



Defenders Circle
Humane Society of Louisiana

AUGUST 2020
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Dear Animal Defender,

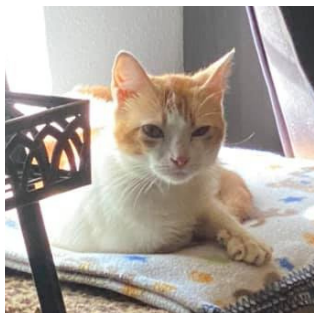
Almost 15 years to the day that Hurricane Katrina destroyed our shelter and devastated our region, another terrible storm has brought widespread destruction to our state. Thank you for your support this month, as we mobilize to save animals impacted by Hurricane Laura.

Saving Animals Impacted by Devastating Hurricane Laura

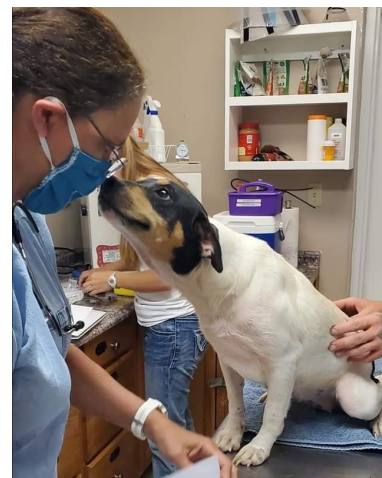
We were prepared for a very active hurricane season, based on warnings from weather officials this year.

Still, we had no idea our state face a storm as terrible as Hurricane Laura, an incredibly destructive, Category 4 hurricane, which came ashore late this month near Lake Charles. The hurricane cut a wide swath of destruction across the western and central parts of our state. The last time a storm this powerful battered Louisiana was in 1856. Before the storm came ashore, we were already hard at work, helping shelters in the disaster zone evacuate homeless animals, to make way for incoming, rescued animals and others surrendered by owners. Shortly after landfall, we began mobilizing to bring resources and supplies to help animals in the impacted area. We'll bring you a full report on our ongoing Laura response in next month's alert.

Cat Rescued from Horrifying Existence in A Filthy Carrier



In previous disasters, we learned that relief efforts often uncover conditions of animal neglect and abuse, in addition to hardships resulting from the crisis. Such was the case when we were directed to one residence, after a day spent doing relief work in Lake Charles. The Cajun Navy contacted us about a home in Jefferson Davis parish, where animals were in apparent distress. We stopped by the house and found that the elderly and mentally unwell residents, who were left without electricity as a result of the storm, were also keeping animals in absolute filth. One cat, Roa, was enduring life in abject misery. Confined to a small carrier, the poor animal lived a nightmarish existence, deep in his own waste. We were able to free him from these horrifying conditions. He is now living happily in foster care with one of our cruelty case manager volunteers. We are following up about the troubled residents at the home with local officials and just yesterday, we gained custody of another another dog from the couple.



This month, our crew worked to rescue 11 dogs in East Feliciana parish. The animals were seized from an elderly and infirm pet owner who was unable to care for them.

We were happy to work in partnership with the West Feliciana Humane Society animal shelter in St. Francisville for the first time to save these grateful dogs.



Grace (left) was rescued by a Good Samaritan near the Dewy Willis Wildlife Management Area near Jonesville. Two volunteers offered to nurse the sweet, starved young Weimaraner mix back to health. We were happy to fund her care and recovery and put her on the road to her forever home on an adoption transport.

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Working Tirelessly to Get the Job Done for Animals in Rural Areas Without Shelters or Services

Because more than half of Louisiana's parishes are without any kind of shelter or animal control services, HSLA is often the agency of last resort for animals in life and death peril. (As more people learn about our group, the number of calls for our help is increasing all the time, as well.) When this group of 8 older, otherwise healthy-looking puppies was spotted wandering together in rural LaSalle parish - most likely abandoned - a frantic witness contacted us, unsure of what to do. Without a lot of good answers ourselves, we improvised, as we always do in such cases. We got an animal lover at the scene to make a one-off emergency rescue, by loading the wandering pups up into the back up of a pick up truck. Because there was no nearby boarding clinic in the rural area, we asked a local nurse and animal lover if we could temporarily house the dogs in a kennel on her property. To do this, we had to quickly order a large kennel online, as well as food and supplies, which we arranged to have picked up at a nearby big box store. The kennel was assembled on the nurse's property. She cared for the animals for about two weeks, before we could arrange for her to transfer the dogs to the closest vet and boarding clinic. It took a few weeks more weeks, before we could carry out the next step: relocating the pups from northern LaSalle parish, closer down to our Tylertown facility. To make this happen, two Humane Society team members rented a van in New Orleans and made an overnight trip to LaSalle parish. First thing in morning, they picked up the dogs and drove them south to another vet clinic closer to our shelter; our facility was already filled to capacity with Hurricane Laura dogs, so we had no room for additional animals. Next, as the pups waited comfortably at the vet's office, arrangements were made for them to head out to one of our adoption partners, to assure them of loving, forever homes. As you can see from just this one case, it takes a monumental amount of coordination, work and funding to save these wonderful animals, but they are certainly worth it. Just look at those grateful, happy faces! It's horrible to think about what would have happened to them, roaming the countryside without food, water or care, if we hadn't intervened. Your gifts paid for the kennel, the food and vet care, the boarding fees, the van and multiple transports!



With so many homeless cats and kittens in need, we are always called upon to help in emergencies. This month, we were glad to help Dolly (left) who miraculously survived, after being hit by a car and left to die in Jefferson parish. Lying motionless by the curb of a busy road, Dolly was spotted by a driver, who called a local rescuer in Jefferson parish. The rescuer rushed to the scene and checked to see if Dolly was still breathing. Remarkably, she was! The rescuer scooped Dolly up and rushed to a vet. The clinic was able to successfully treat her, but they were unable to save her front right leg. We were able to pay the costs of amputation and vet bill to save her life. Now, Dolly is a perfectly normal, well adjusted and happy little kitty, with a long life ahead of her.