



Charley's Strays, Inc.

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Limestone, April 30, 2020

Dear Friends,

Above photo was taken on April 23! It looks and feels like the middle of the winter, and even today, a week later, we still have some snow on the ground and are dealing with a icy north wind. But that's up here, way up north. The Shelter is doing much better with temperatures in the 60s.

All is well at Charley's Strays. Rebecca and our volunteers are healthy and our dogs are enjoying Reb's company all day long. We have closed the Shelter to the public. We do not want to take a chance of Reb or our volunteers catching this nasty virus.

We had several calls and mail from people who are interested in certain dogs, and some of those people keep telling me that "other shelters" are open, too, so why aren't we? Checking up on those other shelters we found out that yes, you can adopt a animal on line, then go to the shelter, someone will bring the dog or cat out to your car, and then you leave with an animal you have never seen before or had a chance to walk and see if the two of you are a good match or not. Who does something like that? Not us, that's for sure. We want to meet the adoptive parents, and want to give both the people and the dogs a chance to actually get to know each other before re-homing them. Anyway, for the time being, we will stay closed.

With nothing new going on at the Shelter, all there is left to write about is the people news. Even though times are very hard for some of you, you did not forget our animals in need, and once again have sent us donation in form of money, care packages, food and stamps, and I thank each and every one of you for that:

Al Smith, Belmont
Camille Denico
Cristine Cardello, Melrose
Dale Critchley, S. Weymouth
Grace Kiley, N. Andover
Harry Clark, Beverly
Iris Martinello Tewksbury
Jean & Ralph Catignani

Jeannine Lord, Oakland
Judy Rohweder, Northport
Joe D'Allesandro Tuftonboro
Linda Merriam, Dresden
Mark Nordberg Litchfield
Marlene Kaplan, Melrose
Melody Lavers, Wales
Michael Kane, Greenwood

Nancy Brown, Olympia
Nancy Capone, Wakefield
Pat Thain, Dracut
Responsible Pet Care
Rust Pappathanasi, Swampscott
Shirley Rancourt, Lebanon
Susan Chase Culver
ZeeZees Dreams

Some of our supporters had to deal with losses of a loved-one, be it a human or a pet. I know all about the pain you are dealing with, and I am very sorry for your loss.

Jean Tilson lost her father-in-law, Fred Peterson, and mailed us a check in his memory.

Bonnie and Todd Buckmore also had to deal with the loss of a loved family member, Todd's mother, and sent a donation for the care of our 4-legged friends. We also received a check in memory of Todd's mom, Sandy Buckmore, from James Bean and Lynne Kaplowitz.

Michael Kane lost his cat, Miss Marbles. She will be greatly missed. He mailed us a check in Miss Marbles' memory.

My "Internet-friends" Christel and Thomas Friedow, whom I never met in person, (we do have a lot in common: loving animals, and from Germany) also mailed us a donation. Christel has done fundraisers for us (she lives in Michigan, so our Shelter is almost international©) baking cakes and breads, knitting socks, etc., and now she sold a bicycle and sent us the money.

Thank you very, very much to all of you!

Another big Thank you goes to Bonnie Buckmore and Judith Olivier. Both ladies went to the different stores where they put up donation cans and collected the money for us. I did not expect that because of the lock-down in Maine. It was a very pleasant surprise!

I know Easter is already way in the past 3 weeks, but my German friend sent me the following cartoon, which is so fitting for the time we are living in right now, and I wanted to share it with you:



I am sure you figured out the text, which means "Happy Easter 2020. This brings me to the end of this month's news. Wishing you a beautiful, warm and healthy month of May

Gabriele, Mary, Eric, Ted and Jim

Cat Report APRIL 2020

In my March report, I told you I suspected it was Lucien, the only grey cat among the four brothers, who opened the storm door onto the porch when I neglected to close the inside door tight. I was right; he did it again the very next day and has done it since. I'm on the porch, I hear the storm door latch rattle, then the door swings slowly open and Lucien's grey paw appears around the edge, then his grey and white face, then the whole cat leaps triumphantly off the door.

His brother Willow, the long-haired black one, has become less stand-offish. He and (unrelated) Tang are the two who live with both the downstairs and upstairs groups; Tang has always slept on my bed when he feels like it, and now Willow has started joining him. Alafér/Twinearound has done nothing newsworthy this month, or if he did he didn't tell me about it. Feather managed to misplace himself one suppertime, quite a feat for a large cat. I was upset when he didn't appear for supper; searched the room in case he was sound asleep under or behind the furniture, opened the front hall door and called, opened the office door and called, opened the porch door and called, opened the hall door again and here he came sauntering with his tail held high and his eyes wide and innocent. I still don't know when or how he slipped past me without my noticing.

Time blurs when I spend more of it at home, so I'm not sure who gave our cats gifts this month (rather than last month), except the people at Loyal Biscuit in Waterville. They were very helpful about getting me replacements for the frozen raw food I lost when the power was out for 60 hours after our spring snowstorm, and when I picked it up I also got for free some just-barely-expired cat food they could no longer sell. The cats say it's perfectly edible and tastes very good.

Again, I hope all of you are being careful and staying well. I'm hearing more and more about plans to move back toward a normal world and wondering whether they'll succeed. If they do, lots of people will be happy, but lots of cats and dogs will be disappointed when their owners go back to work.