



## **Charley's Strays, Inc.**

P.O. Box 64, Limestone, ME 04750

Tel. Jim: 207-325-8894 Shelter: 207-426-9482

Email: Jbrewer7@maine.rr.com Website: [www.charleysstrays.us](http://www.charleysstrays.us)

Limestone June 30, 2020

Dear Friends,

I hope that every one of you including your family and friends has not had to deal with the virus. Rebecca is still under self-imposed lockdown with our animals; so chances are very slim that someone, human or animal, will get sick at the Shelter. Jim also has stayed away. He had a lot of repairs planned for this summer, but will wait awhile longer before he stays at the Shelter to do the work. Going to various hardware and building supply stores to buy the needed material may not be such a good idea right now.

Nothing much has happened at the Shelter, other than one very sad event: Jinx, one of our long-time residents who had the good luck to be adopted by Reb, has died. He was quite old, and when he could not use his hind legs anymore and could not get up on his own, Reb said it was time to let him go. I feel very bad for Reb. We all know what she is going through.

Since there is nothing else to tell about the Shelter, I thought you may be interested in some Coronavirus -news about pets:

This is what the CDC posted on the internet:

### **If You Have Pets**

What you need to know

- A small number of pets worldwide, including cats and dogs, have been reported to be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, mostly after close contact with people with COVID-19.
- Based on the limited information available to date, the risk of animals spreading COVID-19 to people is considered to be low.

- It appears that the virus that causes COVID-19 can spread from people to animals in some situations.
- Treat pets as you would other human family members – do not let pets interact with people outside the household.
- If a person inside the household becomes sick, isolate that person from everyone else, including pets.
- This is a rapidly evolving situation and information will be updated as it becomes available.

### ***Risk of people spreading the virus that causes COVID-19 to pets***

We are still learning about the virus that causes COVID-19, but it appears that it can spread from people to animals in some situations. A small number of pets worldwide, including cats and dogs, have been reported to be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, mostly after close contact with people with COVID-19.

Infected pets might get sick or they might not have any symptoms. Of the pets that have gotten sick, most only had mild illness and fully recovered.

### ***What to do if you own pets***

Until we learn more about how this virus affects animals, treat pets as you would other human family members to protect them from a possible infection.

Because there is a small risk that people with COVID-19 could spread the virus to animals, CDC recommends that pet owners limit their pet's interaction with people outside their household.

- Keep cats indoors when possible and do not let them roam freely outside.
- Walk dogs on a leash at least 6 feet (2 meters) away from others.
- Avoid public places where a large number of people gather.
- Do not put face coverings on pets. Covering a pet's face could harm them.

There is no evidence that the virus can spread to people from the skin, fur, or hair of pets. Do not wipe or bathe your pet with chemical disinfectants, alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, or any other products not approved for animal use.

Talk to your veterinarian if your pet gets sick or if you have any concerns about your pet's health

If you are sick with COVID-19 (either suspected or confirmed by a test), you should restrict contact with your pets and other animals, just like you would with people. Until we know more about this virus, people sick with COVID-19 should **avoid contact with pets and other animals**.

- When possible, have another member of your household care for your pets while you are sick.
- Avoid contact with your pet including petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked, sharing food, and sleeping in the same bed.
- If you must care for your pet or be around animals while you are sick, wear a cloth face covering and wash your hands before and after you interact with them.

If you are sick with COVID-19 and your pet becomes sick, **do not take your pet to the veterinary clinic yourself**. Call your veterinarian and let them know you have been sick with COVID-19. Some veterinarians may offer telemedicine consultations or other plans for seeing sick pets. Your veterinarian can evaluate your pet and determine the next steps for your pet's treatment and care.

In the United States, there is no evidence that animals are playing a significant role in the spread of COVID-19. Based on the limited information available to date, the risk of animals spreading COVID-19 to people is considered to be low. However, because all animals can carry germs that can make people sick, it's always a good idea to practice healthy habits around pets and other animals.

- Wash your hands after handling animals, their food, waste, or supplies.
- Practice good pet hygiene and clean up after pets properly.
- Talk to your veterinarian if you have questions about your pet's health.
- Be aware that children 5 years of age and younger, people with weakened immune systems, and people 65 years of age and older are more likely to get sick from germs some animals can carry.

For more information, visit CDC's [COVID-19 and Animals](#) webpage and [Healthy Pets, Healthy People website](#).

### **I hope this has answered some of your questions about your pets and the virus!**

Even with the tough times right now, be it unemployment, being layed off or having to go through other tough situations, our supporters have not forgotten our animals.

### **A HUGE Thank you goes to:**

Al Smith, Belmont  
Coryn Drown, Lowell  
Cristine Cardello, Melrose  
Dale Critchley, S. Weymouth  
Donna Bering, Wakefield  
George Watkins, Amesbury

Iris Martinello, Tewksbury  
Jacky & Kellee Lowney  
Jean & Ralph Catignani  
Joe D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro  
John Wells, Oakland  
Judy Rohweder, Northport

Linda Merriam, Dresden  
Malcom Newell, Tewksbury  
Michael Kane, Greenwood  
Pat Thain, Dracut  
Patricia Thibeault, N. Andover  
Sally Sawyer, Albany Twp

Bonnie Buckmore and Judith Olivier mailed checks from emptying donation boxes at stores.

We are going international. A lady from London, UK, Carol Ellin Woodger, mailed us a donation for our animals. I have no idea how she came across us, but I was thrilled to receive a British airmail envelope with a check in it. ☺

Loyal Biscuit once again donated food and treats for our dogs and cats, which was delivered to our Shelter by Bonnie Buckmore. A huge thank you, once again, goes to Melissa Lemik, who owns Primp my Paws, a mobile grooming business ([www.primpmypaws.com](http://www.primpmypaws.com)). She donates her time doing the nail trimming clinics to benefit shelters. Loyal Biscuit provides their Waterville store for the clinics. Loyal Biscuit mailed us the proceeds of her first quarter nail trims.

***Thank you very, very much to each and everyone of you!***

***Gabriele, Mary, Eric, Ted and Jim***

Now to Mary's Cat Report.

## CAT REPORT – JUNE 2020

Another month with not much to say about our good cats. Well, mostly good. So far today Feather has nipped me – he meant it in a friendly way, but it still hurt – and brother Lucien has dashed into other cats' territory and hissed loudly at the first cat he met, as though she, not he, were the intruder. Alafer has been under foot, but that's usual; fourth brother Willow, who's getting increasingly affectionate and sometimes sleeps with me these days, has behaved well. Tang spends a lot of time on the porch, usually dozing against the back wall so he's out of the sun and close to the bowls of cool water that I keep refilling. And Ryan has been on and off the porch as usual, always anxious not to miss whatever's going on.

Not as many humans visiting back and forth these days, so I've had fewer coupons than usual. Thanks go this month to Iris Martinello and Al Smith, and to Pepper Charles for cat food – he had his human drop some off at my house and email me so I'd bring it in. I've had no trouble finding enough food and litter in the stores to keep the cats happy, and I too am getting along well enough. I was amused – and sympathetic -- to receive an email from an out-of-state friend enumerating the things she'd been disappointed not to find in her favorite store.

Many thanks to all of you for your continued support. I hope you're managing in these odd circumstances, and being careful of yourselves, your pets and your neighbors and friends.