



Charley's Strays, Inc.

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Dear Friends,

Another rollercoaster month has gone. Our weatherman said on TV, "We had three seasons combined into one month." Two weeks ago we still had lots of snow on the ground, at least up here in Limestone. One week later we had temperatures in the high 80s. Two days ago the scale went up to 91 degrees, and tonight there is frost in the forecast. As I am writing this letter, I had to turn the heater on because my hands are cold. Go figure.

But at least everything else is on a steady rhythm; wearing masks when going somewhere, staying at home as much as possible and trying to stay well. We are still keeping our gates closed at the Shelter, so there is nothing new to write about. My concern for the future is mostly food-shortages and ridiculous prices for what's available. Hopefully the high prices will not affect our animal food supply. As for people food, I bought some rib eye steaks several months ago for \$7.99 a pound. Yesterday these same steaks cost \$16.99 a pound! Because of some health issues I started to put Jim and myself on a plant-based diet awhile ago, so at least we don't have to worry about shortage of meat.

Being on the subject of plant-based diets, in case you like fruits and veggies as much as we do, you may be interested checking into "misfits.com" produce. I started buying from this company, and I am very pleased with their veggies and fruits. They say: "50 percent of produce is thrown away because it may not be perfect in shape or looks. We buy it from the farmers and ship it straight to you". It's all organic, and about half the price as what you pay for in the store.

No news at the Shelter. Reb says the dogs are happy to see her all day long since she is not going anywhere either, and she does not mind being in "lockdown" herself. And the same pretty much applies to me and Jim. The only thing which is putting a damper on the

whole situation is that Jim bought all kinds of flooring material to fix up some runs this spring, but can't drive to the Shelter to work there, mainly because there seem to be quite a few cases of infected people in the southern part of Maine, and us old folks don't want to take any chances. And having to go to stores to pick up things to do the job is a must. So, we will have to wait and see.

Even though many of our donors feel the shortage of money, they are still helping our Shelter animals to survive, with packages, stamps food, and donations, and we are very grateful to:

Albert Smith, Belmont
Alice Winston, Swampscott
Cristine Cardello, Melrose
Cynthia & Galen Thompson
Dale Critchley, S. Weymouth
David Hingston, Chelmsford
Donna Bering, Wakefield
George Watkins, Amesbury

Iris Martinello, Tewksbury
Jackie & Kellee Lowney
Jean & Ralph Catignani
Joe D'Allesandro, Tuftonboro
Judy Rohweder, Northport
Linda Merriam, Dresden
Marlene Kaplan, Melrose
Melody Lavers, Wales

Michael Kane, Greenwood
Nancy Capone, Wakefield
Pat Caler
Pat Thain, Dracut
Patricia Thibeault, N. Andover
Susan Borsic, Woburn
ZeeZee Dreams

We also received a donation from Alice Winston in memory of Michael Kane's cat, Miss Marble.

Michelle Friedow sent us a donation in honor of her mom, Christel Friedow, for Mothers' Day.

Bonnie Buckmore emptied her collection boxes for us and also mailed us a check in honor of all of her and her husband's Charley's dogs: BoBo, Bridget and King.

Some very nice and appreciated news came via our Susanna: Sarah Bailey messaged us on Facebook about Dobby who was adopted from the Shelter in 2009. Here is the update and picture."

Good morning! I just came across your Face book page and thought I would send a quick note about a dog my family adopted from you back in 2009. Dobby is 13 years old and is still just a young pup. He has been a very amazing addition to my family and I just wanted to say how much we appreciated you allowing us to adopt him several years ago.

He's name was Chester before he was adopted. I fear only Ted remembers him. We really do love hearing from people who have at one time adopted our cats and dogs. Thank you!



**Thank you very much to all of you!
Gabriele, Mary, Eric, Ted and Jim**

CAT REPORT – MAY 2020

Yet another quiet month for our cats, which is okay with them and me. The vet has been open – only pets allowed inside the building, no human customers – and three of my own cats have visited (two for routine physicals), but no additions to Charley's vet bill.

Tang, who's probably one of our oldest cats (he came via Waterville Humane; the vet and I doubled the age they'd estimated for him), is slowing down these days. He's been deaf for a while, and I often wonder if his eyesight is failing; sometimes he seems to navigate by whisker. However, he doesn't act as though anything hurts; he eats well, sleeps soundly and moves from one part of the house to the other as always.

The four brothers and Ryan continue to be lively, even these warm humid days. When I checked earlier this afternoon, the porch temperature was around 78. At least half a dozen cats were out there, mostly in the shade, but Feather and one of mine were lying in the sun. Alafar's game is to play with the blanket on the porch floor; he'll dash onto it, gather it into folds and roll on and play in them. And Lucien thinks it's amusing, when I'm standing looking out, to climb the screen until his face is beside mine so he can see what I'm seeing.

As always, a big thank-you to the cats' friends who help keep them fed. This month Pepper Charles' human stopped by with some canned food and I got coupons from Suzanne Belisle, Al Smith and our anonymous friend. The cats appreciate your support, and we all send best wishes to you and your pets.