



Defenders Circle
 Humane Society of Louisiana
 February 2022

Dear Friend of Animals,

Thank you for your very kind support this month - as you can tell, we're keeping very busy, helping animals each and every day. Here are some highlights of our recent work.

MARDI GRAS HORSE PROGRAM RETURNS

After a one year hiatus, following the Covid-19 shutdown, Mardi Gras is back, and that marks the return of our lifesaving Mardi Gras Horse Adoption Program. Since 2017, we've saved all 77 of these magnificent parade animals. Until recently, most people never realized that there was a sadder side to Mardi Gras. For years, it was not uncommon for parade horses to be sold to slaughter after carnival. How could this happen? To meet the demand for additional horses each year, about 20 animals have traditionally been purchased from horse brokers by *Cascade Stables* in Audubon Park. Shortly before Mardi Gras, the horses arrive at the stables, homeless and unwanted, with an uncertain fate ahead of them. Several years ago, we began receiving reports that some of the parade horses, still distinctive with glitter and decorations from Mardi Gras, were spotted en route to slaughter in Mexico. Once aware of this sad reality behind the pageantry, we mobilized our team to ensure that the horses would forever be spared this cruel fate. Now we work with *Cascade Stables* to adopt the horses to loving homes, to prevent them being sold back to the brokers.



CHEROKEE - Adopted 2022

We've been able to operate this program since 2017, because any unadopted or returned horses can be brought to our ***Enoch J. Donaldson Animal Sanctuary*** if needed.

HSLA'S EMERGENCY VETERINARY FUND: Saving Lives around the State

HSLA's primary focus has always been cruelty investigation and prevention. Over many years, however, we've added new programs, such as disaster relief, because of the overwhelming need for services in our impoverished state. As we've expanded our reach and contacts, more and more rescuers and animal lovers look to us to help injured and suffering animals, in parishes and communities without services. To help meet these needs, we created an Emergency Veterinary Fund to respond to special cases, in situations where there is no other local shelter or rescue to help. We respond to scores of life and death emergencies each week, often multiple times a day, sometimes in the middle of the night. Helping in these cases is made more difficult by the fact that vet care is much more expensive when using rural veterinarians, who must charge more to keep the doors open with fewer clients. As such, we are always seeking new funding streams to keep providing these critical and lifesaving services in the rural and underserved areas of our state. Your gifts can mean the difference between life and death for dogs like Murphy, who was recently rescued with multiple injuries. He is now on the road to full recovery.

