



Charley's Strays, Inc.

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Limestone, March, 2016

Dear Friends,

The above photo was sent to us by Katie Clegg, who took in "Jesse" seven years ago from Charley's Strays. Katie says:

Jesse is doing wonderful and one would never know that he is a "Senior". He is the resident protector of all things suspicious (squirrels, mailmen, leaves, the list goes on). . . He has brought so much joy to my life, he is my best friend!

Along with the photo of Jesse and his younger brother Bentley in the background, Katie also mailed us a box filled with many treats for the girls and guys at the Shelter, the 4-legged ones. Thank you Katie for letting us know about Jesse, his photo will be added to the "Wall of Fame" behind my desk, and his name will be added to the box of famous animals, out of which every few month one will be picked to receive a home baked German cake. ☺

Since we are on the cake-subject, I much appreciate the photos you have been sending in to use for our newsletter. The only problem is that it's impossible to choose the best one. So they go into this box and I just pull one out, without trying to figure out who is the cutest or most photogenic one. Last week out of 6 dogs and one cat, well, you guessed it, the cat was pulled. It seems just like in real life, cats prevail!

"Baby's" mom, Cristine Cardello , received a cake, hopefully just in time for Easter.



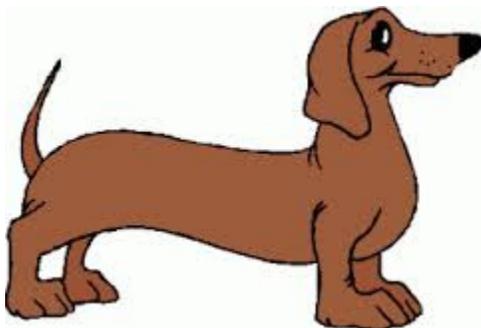
And here is his photo

Being more of a dog-person myself, I must admit: She is a cutie. Keep sending these photos, please, either by mail or email. And they don't have to be of a dog or cat, anything which catches your fancy well be appreciated. Thanks.

Which brings me to "Captain", the black and white cat who had spent many months outside, last winter in Limestone, before I could catch him and bring him to Mary: He has been adopted, and seems to be very happy in his new home. A big Thank You to Mary, whose home was totally filled up with cats last year, but she still made room for one more needy animal.

I kind of started this newsletter in the middle, so I have to work back to the beginning, which was to tell you that Jim and I and our 14-year old dog Nikki made it back safe and sound from Florida. The weather left much to be desired: Cold, very wet, from a usual 0.5" of rain per month to 12.5" this year. Instead of the air conditioner we had to use the heater quite often. Jim still managed to scare the heck out of the fish population and we filled a small freezer chest almost to the top with sheephead trout and a couple of groupers. We watched an eagle being chased by an osprey for the fish he had, which was interesting. Jim almost got hit on the head by the fish which this eagle had dropped, and if another fisherman would not have alerted him with "watch out" I have no idea how I would have explained a concussion caused by a fish to a medic. And this is NOT a tall fish-tale, I swear!

And, because of our trip to Florida, I was not able to thank each and every one of you for all the help you gave us, of donations of money, packages with treats, and a fundraiser set up by Bonnie Buckmore and John Wells who faced the cold with his dog Jake several times by sitting behind a table educating people about animals, etc.



Once again my heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all of the following supporters of Charley's Strays. I am pretty sure I have all the names, if I don't, please forgive me, I am a Senior now myself, and my brain just has more "blackouts" than years ago. I am sure some of you know that feeling.

Al Smith, Belmont
Alice Winston, Swampscott
Amy & Mark Nordberg,
Anne Tappan, Cambridge
Barbara Askew, Quincy
Betsy Anderson, Framingham
Charlotte Paul, Chelmsford
Cindy Houston, Woburn
Cristine Cardello, Melrose
Cynthia & Galen Thompson
David Hingston, Chelmsford
Deborah Phair
Donna Bering, Wakefield
Donna Wade, Unity
Dorothy D'Alessandro, Ossipee

Eileen Nickerson, Norridgewock
Emile Jorgenson, Boston
Florence Bournival, Nashua
Iris Martinello, Tewksbury
Irma Simon, China
Jean & Ralph Catignani
Joe D'Alessandro, Tuftonboro
John & Jackie Lowney
Joseph Blake, New Bedford
Joseph Kogut, Upton
Judith Gallo & Dot Archer
Judith Rohweder, Northport
Karen Deady, Skowhegan
Keelee Lowney, New Bedford
Linda Merriam, Dresden

Marcia Smith, Bucksport
Marian Delarue, Woburn
Marlene Kaplan, Melrose
Melody Lavers, Wales
Nancy Brown, Olympia
Nancy Capone, Wakefield
Pat Thain, Dracut
Phillip Mann, Rowland Heights
Rancourt Family, Lebanon
Rust Pappathanasi, Swampscott
Sally Sawyer, Albany Twp.
Sandra Nicholson, Beverly
Susan Borsic, Woburn

Jean Tillson mailed us a donation in memory of her 17-year old cat, who was a very special feline and is missed terribly. My heart goes out to Jean and Jay!

