



Charley's Strays, Inc.

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Dear Friends,

We hope that all of you had a perfect Thanksgiving with your friends and family! It was a day like every other one for us up here in Limestone, all of our friends left Maine, and our families live far away. But that's okay, we still have our furry friends, and at least they are very thankful for every nice gesture they receive from their human friends. All is well at the Shelter, no news to speak of, so I will keep this last letter of 2019 short!

In the spirit of this past Thanksgiving, I thank each and every one of you for supporting our furry friends throughout the year. I know that has not been an easy task for many of you. I don't think we have any millionaires among us who don't worry about how to pay the next insurance bill or even the medical bills that keep popping up more and more as we get older. So, thank you from the bottom of my heart for thinking of the poorest of all the throw-away animals, the ones that can't fend for themselves and have to totally depend on us.

We at Charley's Strays have a lot to be thankful for: A HUGE Thank you goes out to Ted, who is still helping out at the Shelter when his health lets him, and who has been doing so for 30 years! Imagine that. To Eric who is also already in year four or five of his service to our animals at Charley's Strays. He comes every Saturday, no matter if it rains cats and dogs ☺ or other strange weather phenomena are happening. Without those two pillars of our Shelter, I have no idea where we would be. And a big Thank you goes to our Reb, who also has been with us now for over five years, if I remember correctly. and we hope she will stay the rest of this century. That would make her way over 120 years old, but we can dream, right?

And now to the VIP of Charley's Strays, Mary, who has been taking care of our felines for 25 years. She has to do it 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, all year long. I believe in all those years she took off once or twice for a week or two. Her dedication is hard to match. Thank you Mary, you are THE BEST!

Last but not least a big Thank you to John Wells who has been doing fundraisers for us by setting up tables in front of a store or two, and has helped our tremendously for several years now. A Huge Thank you goes to Bonnie Buckmore, who has also become a person our animals are depending on: She puts many miles on her car to drive around to stores to collect money with her donation boxes, and also organizes food drives through Loyal Biscuit and when we need something, she goes out of her way to find a person or business who may will help us.

Thank you to the following supporters of our animals, who once again helped them with donations of needful things, and with the necessary cash to buy more of those much needed things:

Al Smith, Belmont
Alice Winston, Swampscott
Charlotte Paul, Chelmsford
Dale Critchley, S. Weymouth
Iris Martinello, Tewksbury

Jackie Lowney, New Bedford
Joe D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro
Linda Merriam, Dresden
Lynn Frischman, Los Gatos
Marcia Smith, Bangor

Marlene Kaplan, Melrose
Michael Kane, Greenwood
Pat Thain, Dracut
Rancourt Family, Lebanon
Steve Martin, Augusta

As you can see, we had very few donors helping us this month. So I was very, very happy when Nancy Capone returned her cash prize of \$250 that she had won at last month's fundraiser to us. Mark Resendes also returned a Walmart gift card he had won, which Reb is using to buy supplies for the Shelter. Thank you Nancy and Mark!

Cindy Houston and her son Jesse collected pennies throughout the year, and Cindy mailed us a check for them.

Charley Ames, our web site person, and his wife Ruth mailed us a donation in honor of "my" Jim's birthday. ☺

Judith Oliver also sent us the money she collected with her donation box, and so did Bonnie Buckmore.

Without your help we would have been in bad shape this month, thank you very much.

And this brings me to the end of this newsletter. We wish you Happy Holidays and all the BEST for you and your loved ones. Stay healthy and happy!

Gabriele, Mary, Eric, Ted and Jim



CAT REPORT – NOVEMBER 2019

Again no exciting news from our cats, and another month when no news is okay, because it means they've not spent a lot of time at the vet.

It's been mild enough so I've been able to offer a bit of porch time several days a week. Their attitudes are amusingly different.

Tang and Ryan aren't much interested, apparently preferring warmer weather. Tang curls up on pillows in the dining room, preferably on the floor rather than a chair, and sleeps for hours. Ryan's more active and enjoys sitting on windowsills watching the outside world from the warm inside.

Feather and Lucien are likely to saunter onto the porch any time I invite them. They peer over the front edge –counting dead leaves? looking for caterpillars? Hoping the chipmunk will be there? who knows? – before choosing the blanket or pillow for that day's sit-down. A tap on the door brings them inside in a hurry, hoping it means food is served.

Their black brother Alafer dashes out the door, runs the length of the porch & dives into the big blanket on the floor at the far end for a quick scrabble, and like as not dashes right back into the house.

Thick-coated brother Willow goes out least often, but when he does he's apt to stay longest, sitting with his front feet folded on the big carrier with the pad on top. Often he's the last one in, even when I call everyone to a meal.

If I were organized, I'd keep track of people who help the cats with gifts of food or coupons or both. Since I save my organizing for stocking the cat-food pantry and remembering who gets which medication or specially-prepared food, I hope I haven't forgotten any of their friends. This month I'm sure Pepper Charles gave them canned food, and I think Teresa provided a bag of their favorite Purina One dry food (unless that was in late October – anyway, sometime recently). There were useful coupons from Teresa, Suzanne Belisle, Al Smith and the cats' friend who mails them anonymously and who this time put them in a colorful envelope with cat photos on the flap. Many thanks to all of you who help our animals, and I hope you and yours had a safe and happy Thanksgiving.