



HUMANE
Society of Louisiana


Defenders Circle

October 2025

Dear Animal Defender,

Fall is in the air! Special thanks go out to all of you who made an extra contribution to our online **Black Cat Fund Drive** this spooky season. Frequently overlooked for adoption and targeted for abuse, we love black cats, and this is a great time of year to help them.



FIGHTING CRUELTY: 7 NEGLECTED DOGS SEIZED



For months, neighbors complained to the Avoyelles Sheriff's Office about the inhumane treatment of several dogs in the town of Hessmer. Deputies warned the owner to take better care of the animals, but conditions never improved. According to witnesses, the neglected dogs lived on heavy, locked chains, which frequently became tangled; their extremely dilapidated dog houses provided little shelter from the elements. Recently, neighbors noticed that the owner had been absent for several days, and it appeared that no one had been feeding the dogs. Unable to reach the owner, deputies got a warrant for her arrest. Since the parish does not employ animal control officers or operate a shelter, they reached out to us and a local rescuer for help. We get calls of this nature on an almost daily basis. In each case, we have to form a rescue team,

partner with a local veterinarian, transport animals to the clinic and arrange for temporary housing. In this case, we also had to secure three large dog kennels - because the vet could only board four of the dogs. One local volunteer picked up the kennels and delivered them to another volunteer's property. Still more volunteers put the kennels together and prepared them for the dogs. State law requires that law enforcement-appointed custodians (HSLA, in this case) hold seized animals for at least 15 days, giving an owner time to post bond and cover the costs of animal care for two week periods until trial. Luckily, everything went according to plan in this case, and we were eventually able to take permanent custody of the dogs. It requires a tremendous amount of time and resources to take on cruelty cases like this one, and we simply couldn't do it without your support.

LONG SUFFERING DOGS SEIZED IN OAKDALE AND NEW IBERIA

Significant progress was made this month on two separate neglect cases. Within the past 48 hours, deputies made two additional arrests, and authorities took custody of six dogs, including four neglected puppies. Our colleague Brittany Ware, Director and founder of *Hayens Hoofbeats Haven*, accompanied Oakdale police officers to investigate a complaint involving four neglected puppies and two adult dogs. The owner was issued a citation for six counts of cruelty, and Brittany was asked to take custody of the pups. HSLA covered the costs of their veterinary care. In a separate case in New Iberia, the local Chief of Police ordered the seizure of two long suffering dogs. We had been working with a local rescuer in an attempt to improve the dogs' living conditions, providing a new dog house, but it became clear that more significant action was needed. We're delighted that these cases were taken seriously and that more animals have been liberated from senseless suffering.