Bonnie Buckmore mailed us the proceeds from Lawrence High School's cheerleaders' banquet, their "Paws for a Cause".

We received a donation from Jeannine Dickey *"for Lucky-Senior dogs are special!"*

The Madison Elementary School also had a fundraiser; Eileen Nickerson mailed us a donation from the children's efforts.

Lynne Kaplowitz mailed a donation for dog Bridget Buckmore.

Then we received a check from Dale Critchley which I would rather not have received, because Dale told me that this check was in memory of our long-time friend and supporter, Enid Hayes. - I knew Enid was in poor health, but it still came as a shock to me. Some of you met Enid at our Boston fundraisers. She always made the most delicious canned goodies, cakes, and cookies, and knitted and sewed beautiful items for the fundraiser. Enid will be very much missed by all of us. She was a great lady and loved all living things.

And another sad card with a check came from Glenna Hawthorne, informing us that her daughter Nancy had passed away. I am not sure, but I think I did meet Nancy several times at our fundraiser. I am so very sorry for your loss, Glenna.

Thank you so very much to all of the above, our animals are very grateful for your support!

There was some good news at the Shelter: Three of our dogs were adopted! Lucky, Izzy and Sadie found great homes, and as soon as I have some pictures of them, I will post them in the newsletter.

Please read on, Mary's cat report is on the next page

Gabriele, Mary, Ted, Eric and Jim

CAT REPORT JANUARY - FEBRUARY & MARCH 2016

We now have the fourth kitten from Jen, or at least another young cat she trapped, and he's a strange one! Willow – Jen's daughter chose the name -- looks so unlike the others Jen wonders if he's someone unrelated who got dropped off. He's long-haired and has a stocky body and pushed-in face that suggest a Persian in his ancestry, and his tail is definitely short, though it could have been damaged. Alafer, Feather and Lucien are short-haired, more rangy than stocky (though Lucien and Feather have been eating well enough to become quite solid), and Feather has an exceptionally long tail. And Willow, despite presumably being in the wild even longer than Alafer, has been sort of tame ever since I got him. He hid for about a week, but when he came out I could pet him right away, and sometimes he lets me pick him up. He's unpredictable, though, and still hisses and runs sometimes, for no reason I can understand.

Alafer remains timid with me, though he likes the other cats and often sleeps curled up with one or more of them. Feather greets me by rubbing my legs; Lucien is only occasionally still standoffish.

Since I wrote last Captain, the youngster Gabriele sent from Limestone, has found a home. His new people and their big laid-back dog are very nice and Captain liked them immediately.

Our seniors are still doing all right. Several have been to the vet already this year, with satisfactory results. Lisa is her usual cheerful self, and Mr. Tom seems to be feeling well and lively at the moment. Agnes has been having anal-gland problems that make it hard for her to use the litter box, including the low one I added in case her arthritis was bothering her -- it's good that Jim gets paper towels for me when he stocks up on dog food. I've been giving Agnes cosequin, which seems to help her move more freely. She and Robin eat their evening canned food side by side and sometimes swap dishes, but I figure the cosequin might do Robin good, too; he's only about four months younger than Agnes.

After this interval I hope I can remember all the people I want to thank for various things. The cats have had lots of special presents. Their Christmas gifts included treats from Teresa and Karen and from Karen toys and a handsome bed; a pet shop gift card from Marlene Kaplan; and home-grown catnip and home-made catnip toys – high-quality, the cats say -- from Cathy's husband Jeff. Since then, Bonnie Buckmore made Charley's Strays the beneficiary of a fund-raiser that brought food and litter; one of the Augusta chain pet stores started sending food, toys and miscellaneous supplies from the staff and patrons (Reb's big white Casper is responsible for that: people who'd met him and thus knew of Charley's Strays are working at the pet store); and Jane in Alaska sent a Valentine's Day box of catnip (Alaska also grows excellent catnip, according to the cats). In addition, Pepper Charles continues to give canned food, and I've had coupons from Suzanne Belisle, Melissa Pillow and her daughter Caley, Teresa Parent, Irma Simon, Marlene Kaplan, Iris Martinello, Emile Jorgensen and Al Smith. Many thanks to all of you.

It seems as though the unusual winter is being followed by an atypical spring. The local newspaper just gave the ice-out date in China Lake as March 15, the earliest since record-keeping began in 1876. The blooming snowdrops have been snowed on at least three times – about six inches once – and today the crocus flowers are lightly sheathed in ice. The bad news is that ticks are out early. Not a problem for indoor cats, but Teresa and her son have taken dozens off their collie.