



## My 2023 Christmas Letter

*At left is the outdoor decoration I threatened if there was pressure on me to have any on my house. At right is the MN Christmas tree I planned if any pressure to have a tree inside. It's also less expensive than the traditional one.*

*My plan worked.*

*I circled back to my annual donation to a worthy cause instead of buying gifts or sending cards.*



The first year I did this was the AZ animal shelter; source of two sibling feral kittens. They're older now and show appreciation by using me as a trampoline at three in the morning when they chase each other. They also provide lots of help folding clothes. They are still very feral. Some of my five kids have never seen them as they hide when "humans" show up. It's a great trick that I have not yet mastered.



Last year the donation went to a Fox Rescue outfit in memory of C.L. Booger. I rescued him from a MN fur farm when he barely fit in my hand. He grew to dominate my spare time and proved the speculation that they are 3/4 cat and 1/4 dog as Booger played with the cats but harassed the dogs. The C. L., by the way, stood for "cute little" not the name I would have chosen but daughter Susan prevailed and even talked us into adopting a goat. Raised with dogs, he identified as one. Haven't found a goat rescue outfit...so far.



Animals of all kinds and sizes will teach you things. There was the pony we called Houdini because he could escape any fence. Our kids grew up with horses, cows, rabbits, snakes, dozens of cats, and the Golden Retrievers we raised. Which brings me to Christine the ferret...bought at a roadside stand and source of one of those teaching moments. Christine lasted just four months and her death puzzled me. I found out that some female ferrets will die when they go into "heat" if they don't "mate". (We will now have what is called a "pregnant pause"...control yourself.)



*Best wishes next year and a reminder to train your kids and spoil the animals.*

*My reasoning for this Christmas tradition: They say the animals can talk at midnight on Christmas eve. I would much rather hear them than the mental derangement I am hearing from some humans today. Confirms the advice: family is important.  
This year's recipient of my Christmas donation is:*

**www.last-hope.org 431 3rd Street Farmington, MN 55024**

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