



Dear Friend of Animals,

Thank you so much for your deep commitment to saving animals and for keeping our lifesaving programs in operation during challenging times.

Freeze Response: Saving Animals in Distress

Even in this era of pandemics and hurricanes in Louisiana, winter brought its own unique challenges. Our phone rang off the hook this month with reports of neglected animals exposed to cold and freezing temperatures. We were active with rescues and investigations in many parts of the state. One member of our investigations team, Christie Solano, responded to calls in St. Charles and Lafourche parishes, where she was able to get needed help for animals in distress. Local law enforcement partnered with her to ensure that residents brought suffering animals inside, and in one case, an owner was cited with cruelty. In that instance, the dog was not only exposed to freezing conditions but was confined inhumanely on a short tether. The dog was seized by police and will be held until trial. In addition to our investigative and direct response work, we remained active in the field, distributing food and supplies to needy families with pets. There was already significant need here, before multiple disasters made life even more difficult for the people and animals of our state.

Sadie's Story: Caring People Rally to Save Sweet, Badly Burned Dog

We respond to all kinds of animal emergencies in freezing conditions, but Sadie's story was certainly the most heartbreaking one. In a well intended but poorly executed action, Sadie's owners put a heater in her dog house to keep her warm during the recent freeze. Instead, the heater tragically caused a fire, which severely burned poor Sadie. We received a frantic call from a local rescuer, who was desperate to get help for the suffering dog. Sadie's owners, who were unable to pay for her care, had surrendered the poor dog to the rescuer. We quickly approved Sadie's desperately needed emergency care at closest clinic, in Lafayette. At last, the long suffering dog was able to receive pain medication and treatment for her wounds. Over the next several weeks, as Sadie's heartbreaking story was told in the local press, people rallied to save her, by contributing to her care. (OVER)

February 2021



Rescue workers help neglected horses during the freeze.



We recently helped neuter a feral colony, but one senior cat, Sweet Pea, had an infection and couldn't be returned. Luckily, his foster Mom fell in love with this special one-eyed senior and adopted him. We are so happy he will live out his golden years in good comfort, with lots of love.

SADIE: To receive needed treatment, Sadie was first moved to *Mandeville Animal Hospital* and then to *Resurge Veterinary Specialists*. Around that time, WWL-TV reporter and longtime friend of the Humane Society, Meg Farris, covered Sadie's story. She recalled that she had recently done a piece about a revolutionary new treatment for burn victims, which is now being provided to patients at the *Burn Center at UMC* in New Orleans. She contacted the Burn Center and informed them of Sadie's plight. Incredibly, the Center agreed to offer the treatment to Sadie - at no charge! From her humble beginnings as an overlooked 'backyard dog', Sadie was now poised to make history as the first pup ever to receive the groundbreaking RECELL treatment. She had already been receiving top of the line veterinary care at *Resurge Associates* in Mandeville, but everyone was delighted for her to receive this groundbreaking treatment, which has had such amazing results for human recipients. Sadie underwent the treatment and has been responding amazingly well. To make her story an even happier one, Sadie's veterinarian has decided to adopt her! We couldn't be happier for Sadie! We will update you on her progress. *Very special thanks go to Mr. Louis J. Roussel III for his extraordinary gift for Sadie.*



Board member, Evie Burguires, poses with Priscilla, her recently adopted rescue pup. Her car has a Louisiana 'Animal Friendly' license plate. Get yours today to fund spay and neuter surgeries for local residents.



MONTY & WYATT: Two of the special dogs your gifts made it possible for us to save this month.

SPAY/NEUTER AWARENESS MONTH

In observance this February, HSLA sponsored scores of free surgeries and convened the *Pet Overpopulation Advisory Council* in preparation for a new round of spay/neuter grants to small shelters and rescues. We also created a new statewide resource guide to low cost services in our state, which can be found on our web site.