



FEBRUARY 2020
Humane Society of Louisiana

Dear Animal Defender,

During this month of Valentine's Day, we've been working tirelessly as ever to show some much needed love to our state's abused, neglected and homeless animals. February is almost always one of our toughest months for fundraising, so your generosity is particularly appreciated. Thank you SO much for caring about Louisiana's defenseless animals.

20 Mardi Gras Horses Saved This Year!

Since New Orleans is our hometown, we've always thought of Mardi Gras as a fun and carefree celebration. We never understood until recently that there was a sadder side to our city's signature celebration. For years, it was not uncommon for some parade horses to be sold to slaughter after the festivities. While many parades feature riding clubs with privately owned animals, there is always a demand for additional parade horses. Many carnival krewe members ride them in some of our city's largest and most prestigious parades. To meet the demand each year, about 20 animals are purchased from horse brokers by *Cascade Stables* in Audubon Park shortly before Mardi Gras. These discarded horses all arrive at the stables homeless and unwanted.

A few years ago, we started receiving disturbing reports that some of these horses - still distinctive with glitter and decorations from Mardi Gras - were spotted en route to slaughter in Mexico. This sad situation occurred because the animals were sold back to the horse broker after carnival. Once we became aware of this heartbreaking reality behind the pageantry, we mobilized to make sure the parade horses would no longer endure this cruel fate. In 2017, we formed a team to find loving homes for the Mardi Gras horses. Incredibly, we've been able to place 55 animals in the first three years of the program! This year, our team took up the challenge again to help 20 homeless animals. Spearheaded by our volunteer MGH Adoption Program Coordinator, Rachel Goyette, our team took photographs and videos of all of the animals. Everyone worked hard at publicizing their plight and at screening applicants. Thanks to widespread media attention and to tireless volunteer efforts, we're delighted to report that we've once again been able to place all of the 2020 Mardi Gras horses. We're taking custody of two additional horses purchased by Cascade Stables, who were never in good enough health to walk in the parades. We are committed to finding them perfect homes, as well, where they can happily live out their lives. *Thanks to everyone who participated to make this lifesaving program possible!*



Volunteers Brian and Nick loading up Patty, Pancake and Strudel (below) to take them to their new homes. Thanks, guys!



Rachel Goyette, on a recent visit with Miguel, formerly known as Bud, a 2018 adoption alumni.

Humane Society of Louisiana PO Box 740321 New Orleans, LA 70174
www.HumaneLA.org info@humanela.org

Man Arrested, Pleads Guilty in Case of 8 Newborn Puppies Thrown from Bridge

On February 16th, in St. Martin Parish, local fisherman, Mac Kennedy, was on the bayou in his boat, under the Basin Bridge near Henderson. He noticed a man in a white pick-up truck slow down and toss a bag into the water. Thinking he had witnessed an act of careless littering, Mr. Kennedy went to retrieve the bag. He instead discovered eight newborn black lab puppies in the bottom of an empty dog food sack. Had Mr. Kennedy not taken the initiative to retrieve the bag, the helpless newborn puppies would have certainly drowned in the bayou. Luckily, the little ones survived their ordeal and are fully expected to recover. The eyewitness, Mr Kennedy, contacted local law enforcement, and our agency offered a reward of \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction and perpetrator. We worked to spread the word in the local news. Outrage over the crime spurred several caring citizens to donate additional money to the reward fund, which eventually increased to \$7200. Detective Shane Graffi was assigned to the case, and as a result of some great detective work, he was able to place Gary James Goulas, 55, of Breaux Bridge, at the scene of the crime. After being interviewed, Goulas eventually confessed. He was subsequently arrested and charged with 8 counts of aggravated cruelty to animals. We attempted to locate the mother of the puppies, but according to Goulas, he did not own or have custody of her. This part of his story was confirmed by a search of his property. Through media coverage of the story, we were also able to raise over \$2500, which will go towards the care and treatment of the puppies, who are now being housed and cared for by *EPAR, Every Paw Animal Rescue*, in Evangeline parish. We will monitor this case through the court system and will pay out the reward at the time Mr. Goulas is convicted or enters a formal guilty plea. With your support, we'll keep fighting to keep animal abuse in the public eye and to see perpetrators like Goulas brought to justice.



They all deserve love! We were delighted to be the pet charity beneficiary of the KeHe Show, where more than 800 food distributors and vendors displayed their products at the New Orleans Convention Center. Our super Board member, Rena Sweeney, was happy to meet guests, along with her adorable rescued hedgehog, Tiggy.

FRANKLINTON HOG FARMER PLEADS GUILTY TO NEGLECT



Last April, 15 underweight hogs were found in pens without food or water in Washington parish. Our investigator, Bill Barse, provided feed and water for the pigs and contacted deputies with the Washington Parish Sheriff's Dept. A few days later, the deputies located Mr. Jose Herrera, the owner of the animals, who maintained that he had arranged for a friend to care for the suffering hogs. He was issued a summons for cruelty and required to improve living conditions for the animals. On February 6, Mr. Herrera pleaded guilty to the charges. The Judge ordered him to pay a fine and court costs. Although the penalty was minimal, we are still encouraged whenever local law enforcement takes a case seriously.



Humane Society of Louisiana, PO Box 740321, New Orleans LA 70174