



Charley's Strays, Inc.

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Dear Friends,

Another month with unbelievable amounts of snow has finally past. Hopefully there are "only" two more months to go before the white stuff starts to melt away. We had 140" so far, and we have broken the all-time record.

At least at the Shelter it's not quite as bad. However, southern Maine also had to deal with lots of ice. Up here behind the moon all we got was, well, SNOW! The dogs seem to love it, my own dog also goes nuts chasing snowballs, she thinks nothing is more fun than have me out there throwing them. And Reb did say the Shelter dogs think its heaven rolling around in the white stuff.

Little Maggie, whose photo I had featured last month, got lucky. She was with us for barely a week when a friend of our volunteer Eric adopted her. The lucky little old girl. Of course her run did not stay empty: The same family, who brought us Maggie, came out to the Shelter again with Bubba, a Husky-mix, shown above. Bubba is still young, about three years old, and was not very well socialized. He is afraid of people. And he is not neutered. So that's the next thing he's looking forward to, a vet visit. And then he has to get used to people before we even can think of letting him be adopted. He is madly in love with our two Huskies, and the threesome run and play like crazy. Considering the two Husky girls are 13 years old, they are in darn good shape when it comes to running and barreling around.

All else is well at the Shelter. We had several people helping us out with extra donations this month to help pay our huge vet bills, and I want to thank each and every one of you for your kindness.

Many people got involved this month and I am very, very grateful!

There was the Spencer family who came by the Shelter with dog and cat food and kitty litter. Their son had collected it instead of a birthday present for him. Thank you so very much for your kindness.

A big thank you goes out to the Lawrence High School Cheerleaders and Boosters for designating Charley's Strays as the beneficiary of their Paws for a Cause February cheering competition for the fourth year in a row. This event not only provides an opportunity for cheerleading teams from around the state to compete, it also creates a forum for their friends and families to both learn more about and to support Charley's Strays.

This year, Charley's was also able to conduct a raffle, thanks to in-kind donations from the following friends: Adam Balbo, Bonnie Buckmore, Teresa Garceau, Loyal Biscuit, Pet Quarters, Kerry Smart, and Thomas College. We also want to thank Bonnie Buckmore's niece, Emily Davis, for volunteering to help Bonnie staff the raffle table.

John Wells spoke at a Rotary meeting about Charley's Strays, which resulted in some donations of goods and a nice check.

And Bonnie Buckmore once again emptied the collection boxes to help pay our dues to the vets.

I am also very grateful to the following supporters of our cause:

Albert Smith, Belmont
Anne Tappan, Cambridge
Charlotte Paul, Chelmsford
Cristine Cardello, Melrose
Dale Critchley, South Weymouth
Donna Bering, Wakefield
Galen & Cynthia Thompson
Grace Kiley, North Andover
Iris Martinello, Tewksbury

Jackie Lowney, New Bedford
Jean & Ralph Catignani
John Walsh, Estero
Judith Rohweder, Northport
Linda Merriam, Dresden
Lisa Lachance-Bolduc
Marlene Kaplan, Melrose
Mary-Grace Lenihan
Michael Kane

Nancy Brown, Olympia
Nancy Capone, Wakefield
Pat Harrison, Litchfield
Pat Thain, Dracut
Richard & Maryann Glover
Rust Pappathanasi, Swampscott
Marlene Kaplan, Melrose
Steve Martin, Augusta
Zee Zee's Dreams

Michael Kane sent us a donation in memory of our friend Bonnie Wiegand, and in memory of Tiger, the "Rizzo" cat who was loved and cared for by our Mary.

Jeannine Lord's husband, Richard, passed away. She mailed us a check in his memory to help our animals. We are so very sorry for your loss, Jeannine!

Jody Workman also mailed us a check in loving memory of her dear friend Richard "Dick" Lord. Another check in Richard's memory was sent to us by Cindra Bailey, and by Lisa and Neale Alanis.

To all of our friends who once again helped us through a long cold winter month – Thank You Very Much.

You may (or may not) remember that I had written about Humane Watch and the HSUS in last month's newsletter. Well, like with everything, there is another side to that story. Our Susanna educated me on that. I asked her if it was okay to reprint her email, and got her blessings. Here it is:

"I just got my newsletter and saw your blurb about Humane Watch. I wanted to share with you that Humane Watch is run by a paid Lobbyist, Richard Berman, who represents big businesses that profit from animal neglect and abuse (see attached image) such as the Commercial Breeding Industry (aka Puppy Mills), Factory Farms/Commercial Farming Industry, Pharmaceutical Industry and others.

As the Humane Society of the United States works to pass legislation to stop puppy mills, inhumane conditions at factory farms and animal testing, this lobbyist formed Humane Watch as a

way to defund the Humane Society of the United States and stop them from passing laws to improve conditions at commercial breeding facilities and factory farms, etc.

In Maine, this session, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is trying to pass legislation that would legally allow good Samaritans (like you!) to help a dog in distress left in a hot car if an animal control officer is not available to help. HSUS is also helping us (Maine Friends of Animals) by providing support for the anti-puppy mill bill we have submitted to the Maine legislature for a second time (the first time in 2015 it was passed but Gov LePage vetoed it.)

