



**HUMANE**  
Society of Louisiana



**Defenders Circle**

February 2024

**Dear Animal Defender,**

Thank you so much for caring and for being so generous this month! Of course, your support makes all of our work possible, day after day-year in and year out!



**Fighting for Animals this Legislative Session - Your Help Needed!**

The 2023 legislative session ended in a bitter defeat for HSLA and animals in need. We worked tirelessly to get funding for shelters, only to turn up empty-handed, despite a big budget surplus and the support of key legislators and the Governor's office. This year, with a new governor and shifting priorities in Baton Rouge, we were prepared for an even tougher road ahead, so we got off to an early start. Our goals were ambitious, because the crisis facing our state's homeless pets and their caregivers is staggering. We aimed 1) to secure 3 million for new animal shelter construction on prison grounds, with inmates providing staffing; this arrangement has been highly successful at one other Louisiana correctional facility; and 2) to secure 1 million in funding for grants, to be administered through the Animal Control Advisory Taskforce, which would target critically needed repairs and upgrades, from installing heating and cooling systems to expanding kennel space. We sought to secure 10K for the Pet Overpopulation Advisory Council and to create a commemorative 'Pet Stamp' program to provide additional funds for spay/neuter. We introduced a vanity license plate bill to raise funds for our state's volunteer wildlife rehabbers. State Representative Delisha Boyd (D- Algiers, NOLA) also put forward a bill to create a vanity license plate to raise funds for the Humane Society of Louisiana, for which we are very grateful! Proceeds from the sale of these plates will support our spay/neuter programs. At this point, we are cautiously optimistic about the passage of the license plate bills and the adoption of the Pet Stamp program; however, despite extensive networking with legislators and public officials, many of whom are very supportive, it has become clear that funding animal shelters simply won't happen, unless the Governor gets behind the effort. (AS OF WED APRIL 10th:) We need animal lovers to contact Governor Landry and politely urge him to support state funding for animal shelters, not only to benefit cats and dogs but to improve the quality of life for local residents. You can find sample letters on our website, but it would be most impactful for you to describe how the pet overpopulation crisis has impacted you and your Louisiana community. You can reach him online by email at [gov.Louisiana.gov](mailto:gov.Louisiana.gov) or write to him at your earliest convenience at:

**Governor Jeff Landry, Office of the Governor  
PO Box 94004  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804**



**RESCUED PIGLET GOES VIRAL!**

We received a strange but true report about a piglet being tossed around like a football during Mardi Gras. Apparently, a man had been giving away unwanted piglets in the middle of the drunken festivities - perhaps one of the most uniquely bad ideas we've ever heard. Luckily, a good Samaritan rescued one of the piglets and contacted us for help. We took the little one into custody and communicated Piglet's story to the local media. We had no idea that his story would go viral and that Piglet would become a media darling; his story was told far and wide, even internationally! Of course, we used the opportunity to encourage people to be kind to animals, especially pigs! In an interesting footnote to the story, Piglet was adopted by our friend, State Representative Lauren Ventrella (R- E. Baton Rouge) who formally took custody of him on the steps of the capitol and renamed him Earl 'Piglet' Long. There, he received an official 'pig pardon' from Lieutenant Governor, Billy Nungesser. The event was covered by an absolute swarm of reporters. Now, that's one popular piglet! If only they could all get so much well-deserved love and attention.