



Charley's Strays, Inc.

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Limestone, July, 2018

Dear Friends,

Meet Fred in above photo, one of the four dogs we took in last month. He was a lucky dog, indeed, by finding a home within the first week of his stay at our Shelter! His family has sent us this photo, and he sure looks happy.

More good news: our little Buddy, the Shi Tzu mix we also took in last month, has found a loving family of his own. He came to us a few weeks ago from a Pennsylvania shelter. He's 11 years old with eye problems; so we feared that he would not be easily placed. But we were wrong. A couple in our age group who usually adopts senior dogs, lost their dogs awhile back, and were happy to give Buddy a new life with lots of TLC including sleeping in their bed.

The ones I thought would be easy to place, like King, the yellow lab, has a wonderful personality, and seven month old Daisy who is also a very nice canine, are still waiting for a family of their own. So are the rest of Charley's strays.

Jim spent a week at Charley's, taking care of the dogs while Reb was on vacation. He also had lots of repair jobs. He needed to replace all the lights in the kennel building. They were over 20 years old and most of them did not light up any longer, which ran into a huge bill of over \$900. Jim installed LED lights, which are more expensive initially, but are much less on electrical costs and last much longer.

The outside fence posts and gates had to be pounded back into the ground with a sledge hammer. Thanks to our winters up here everything moves out of the ground and halfway across the nation. Luckily It's all back in place. Jim's waiting to do the same thing all over again next summer. Hopefully Jim will still have the strength next year to swing that hammer!

This brings me right to the next winter, which will be here way too soon, and the fuel to heat everything at the Shelter. Once again, we are selling tickets to raise funds for buying the much needed heating fuel. Enclosed are 3 tickets at \$5 each; if you have no use for them, please either give them to someone who may buy one or two, or toss them out. We will have the drawing for the prizes on November 20th, just before Christmas. Who knows, with a little bit of luck one of the prizes will make a nice Christmas gift to yourself or for someone you need a gift. Right now all I have is the first prize and a few nice Christmas items and household items. But I am hopeful to find more, as time goes on.

That's about all the news at the Shelter.

And now, once again, I would like to thank all the following supporters of Charleys, for helping us with donations, food, toys, stamps, coupons and nice words:

Cristine Cardello, Melrose
Dale Critchley, S. Weymouth
Irma Simon, China
Jackie and Kellee Lowney
Joe D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro
John Wells, Oakland

Joseph Mooney, Wakefield
Judith Rohweder, Northport
Kim Devane Crystal River
Marlene Kaplan, Melrose
Mary Grace Lenihan, Melrose
Maryann Delarue, Woburn

Melody Lavers, Wales
Nancy Capone, Wakefield
Pat Ingersoll for Taylor
Pat Thain, Dracut
Sally Sawyer, Albany Twp.
Susan Borsic, Woburn

As you may have noticed, our supporters are getting less and less. Hopefully this is just a summer thing, with people are on vacation.

John Wells also sent us the proceeds from his table, and as always his check was accompanied by some funny and sad remarks:

"...maybe I am getting too old and crotchety, but the people seem harder and harder to cope with (I agree 100% with John's remark) from the lady who donated a quarter for a dog tennis ball, to the lady who told me she was searching for a new dog because her others were always getting run over on the street, to the lady who insisted upon buying a full sized kong ball for her Chihuahua even though I tried to tell her the dog might be happier with some of the smaller toys."

Bonnie Buckmore was also a big help this month. She mailed us checks from emptying the donation boxes in various stores, and also picked up and delivered a load of food, donated by Loyal Biscuit, for our animals.

To all the above: A HUGE "THANK YOU VERY MUCH!"

And that's all for this month. Wishing you a great month of August.

Gabriele, Mary, Ted, Eric and Jim

CAT REPORT JULY 2018

Again not much news, which is good news, both for the cats and for me, since in this hot humid weather I have no energy for writing a long report.

Told you last month Ashley had been suddenly ill: she was just as suddenly well, feeling better by evening and normal the next day. Last summer when she was so thin, I could easily tell her and her brother Ryan apart, even though both are smallish all-grey cats. Now they're about the same size and deciding which is which sometimes takes a couple minutes. Ryan is rangier, and if I get a rear view, Ashley's tail is significantly bushier than his – it's really very handsome.

Tang did indeed have a sore mouth, as I suspected a month ago. Put him on clindamycin, served in his food twice a day, and he quickly got better. By then, though, he was used to going into a big varikennel for his canned-food treat, so I let him continue. Months ago one of my own cats used the same varikennel when she was on medication; for the last two weeks, she's decided if Tang gets special food, so does she. I've started putting enough food for two cats in the dish and letting them both in. I don't know who eats how much, but the dish gets emptied without hissing or bloodshed. .

Thanks again to the cats' -- and dogs' -- friends for their support. The cats got canned food from Pepper Charles and a generous variety of food and treats from Bonnie Buckmore and coupons from Suzanne Belisle, Iris Matinello and Irma Simon.