HSUS does not take in shelter animals (nor do they claim to), but on top of their legislative efforts, they do provide resources to help shelters that take in animals with grants, spay/neuter clinics, transport of animals from overcrowded kill shelters to New England and other states with shelter space. They also send out trained emergency response teams to help with large animal abuse cases/seizures and natural disasters that impact animals, etc.

So although they are a large organization, and not perfect by any means, they do a lot of excellent work that makes life difficult for businesses that abuse animals to make a profit. Without them fighting on a state and national level, the animals really would have no voice, as few animal welfare organizations have the infrastructure and resources to take on big business at a national level. Here are some articles if you are interested:

<https://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php/HumaneWatch.org>

<https://stophumanewatch.org/blog/why-do-abusers-hate-hsus>

<https://stophumanewatch.org/>

There you have it.

And last, before I come to the close of another long newsletter (hope some of my readers are still awake) you may or may not have heard about the Hill's food recall?

Pet Owners Say Their Dogs Are Sick, Dying After Eating Recalled Hill's Pet Nutrition Dog Food

Just days after Hill's Pet Nutrition [voluntarily recalled select canned dog food products due to potentially elevated levels of vitamin D](#), more than a dozen dog owners have come forward on the company's Facebook page saying their dogs have either become sick or died after being fed the food.

The company issued a voluntary recall involving both [Hill's Prescription Diet and Hill's Science Diet canned foods](#) on Jan. 31, warning of a potential for elevated levels of vitamin D which could lead to health issues, including vomiting, loss of appetite, increased thirst, increased urination, excessive drooling and weight loss.

When vitamin D is consumed at very high levels it can lead to serious health issues in dogs including renal dysfunction.

Since the recall was announced, dozens of people have responded to Hill's original post on Facebook saying either their dogs have become sick or have died, many asking for compensation to recover thousands of dollars in veterinary care. NBC News received the following statement from Hill's Pet Nutrition Tuesday evening:

"First and foremost, we're heartbroken about this situation, which involves a limited quantity of our canned foods, and we are taking it very seriously. Hill's people are working with pet parent to listen to their concerns. As pet parents ourselves, we understand the gravity of health issues with our pets. We have extended our call center hours and tripled the number of people on our phones,

so we can take time with every pet parent. Additionally, our team of veterinary professionals is engaged with vet hospitals and clinics to respond to their questions.

It is important to keep in mind that vitamin D toxicity is actually very rare. In rare cases, continuous consumption of high levels of vitamin D can result in serious health issues, so we are assessing every pet parent inquiry thoroughly.

We have identified and isolated the issue, which is restricted to a specific vitamin mix, provided by one of our suppliers in the U.S. that was used in limited production of canned dog food as listed on our website. To prevent this from happening again, we now require the supplier of our vitamin mix to conduct additional quality testing on every batch of this ingredient delivered to Hill's. In addition, we are also strengthening our own testing protocol for incoming ingredients as an additional safeguard.

We appreciate people's patience as we take the time needed to assess the concerns of each and every pet parent. We are committed to providing safe, high quality foods to all pets."

Meanwhile, in response to a customer [on Twitter, Hill's Pet Nutrition said](#), "We have identified and isolated the supplier error and, are now requiring them to implement additional quality testing prior to release of ingredients. In addition to our existing safety processes, we are adding our own further testing of incoming ingredients."

And that brings me to THE END :):)

Wishing you a great month, stay warm and happy,

Gabriele, Mary, Ted, Eric and Jim



Lucky Lady

CAT REPORT – FEBRUARY 2019

I'm sorry to report we lost Ashley not long after I wrote the January cat report. She spent most of her last days sleeping on soft beds in one of two favorite warm corners. For a while she'd get up for meals; when she quit that, she'd still eat a bit and have a drink if I went and fetched her; then she lost interest in eating and drinking, and I realized she was just too tired to go on.

Tang has been taking his medication like a gentleman – it comes in pill form, and I crush it in his canned food twice a day. He's scheduled for another blood test early in March; if his thyroid level is satisfactory and nothing else is messed up, I hope he'll have the dental care he needs soon. Meanwhile he eats well, including dry food, but when he joins me most nights and purrs us to sleep from the top of my pillow, sometimes his breath isn't as sweet as it should be.

Everyone else has been doing well. Those four crazy guys we got from Jen are delighted that the weather is occasionally warm enough to enjoy an hour or two on the porch; I open the door and they all bounce out, sometimes with a few of their friends. Alafer (aka Twinearound, because he likes to wind around my ankles) and Willow are less likely to stay, especially if food is the indoor alternative. Lucien and Feather often have to be coaxed in.

The cats' friends have been generous again, with food from Pepper Charles, Shirley and their new friend Cindy and coupons from Suzanne Belisle, Iris Martinello, Kim Doherty and Al Smith. Many thanks, as always, to all of you who help us out.