



HUMANE
Society of Louisiana


Defenders Circle

November 2025

Dear Animal Defender,

The holidays are fast approaching, and we wish you and yours a wonderful Thanksgiving. During this month of gratitude and good cheer, we are particularly thankful for your kind support!

NEW HOPE FOR HOLIDAY HOMES



It's been a long time since we've had good news on the animal transport front, but we've happily had a change of luck in time for the holidays. In recent weeks, we've put hundreds of rescued dogs and cats on the road to happy homes - emptying our own facility and rescuing many additional animals from overcrowded Louisiana shelters. We even secured a wonderful new transport partner up north! Pet overpopulation is still at crisis levels in our state, but we do hope this is a sign of better things to come. As Louisiana rescues and shelters continue to struggle and even close their doors, we're feeling particularly grateful that we've been able to help so many lucky pups and cats in recent weeks.

PUPPY SNUGGLES ARE GOOD FOR THE HEART

We were excited to participate in the **American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions Conference** in New Orleans early this month. HSLA was on site for three days, promoting the many benefits of dog adoption to more than 13,000 conference attendees. We partnered with AHA to run the Puppy Snuggles exhibit, highlighting research which proves that canine companionship is good for your heart. Animal lovers don't need to be told that living with pets makes life better, but research now proves that point. Animal companions have been shown to lower the risk of developing high blood pressure and may even improve the condition in people who already have it. Dog parents also tend to have lower resting heart rates, cholesterol and triglyceride levels, when compared with others. We brought many rescued puppies to the event over three days, and our exhibit was the hit of the show. We adopted pups to families all over the country and helped to arrange transports afterwards. Our crew is driving two lucky pups to the Atlanta, Georgia area this weekend, so they'll be home for Thanksgiving. We also received a 5K grant for our participation - a win-win for everyone! We'll be headed back to the next conference in February, which will focus on the benefits of canine companionship in stroke prevention and recovery. A note for our cat people: Feline friends are also good for your heart! Research shows a decreased risk of death due to all cardiovascular diseases (including stroke) among cat Moms and Dads.



*HSLA's Julie Cantwell at the **Puppy Snuggles** event. Our puppies were a huge hit at the recent AHA medical convention in New Orleans.*

