



Dear Friend of Animals,

August 2021

In the weeks before Hurricane Ida, we were busy preparing for potential storms and doing lifesaving work for animals around the state. We didn't have an opportunity to share our news from around that time, because the storm soon upended our lives and brought widespread devastation to Louisiana. Here are some of our news from just before the hurricane.

RESCUED! 5 Puppies Saved from 65 Foot Well!

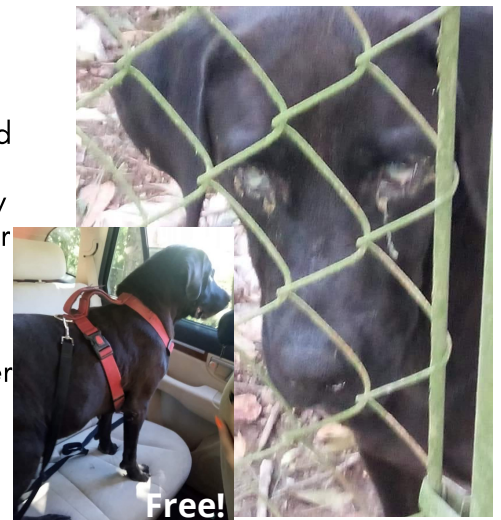
Our charity is increasingly become the agency of last resort for animals in urgent need of rescue. This is particularly true in areas without animal control, and in cases where enforcement agencies simply don't have the time or resources to dedicate to hard cases. Just a few days before Hurricane Ida made landfall, our team of volunteers and crew worked tirelessly for days to save 5 puppies from a 65' deep dry well. Workers took turns lying on their stomachs and lowering a long rope attached to netting into the narrow hole; the helpless puppies were running around in a cavern, which opened up at the end of the deep drop. Unable to see the little ones, our team had to wait for a puppy to wander onto the puppy-food baited net and become ensnared in it. Only then could they attempt to pull up each pup, one by one, through the long, narrow opening to freedom. Because of everyone's care and persistence, all of the puppies were rescued against the odds! The homeless Mama dog, who watched over the operation, was also rescued and sent to one of our adoption partners. Well done, team!



Although we don't have evidence to conclusively prove it, our strong suspicion is that the puppies were intentionally forced down the extremely narrow opening of the well. A hostile, drunken neighbor, who relentlessly harassed our rescue team, is a strong suspect.

A Long Road to Freedom for Some Neglected Pets

It's sometimes difficult to get law enforcement to take animal neglect complaints seriously. In such cases, we don't give up. We just keep trying more creative methods to lawfully gain possession of animals in need. One such animal, in a case which was finally resolved this month, was a poor black lab, who had been neglected for years. The witness to this sad situation had reported it to the local sheriff's office many times, only to be told that the evidence didn't warrant the dog's seizure. We completely disagreed with this assessment. We sent a notice to the owner stating our position. We explained that that we would accept custody of the dog or even pay a modest fee for her, as we were in a better position to provide needed care. (The owner grudgingly applied eye drops, after the photo (R) was taken.) We also had the witness interact with the owner regularly; she maintained that her niece was looking to adopt a black lab. Despite their past arguments about the dog, the owner - probably wanting an end to the aggravation - finally agreed to surrender the dog. Sometimes, persistence and a bit of luck pay off. We've since provided needed vet care and are looking for a wonderful family to adopt her.



FIVE NEGLECTED SHEPHERDS RESCUED

Volunteer rescuer Kelly Cole, our point person in Catahoula parish, visited a residence with the local sheriff recently, where she discovered several shepherd mixes living in deplorable conditions. The owner was cited, the animals were removed and your donations paid for their recovery and upkeep, until they could be adopted through one of our partner rescue groups. Special thanks to all who helped get these sweet dogs on the path to a better life.



Our Magnolia chapter is making a huge difference in Washington parish!

MAGNOLIA CHAPTER RAISES 10K FOR ANIMAL SHELTER

BOGALUSA DAILY NEWS article
Staff reports, August 20, 2021

For more than 10 years, Kay Grantham has been running bi-monthly low-cost spay/neuter clinics for Washington Parish residents at the Coast Vet Hospital located in Gulfport, Miss. The program sterilizes 1,200 pets year and has fixed more than 14,000 dogs and cats since the program started in 2009.



Pictured from left to right: Magnolia chapter star volunteers Tiffany Turner Smith, Beth Eaton and Kay Grantham. Thank you, ladies, for your many years of extraordinary service for animals.

Grantham also helps adopt pets from the Bogalusa and Franklinton shelters and responds to hundreds of calls for assistance that range from helping corral animals at large to investigating deliberate acts of neglect. Grantham and her small team of volunteers with the *Magnolia Chapter* of the Humane Society of Louisiana seem to do it all.

Grantham is also good at fundraising and relies on local foundations and pet lovers to donate to the Magnolia Chapter. She also knows that the need for low cost spay-neuter is great and until people have access to more low cost spay-neuter programs, they will likely not fix their pets thus allowing the animals to continue to breed, adding to the surplus of pets needing homes.

To provide more low-cost spay/neuter and veterinary services, the Magnolia Chapter recently donated \$8,000 and \$2,000 in equipment to the Washington Parish Animal Shelter, located at 23046 YACC Road. The funds will allow the shelter to purchase equipment for the shelter's surgery suite, where routine surgeries and sterilization of shelter pets can be performed. The parish has contracted the services of Dr. Linnea Collins, who visits the shelter once a week to examine each animal and vaccinate those pets that are available for adoption.

Even though the parish does not provide services to pick up stray animals like other agencies do in larger, nearby parishes, Washington Parish does operate a shelter that houses animals that are brought there. The shelter also adopts pets, provides limited medical services for its shelter pets, and educates the public on best practices for pet ownership.

"Kay and her team have made a tremendous difference in Washington parish, and it's been a real honor and privilege to work with her and her volunteers," said Jeff Dorson, director of the Humane Society of Louisiana. "I've seen her drive and commitment to help animals in communities throughout the parish for the past 13 years, and her work ethic and results are enviable and commendable."

"Providing accessible and affordable spay and neuter programs is the primary tool in reducing pet overpopulation and developing and providing those services has always been our primary goal since we started this chapter back in 2008," Grantham said.