

# Let's Make 2021 a Great Year for Louisiana's Animals!



**JEFF DORSON** founded the Humane Society of Louisiana in New Orleans in 1988. A native of Indiana, with a calling to make the world a better place for animals, Jeff headed to Louisiana, where he knew the need was great. He first trained himself as a lobbyist, so he could help pass tougher animal protection laws. After opening a small office, Jeff was swamped with calls about serious cruelty cases. Witnesses told him they had nowhere else to turn. Jeff soon learned that there was not only lax law enforcement but a lack of infrastructure and resources to care for animal victims of abuse. In response, he fought to expand and improve animal shelters in Louisiana and also became a licensed private investigator. For more than 32 years, Jeff has worked tirelessly and aided hundreds of thousands of animals through the group's diverse programs.

## Dear Friend of the Animals:

On behalf of all of us at the Humane Society of Louisiana, I wish you a very happy 2021!

2020 was a difficult year, with unprecedented challenges. Our state was hit hard and early by the first wave of Covid-19. We mobilized to respond to the pandemic with urgently needed pet food relief programs. In the hospitality-industry centered city of New Orleans, the need for assistance continues.

With resources already stretched to the limit, we spent last summer mobilizing disaster relief programs. 2020 was a record breaking hurricane season. Incredibly, Louisiana was in the projected path of eight storms! Hurricane Laura was the most devastating, hitting southwest Louisiana as a catastrophic Category 4 event. It was the strongest storm to come ashore in our state in 150 years. Delta brought more destruction, and Hurricane Zeta was the first hurricane to directly hit New Orleans in 50 years. (We were not in Katrina's direct path.)

As we fought to save animals during this record breaking year of disasters, we also kept operating diverse programs. Reports of cruelty and neglect came in to our office every day. Law enforcement agencies, shelters and caring people across Louisiana routinely reached out to us, seeking help with every imaginable kind of animal emergency. Even in the best of times, we are faced with incredible challenges here in the Deep South. 50% of our parishes have no animal shelters or rescue groups, so we are very often the last line of defense for animals.

**We continue to confront the multiple hardships faced by animals and their caregivers across Louisiana. Please support our efforts by contributing what you can.** Together, we can make 2021 a better year for animals in need.

Sincerely,,

**JEFF DORSON**

Founder & Executive Director