A \$1100 oil bill showed up too, but with the fundraiser money in fall it was paid with no problem. Those are the little Christmas surprises we could do without.

More good news at the Shelter: It looks like Sadie, one of the four southern dogs we took in, will be adopted. A couple who has been very interested will be adopting her. Sadie loves the man, which is very unusual because many dogs are afraid of men, but not Sadie. And she happily tolerates the lady and gets along great with their other dog. We should know in a couple of weeks if things work out for all of them. Strangely we still have King, the yellow lab, whom I thought would be the first one to be adopted. King is a very gentle dog, but like all of us, has his little quirks, one of which is chasing cats. We are keeping our paws crossed for him! The rest of our gang is not quite as easy placed, a few have some kind of permanent psychological issue or are too old That's okay, they are at home with us.

Last month we lost Steve, Cindy Houston's husband. This month we lost Marian Delarue, a lady who had been supporting Charley's Strays for many, many years. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.



And this brings me to the rest of our people, who made Christmas beautiful with donations of care packages, stamps, and the always needed money:

Al Smith, Belmont
Bonnie Buckmore, Waterville
Charley Ames & Ruth McKinney
Cristine Cardello, Melrose
Dale Critchley, S. Weymouth
Denise Bolieau, Monmouth
Donna Bering
Elizabeth Morgan, Portland
George Watkins, Amesbury
Iris Martinello, Tewksbury
Joe D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro
John Wells, Oakland
Judith Gallo, Canton
Kim Dwelly
Linda Merriam, Dresden
Maine Psychic Consulting Services, Benton

Manuel German, Reading
Marcus Nordberg, Boxborough
Mark Resendes, Revere
Melody Lavers, Wales
Michael Kane, Greenwood
Nancy Brown, Olympia
Nancy Capone, Wakefield
Pat Ingersoll
Pat Thain, Dracut
Rancourt Family, Lebanon
Rust Pappathanasi, Swampscott
Sally Sawyer, Albany Twp.
Sebastian Korsnes
Shonna Humphrey
William Hanrahan

We received donations in memory of Marian Delarue from the following people: Regina Yasi, Gail Delarue, Christine McQuiggan, Susan Borsic, Ruth Long, David Pascucci, and Joseph D'Alessandro.

We also received donations in memory of Steve DiCiaccio from Glenn Stirling, Carol Touchette, Dorothy Abruzzese and Kimberlee Miyahira.

And we received a donation in memory of "Floyd" from Julie Gallagher.

Also we received a check from our friends Cynthia, Galen and dog Greta, this is the family who usually does the Fleabag-Ball in fall. They let us know, their beloved dog Remy passed away. To everyone; we are very sorry, and we thank you so much for thinking of our animals while dealing with your own losses.

Another big thank you goes to John Wells, who braved the Christmas crowds at Shaw's with his table. Due to the Salvation Army's continuous bell ringing John did not attempt a second day, and reluctantly folded up his table. But he still mailed us a nice check for our four-legged friends. And thank you to Bonnie Buckmore who emptied the various cans and boxes of change in different stores. ☺

And that pretty well covers my part of the newsletter. Mary's Cat News follows on the next page.

Wishing all of you, your families and pets a very happy and healthy 2019. Thank you, again, for your support throughout the year. Without you there would be no Charley's Strays Shelter.

Gabriele, Mary, Eric, Ted and Jim



Cat News
December 2018

Our cats have had a quiet December and a delightful drunken Christmas, with, as usual, a few visits to the vet thrown in.

Two friends gave them catnip-filled cat toys, and one gave them some really powerful loose catnip as well. They got the fresh stuff Christmas eve and Christmas day, and the toys have been scattered around since. Some of the cats ignored the loose catnip sprinkled on the floor; some ate it (and a couple learned that it upset their little stomachs); some rolled in it and came up looking like off-color porcupines. No fights, though a few paws got slung (but they do that when they're sober, too).

Tang, the orange guy we got from Unity, saw the vet about a possible dental, but it turned out he needed to get over an upper respiratory infection and go on thyroid medication before Hanna was willing to risk anesthesia. The URI is better; sometime next year I need to have his thyroid level checked again. Despite his bad teeth he eats well enough; I give him two canned food meals a day, partly for comfortable eating and partly for something to crush the daily thyroid pill into.

Ashley's brother Ryan spent last night at the vet's, after he skipped both meals two days ago, ate some the next day and skipped breakfast yesterday. He, like his sister, declined to show any obvious problems; after reviewing his almost-normal blood test results, Heather gave him an antibiotic. He came home livelier, though I've not yet seen him eat.

Ashley's the same: won't eat by herself, purrs loudly the whole time I'm putting food down her feeding tube, wobbles around her room and even into the adjoining room when she feels like getting exercise. If I hadn't done vet runs yesterday and today with Ryan I would have let her rejoin her former roommates briefly. I daren't let her out without staying with her, because her tube has a screw-on top attached to the stem, making a plastic loop that another cat could play with (I have Lucien particularly in mind; that cat is totally intrigued by anything new and not too scary).

Again, many thanks to the cats' friends. The catnip came from Cathy and Jeff and Teresa and Tom; Pepper Charles and Shirley gave them food; Cami, Bunny and Peter and Laurie and Dave sent funds and/or gift cards; Reb delivered treats and toys collected by Bonnie from two local pet stores and left at the kennel; and Suzanne Belisle and Al Smith mailed coupons.

I hope all of you had a good Christmas. Happy New Year to all --