



August 2024

Dear Animal Defender,

We're keeping extraordinarily busy helping animals, at the same time we're keeping a watchful eye on the tropics, as we enter the heart of hurricane season. As always, thank you so much for helping!

26 NEGLECTED DOGS SAVED IN THE NICK OF TIME!



We recently saved the lives of 26 dogs, who were seized by law enforcement officers in a Bienville parish cruelty case. 33 precious pups were found neglected at a local residence, and 1 poor puppy died at the scene. The remaining 32 dogs were seized by officers and taken to a nearby vet clinic for care and treatment; sadly, another one of the dogs died and an additional 5 were euthanized. Owners Tanya Michelle Griffith and Allen Tyler Meylian were each charged with 32 counts of cruelty to animals. Sometime later, a distraught veterinary clinic worker contacted us. Parish officials had ordered that the surviving dogs be euthanized, because they were no longer willing to pay for additional care and boarding. (Bienville parish doesn't operate an animal shelter.) HSLA facilities are already crowded with animals

in need, and foster homes are in short supply, so we had to act quickly to prevent the killings. Our Executive Director, Jeff Dorson, eventually reached out to the right person for help, animal defender Kathy Bissell. *The Bissell Foundation* has organized transports for thousands of homeless Louisiana animals, using their extensive network of nationwide contacts. We're happy to report that all 26 dogs are now safe and sound and have since been transported to adoption partners in Michigan. All are awaiting or have already been placed in loving homes. Our costs for vet care and transports exceed \$9K, so we would certainly appreciate it, if anyone is able to pitch in a little something extra to help cover these unanticipated expenses. It sure makes us so happy to look at the sweet faces of these dogs, knowing that they all have happy lives ahead of them.



There is so much bad news lately about our state's pet overpopulation crisis, we're delighted to report the good news, when we can. Here's a positive report: a new animal shelter is being built in Webster parish, where no other shelters currently exist! This northwestern Louisiana facility (the parish sits at the Arkansas border) will help to prevent so much senseless animal suffering. The local group's adoption partner in Maine has teamed up with an out-of-state funder to underwrite the project. *FLASHBACK: Did you know that HSLA funded a satellite adoption center in Maine for a few years after hurricane Katrina? We ran regular transports up the East Coast which saved the lives of thousands of animals. We were one of the first charities to undertake cross country animal adoption transports from Louisiana; they are now commonplace across the Deep South. Our Pets Across America program kicked off in 2002.*

11 cats appeared recently in a Chalmette woman's front yard - we believe they may have been abandoned. Luckily, the kindhearted homeowner - a Spanish-speaker who communicated through her English-speaking son - agreed to feed the animals and allow them to stay on her property; she just needed some assistance with spay/neuter. With limited adoption options for friendly cats, let alone semi-feral ones, we agreed to help. 9 cats have already been fixed and returned, with two more to go!

