



Men are three times more likely to get a woman's phone number if he has a dog with him. That's adorable, of course, but that does leave open the possibility that she might just want to date him for his dog.

Charley's Strays, Inc.

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Limestone, March, 2018

Dear Friends,

We are back home from the Sunshine State, freezing our "you-know-whats" off in the land of ice and snow. And to make it all just a little worse, today, two days before the end of the month, it's snowing again! We have about 2½ feet of snow on the ground up here in Limestone, and I am actually wondering if I will be able to plant my vegetable garden this year, or if by the time all this snow, and ice, is gone and the ground has warmed up enough, it may be time to get ready for next winter. I am also wondering why I moved up here. But that's not the first time I have had that question in my head.

Jim did much fishing in Florida, and what would a fishing trip be without a good fishing story:

"I went fishing this morning, but after a short time ran out of worms. Then I saw a cottonmouth with a frog in its mouth. Frogs are good bass bait.

Knowing the snake couldn't bite me with the frog in its mouth, I grabbed it right behind the head, took the frog, and put it in my bait bucket. Now the dilemma was how to release the snake without getting bit.

So, I grabbed my bottle of Jack Daniels and poured a little whiskey in its mouth. Its eyes rolled back, and it went limp.

I released the snake into the lake without incident and carried on fishing, using the frog.

Not long after, I felt a nudge on my foot. It was the damn snake with two more frogs. Life is good."

Anyway, we are back. Ted, Eric, Mary and Reb had to deal with this miserable winter, but they and their charges, our furry friends, managed to survive it, and everyone is waiting for mud season. A HUGE THANK YOU to the crew, who made it possible that we could enjoy the warmth of Florida while they had to deal with the cold and the animals at the Shelter!

No new animals, no adoptions, but that's normal for winter, no one wants to venture out into the cold, and thinking of having to walk dogs in ice and snow definitely puts a damper on people wanting to adopt one.

As promised before we left for Florida, I will have a long list of names of Charley's Strays' supporters in this month's newsletter. And here they are:

Al Smith, Belmont
Alice Winston, Swampscott
Anne Tappan, Cambridge
Bonnie Buckmore, Waterville
Cristine Cardello, Melrose
D. Hingston, Chelmsford
Dale Critchley, S. Weymouth
Deborah Hansen, Mt. Vernon
Denise Bolieau, Monmouth
Diane Rizzo, Norway
Donna Bering
Donna Wade
Elizabeth Morgan, Portland
Iris Martinello, Tewksbury

Irma Simon, China
Jackie & Kellee Lowney
John D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro
John Walsh, Estero
Joseph Kogut, Upton
Judy Rohweder, Northport
Kathe Ahrens, Granby
Larry & Arlene Hayes
Linda Merriam, Dresden
Marian Delarue, Woburn
Marlene Kaplan, Melrose
Michael Kane, Greenwood
Nancy Brown, Olympia
Nancy Capone, Wakefield

Pat Ingersol
Pat Thain, Dracut
Phil Mann, Rowland Heights
Ralph & Jean Catignani
Rick Clover N. Andover
Sally Sawyer, Albany TWP
Sandra Nicholson, Beverly
Susan Borsic, Woburn
Susan Culver, Charleston

A HUGE thank you to our above supporters, and a huge thank you to the following:

Bonnie Buckmore mailed us several checks from emptying donation boxes in various stores.

Katie Clegg mailed us a box of treats and beautiful "pull" toys.

Judy Rohweder mailed us a check in memory of her friends Maura's brother, Stephen O'Brian.

Maura and Judy decided a donation to our animals would be better than flowers, especially since Stephen, who loved dogs, would have been quite happy to know that the two ladies decided on this instead of flowers.

Bonnie Buckmore's sister Pam Smith passed away. We received a check in her memory from Bonnie and husband Todd. We also received a donation in memory of Pam from Jessica McCain. James Bean and Lynne Kaplowitz also sent us a check in Pam Smith's memory.

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

Another sad card with a check came our way from Shirley Rancourt, in loving memory of her husband of 48 years, Jerry.

Anne De Jaifre sent us a check in memory of a supporter of Charley's, Etta McConahay.

Jean Tillson who does lovely animal paintings, was commissioned by her friends for a painting of their beloved dog Cash, who died earlier this year. Jean sent us the proceeds in memory of Cash Hudson, a boxer who was named for Johnny Cash.

To all of the above: we are very sorry for your loss, whether it's a relative, a partner or beloved pet.

We did get some "happy" donations, too:

Charley Ames and Ruth McKinney mailed us a check for my birthday, and another one for Easter, to be used for our animals.

Then we received a letter and check from Lannie Mahon. She said:

"Our family -John and Andrea Bielski- have adopted two of your dogs, Ellie and Nolan, and I am thankful for what you do"

And we are thankful to you for adopting these two wonderful dogs!

Jean Tillson's husband Jay cashed out his boot full of change, and mailed us the proceeds.

The Lawrence High School's cheering competition's winner donated 50% of the win to our animals.

And last but not least: John Wells braved the cold at Shaws, and sent us another check from selling small items and educating people about animals. He also asked again if we did not know someone who could do a Saturday or Sunday here and there for a few hours. John says:

"Four hours is about all I can stand-and it's even harder without Jake (his black lab who passed last year to the pearly gates) to talk to. But I think adding another four hours each weekend would help raise the total quite a bit..."

Wishing you a great month ahead, with lots of sunshine and NO SNOW

Gabriele, Mary, Ted, Eric and Jim

CAT REPORT – JANUARY – MARCH 2018

Our cats have had a pretty boring winter, thanks to the ridiculous weather. Much of January was so cold they barely got to stick their noses onto the porch, and by March the snow falling off the roof was piled six feet high so they could see very little when they did go out for a sunny hour or two. One warmish afternoon I saw Lucien standing in the plastic chair on the porch with his front feet on the back, craning his neck so he could see the driveway. Only in February were there a few comfortable days when they could sit on the floor and watch the slush fall from the roof outside the screen. Feather and Lucien found it fascinating, even when they got splashed.

Mostly it's been a healthy winter, which is always good, for the cats and for the budget. Feather was suddenly very ill early in March – had an upper respiratory infection, as he and several others do once in a while, but this time he obviously felt lousy. I rushed him to the vet (almost beating the pending blizzard), where Nicole found he was running a fever. Antibiotic injections made him feel a little better the same evening, much better the next morning and normal the next evening.

The cats' friends haven't forgotten them. My gift list, which I hope doesn't leave out anyone, includes coupons from Suzanne Belisle, Kim Doherty, Shirley Jordan, Teresa Parent, Caley Pillow, Iris Martinello, Leanna Dwyer, Marlene Kaplan, John Walsh, and Al Smith, and food from Pepper Charles, Shirley Jordan and Karen Tobias. Many thanks to all, and to all of you out there who help Gabriele keep our organization solvent. I only wish there were fewer dogs and cats who need us and people like us.