



## Dear Friend of Animals,

Thank you for your very kind support this month. Every year, as we enter the summer months, donations decrease, at a time when our costs often rise - for shelter utilities, yard maintenance, hurricane preparedness and more. Uncertain economic times and inflation has made this summer even more challenging, so your help is particularly appreciated. Given today's economic realities, this wasn't perhaps the best time to take on a massive rescue effort, which you'll read about in this month's alert. Still, there was only a small window to help, and these poor animals had no other group in a position to save them. This was an extraordinarily difficult and costly rescue project, so if you're able to pitch in a little extra to help recoup our costs, we'd be ever so grateful!

## SUCCESS! 123 Shelter Animals Rescued from Inhumane Facility

Late this month, the *Humane Society of Louisiana* played a pivotal role in the rescue of 123 animals (103 dogs and 20 cats) from a severely overcrowded animal shelter in Vermilion Parish. Our colleague, Stacey Alleman, Director of *Pointe Coupee Animal Control*, gained access to the Vermilion facility, after both of our agencies had received very serious complaints about it. (The Director of the shelter routinely refused to admit the public. When she was out of the country for several weeks, Stacey was able to gain access.)

As alleged, conditions inside were heartbreaking. Dogs were stacked in cramped kennels, one on top of the other; some animals were alleged to have languished in this way for years. Cages were apparently rarely cleaned or disinfected. The smell of vomit, urine, and feces was overpowering. The shelter staff even admitted to cutting back food over the weekends to reduce their clean up times!

Animal protection charity *Alley Cat Allies* agreed to take legal custody of the cats and dogs; they pledged to quickly relocate them to their private adoption partners around the country. Before that could happen, however, the animals would first need to be relocated, cared for and housed in Louisiana. With our own facilities full and other area shelters at capacity, we knew we'd have to take extraordinary actions to help these homeless pets.

We reviewed our options and decided our best course of action - though difficult - would be to construct a temporary emergency shelter in the area from the ground up. It would be an extraordinarily difficult and expensive task, but we were up for the challenge. Ms. Alleman very kindly agreed to have the emergency facility constructed on her own property, located a few hours from the Vermilion facility. This massive project had to be executed very quickly, before shelter officials could potentially change their minds about releasing the animals.



Snapshots from the emergency disaster relief shelter in Ethel, LA.